



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFJ DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO JAMAICA WITH OVER JA\$26 MILLION IN GRANTS

NEW YORK, NY March 30, 2015 - The Board of Directors of the American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. (AFJ) will travel to Jamaica to preside over the annual official Grant Ceremony and a series of outreach work in Kingston on April 19th and 20th.

Discretionary grants and donor-direct grant awards of over JA\$26 million will be presented during the annual official Grant Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy Kingston on Monday, April 20, 2015. Grants will be presented to **Alpha Boys School, Breds Youth Leadership Program, CACNY- St. Elizabeth Schools, Chichibud, Cornwall Regional Hospital, CUMI, Do Good Jamaica, Dudley Grant Foundation, Hampton Old Girls, Friends of Hopewell School, Hanover Charities, Jamaica Epilepsy Foundation, JASY, Maxfield Park Children's Home, PALS, Promise Learning, Race Course Primary, Rose Town Foundation, Project Sprout, Sickle Cell Trust, SOS Children's Village, St. Mary's Preparatory, Teach Caribbean, Tennis Jamaica, The Animal House, Water House Community Benevolent Society, YUTE and four UWI Bursaries, i.e., scholarships from the Cobb Family Foundation, Ambassador J. Gary Cooper, Ambassador Glen and Gloria Holden, Ralph & Ricky Lauren Family Foundation.** Incoming AFJ President, Wendy Hart and fellow Board of Directors will host the proceedings with greetings from United States Ambassador to Jamaica, Luis Moreno.

Event Details

Date: Monday, April 20, 2015

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.

Event runs from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Venue: U.S. Embassy Kingston, 142 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6

RSVP: Invitation Only - April 6th by 5:00 p.m.

Forty-five applications were vetted and evaluated by the AFJ Grant Committee to ensure applicants meet the organization's criteria. A selection of fifteen discretionary grant awards was approved. The AFJ is able to award grants from proceeds raised from annual fundraisers in New York and Miami, private foundations, corporate partnerships and donor direct contributions.

A Welcome Reception to show appreciation to local corporate partners and friends in the media is among the activities on the Director's itinerary. While on the island, the AFJ will also facilitate a separate United States based corporate donation to the Issa Trust Foundation Medical Mission to be presented in Montego Bay and the Directors will visit and tour two grantee facilities in Kingston.

Founded in 1982, the American Friends of Jamaica is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization built on the principles of service and philanthropy. The AFJ works with a broad coalition of Jamaican organizations and stakeholders to bring about change in the lives of Jamaicans in need. Since its founding 33 years ago, the AFJ has distributed almost US\$13M in health care and education grants, disaster relief aid and scholarships. The Grant Application Cycle begins at the end of each year; awards are presented in April of the following year.

Contact:

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