

The Backpack *Project* newsletter

ENSURING THAT EVERY CHILD IN THE CARIBBEAN HAS THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE A BASIC FORMAL EDUCATION

In this debut newsletter we will inform you of what the backpack project is all about, introduce you to the team, inform you of the issues facing students in the Caribbean and how to get involved.

About The Backpack Project

The Backpack Project is a non-profit initiative aimed at promoting health and education among Caribbean students between the ages of 5 and 18 years. The Backpack project, which was started in December 2008, assists students of impoverished families to pursue their educational goals through the shipment and distribution of pre-packaged backpacks containing school and personal supplies.

Students are identified by Caribbean educators who then notify the organization of the students' needs. Once eligibil-

ity is confirmed, backpacks are then assembled, shipped and distributed to the students. Upon receipt of the backpacks, the students then maintain regular correspondence with The Backpack Project regarding their progress both inside and outside of the classroom.



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Our Mission:

The Backpack Project believes that education is a basic human right, not a privilege, and that health is a key determining factor in a child's development. The organization encourages Caribbean children to pursue a formal education by providing the tools necessary to succeed, including basic stationery supplies as well as personal items to promote proper personal hygiene. The Backpack Project hopes to leverage the resources of its sponsors, donors, volunteers and other stakeholders in a collaborative manner to further its objective of ensuring that every child in the Caribbean is educated.

We are an organization that provides the resources that allow students to pursue higher learning. It is through this initiative that we intend to keep children's dreams alive, as we at The Backpack Project equip children with the tools necessary to succeed.



The Backpack Project Team 2011

Co- Founders/Directors

Melissa Enmore
Michelle Kandasammy

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Karelle Clark

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Daniel Yearwood

Director of Strategy

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Lets Get Social

You can also find us on:

facebook

Linked in

Holiday Greetings from The Backpack Project Team

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped to shape The Backpack Project in a most significant way. On behalf of The Backpack Project team, I take this opportunity to thank all our supporters, sponsors and donors for your encouragement and generosity in 2011. We greatly value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come, as you help us to put smiles on children's faces while encouraging them to succeed.

This Christmas, let us give thanks to God for all his many blessings. I urge you to reflect on the true reason for the season, and in so doing, may you have a very Merry Christmas and a new year filled with peace and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Melissa Enmore

Meet the Team

Melissa Enmore - Co-Founder/Director

A Guyanese native, I was born and raised in Guyana's capital, Georgetown. Growing up, I had the privilege of attending St. Gabriel's Primary School, after which I attended Queen's College, until 1997 when I immigrated to Toronto Canada. Not only was I privileged enough to be able to pursue a formal education, but I was also able to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as piano lessons. In addition, I was very involved in church activities, which helped to mould me into a well-

rounded individual.

After immigrating to Toronto, I continued my education at the secondary and tertiary levels, attending the Downsview Secondary School and subsequently the University of Toronto, where I obtained an Honours Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. Upon graduating, I was employed at Toronto General Hospital, a Research Coordinator for 1.5 years. Currently, I am a Research Coordinator at Women's College Research

Institute's Familial Breast Cancer Unit. While education has always been important to me, contributing to my community has also played an equally important role in my life. As such, I am a very active member of my community.

Previously I was a volunteer group facilitator at Dr. Roz' Healing Place, a shelter for abused women, where I present health-related talks to the women with a particular focus on female empowerment. I also volunteered in the Children's Department at the shelter, planning and implementing children's activities.

In addition, I am currently the Vice President of Communications and Membership of the Queen's College Alumni Association's Toronto Chapter, a non-profit organization whose aim is to encourage the pursuit of formal education at our alma mater in Guyana, Queen's College. Previously, I was involved in peer mentorship programs, providing assistance to troubled youth in secondary schools, as well as with disabled university students who needed assistance inside and outside of the classroom.



