

## Registration for Trees for Peace Extended

The VPA is inviting schools islandwide to register for the 2019/2020 Trees for Peace Competition by November 31, 2019.

To participate in this Competition, schools are encouraged to share a picture of the planned area that will be converted into its peace garden along with a registration form via email to [vpajamaica@gmail.com](mailto:vpajamaica@gmail.com). Registration forms can also be accessed on the VPA website at [www.vpajamaica.org](http://www.vpajamaica.org)

The VPA will again collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, in promoting **Trees for Peace Competition**, which focuses on respect, tolerance, care for the environment and each other.

Peace gardens will be judged in February to March of 2020 and cash prizes and trophies will be given to the top three schools.



Prospect Primary School in St Thomas was the winner of the Trees for Peace Competition



Naggo Head Infant School was second place winner.



Holy Family Primary School placed third.



## The Peace Garden

*Journey to Harmony - Light the Passion, Share the Dream*  
(Beijing 2008 Olympics)

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## VPA LAUNCHES "I CANJA" PEACE DAY CAMPAIGN

The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) launched its **"I CanJA Peace Day Campaign"** in observation of International Peace Day on September 21.

Dr Elizabeth Ward, chair of the VPA said the campaign was designed to raise awareness of the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV), which was tabled in the House of Parliament in June this year. The mandate of the NPACV is to create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of violence, child abuse and maltreatment of children in Jamaica. Through the NPACV, Jamaica is working towards the reduction of violence related incidents against children to zero percent by 2030.



Francesco De Simone of IDB makes his pledge to the Campaign

"We are encouraging persons to commit to playing their part in tackling violence against children under the **I CanJA Peace Day Campaign**. This commitment could be either mentorship to a child or support to a school. These pledges should however, be tangible," she explained.

Dr Ward said already key stakeholders have committed to take the pledge. "We look forward to others joining this campaign and also sharing what they can do in terms of building a safe and healthy society for our children," she said.

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Dr Melva Spence (left) of the CSJP and Janet Silvera, president of the MBCCI show off various messaging for the I CanJA Peace Day Campaign.



## FIVE SCHOOLS EMERGE WINNERS OF INSPIRE STRATEGY CAMPAIGN

Five rural schools emerged winners of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) INSPIRE Strategy Campaign, which was launched in 12 schools across the island.

The winning schools are: Mannings Hill Primary School in Westmoreland; Toll Gate Primary and Infant School in Clarendon; Upper Rock Spring All Age & Infant School in Hanover; Black River Primary & Infant School in St. Elizabeth and Mount Hermon Primary School in St. Catherine. The schools were asked to create a campaign on the INSPIRE Strategy, which is aimed at ending violence against children. The VPA worked with selected schools through targeted workshops that guided them in the development of their respective campaigns. The workshops were conducted in the parishes of St. Mary, St. Catherine, St. James and Manchester. Following this, the five best campaigns were selected and promoted.

The workshops gave the teachers and students a comprehensive overview of the INSPIRE Strategy and the information gained from the workshops enabled the schools to develop impactful campaigns to convey messages of the Strategy.



Representatives from winning schools in the INSPIRE Strategy Campaign.

These strategies include the implementation and enforcement of laws; norms and values; safe environments; parent and caregiver support; income and economic strengthening; response and support services and education and life skills.

The campaigns will be released on the VPA social media platforms on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in the coming weeks. The INSPIRE Strategy vision encourages all governments, with the strong participation of civil society and communities, to routinely implement and monitor interventions to prevent and respond to violence against all children and adolescents and help them reach their full potential.

## 220 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CRP

The Child Resiliency Programme (CRP) of the Violence Prevention Alliance at the Kingston YMCA, Boys Town, Sam Sharpe Teachers College in Montego Bay and Falmouth All Age has accepted a new cohort of 220 children at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse for the academic year 2019-2020. Baseline interviews on all referred children to assess their level of risk and resiliency has now been completed. Children in their respective small groups have begun the



Cultural and Arts arm of the programme

process of building resiliency through engagement in the six arms of the programme. For more information visit [www.childresiliency.org](http://www.childresiliency.org)

## Photo Highlights of Maverley Peace Building Workshop

The Maverley Justice and Peace Building Workshop was held on July 25. The objective of

the workshop was to drive team action to build justice and peace in Maverley. The

workshop shared the successes and challenges to peace building in the community.



Horace Levy (right) and Elizabeth Ward

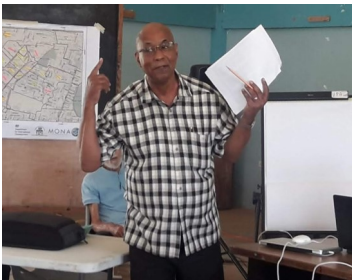


Marlon Moore of the PMI

## CALL FOR INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR PEACE BUILDING IN TRENCH TOWN

Dr Elizabeth Ward, chairman of the VPA is appealing for a more integrated bi-partisan approach to peace building in Trench Town as currently, there was too much fragmentation.

