

The Kohn Foundation Year End Report 2005

The Kohn Foundation received its non-profit status in April 2004. We are very pleased to announce that the initial goals set forth in the foundation's mission have been met. This report will detail the progress made in the areas of education, animal welfare, micro-credit loan programs, technical support and the West End Boy and Girl Scout Program started by Dr. David Cowan.

FIRST OFFICIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

On December 29, 2005, five members of The Kohn Foundation Board of Directors met for the first time at Old Bahama Bay to discuss the Foundation's goals and initiatives. Our meeting was brief, but very successful. Present at the meeting were Mr. Keith Cooper, Mr. Jerreth Rolle, Mrs. Mary Nairn, Ms. Ellen Kohn and Inspector Victor Forbes. Inspector Forbes is stationed in West End, and is part of the newly formed Urban Renewal Office. Please see to the section on Technical Support for the outcome of our first vote regarding funding a new technical school in West End.

EDUCATION

In August 2005, two scholarships were awarded to young students from West End, Sasha Williams and Moses Moxey. Sasha is a junior at Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. She is a chemistry major who plans to attend medical school to become a cardiologist. Sasha also received a chorale scholarship from Bethune, which helps pay her tuition expenses. She travels across the United States with an organization called FGam, which allows students to compete for science scholarships. Through FGAM, Sasha is already being recruited by medical schools in the United States. Sasha wrote a compelling essay describing her goals and aspirations and also submitted outstanding recommendations from mentors and teachers. She is very deserving of the money we granted her and we plan to follow her career very closely.

The other recipient of The Kohn Foundation Scholarship is Moses Moxey. Moses is 13 years old and is a very motivated young man. He works hard in school and plans to go to college. His family would not be able to afford college. We are hoping to help him along the way and provide funds for his college education. We have deposited his

scholarship money in a money market fund so it can earn interest over the next few years.

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Bahamian Animal Welfare Committee (BARC) was formed in April 2005 by individuals who personally witnessed the ongoing animal crisis in West End, Eight Mile Rock and other areas of Grand Bahama. Hurricanes Jeanne, Frances, and now Wilma have contributed to the starvation, disease and homelessness of the animals due to the tremendous challenges these hurricanes imposed on the general population. With the help of BARC, The Humane Society of Grand Bahama is supported across the United States via Old Bahama Bay visitors and homeowners. The U.S. corporation Petco donated \$500 and 27 animal crates for animal transportation to the Humane Society after the hurricanes. Petfinder.com donated \$3000 for direct hurricane relief after Hurricane Wilma. The Pegasus Foundation donated \$1000.00 for hurricane relief. Other international animal organizations have contacted BARC/TKF to encourage grant requests from us to provide hurricane relief funds and funding for a new shelter in Freeport. The Kohn Foundation website now provides photos of Bahamian "potcake" dogs that have been adopted across the United States.

MICRO-CREDIT LOANS

Progress has been made in the research and development of micro-credit loan programs for West End. The general consensus among citizens is that these types of loans would be very desirable for citizens because underprivileged people repay them and apply for a larger loan. Members of the TKF Board of Directors have studied these loan programs and participated in the Denver micro-credit conference in September, 2005. The Grameen Bank USA has offered to train a loan officer in West End. They have agreed to waive the training fees, but TKF would have to pay the loan officer's living and travel expenses. We are pursuing the training on our own using models from other non-profit organizations who administer micro-credit programs. The ideal situation would be to hire an individual in West End who would serve a dual function as both a loan officer and social worker.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Financial support was requested from The Kohn Foundation for a new technical school in West End. TKF Board of Directors voted to postpone donating funds to the school until they have a more secure operating plan. They have leased a building at The Byte and plan to open the school in early 2006. Although technical training is a key goal of the Kohn Foundation, our funding is still limited and we will reconsider a donation when the school is more established. With the advent of the Ginn project, the demand for skilled workers will rise dramatically. It is an ideal opportunity for West End youth to learn new skills that will soon be in demand. TKF hopes to support this effort.

WEST END BOY AND GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM

Dr. David Cowan, an Old Bahama Bay homeowner, raised over \$5,000 to commence a Scouts program in West End. Working with Father Stephen Grant, the money will be used to purchase uniforms and supplies for Scout activities. This is a wonderful mission, since so many of the young people in West End have limited opportunities for hobbies other than school-related programs. Dr. Cowan used TKF as a vehicle for donations because of our non-profit status. Congratulations to him for such a successful start-up!

KOHN FOUNDATION NEEDS FOR 2006

As of January 1, 2006, The Kohn Foundation funding approached \$23,000. Additional funding is needed to hire a part-time loan officer/administrator in West End and to offer micro-credit loans. Although many of us have incurred increased costs from hurricane damage to our vacation properties, the people of West End have endured long-term hardships and setbacks that will take years to overcome. I hope all of you will seriously consider making a tax-deductible contribution to The Kohn Foundation in 2006.

Our OBB community can help West End get back on its feet. Many of you have given generously in the past. A donation of \$500 per family will dramatically increase The Kohn Foundation's ability to assist West End through scholarships, micro-credit, BARC's efforts and other initiatives. Please feel free to contact me: horsegal52@aol.com. Ellen Kohn

