



# MUSTIQUE CHARITABLE TRUST NEWSLETTER

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## EMERGENCY RELIEF



**MCT Donation of ECD 1,000,000 to Prime Minister Hon. Dr Ralph Gonsalves for Storm Relief.**

Christmas 2013 was a tragic occasion for many communities in St Vincent. Torrential rain on Christmas Eve caused raging floods which swept through the northern leeward and windward areas of the island causing the loss of eleven lives, destroying homes, sweeping away personal possessions and causing severe landslides which damaged roads, bridges, agricultural crops and trees.

A key focus for 2014 was to assist the Government with its disaster relief programme.



Supporters of the Trusts responded generously and rapidly to the Prime Minister's appeal for help. Within one day, the Trusts had arranged for the delivery of much needed drinking water to those in need and food to the disaster areas sheltering over two hundred and fifty people. The Trusts also offered to assist the Government with building new homes for some of the flood victims



Many persons in communities on the north leeward and windward coast of St Vincent lost all their possessions. Thanks to a generous donation from a Mustique homeowner new clothing was distributed to all those in need. The St Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society provided critical assistance in arranging for the distribution of clothing.

## WELCOME to our fifth Mustique Charitable Trust Newsletter

Over the last six years the UK Friends of the Mustique Charitable Trust and the Mustique Charitable Trust have supported over fifty projects across St Vincent and the Grenadines. Their focus has remained on educational, housing and health support for the most vulnerable, particularly children and young people with special needs.

Since our last event in November 2013 your donations have been put to work in thirty-seven different projects. Amongst other things, you have provided over six hundred disadvantaged school children with school meals, funded three and half thousand diabetes and hypertension tests at walk-in clinics, allowed sixteen abandoned children and victims of domestic violence to receive counselling and have contributed to the cost of haemodialysis treatment for twelve people.

*Helping the Trusts makes a real impact every day in many lives.*

## TREE PLANTING PROJECT



The Trusts are working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Richmond Vale Academy on an extensive tree planting project. Ten thousand moringa and five thousand fruit trees are being grown for distribution to the affected communities where there was extensive tree damage. The distribution of trees is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

## MUSTIQUE HELPS VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE A BETTER LIFE.



Many underprivileged children arrive at school with no “lunch money”. This has serious impact on attendance, academic performance and behaviour. Several schools asked the Trusts to assist students facing this challenge. Seven schools received grants to pay for groceries, kitchen equipment, lunch tables and chairs. Fresh fruit and vegetables are sourced from the local farming community wherever possible. Already there is better attendance, behaviour and academic performance among the students in the Trust’s funded lunch programme

In order to ensure that school menus provide nutritional meals the Trusts made a grant available to the Food and Nutrition Unit in the Ministry of Health for the training of teachers and food handlers in national dietary guidelines for school children and for the printing of educational literature to promote healthy lifestyles.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO LITERACY LEVELS



The Trusts continue to work to increase literacy levels. Many children, like eight year old Kenicia, struggled to read and were unable to make progress with their class work. Grants to schools like the Cane End Government School which Kenicia attends help improve literacy levels. Kenicia reported back “I love to read now and I am among the best readers in my class”.

St Martin’s Secondary School received two hundred books for its recently refurbished school library. A grant was also approved for another local charity, Hands Across the Sea, to increase the number of library books in three rural schools.



## Mission Statement

“The Mustique Charitable Trust will improve the opportunities for children, young people and vulnerable adults while supporting the development of sustainable local communities throughout St Vincent and the Grenadines.”

## EDUCATING PRESCHOOL TEACHERS



Twenty five young women were sponsored through teacher training in order to improve the quality of education and add to the quality of trained teachers in the country. Over six months’ sessions at Vinsave covered child development, teaching the young child, health and nutrition, maths, english and creative arts. The students also spent time in the workplace at Vinsave and on three month internships putting theory into practice.

As part of the parenting assignment, the students had the opportunity to organise and conduct a session with parents affected by the December 2013 flash floods in a disaster shelter in Spring Village.

## EDUCATING FUTURE PROFESSIONALS



The Trusts were delighted to receive the news that the first student to graduate in January 2014 from the MCT Bursary Programme at The University of the West Indies Open Campus in St Vincent did so with a First Class Honours Degree in Accounting. Graham Greaves thanked the Trusts for their support as it had relieved him from financial worries and enabled him to concentrate on his studies.

Fifteen students are now in the Bursary Programme. Three new awards, along with a laptop computer to each student, were presented in October 2014. All three are teachers and hope that when they graduate they will be in a better position to provide the best quality education to their students

## EQUIPMENT FOR PEDIATRIC WARD MILTON CATO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



The Pediatric Ward was completely flooded and much equipment was damaged. The Trusts and other homeowners contributed to the World Pediatric Project to refurbish and equip the ward. At the reopening of the ward on June 9 attended by the Governor General and the Prime Minister, Dr Data, Head Pediatrician, said that the refurbished ward was “a dream come true”.

## FREE DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION TESTING



Adults from all over St Vincent use free screening sessions administered by the Retired Nurses Association on behalf of the Trusts. The most severely affected clients are referred to their clinic or doctor. Since 2012 over three and a half thousand persons have been tested with lives saved and amputations prevented.

## ASSISTANCE WITH DIALYSIS TREATMENT



Patients requiring dialysis are being assisted by a grant to Health Solutions in Kingstown. During 2014 twelve persons have received assistance towards the cost of this life saving treatment.

Ronald, an insulin dependent diabetic and hypertensive patient said, “In November 2010 I lost my right leg due to diabetes and since then I have been unable to work. In May 2013, both my kidneys failed and I was placed on haemodialysis. Paying for my treatments has been very difficult for my family. The Mustique Charitable Trust came to my rescue and has paid for some of my treatments. I am so grateful for your assistance. You have helped in prolonging my life. God bless.”

## CREATING ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES



Nearly fifty youngsters, aged six to sixteen, attended a Trust funded summer programme to develop musical ability in playing steel pans. The organisers aimed to create a focus on teamwork, practice and technique that, again, support positive choices. The graduation performance on August 31 demonstrated that after six weeks, the participants were well on the way to becoming accomplished steel pan players.

## HOW WAS YOUR DONATION SPENT IN 2014?

In 2014 the Trust helped over 30 charities and organisations, providing much needed assistance to vulnerable children, teenagers, young adults, and impoverished communities throughout St Vincent and the Grenadines.

- Adelphi Secondary School
- Bread of Life
- Brighton Methodist School
- Buccament Bay Secondary School
- C W Prescodd
- Free Diabetes & Hypertensive Testing
- Grace & Truth Preschool
- Hands Across the Sea
- Health Solutions
- Helping Hands
- House of Hope
- IRM KEEP Back Yard Gardening Project
- Kingstown Anglican School
- Langely Park Government School
- Lions Club St Vincent
- Marion House
- Methodist Backyard Gardening Project
- Owia Government School
- Pan Against Crime
- Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force : Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit (ATIPU)
- Salvation Army Children's Home
- Sandy Bay Government School
- Sandy Bay Secondary School
- School for Children With Special Needs
- Sion Hill Euphonium Steel Orchestra
- St. Benedict's Children Home and Day Nursery
- St Martin's Secondary School
- St Vincent Grammar School
- Storm Relief Projects
- Sunshine School for Children With Special Needs
- SVG Amateur Swimming Association
- SVGCC: Division of Technical & Vocational College
- UWI SVG Open Campus
- Youth Empowered for Community Action
- Youlou Arts Foundation



Thank you for your generous donations.  
A little goes a very long way to give those in need hope for a better future.

Contact us at:



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