My passion for education, as well as the well-rounded development of today's youth, has been the driving force in my being co-founder of The Backpack Project, as I believe that each child should be entitled to a formal education regardless of his/her family's financial situation. Consequently, I believe that The Backpack Project will assist with student's well-rounded development, one backpack at a time.



I am a born and bred Guyanese and despite the negative perceptions which may accompany my nationality, I wear Guyana's flag and rich heritage proudly. I was blessed to attend two of the best schools in the country, Stella Maris Primary School and Queen's College (actually considered the best in some circles).

The value of good education in all aspects in life has always been an on-

going lesson in my home. My Dad thrusting books my way every chance he got and my Mom who drilled me until all my school work was completed every day. Although I led a comfortable life filled with music, ballet and tennis lessons, I was never blinded by my blessings. Indeed growing up in one of the poorest countries in the world actually drove my awareness of how unfair life could be.

While I do not have a history of community service (not as though my schedule actually permitted time), I was raised by socially conscious parents who believe in equality for all and always reached out to less fortunate families. It is through their example of love and concern for others that I too developed a strong sense of social responsibility and have always yearned for a way to give back to society.

After CXC I migrated to Trinidad and Tobago and where I call my 'home' to this day. I graduated with an Ontario High School Diploma (A average) from Maple Leaf International

School and furthered my studies at Roytec with a BBA concentration in Finance and Marketing (First Division) - University of New Brunswick.

In addition to The Backpack Project, I am a member of Soroptimist International - Newtown, Trinidad.

I believe that it was faith that led Melis-



sa and I to begin our discussions and eventual conviction to start up The Backpack Project. Together, hopefully we can help numerous children across the Caribbean to achieve basic formal education and create dynamic Caribbean leaders of tomorrow.



Michelle Kandasammy- Co-Founder/Director

Daniel's formative years in Trinidad & Tobago included academic and extra-curricular foundations that were laid at Barataria Anglican Primary School and further developed at St. Mary's College. After completing his Advanced Level examinations at St. Mary's, Daniel attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland where he interned on Wall Street and obtained a BS in Computer Science. He has volunteered with Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, a New York City based non-profit organi-

zation and mentored high school juniors in college application preparation.

Daniel is currently the president of the Morgan State University Trinidad & Tobago Alumni Chapter. The Chapter was chartered in October 2008 and seeks to promote the welfare of the University, nurture the ties among its alumni, engage its environs through community service and encourage talented high school students to select the University to further their academic goals.

"Education is the great equalizer and can provide opportunities to lift entire communities out of squalor and underdevelopment. Its deprivation can render an individual almost functionally incapable in comparison to others who have fully experienced its benefits. Through our work with The Backpack Project, we can help improve educational opportunities for children across the Caribbean and our community will undoubtedly reap the rewards in years to come."

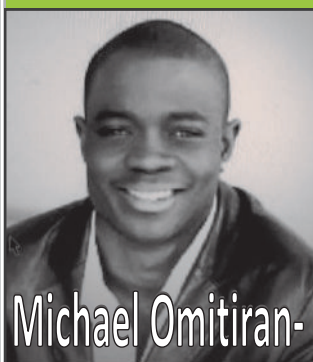


Daniel Yearwood - Director

Since his immigration to Canada from Nigeria in 2003, Michael has never retreated on his quest for success. Believing in the power of great education, he has against all odds proven to be the proverbial underdog. Specializing in business and society, he graduated with an Honours Bachelors Degree from York University in 2008 and is currently enrolled in a Master's degree program at one of Canada's top business management schools, The Rotman School of

Management at the University of Toronto. As a serial entrepreneur, he has encountered the 'highs and lows' of the business world and has had experiences which have shaped him into the optimistic, self-motivated individual that he is today.

Raised in a family where education is of utmost importance, and having a strong belief that education is the key to a successful future, Michael believes in the need for everyone to be given a chance to obtain adequate education. Also, with roots in a country where poverty hinders and limits the level of quality education attained by children, Michael shares great interest in the need to alleviate poverty around the world and allow quality education to soar.



