

Female Prisoners Welfare Project

HIBISCUS JAMAICA LTD.

Current Programmes

BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMME

FPWP-Hibiscus Jamaica currently facilitates a basic needs programme. One area of need is nutrition. Many children and caregivers often go hungry and rarely meet their daily nutritional needs. Hibiscus facilitates a feeding programme, aimed at ensuring that our clients, especially the children have at least one nutritious meal every day. Distribution of our food supplies is done on a monthly basis to clients throughout the island.

WORK WITH CHILDREN

Education & Training

Primary & Secondary Education

In the absence of the mothers, who are mostly single parents, the children's education is often adversely affected. The Back to School programme is essential to equip these children with the necessary education to break the cycle of poverty. Enabling them to make the choice for a good education also helps them to avoid the snare of criminality.

Under the Education programme the following are provided:

- School fees
- Lunch money
- Text books
- Uniforms
- School bags
- Bus-fare


- Examination fees


Educational Field Trips

Educational field trips are organized to take the children to places they would not normally go, thus giving them experiences that will impact positively on their lives.

Youth Development Seminars

Seminars are held yearly. They are targeted to children and youths between the ages 12 and 18 years old. Trained personnel in counselling, conflict resolution and creative writing conduct the workshops and seminars.

 ***Remedial Reading Programme*** – Although academic grades have improved some children are still struggling, due in part to their poor reading skill. This programme is so designed to help them improve their reading skill and subsequently academic performance.

 ***Mentoring Programme*** – Children are linked with trained Mentors. Mentors, children and parents are trained by Hibiscus Mentoring Workshops.

WORK WITH WOMEN

Education & Training

Advancement of Women Through Education

Under this programme mothers are encouraged to return to school to learn a skill and to further their education. The Agency fosters relationships with different training institutions to provide this training. Hibiscus assists with:

- Enrolment
- Fees
- Uniforms
- Transportation cost

Some women have had training in Food and Beverage Management, Food Preparation, Hotel Hospitality, Early Childhood Education and Nursing.


Skills Display Workshop

Many of the women return to Jamaica with a skill learned while incarcerated. They are encouraged to make samples of their products for display at this workshop. The workshop is attended by trained personnel from the craft, financial and training sectors and some retailers.

In-Side-Out

This programme will be aimed at enabling the women returnees to become economically self sufficient, to contribute to the wealth and social improvement of their family and community. It will be supported by a committee comprising of returnees to ensure that the project continues to be relevant and responsive. Most of the work will be done by the returnees, so that they can lead by example. Income generating aspects of the project will be promoted to assist women to support themselves and their families.

FAMILY INTERVENTION

 ***Parent & Child Summer Workshop.*** Held during school's summer holidays, this five day workshop involves parents and children in programmed activities that would facilitate interaction and dialogue. The main objectives are to assist parents and caregivers in exploring individual issues, their roles and responsibilities towards self and children.

COUNSELLING

One critical area of need is counselling, provided by the agency, through its Social Worker, Final Year Social Work Practicum Students and or trained volunteers. State agencies that provide this service are utilised. Where necessary in house counselling is accommodated.

HEALTH SERVICES

Clients are referred to State Agencies. Private medical practitioners also offer their services at a minimum cost.

Anti – Drug Trafficking Education Campaign

An annual education campaign, which is conducted mainly in our high schools, with service clubs, youth groups and businesses, seeks to target adolescents and adults who are deemed potential recruits for drug trafficking. Over 120,000 persons have participated in the campaign for the fight against drug trafficking.

The programme had several components including a Short Story Competition, presentations and panel discussions conducted by convicted women and men along with the dissemination of posters, pamphlets, comic strips and a high rotation on television of our short animation film “***Eva Goes to Foreign***” which illustrates the dangers and consequences of drug trafficking.