

South Coast residents benefit from Health Fair

"I've never seen some of these people so happy. We wish this is something that could happen every year." That was what Trysion Walters of the Crawford Community Development Committee (CDC) had to say following a recent Health and Social Services Fair in the community.

Over 200 residents from the communities of Crawford, Fostic Grove, Top Dalintober, Bottom Dalintober, Hill Top, Speculation and other neighbouring communities in the parish of St Elizabeth were able to benefit from the Fair, which was held in partnership with Sandals South Coast, the Social Development Commission (SDC) and the Crawford CDC.

Councillor for the division, Miss Whitney Smith, expressed gratitude to Sandals South Coast and the Sandals Foundation for their commitment to the community.

"When you really look at the number of persons impacted today, you can't help but be thankful to those who made this possible. A company like Sandals is already a leader in their industry; they are doing what they should in their sector and to see how committed they are to serving the community is just remarkable," she explained.

The day's proceedings commenced at approximately 8:00 a.m. and saw adults and children swooping in, in their numbers to take advantage of the various services that were provided.

The St. Elizabeth Health Department, Royale Pharmacy and the Jamaica Red Cross Society offered blood pressure checks, medical examinations, heart checks, blood glucose and cholesterol checks, nutritional counseling and male prostate testing.

A team from the St. Elizabeth Health Department conducted HIV Testing and counseling, while free drug counseling and presentations were done by the National Council on Drug Abuse.

SOCIAL SERVICES Residents were also able to access critical social service offerings through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Heart Trust NTA, Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning, National Housing Trust, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Tax Administration of Jamaica and

the Child Protection and Family Service Agency.

Chief among the offerings of the Fair was the prostate testing which saw men aged 40 and over initially shying away until they understood later, that it would take the form of a blood test.

Crawford resident, 49-year old Dave Williams had his prostate check done and he has no regrets.

"It is important to do the test because if you allow pride to stop you, you may be putting yourself in danger. At least you can allow yourself to live a little longer by doing the test and knowing your status. I did mine, the results were good and I am

happy I did it," he said.

In addition to these serv-

ices, the children present were treated to back to school supplies courtesy of the Sandals Foundation. Public Relations Manager for Sandals South Coast, Rochelle Forbes noted that the aim of the fair was to promote a healthy lifestyle among residents while providing them with the tools and information they need to cooperate as employable, informed and responsible citizens.



Loan Officer at the National Housing Trust (NHT), Julie DaCosta, shares information on the NHT's services with a resident of the Brompton community.



Tax Payer Education Officer, Samantha Williams, really seems to be making talks on employer/employee taxes and contributions fun for Sandals Team Member, Nicholas Nelson. Listening in is Manager for the Taxpayer Education Unit, Marie McDonald.

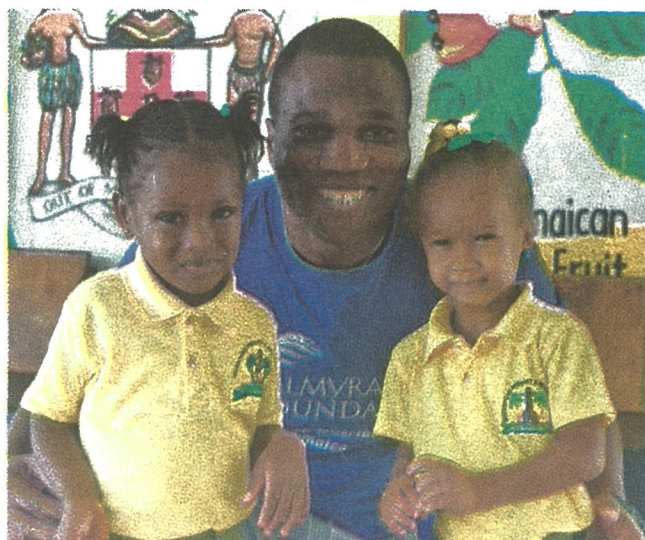


Sandals South Coast Environment, Health and Safety Manager, Vilma Smith and Public Relations Manager, Rochelle Forbes, engage Floyd Green, Member of Parliament for South West St. Elizabeth and Councillor, Whitney Smith in conversation, perhaps thanking them for their support and sponsorship of the event.

Hundreds of kids receive books



BOOKS FOR THE INFANTS: Founding member of Books 4 Kids, Frank Perolli, joins Vice Principal Cartia McCallum and sponsor Christopher Clarke to present books to Kindergarten students at Green Pond Infant School, Montego Bay.



CHRIS AND THE KIDS: Sponsor of Books4Kids, Christopher Clarke, with 4-year-old Kindergarten students Ayanna Brown (left) and Kiara Allen (right) at Green Pond Infant School, Montego Bay.

The Palmyra Foundation's Books4Kids Jamaica programme distributed book bags into the hands of more than 5080 Kindergarten children in 63 schools across Western Jamaica.

This forms part of the overall programme

where 11,500, 4 and 5 year-old kindergarten students across Jamaica will receive books.

The programme, which is in its eleventh year, functions under the theme: "The future is bright, when you can read and write!" and has hand-

ed out more than 250,000 books to 86,500 children over that period.

Seven-year programme sponsor, Christopher Clarke, has been part of the team delivering books at more than 10 schools;

"Being a volunteer and sponsor of Books4Kids Jamaica has allowed me

to help so many children in Jamaica. Giving back is truly a blessing."

The majority of funds for this year's books were raised through the annual Books4Kids Jamaica 2018 Online Charity Auction. To date, the Palmyra Foundation has donated books valued at over US\$1.5m.



HAPPY MOMENT: Ragni Trotta, Chairperson for Books4Kids Jamaica and 5-year-old Shaeika Hayles share smiles at the Maldon Basic School in the hills of St. James, where books were presented to students at that school.



FOR YOU LITTLE ONE: Books4Kids Jamaica Founding member, Frank Perolli, handing out books and materials to a 4-year-old boy at the Savanna-la-Mar Infant School, Westmoreland