Michael Omitiran - Director of Strategy

Karelle is a native of Trinidad & Tobago. In her early years she attended Bishop's Anstey Primary School, followed by her attendance at both Holy Name Convent Secondary School and St. Joseph's Convent (POS) Secondary School. After completion of her Secondary schooling she attended South Carolina State University, USA from which she graduated with Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (summa cum laude).

During the latter part of her undergraduate studies she became an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., in which she diligently participated

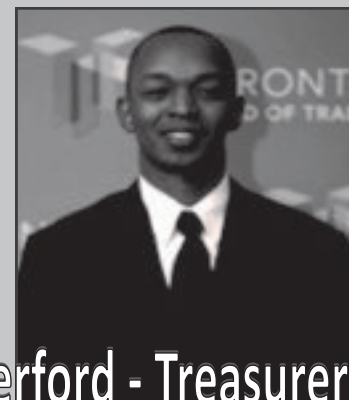
in various community service ventures promoted by the organization. During this time she also volunteered regularly as a peer leader within the Delta Gems programs; an ongoing initiative whose main goal is directed towards encouraging the need for academic excellence and overall personal wellbeing in at-risk, adolescent girls aged 14-18 years. Post-graduation Karelle interned at the Speech and Language Therapy Centre in Los Angeles, CA, where she worked as a teaching assistant for special needs children between the ages of 4 - 13 years. Later, she continued her educational studies at Lund University, Sweden, where she

Jamohl is a proud native of Guyana and credits much of his success to the foundation that he received while in the country's education system. Jamohl grew up in Guyana's rural town of New Amsterdam where he attended All Saints Primary School and excelled in academics and extra-curricular activities. He was fortunate to have the opportunity to move to the nation's capital where he attended St. Agnes Primary School and later Queen's College, the nation's leading secondary school. After successful completion of high school, Jamohl migrated to Canada where he attended York University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Economics.

During his time Canada, Jamohl has emerged as consummate professional and an engaged member of the Guyanese diaspora. Jamohl has served as Director of Membership and Communication for the Queen's College Alumni Association in Toronto working to help drive membership and engagement. He current-

ly works as the Manager of Member Services with the Toronto Board of Trade, the country's largest chamber of commerce.

"The Backpack Project's mandate is one that is very personal and dear to me. Having grown up in Guyana, I have seen firsthand how not having access to very simple things like pencils, geometry sets, calculators etc, can impede a child's pursuit of an education. We have been blessed with an opportunity to make a difference, and we will, one backpack at a time!"

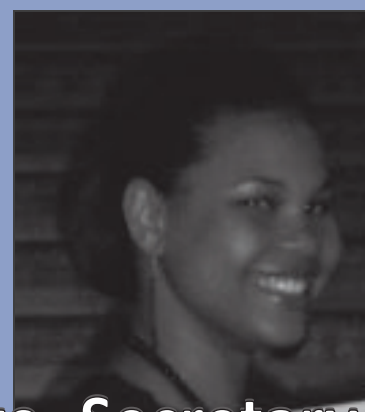


Jamohl Rutherford - Treasurer

obtained a Master's degree in Gender Studies with a major in Psychology. During her stay abroad she also worked part-time as an English tutor in an attempt to continue her dedication towards encouraging learning and interest in foreign cultures and languages, amongst kindergarten and primary school aged children.

"Education should not be a privilege afforded to an allotted few, but a right available to all children. Through the endeavours of the Backpack Project, we hope to ensure that ongoing access to educational opportunities is availa-

ble to all children throughout the Caribbean region; as the children of today, are our leaders of tomorrow.



Karelle Clarke - Secretary

The Backpack Project: Trinidad and Tobago



Michelle modelling one of the backpacks to be distributed

If you ask people why they give, the readiest answers offer clues to the mystery. God wants me to. I feel better about myself. Others need, and I have. I want to share. It's only right. The Backpack Project team gives because we understand the importance of expanding kindness and prosperity amongst our global community.

