

The Kohn Foundation Year End Report 2009

Scholarship News

Romal Russell

Romal is a graduate of Freeport Anglican High School. He is a 21 year old honor roll student at the College of the Bahamas in Freeport. He is majoring in accounting and international relations and is at the beginning of his junior year. After completing the Bachelor Program at COB he plans to transfer to Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia to pursue his Master's. Romal is also employed with Saybolt LP Bahamas Ltd., where he is a petroleum inspector. He serves as the Assistant Treasurer and Director of Grounds & Facilities in The College of The Bahamas Union of Students (COBUS). He is also a member of the Altar Server's Guild of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, and is past president of that church's Christian Youth Movement. Romal is a former Scout leader and certified first responder. He also worked for the West End Urban Renewal Program, which was organized after the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. In that capacity, he served as Assistant Team Leader and trained in disaster shelter management through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Moses Moxey, Jr.

The Kohn Foundation has been one of the greatest things to ever happen to West End. It has helped me in more ways than one by allowing me to become a Bridge Watchman and it gave me the opportunity to receive a first class education in a Canadian School where I graduated at the top of the class. I have also gained a close bond with the founder who has taught me what it truly means to love, by her willingness to help animals all around. I am currently trying to go and build the knowledge that I have now by going into college so that later on I may become a sponsor to some young child that mirrors my life. Though the times are tough, this foundation is tougher and is committed to helping the young people of this community. I can't wait until I can finally say that final thank you to this foundation and I no longer need to be a suppotee but a supporter and help to perpetuate the vital cycle of Education. Until then I encourage every one out there that is able to give to do so, because by giving it is giving us a chance to give.

Marquita Cooper

Marquita has received her Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Business Studies at the Carlos Raphael Rodriguez University in Cienfuegos, Cuba. Marquita had to learn and become fluent in Spanish in order to attend class at the University. She took seven subjects per semester and her program was six years. Marquita was the "residential manager" of her dormitory, and was elected to serve as the Bahamian Representative for Cuba in the International Youth Conference which was held in Venezuela in 2005. She has pursued and obtained a Masters Degree in Business Management at the University of Camaguey in Camaguey, Cuba. Her family was one of those which were severely impacted by Hurricanes Jeanne and Frances in 2004. She would not have been able to return to college in Cuba had TKF not helped with a scholarship.

Bionka Pedican

Bionka is twenty years old and lives in Bootle Bay. Bionka has been a recipient of The Kohn Foundation's scholarship program since 2007. She graduated from Tabernacle Baptist Academy in June of 2007. Presently, she is a student at the College of the Bahamas (Northern Campus), where her major is Business Management. After completing her tertiary education, Bionka plans to open her own business. The establishment will be created based on the needs of the community. She hopes that her business will not only be based in Freeport, where she lives, but throughout the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. In addition, she also plans to give back and to serve wherever she is needed within the community of West End. Bionka does not only want to give back, but wants the children in West End to know how important an education is to her and how far it can lead you, along with manners and respect. Apart from her studies, Bionka likes to surf the Internet, participate in church functions and loves to interact with new friends, made on a daily basis. Her hobbies are singing, reading Bahamian stories and novels and spending time with family members and close friends.

Silia Woodside

Silia graduated from Sunland Baptist Academy at 17 years old in the year 2009. She also participated in the Junior Achievement Program, serving as the VP of Marketing, which allowed her to experience owning a business and working its executive board. Silia also participated in the Governor General's Youth Award and received her Bronze and Silver award. This taught her the value of teamwork and survival skills. She learned never to take anything, no matter how insignificant it may seem, for granted. In her home community of West End, Silia serves around the altar of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church as a member of the Altar Server's Guild and also as a member of the Christian Youth Movement. Silia is currently a student at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, going into her second year of study. She hopes to graduate in April 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and then to attend Graduate School to receive her Masters and PhD in Marine Biology. She is dedicated to conserving the future of her community by educating the youth of West End and encouraging them to pursue tertiary education, also by enlightening the people of her community and letting them know how important it is to conserve the natural resource that is our beautiful ocean and the diversity of life that thrives from it.

