

# The Kohn Foundation 2006 Year End Report

## **SUMMARY**

The Kohn Foundation has made significant strides for the West End community in scholarships, animal welfare and the St. Mary Magdalene Church. We hope all of you who are reading this Progress Report will be moved to make a donation of any amount to these very worthy causes. The youth of West End are its future, and we will continue to be part of that process. We hope to fund one student for a four-year scholarship to college in the very near future.

Please refer to our website, [www.TheKohnFoundation.org](http://www.TheKohnFoundation.org), to learn more about our mission and how to donate. You may mail a check directly to TKF at the website address or click on the PayPal button located in the BARC link and specify how you want your donation to be designated. Please support this small, grassroots organization. We are making a big difference in West End, one step at a time.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Six young women were awarded \$1,000.00 scholarships for the 2006 academic year. Their applications were extremely impressive, with each individual essay very compelling. All of these motivated young students are highly deserving of their award. A brief profile of their backgrounds and academic goals is provided below.

### Alexis Nairn:

Alexis is the daughter of Mary and Godfrey Nairn, who reside in Bootle Bay. Many of you know Godfrey, who works at Old Bahama Bay. His wife Mary is the former manager of the OBB store. Alexis is equally as hardworking and dedicated as her parents. She graduated from Florida Metropolitan University with an Associate of Science Degree in Hospitality Management. She is currently enrolled at Florida Memorial University to get a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. She plans to continue with an MBA in Hospitality Management.

Alexis has been very active in the West End community. She is a former Scout Leader and Church Group President. She is dedicated to furthering her education and serving as a role model for other

students who have the courage to leave West End and go the U.S. or the College of the Bahamas for higher education.

Sasha Williams:

Sasha is one of our scholarship recipients from 2005, but we voted to award her another \$1,000.00 since she is nearing completion of her college studies, and can really use the funds. She is 20 years old, a senior at Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. She is majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Pre-Med. She is a member of many organizations such as Bethune Cookman's famous Concert Chorale, F.O.B.S ( Federation of Bahamian Students), and F-GAM, a science club that gives students the opportunity to travel to other universities to compete for graduate school scholarships. She is also a member of the national honor society. Sasha is an honor student, making the Dean's list every semester for three years. After graduation, she plans to go on to medical school to become a cardiologist.

Marquita Cooper:

Marquita attends college in Cuba, where she is studying Economics and Business. She has a 4.72 GPA, and will graduate with honors. She will be awarded the Golden Title award from her school, and a Bachelors Degree in Economics. In addition to the challenge of moving to a foreign country to attend college, Marquita had to overcome the language barrier of learning Spanish, which she has mastered.

Marquita's family lost their home in the hurricanes of 2004, resulting in tremendous hardship. All of the income provided by Marquita's mother was used to pay rent and repair their home on Bayshore Road. They hope to return to their home in the near future. Without a scholarship from The Kohn Foundation, Marquita would not have been able to return to college.

Eurika L. Rolle:

Eurika attends the College of The Bahamas in Freeport and is studying to become a nurse. She wants to specialize in children, and desires to help families with sick children. She also would like to help young women make educated choices regarding pregnancy and parenthood, since so many of her peers are having children at a very

young age, and out of wedlock. Eventually, she hopes to make a difference in the Bahamian health care system.

Eurika is a member of the Holmes Rock Youth Club, It is quite apparent from the references that accompanied Eurika's application that she is a young lady of "outstanding characteristics."

Maressa Michelle Flora Hanna:

Maressa attends the College of the Bahamas and is planning on becoming an attorney. She is preparing an Associate Degree in History at the COB. After she completes this degree, Maressa plans to attend the University of the West Indies to obtain her law degree. Like the other young ladies, Maressa is dedicated to making a difference in West End through youth mentoring, tutoring and coaching. She plans on returning to the community some day to encourage other students to continue with their studies and attend college.

Rashelle Lightbourne:

Rashelle is 18 years, the oldest of seven children. She attends the College of the Bahamas in Nassau, where she is studying chemistry and plans to become a pharmacist. Rashelle excelled in high school, where she earned many awards, including Honor Roll, and certificates of Merit in Biology, Geography, Math, Spanish and Computer. She graduated with Distinction from Freeport Anglican High School in 2005. Rashelle also participated in Key Club, Cheerleading, Volleyball and Soccer. She plans to excel in Pharmacology while in pursuit of her career.

**THE BAHAMIAN ANIMAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (B.A.R.C.)**

Since its formation in April, 2005, there have been many accomplishments for BARC. First, The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) accepted The Kohn Foundation/BARC as an official member society upon formal application. Our work with the Humane Society of Grand Bahama will be recognized by WSPA as we pursue the goals of spay/neuter clinics, fundraising and education for animal welfare. Second, TKF applied for the Henry Schein Cares Program, whereby we would be eligible to receive veterinary supply donations for a two year period. We were awarded

acceptance into the program in August and received our first donation in September, a pallet of supplies valuing over \$3,000.00. A big thank you to Steve Gano of G&G Shipping for the gratis transportation of this huge donation from Ft. Lauderdale to West End.