It's Graduation Time at Nelson Street Boys R.C and I'm nervous, not quite sure what to expect. When I arrived at the school I was given an introduction by the Principal and received a warm welcome from the students. I completely forgot how energetic and noisy little boys were! My primary school experience was a long time ago. I was happy to be there to give The Backpack Project Awards in person and to see the pride in the faces of the boys to be given an award for Most Promising High Potential Student. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the school's graduation ceremony and can't wait to attend my next one!

Nothing quite prepares you for the joy on the children's faces when they see the bags with their names on it. The warm unexpected hugs received from the students of Rose Hill R.C took me by surprise and brightened my day. After briefly talking to the students about their classes and their goals for the year, it was time for them to return to their teachers. I walked out of Rose Hill R.C. more determined than ever that we must fulfil our promise to continue to sponsor all of our kids and to expand our programme.

Michelle Kandasammy, Co-Founder /Director



Michelle and students from Nelson Street Boys R.C as they receive their well deserved backpacks



Drawstring backpacks ready to be filled.

Update Trinidad 2011

Fifteen additional students were sponsored this year, two students from Sacred Heart Girls' R.C. School, two from Rose Hill RC School, ten from Nelson Street Boys' R.C. School and one student from CIC for a grand total of 46 students. Nelson Street Boys R.C. School was the new school sponsored this year. Members of The Backpack Project team in Trinidad attended the school's graduation ceremony on September 26, 2011 to present BPP Awards to recipients. New schools to be added to the programme for January 2012 include Arima Boys' Government School and Rose Hill R.C. School.



Items to go into backpacks

The Backpack Project: Guyana



Melissa Enmore signing for clearing of the backpacks



The backpacks all ready to go to their new owners.



Melissa and students from Tutorial High modelling the new backpacks

During my visit to Guyana in September 2011, I was able to distribute backpacks to deserving high school recipients, who were identified by principals and teachers at Tutorial High School and Queen's College. The backpacks, which were shipped in late August 2011, arrived in Guyana late September, in time for me to distribute them to the students. However, the first step was clearing of the barrels in which the backpacks were shipped.

A kind teacher at Tutorial High School, Mr. Kirk Moses, accompanied me to Laparkan's office in Guyana, where we cleared the barrels of backpacks and brought them for distribution to the students. Mrs. Audrey Abrams, the Head Mistress for Tutorial High School, Mr. Kirk Moses and I distributed the backpacks to the students at Tutorial High School. Upon handing over the backpacks, the students and I spoke of their experiences in school, their interests and hobbies and their future career plans. I was impressed to learn that all of the Tutorial High School backpack recipients are well-rounded students whose extracurricular activities included cricket, basketball and track-and-field. In fact, one backpack recipient is notably a top athlete at Tutorial High School, representing both his high school and his country in track and field, and will represent his school and the country in an upcoming event in Barbados in 2012. Not only did they excel outside the classroom but inside as well, with very high expectations for themselves with regards to future careers.

The next stop was my alma mater, Queen's College, where the Head Mistress, Ms. Hollingsworth, and Old Students' Association alumnus Sharon Kreuter, and I presented the backpacks to the student recipients. The students' faces radiated as they spoke highly of their academic achievements to date, and their plans for the future, which included aspirations of professions in law, medicine, and engineering. It was no surprise that among the backpack recipients was a very talented poet.

The distribution of the backpacks could not have been possible without the support and dedication of the principals, staff and alumni like Sharon, who go above and beyond their call of duty to ensure that the students' needs are met, and that they receive the tools necessary to continue to succeed. Nothing compares to the looks on those smiling faces of the students were not only very grateful for the backpacks, but determined to excel. It is one of the most fulfilling experiences to date and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet these students, who inspire me to continue to aspire to greatness for The Backpack Project.