Dr Ward made the observation while addressing a Justice and Peace Building Workshop in the community recently, which was conducted by the Peace Management Initiative (PMI) in collaboration with the VPA. "One of the things that clearly need to happen and it should happen at the local level is the formation of a bi-partisan rule of law committee. People have to work together in a bi-partisan way," she stated. Concurring with Dr Ward, Trevor Spence, chief executive officer of the Boys' Town Community Community Intervention Programme said that Trench Town had several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on peace intervention programmes in the community but, each was operating in silos instead of collaboratively.



Trevor Spence , CEO of Boys Town Community Intervention Programme .

"We tend to be more competitive than complementary and we are fighting for the same resources rather than attempting to work together," he lamented.

Mr. Spence suggested that there should be one concept with everyone working as a team. He said what obtained now was like "eleven batsmen coming to the same wicket to bat at the same time." Meanwhile, Horace Levy, former deputy chairman of the



VPA Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Ward and Horace Levy of Peace Management Initiative.

has worked and what has not and why; tackling the root causes of violence and examining the crime data of Trench Town.

Among the organisations that participated in the workshop were: members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force; HEART/NTA, which shared information on training opportunities being conducted by the organisation in the community; Culture Yard, which informed on initiatives tapping into the

cultural heritage of the community; Fathers United for Change; the Rose Town Foundation; Youth with a Vision and Community Development Committees. Other participants were representatives of the Social Development Commission, Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Mark Golding, Member of Parliament of South St Andrew and members of the community. The workshop was funded by the Department for International Development.



Yvonne Hewitt, HEART NTA Representative.

PMI and civil society advocate in his welcome address said that the workshop was a sharing exercise where stakeholders would be made aware of the activities of each other. This, he explained could facilitate better collaboration for peace building efforts to be more effective.

The objective of the workshop was to focus on team action to build justice and peace in Trench Town. The areas covered in the workshop were: sharing what has worked and what has not and

## CASSAVA PIECE COMMUNITY ASSISTED WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT

With the delivery of some 21 drums to store garbage across the community courtesy of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) and Island Dairies Limited, residents of Cassava Piece in St. Andrew have realized one of five priorities highlighted for action in its

ongoing community development plan, spearheaded by the Social Development Commission (SDC).

Members of the community as well as from the VPA, SDC and other sectors gathered recently on International Peace Day to officially hand over the drums, which were placed strategically across the community. According to Sasheena Johnson Boyd, SDC's community development officer, the collaboration with the VPA and Island Dairies Limited to assist with the drums came out of priority planning discussion that the SDC had been having with the community.

"The VPA was invited to be a part of the discussion because of their continued presence and purpose in the community. One of the priority issues that came out of one of our weekly discussions was the matter of the poor management of garbage, not only the collection



Members of the VPA present drums to the community of Cassava Piece in St Andrew .

of it but also how the residents disposed of garbage," she explained.

Elaborating, Ms. Johnson Boyd said that the weekly meetings, which commenced in August of this year, aimed at finding solutions to ongoing problems, which are documented in a priority plan for the community. In fact, out of these discussions, it was determined by the community that there were five priorities, among them poor parenting at number one, school retention and crime and violence.

On hand at the handing over was VPA's representative, who stated that cleaning up the community was important for building peace in the community, while noting that the bins would be branded "*Climate Action for Peace*".

The partnerships include: Island Dairies Limited ; Jamaica Public Service Company, Metropolitan Parks and Markets, who are key in collecting and clearing the garbage from the community,

surrounding churches, schools and community members in the area. Other partners include the police.

Residents, who were instrumental to the process expressed deep satisfaction with the initiative. For Sanjean Roberts, a long-time resident of Cassava Piece, and a staunch member of SDC weekly hosted community

meeting, the garbage bins were deeply appreciated. Keeping the community clean as well as the gully, which runs through it, garbage free, she said, was a necessity. "The garbage pile-up in the gully cannot work. It not only looks disgusting and distasteful but it causes our mosquito problems," she lamented.

"We are looking forward for more drums. The persons in the community love what is going on and are really excited. We are going also have our parenting forums which are set to start in October," she divulged.

Beverley Edwards Saddler, principal of the Lalyce Gray Basic School, which is located in the community, was equally pleased at the turn of events. We are teaching the students how to dispose of garbage properly. We are also teaching them to separate the garbage, so we store the bottles at the school differently from the papers at school," she said.