Barronique Duncombe

Barronique Duncombe graduated from Sunland Baptist Academy, Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas in 2007. She is a talented 20- year old and is currently enrolled at East Texas Baptist University, Marshall TX. At ETBU Miss Duncombe majors in Mass Communication and minors in Psychology. Her future plans are to become a science Journalist and work as a writer for National Geographic. At school Miss Duncombe stays involved because she loves fellowship with others. She works on staff as a writer with the school news paper the Compass, is an active member in the on campus Christian organization .COM; she sings in the chapel choir, is involved in a poetry exhibition in Marshall, TX and just recently joined "The Big Read" movement to encourage reading in America. Barronique comes from a six person family in the small community of West End, Grand Bahama. She is the eldest of sixteen grandchildren, and one of the first in her family to go off to school for college. With the help from the Kohn Foundation, Miss Duncombe can be well on her way to achieve her goals.

**The Bahamian Animal Rescue Committee (BARC), our own animal
rescue group within The Kohn Foundation.**

MEDIA RELEASE February 9, 2009

Successful clinic again in Pinders Point!

The fourth major field spay/neuter clinic in the HSGB's ongoing project was held February 2-6, 2009 at the Church of the Good Shepherd's Parish Hall in Pinders Point. This clinic topped all others held thus far, with a total of 277 dogs and cats sterilized. Eight additional surgeries were performed, including a bladder stone removal, a leg amputation, several eye surgeries and wound repairs. Many thanks are owed to Reverend Ambrose, Anne Penn, and the kind parishioners of the Church of the Good Shepherd, who understand the need for this important community service, and turned over their parish hall to this project for the second time in 15 months. As always, all the dogs and cats received flea/tick preventative, vaccines if needed and deworming, which will lead to a healthier overall pet population. Pet owners received educational information on how to better care for their pets.

This clinic was funded by The Pegasus Foundation (www.thepegasusfoundation.org), The Kohn Foundation (www.thekohnfoundation.org), a private individual from the U.S., and Amigo's Fund (www.amigosfund.org). The HSGB is seeking funding for the next clinic, scheduled tentatively for November, and hopes that local corporations, government, and individuals will support this project, which thus far has been funded largely from abroad. Grand Bahama's pet overpopulation is a local and civic issue, and the HSGB (a private NGO) is the only organization on this large island working on it.

This clinic was staffed by an expert team of 15 U.S. volunteer veterinarians and technicians: Chief vet and organizer Dr. Robin Brennen, NYC, Dr. Bridget Barry, Ithaca, NY, Dr. Leo Egar, Phoenix, AZ, Dr. Deborah Sonnen-Campbell, Boston, and Dr. Karen Iovino, Virginia, Dr. of Pharmacy Elaine Lust, Nebraska. Veterinary Technicians and assistants were Angela Cherry, New Mexico, Austin Figueroa, Arizona, Chris Slowiak, Illinois, Tracy Darling, California, Gregory Carastro, New York, Dee Curran, Florida, Kate Finneley, Illinois, Andy Raduechel, Nebraska, and Heath Grone, Nebraska.

**THE KOHN FOUNDATION MAKES WORLD NEWS IN THE WSPA
Newsletter:**

Caribbean Spay/Neuter Initiatives Show Record
Success on Grand Bahama

March 2009

[The Humane Society of Grand Bahama](#) (HSGB), in partnership with [The Kohn Foundation](#) (TKF), recently completed another successful spay/neuter clinic in Pinders Point, Grand Bahama.



The clinic was held in the parish hall of a local church and provided free spay/neuter services to pet owners on the island. For five days, fifteen U.S. vets and technicians, along with HSGB staff and volunteers, worked tirelessly to sterilize 277 dogs and cats. The clinic also provided educational information to pet owners on how to better care for their animals.