Melissa and students from Queens College with the barrel containing the new backpacks.

The Backpack Project: In the Community

Update Toronto 2011

The Backpack Project was able to gain public awareness and exposure through participation in Guyanese events such as Last Lap Lime, which is held jointly by five non-profit Guyanese Alumni Associations resident in Toronto, Ontario. For the first time, in August 2011, we had the privilege of securing a booth at the annual Last Lap Lime, the largest congregation of Guyanese outside of Guyana. This event, which celebrates what it means to be Guyanese through entertainment, food, drink and 'liming,' proved to be a success because we were able to create awareness, network with the Guyanese diaspora, raise funds, and garner more interest from potential sponsors and donors.

We were also able to raise awareness for The Backpack Project at the Queen's College Alumni Association's fashion show/barbecue, held at Earl Bales Park in Toronto. Some of the members of the BPP Canadian team hosted the event, while others planned and participated in the fashion show, representing The Backpack Project with the t-shirts and allotting time to promote and create awareness about The Backpack Project.

To date, there were 28 backpack recipients in Guyana and 46 in Trinidad. Sixteen students at Queen's College and 12 students at Tutorial High School were shipped backpacks from Canada, containing both stationery and personal items. In December, 35 children at the Children's Convalescent Home will receive backpacks. In addition, 30 special backpacks will be put together for women and children in Haiti, who suffered the devastating earthquake in January 2010. In 2011 we also secured partnership with Kamal Bassier and Carol Talbot, co-owners of Anytime Fitness (Ajax).

We would not have been able to accomplish what we did this year without The Backpack Project team in Canada (Melissa, Jamohl, Michael, Ntianu), volunteers (Michelle McFarlene) and the Canadian supporters, who continue to encourage us to strive for greatness.



The Backpack Project Canadian team members Jamohl, Michael and Melisa and new partner Kamal at the BPP booth at LAST LAP LIME 2011, Toronto Canada



The Backpack Project table at LAST LAP LIME



Some members of The Backpack Project team and friends at LAST LAP LIME 2011



The Backpack Project team raising awareness for the project at Queens College Alumni Association's fashion show/barbeque.

The Backpack Project: Our Sponsors

Without our sponsors, The Backpack Project would not be where we are today.



THANK YOU

To all of our sponsors, thank you for your generous gifts and for believing that education is a basic right and not a privilege. While we've had good successes in 2011, it is only honest to admit that it's also been a difficult year – one that will stay with us, especially those of us who believe in the humanity of others.

I would like to acknowledge the Business Development Company Limited and John Dickinson for being our first sponsors from the inception and have come on board again in 2011. This year would not have been as successful had it not been for our sponsors' continued support. Queen's College Alumni Association of Guyana's Toronto Chapter, Tutorial High School Alumni Association's Toronto Chapter and Faith United Ministries continued to support us in 2011. In addition, we received a very generous donation from Trinity College. Other sponsors this year included John Dickinson & Co. (West Indies) Limited, GlaxoSmithKline, Galt & Littlepage, WITCO Credit Union, Sagcor Financial Corporation, HI LO and T&TEC all based in Trinidad.

I think that it is important to state that the giving of backpacks is not the end of our sponsorship programme; it is only the beginning. The overall development of a student encompasses appreciation for sports and the arts, being a good citizen but most of all knowing that he/she is worthy of love and respect. We hope to help these children understand that whatever their situation in life may be, it does not determine the adults they can aspire to become.

We look forward to your continued support in 2012.

Blessings....

