

Old Bahama Bay offers business training for West End teens

THE team at Old Bahama Bay Resort & Yacht Harbour in West End, Grand Bahama, is reaching out to the surrounding community. And their mission involves mentoring and training the next generation of Bahamians.

Old Bahama Bay Director of Resort Sales, **Keith Cooper**, has formed the **Young Entrepreneurs Club** to help young people in the West End community develop their communication and business skills, with a special focus on computer literacy. So far, there are six students enrolled in the mentoring program.

It all began when Keith met a young man named **Moses Moxey**. Moses is the grandson of Bahamian legend **Bonefish Folley**.

Moses had an immediate impact on Keith. "Moses has a charming smile and a natural gift to interact with people. It amazed me the way he was leading his small group of friends," said Keith.

"Although they are surrounded by a challenging society that offers a less than perfect lifestyle, these young men have been living their lives guided by Christian principles. And this is what caught my attention and made me want to start a mentoring program," Keith explained.

So Keith got right to work with the teens and formed the Young Entrepreneurs Club. The group meets regularly to enjoy social interaction and mentoring. "I want to encourage these young men to stay on the right track. I talk to them about current issues in the news and also encourage positive behaviour, increased self-esteem and the importance of Education."

One of the primary goals is to teach the youngsters how to appreciate and utilize the natural beauty of West End. Keith, a native of West End, encourages the boys to learn as much as they can so that one day they can return to West End and give back to the community.

Certain lessons that Keith teaches—such as boat safety and fishing—are aimed at preparing the young men one day to work and make a living by utilizing the natural resources in West End.

An interesting part of the Young Entrepreneurs Club is the **Laptop Computer Program**. Students receive a laptop computer from Old Bahama Bay, followed by orientation and hands-on training by employees of the resort. The program aims at teaching groups of six students at a time, who will

in turn teach an additional six students. *Old Bahama Bay pays the initial and monthly fees for Internet connection. The students will eventually repay the expenses with money earned by using the skills they have learned. And the money will be reinvested in the program.*

The goal is for students to become self-sufficient after receiving training in personal responsibility and entrepreneurial skills.

The Young Entrepreneurs Club attracted the attention of **Ellen Kohn**, a patron of Old Bahama Bay. She formed **The Kohn Foundation** that raises money to benefit the settlement of West End.

The main mission of The Kohn Foundation is to help improve the quality of life for citizens of West End, with one of the main focuses being to develop educational opportunities for West End students.

Like Keith, The Kohn Foundation was impressed with Moses Moxey and **awarded him a scholarship** that will be saved in an interest-earning bank account until he enrolls in college.

Old Bahama Bay "Care Team" plays a major role in supporting the Young Entrepreneurs Club. Keith is co-chairman of this **volunteer group** of managers and staff, dedicated to community service projects and self-help programs to protect our environment and to improve the destination. Past projects include West End and Old Bahama Bay Resort clean-up campaigns, repairs and maintenance of the West End Primary School and fund-raising for the Care Team Emergency Relief Fund.

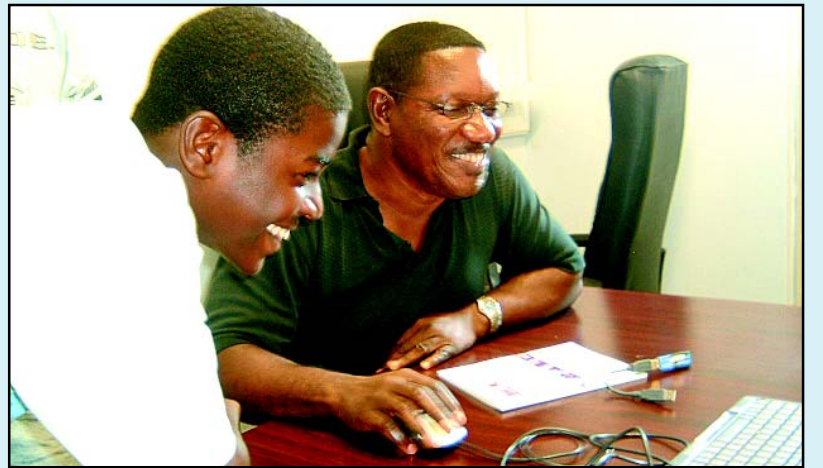
"Keith Cooper is an example of the community service leadership Old Bahama Bay seeks in our organization. He deserves recognition for the 'Young Entrepreneurs Club' as well as for his 'Care Team' leadership role," said **Bob Kramm**, Chief Operating Officer at Old Bahama Bay. "In both cases, Keith demonstrates personal responsibility and commitment to these business and family values."

The Young Entrepreneurs Club hopes to add more teens to their group, including young girls. The general age of members is **13 to 15**. Students are also **offered summer jobs at Old Bahama Bay Resort & Yacht Harbour**.

Old Bahama Bay is also requesting **donations of used laptop computers** that are in good condition and can support the Windows XP operating system. For more information, or to ensure continued success of this amazing initiative by volunteering or donating, please call Keith Cooper or Bob Kramm at **tel: 350-6500 or 1-800-444-9469**.



● **YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS CLUB: (L-R): Keith Cooper, Director of Resort Sales at Old Bahama Bay; Bonefish Folley's two grandsons Moses Moxey, Jr and Thomas Rolle, Jr and Ato Appiah, IT/Computer Consultant for Old Bahama Bay in West End**



● **Moses Moxey, 12, a member of the Young Entrepreneurs Club, is learning computer skills from Ato Appiah of Old Bahama Bay**

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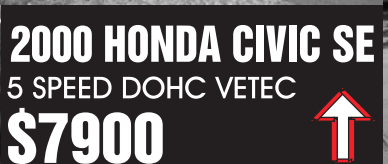
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