A third major accomplishment is fundraising. Our networking channels across the U.S. resulted in information sharing that brought us funding from individuals wishing to donate to a grassroots organization such as TKF. Realizing that the funding goes directly to the Humane Society of Grand Bahama, generous donations have been made to the 2007 new spay/neuter campaigns.

While the HSGB does have a free spay/neuter program which was founded in 1998 by Frances Singer Hayward, and subsequently funded by the Grand Bahama Port Authority, there are only two vets on the island. Therefore there is a physical limit to the number of subsidized surgeries they can perform. In the past, several one-day field clinics were conducted by local vets, but the need is far greater than what can be accomplished with an infrequent one day clinic.

The HSGB identified over 900 animals in Eight Mile Rock alone in need of sterilization during their recent distemper vaccination campaign of January/February 2006. We have contacted veterinarians who specialize in international field clinics and are willing to travel to Grand Bahama to perform sterilization surgeries. These week-long clinics will be comprised of a two veterinarians, three vet techs, and local HSGB volunteers. The goal for each of the two clinics is 300 spay/neuters.

Funding is in place for these start-up clinics. It is our goal that they will be the first of many over the next three years. With the advent of three hurricanes of 2004 and 2005, this will be a very important milestone for the Bahamas and international animal welfare communities.

Fundraising efforts will continue as plans for a new animal shelter in Freeport materialize. The Board of Directors for the Humane Society has received six bids for the new building, and will continue to pursue funding from Bahamian and international sources. Groundbreaking is

expected within the next 60 days. The building permit has been issued, and the property cleared.

The new shelter will be larger, hurricane proof, and in a better location. It will include sanitary, comfortable kennels and cages, and separated animal housing areas to reduce disease and parasitic infestations. It will also include a separate boarding area and a small retail shop, which will help the HSGB become more self-supporting.

A final accomplishment of our work with the Humane Society of Grand Bahama is the increase in “puppy lifts” from Freeport to the United States. In 2005, over 200 puppies and dogs (and about 20 kittens) were shipped to the U.S. for adoption across the country. Pups were placed in loving homes in Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Maine, New Hampshire and even Canada. The well known Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League (Humane Society of the Palm Beaches) in West Palm Beach recently began helping. To date, they have accepted 48 potcake puppies into their program, and their commitment to the potcakes was featured by the local press in July and September.

Luv-A-Pet in Royal Palm Beach has taken over 250 puppies (and about 20 kittens) into their program since they found the HSGB on Petfinder.com in April of 2005 and offered to help. They also house and transport pups and dogs on their way to their new homes, send needed medicines and supplies, and problem solve. Save-A-Pet in Port Jefferson, NY, Animal Rescue League of the Hamptons, NY, and BideAWee in Southampton, NY also took in a few dozen dogs and puppies in the last year. We appreciate all of their ongoing efforts and concern; they literally saved hundreds of lives.

We have received tremendous financial and moral support from many other international organizations such as the A.S.P.C.A., W.S.P.A., The Pegasus Foundation, and The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International, The Petfinder Foundation, Petsmart Charities and The Petco Foundation.

### **ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH**

Working with The Kohn Foundation to facilitate tax deductions for American donors, Dr. Dave Cowan of Orlando, Florida raised initial

funds to create a program for the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in West End. The children received uniforms, tents and materials and the program is successfully in operation. Dr. Cowan continued with his fundraising efforts to help St. Mary's.

St. Mary's plans to further serve the community through the use of their partially completed meeting hall. The Parish Hall kitchen facility was used to feed several hundred people daily after Hurricane Wilma and will be used again if needed. In addition, the Parish Hall will:

- house and feed groups from Habitat for Humanity who will continue the effort of rebuilding West End,
- Support a youth ministry to provide positive activities,
- provide space for community and church meetings, including a nursery, and,
- serve development programs and ministries geared to foster better self-esteem and self-image among the people of West End.

The church has already made significant progress toward completion of the Parish Hall. The building has been expanded. Commercial kitchen equipment and appliances, shower/bathroom facilities and air conditioning have been installed. A small office for Father Stephen Grant has been completed.

The goal for fundraising is \$60,000, much of which will come from the church members; however outside support is still needed. Working with TKF, Dr. Cowan has received donations exceeding \$11,000 from OBB property owners and others.

### **MICRO CREDIT**

Since its inception in 2004, The Kohn Foundation has been researching a micro credit loan program for West End. After numerous discussions with The Grameen Foundation USA, Bahamian banks and local officials, we decided to postpone training for the following reasons. First, micro credit salaries established by the Grameen Foundation for Loan Officers and Branch Managers are lower than the minimum wage in the Bahamas. Second, the Bahamian government recently offered low interest loans for business start-ups. These low interest loans would compete with any

higher interest micro credit loans that TKF would manage. Third, discussions with TKF Board members indicated that micro credit loans offered by a foreign entity such as TKF might not be well received by local officials. Fourth, due to the low salary rates offered by TKF, there was no local interest in these jobs. Therefore, we have put the micro credit program on hold. We will continue to observe the long-term employment situation with respect to the Ginn project and decide where our funding will be most needed.