Michelle Kandasammy
Co-Founder/Director



Michelle Kandasammy accepting a donation from one of our sponsors,



QUEEN'S COLLEGE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA (TORONTO CHAPTER)

The Backpack Project: The Future Partnerships

Growing up in Guyana is an experience that I will always hold near and dear to me. As I get older, I really appreciate the uniqueness of a childhood in Guyana. In the late 80s and early 90s, we couldn't hide behind a computer screen. My friendships were authentic and genuine because our interactions were always face to face. Every afternoon, my neighbourhood would transform into an adventure land, with trees to climb, dogs to chase (or to flee from), fences to jump, and of course, games to play. Our imaginations made it so that there was hardly ever a dull day. The result: I have the very same friends in my life twenty years later.

The Backpack Project is something I'm deeply involved in because I believe that no student should be denied the opportunity to excel in school because they can't afford school supplies. The Backpack Project also recognizes that some underprivileged students not only lack school supplies, but basic grooming and sanitary items as well. As a professional in the health care field, I understand the importance of being and feeling well prepared to enter the work force; or in this case, one's day of school.

I am the co-owner of Anytime Fitness in North Ajax, Ontario. We are opening our brand new 24 hour facility in November 2011. Having been in health and fitness all my life, operating a facility where I can help even more people improve their lives has always been a dream of mine; and I feel very blessed that this vision has finally become a reality. "Dream big, because small dreams have no magic".

In addition to spreading awareness and garnering support from the Greater Toronto Area, Anytime Fitness North Ajax will be collaborating with The Backpack Project in the education of children about the importance of adapting a healthy lifestyle as an avenue for success in all areas of life. We understand that a healthy body leads to a healthy mind, so it is our goal to have our future leaders understand that connection.

Kamaral Bassier



Carol Talbot and Kamaral Bassier from Anytime Fitness

The Backpack Project in Haiti

A researcher and scientist at Women's College Research Institute, Dr. Carmen Logie, was awarded with a grant to help women in Haiti with HIV/AIDS through the use of solar-powered tablets which programmed with an interactive video to educate women in the camps about HIV prevention.

But Carmen is worried about the women and children in Haiti who lack the basic necessities – food, clothing and shelter – ever since the devastating earthquake in January 2010. So Carmen has collaborated with The Backpack Project, which provides backpacks full of school and personal supplies to impoverished children in the Caribbean.

Carmen and Melissa Enmore will be collecting items and putting together special backpacks for some of the women and children in Haiti.

For more information, please see [http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/news-and-events/connect/news/wcri-post-doc-fellow-awarded-\\$100k-grant-to-empower-at-risk-women](http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/news-and-events/connect/news/wcri-post-doc-fellow-awarded-$100k-grant-to-empower-at-risk-women)



Carmen Logie

The Backpack Project: The Future

Guyana Red Cross Society- Children's Convalescent Home

The Children's Convalescent Home (CCH) is a community outreach program of the Guyana Red Cross Society which has been in existence for over half a century, having first been opened on October 31, 1951 as the Princess Elizabeth Children's Convalescent Home. CCH provides residential care and support for children ages five and under, convalescing from malnourishment, abuse, neglect, abandonment and orphanage. CCH aims to promote the children's safety, welfare, and healthy physical, mental and emotional development, with the ultimate goal of family reintegration or fostering/adoption.

Besides catering to these children's physical needs, CCH also has programs in place to cater to their development in other ways. At three years, the children attend the play school which is located on the bottom flat of the convalescent home. They are taught by an early childhood educator as well as engage in recreational activities. The Backpack Project has collaborated with The Children's Convalescent Home, and will be providing backpacks to all the children for Christmas.



The beautiful children waving to the camera



Sitting down for lunch.



Melissa and a child from Children's Convalescent Home



Melissa and administrator Enwin Enmore in front of Children's Convalescent Home.