The majority of stray animals on Grand Bahama are owned but allowed to roam freely. These animals then breed, resulting in unwanted puppies and kittens. The

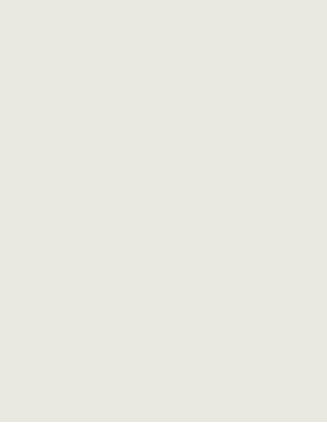
Humane Society of Grand Bahama is the only organization on the island working to end the suffering caused by overpopulation. HSGB collects over 100 dogs each month and only 5-10% are adopted locally.

Over the past four years, HSGB has worked with US shelters to find caring homes for puppies abroad. Through their foreign adoption program, Operation Puppy Lift, HSGB has successfully increased the number of dogs saved to 30%. According to Tip Burrows, Managing Director of HSGB, “Operation Puppy Lift has helped us save more lives on the island, but it is not a solution to the overpopulation problem. We believe sterilization is the fastest, most effective way to achieve a lasting difference, and to end the suffering of so many unwanted puppies and kittens.”

Since January 2007, HSGB has held four major spay/neuter clinics on the island. These clinics were funded by [The Kohn Foundation](#), [The Pegasus Foundation](#), [Amigo's Fund](#), and several generous private donors. The clinics were overseen by chief veterinarian Dr. Robin Brennen of New York City. Dr. Brennen has organized or participated in spay/neuter programs in the South Pacific, Central America and the Caribbean. She is also Executive Director of PETS without VETS - a non-profit organization dedicated to providing veterinary support to international communities in need.

Thanks to Dr. Brennen and her team of dedicated





veterinarians and technicians, over 1000 dogs and cats have been sterilized at the clinics. The animals were also vaccinated, dewormed, treated for fleas and ticks, and in some cases treated for wounds, venereal tumors, and various other minor ailments.

In addition to these week-long spay/neuter clinics, the HSGB also has an ongoing voucher program where local veterinarians perform spay/neuter surgeries at no cost to the owners.

YOUR EFFORTS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE; THIS SMALLER GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS FROM NEW MEXICO WAS AWESOME!



Wednesday, 10 June 2009 06:33 As part of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama's ongoing spay/neuter programme, last week we were graced with the presence of seven amazing volunteers from New Mexico. Veterinarians Dr. Ray Hudgell, Dr. Dan Dessauer, Dr. Kim Hamel, and licensed vet technicians Angie Cherry, Shaunessy Nadeau, Jennifer Cherry and

Laura Rowe all took their precious vacation time and paid their own way here to assist our animals. They also donated many medicines and supplies needed to perform surgeries and benefit our shelter animals.

Angie Cherry, of Helping Paws Across Borders, deserves special recognition as she spearheaded and organized this trip. This was Angie's fourth visit to our shelter; she has become a great friend of ours and a staunch supporter. She is also the proud owner of two potcakes.

FUNDRAISING: A first effort in Colorado, November 21, 2009

On November 21st, The Kohn Foundation launched its first fundraiser in Colorado to support the HSGB. A fun-filled evening of wine tasting, psychic fair readings, reflexology, aura photography and a wonderful silent auction delighted the 40 people who attended. We raised \$4,400.00 in one evening.

It might sound small, but it really helped pay some of the outstanding bills for the Humane Society. We had a great team of volunteers and it proves that success can be achieved even in a recession. Next year will be even better.

SUMMARY FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF GRAND BAHAMA

2009 saw a 30% increase in our overall animal intake from 2008.

Unfortunately this also meant a big increase in the number of animals euthanized, due to so few local adopters and to a big drop in donations and fundraiser proceeds, which were down almost 50% from 2008.

HSGB Animal Figures for 2009

Total Intake	1678 (1379 dogs and pups, 265 cats and kittens, 34 birds, raccoons)
Total Euthanized	1329
Adopted locally	237
Foreign rescue	102
Returned to owners	89

Considering that we started 2009 with over 400 animals...we still have that many waiting patiently for their forever homes. Currently only 15% of the animals we take in have a happy outcome. Please help us to change this by adopting rather than buying, and spaying and neutering rather than breeding. It's just that simple. If you can't add a new four legged family member, please consider donating or volunteering. Every dollar helps and every hour of a caring person's time is appreciated.