The Backpack Project: In the Media

Early in 2011, The Backpack Project made its presence felt in the media. On January 26th, 2011, an article written by Jasmine Sahoye, "Backpack project helps kids go to school" was published in The Caribbean Camera, Canada's largest newspaper on Caribbean affairs. Shortly thereafter, on February 15th, 2011, we were fortunate enough to be interviewed by popular radio host Jai Maharaj, on CHIN radio's Caribbean Connection (91.9FM), one of the oldest and most popular programs on CHIN radio. This radio interview was later followed by an interview by Ron Fanfair, writer and journalist for the Share, Canada's largest ethnic newspaper. Subsequently, on February 23, 2011, Ron Fanfair's article was published in The Share, "Backpack Project helps students in the Caribbean."



Backpack project helps kids go to school

By Jasmine Sahoye

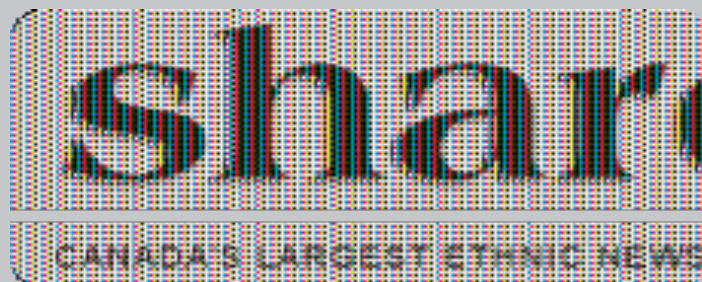
Two friends and their former classmates are trying to help less fortunate children in Guyana and Trinidad attend school by donating backpacks through their non-profit initiative.

Melissa Enmore and Michelle Kandasammy, co-founders of The Backpack Project, both grew up in Guyana and saw how poverty stopped children from attending school and decided to start this non-profit project.

The Backpack Project is aimed at alleviating poverty through the promotion of education and health among Caribbean students. A registered non-profit organization in Canada and Trinidad, the organization is committed to ensuring that every child has the necessary tools needed to receive a basic formal education through the provision of backpacks containing stationery and personal supplies to the less-privileged children in the Caribbean and eventually to other parts of the world.....

The rest of the above article can be found at:

<http://www.thecaribbeancamera.com/news/4936-backpack-project>



Backpack project helps students in the Caribbean

By Ron Fanfair

Seeing a Vincentian friend send school supplies back to her Caribbean homeland to assist the less fortunate planted a seed in Melissa Enmore's mind three years ago.

The Toronto resident ran her idea by close ally and Queen's College classmate Michelle Kandasammy who lives in Trinidad & Tobago.

"Why couldn't we do the same for our alma mater and other Guyanese and Trinidad schools?" said Enmore.

The Backpack Project emerged with the friends raising money, through registered non-profit organizations in Toronto and the twin-island republic, to send stationary and other supplies back to Guyana and other Caribbean islands. The total cost of a backpack and its contents is approximately \$50.....

The rest of the above article can be found at:

<http://www.sharenews.com/local-news/2011/02/23/backpack-project-helps-students-caribbean>



Chin Radio Host, Jai Ojah-Maharaj

What's Inside Our Backpacks?



Stationery Items

Backpacks
Erasers
Lined Paper
Notebooks
Binders
Pencils
Pens
Highlighters
Folders
Scientific Calculators
Geometry Sets
Rulers

Health/Personal Items

Combs
Soaps
Deodorants
Hand Sanitizers
Lotions
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Water Bottles
Lunch Bowl
Sanitary napkins

Eligibility Criteria for The Backpack Project

1. The child is currently enrolled at a preparatory, primary or secondary educational institution
2. The child is between the ages of 5 and 18 years old
3. It was demonstrated that the child's family is in need of financial assistance
4. It was established that backpacks would help this child to improve academically
5. It was established that backpacks would improve this child's health and personal growth
6. The child and her/his immediate family currently reside in the Caribbean



How to get Involved

Let's break the cycle of poverty one backpack at a time!

As a non-profit organization, The Backpack Project depends on donations from sponsors and individuals, as well as help from our volunteers to help us achieve our mission. Find out how you can help to break the cycle of poverty one backpack at a time.

Become a Sponsor

We are always grateful for corporate partners who help us achieve our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact us at thebackpackproject@gmail.com to find out how your company can help.

Become a Volunteer

As a growing organization, we are in constant need of additional support. Whether you are based in one of our locations or abroad, we could always use your help. Please email us at thebackpackproject@gmail.com if you're interested in becoming a volunteer.

Make a Donation

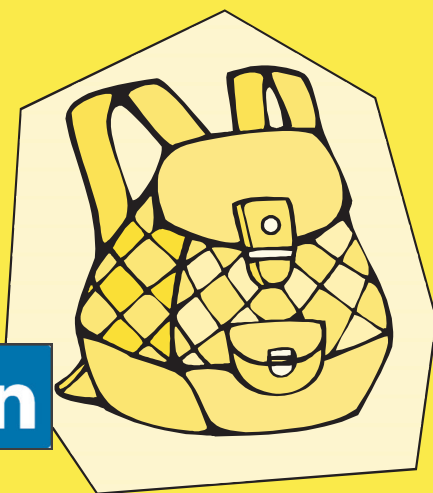
We accept donations in cash or credit via our Paypal account, as well as in-kind donations of stationery and personal items. For a list of the items needed and to donate these items please email us at thebackpackproject@gmail.com

Check us out on

facebook

and

Linked in



Some Fun Stuff

Trivia Questions

1. What was formerly called Caribana is now called _____, the name change effective _____ (year)
2. When was Guyana declared an independent state and a republic _____
3. Guyana's neighbours to the north, south, east and west are _____
4. What is Guyana's national bird, flower, dish? _____
5. Who was the first president and the first executive president of Guyana and in what year did they obtain these positions _____
6. Who wrote the lyrics and music of Guyana's national anthem _____
7. How many main Amerindian tribes are there? Can you name them? _____
8. The motto found on Guyana's coat-of-arms reads _____
9. Guyana, is a(an) _____ word, which means _____
10. Guyana's flag has _____ colours and they are _____. What is each colour symbolic of? _____

More Fun Stuff



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Across
metal percussion instrument</p> <p>4 a common spice</p> <p>7 some variation of this festival exists throughout the Caribbean</p> <p>8 I am staying in a place called the House of Pancakes in Pigeon Point. Where am I?</p> | <p>2 Down
Portugal, Spain, Britain and France all hoped to establish profitable colonies in the West Indies. Which other country was in the mix?</p> <p>3 Other than English, What is another major language spoken in the Caribbean?</p> <p>5 there are over
thousand islands in the Caribbean</p> <p>6 one must wear one of these to go to school in the Caribbean.</p> <p>8 percentage of the Caribbean that is occupied by the human species.</p> |
|---|---|



Unscramble the picture to discover where this is.

Answers to Trivia, Word Scramble and Crossword

Trivia:

1. Scotia Bank Caribbean Carnival, 2011; 2. May 26, 1966; Feb 23, 1970; 3. Atlantic Ocean - north; Brazil - south; Suriname - east; Venezuela - west; 4. Hoatzie/canje pheasant - bird, Victoria regia/amazonica - flower, pepperpot - dish; 5. Sir Arthur Chung, Forbes Burnham, 1966; 6. Archibald Leonard Luker (lyrics) and Robert Cyril Potter (music); 7. four, Warraus, Arawaks, Caribs, Wapishianas 8. one people, one nation, one destiny 9. Amerindian; land of many waters 10. 5; red, black, yellow, white, green-The green symbolizes Guyana's forests, vegetation and agriculture. The Golden Arrowhead (yellow) represents the country's mineral wealth and its golden future. The red stands for the country's eagerness and enthusiasm to embrace the nation-building process. The white represents Guyana's abundant water resources and the black indicates the perseverance and endurance of the nation)

Crossword:

Down: steelpan, curry, carnival, Tobago , Across: Netherlands, French, seven, uniform, two

Picture Jumble: