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GIVE THESE CHILDREN A CHANCE (BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM) 2021



Jamaica

Project Goal

Provide tuition, books, and tablets/laptops to 426 needy and vulnerable students throughout Jamaica.

Project Description

Give These Children a Chance (Back-To-School Program) 2021 will provide the necessary tuition, tools, and modern learning aids to 426 needy and vulnerable students throughout Jamaica.

For Jamaicans, the costs attached to attending school is considerably high, especially for low-income households. Parents must pay hundreds of dollars each school year for items like uniforms, teaching materials, registration fees, examination fees, and school maintenance fees. In recent months, given the impact of COVID-19, vulnerable families have not been able to acquire the necessary tools and modern learning aids (i.e., tablets/laptops) to support their children's educational efforts.

Specifically, this project will provide:

- Tuition and books for
 - 18 basic school students (ages 3-6)
 - 97 primary school students (grades 1-6)
 - 237 secondary students (grades 7-12)
 - 74 tertiary students (college and university students)
- Tablets for
 - 18 basic school students (ages 3-6)
 - 97 primary school students (grades 1-6)
- Laptops for 237 secondary students (grades 7-12)

The completion date of this project may be extended for issues related to weather, natural disaster, or civil unrest to the extent that such events exceed normal conditions and impede the project's progress.

Total Project Costs: \$346,967.49

Jamaica

The third largest island in the Caribbean, Jamaica is home to more than 2.9 million people. The island's beauty continues to be marred by an alarming increase in poverty, violent crime, and unemployment, the latter of which reached 8% in 2020.

Throughout the island, there is a tremendous need for decent housing, care for orphaned or abandoned children, modern school buildings, agriculture initiatives, and other income generating projects.

Food For The Poor has been working in Jamaica since its founding in 1982. What began with small-scale food distributions in Kingston, has now grown into a massive network of like-minded groups and individuals working together to help Jamaica's poor families.

Giving Jamaican School Children a Chance

This project will provide tuition and books to 426 needy and vulnerable families across Jamaica. In addition, it will provide tablets/laptops for the 426 students to access online classes, as the effects of COVID-19 have greatly reduced face-to-face classes.

Beginning March 13, 2020, schools in Jamaica were ordered to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the process of teaching and learning transitioned from "chalk and talk" or face-to-face sessions to the virtual platform. This transition worsened the educational prospects for poor and vulnerable families in Jamaica.

Owning a laptop or tablet is a luxury for many Jamaicans, and this is definitely the truth for children from poor backgrounds. Many such families already struggle to provide necessities, such as 3 meals per day, making the purchase of a laptop or tablet unrealistic, or even impossible. Worse, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a closure of many businesses, leading to a loss of jobs.

Without steady work, poor families must choose feeding their children over purchasing a laptop or tablet. With at least 95% of poverty-stricken homes having more than 1 child present, there is a heavy reliance on using the phone of a parent for online access. That reliance presents its own challenges, such as:

- Whenever the parent leaves the house the phone leaves with them, which means students cannot access the lesson in a timely manner.
- Multiple children in 1 family may not attend the same school or classes; therefore, the online sessions often require multiple devices for timely (or any) access. Some families resort to allowing 1 child to log on to class a particular day, and another child the following day to allow access to online lessons, even at a minimum level.

The 426 students identified for this project belong to families unable to pay tuition or purchase books and other learning materials, including devices to facilitate online learning. The tables below show how this project will bring required educational materials to these needy students.

Table 1: Allocation of tuition and books per educational level

Educational Level	No. of students	Allocation
Basic	18	Tuition and books
Primary	97	Tuition and books
Secondary	237	Tuition and books
Tertiary	74	Tuition only
Total	426	

Table 2: Allocation of modern devices per educational level

Educational Level	No. of students	Tablets with case	Laptops
Basic	18	18	0
Primary	97	97	0
Secondary	237	0	237
Total	352	115	237

The short-term outcomes of this project are substantial. Beneficiary students will be able to continue their education without the poverty-imposed barriers that stop them from attending classes through no fault of their own. Of course, it will also help reduce stress, indignity, and the handicap of losing out on educational opportunities due to the global pandemic and financial hardship.

In the bigger picture, this project supports education as a powerful agent of change. Education improves health and livelihoods, contributes to social stability, and drives long-term economic investments. A growing body of evidence shows that increased investments in education not only leads to better short-term outcomes for students, but they also support improved long-term outcomes. Below are just a few of the long-term outcomes this project supports.

- When there is investment in education, student achievement levels rise, and these positive effects are even greater among low-income students.
- The strength of the overall economy is closely tied to education. Recent studies show that the gross domestic product has a strong relationship with educational outcomes.
- Funding the educational needs of vulnerable children allows:
 - Children to advance to the next step in their educational journey and allow them to be more qualified for jobs.
 - Improved development of problem-solving skills. The educational system teaches students how to obtain and develop critical and logical thinking in order to make independent decisions.
 - People with good academic and educational backgrounds tend to get well-paid jobs.
 - People who grew up poor but educated have better chances to transform their lives, thus contributing to a decrease in poverty rates.
 - Education helps countries grow economically, since it is about acquiring knowledge that can transform the lives of both the educated and those they help.
 - Educated people understand how valuable it is to live in a stable and secure community. They are more prone to give back to their community by taking part in projects that help improve not only their neighborhood but society, as well.

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:40

These children deserve a chance to overcome poverty and abuse.

Every child is deserving of access to education, but some cases stand out due to extreme tragic circumstances. Novelette Josephs is a 53-year-old grandmother of 3 living in Red Hills, St. Andrew, Jamaica. Aside from taking care of her 3 grandchildren, Novelette also has the responsibility of caring for her 32-year-old daughter, who is the mother of those children. Her daughter has been diagnosed with depression and other mental illnesses.

Novelette's strength is remarkable, but she needs help. The Josephs family has been through some challenging times, including abuse, and this has affected the children in many ways. They have lost the potential to receive the love and care that their mother should give, as she is mentally challenged. With no source of income, the persistent strain on this grandmother to care and provide for 4 family members is tremendous.



Novelette Josephs and her family

The 3 grandchildren Novelette supports are:

- Tuwanyne Rhooms (age 15) attends Papine High, grade 10.
- Vanessa Jhonson (age 12) is mentally and physically challenged.
- Shanoy Josephs (age 9) attends the Red Hills Primary, grade 4.

Novelette Josephs cannot seek opportunities to earn a living as she is the main caregiver for her family and has no support system to relieve her of these duties. The 2 children attending school must share their grandmother's phone in order to participate in online classes. This is further compounded by not having any personal access to the internet. Luckily a neighbor allows them access daily, but this is not always convenient as the neighbor must grant access to the home in order for the Wi-Fi to connect.

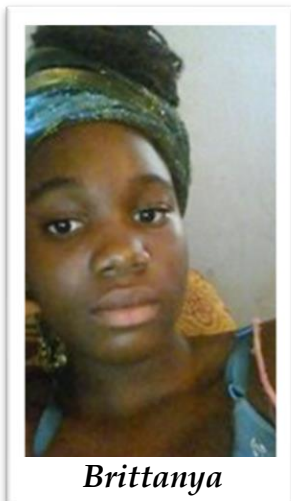
The family lives in substandard conditions and must depend on community members for food. Proper nutrition and disposable income are not a part of the family's reality at the moment. The assistance this project would provide for this family that has already endured so much would make a tremendous difference in their lives, not just now, but possibly for years to come.

These young ladies deserve a chance to excel in school.

Tameka Spaulding is a 32-year-old mother of 5 living with her spouse in Kitson Town, St. Catherine, Jamaica. She is pictured with 3 of her children on the cover of this proposal. The family lives in a 3-bedroom board house, which has insufficient space.

Tameka is unemployed but tries to earn money doing day labor when it is available. Her spouse sells compact discs and general household items for a living. Their combined income is insufficient to support the family's general needs and send 5 children to school. Tameka's children are:

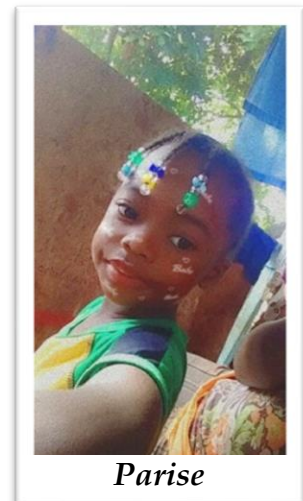
- Shakira Hines (age 16) attends Spanish Town High, grade 10.
- Brittanya Anderson (age 13) attends Jonathan Grant High, grade 10.
- Brianna Anderson (age 12) attends St. Johns Primary, grade 9.
- Rihanna Anderson (age 12) attends St. Johns Primary, grade 6.
- Parise Anderson (age 5) attends Weepals preschool, class 3.



Brittanya

The family is tight-knit and, despite a lack of financial resources, Tameka does her best to instill certain values in them. Key among those are hard work, perseverance, and discipline. These bright young girls look to their mother, who sets an example through her own continued adult learning and striving for a better life for her children. Tameka told our team, "Nuh betta nuh deh [there is nothing available to them], so I have to look for them so they can make something of themselves and have a

better start in life than I did."



Parise

While Tameka obtained 2 loaned tablets from St. Johns Primary, the other 3 daughters depend on her cellphone for access. Tameka cannot always afford data and the children miss about 40% of their lessons. Nutrition, medical care, transportation, and many other variables are also a challenge for this family, making it hard to excel in school.

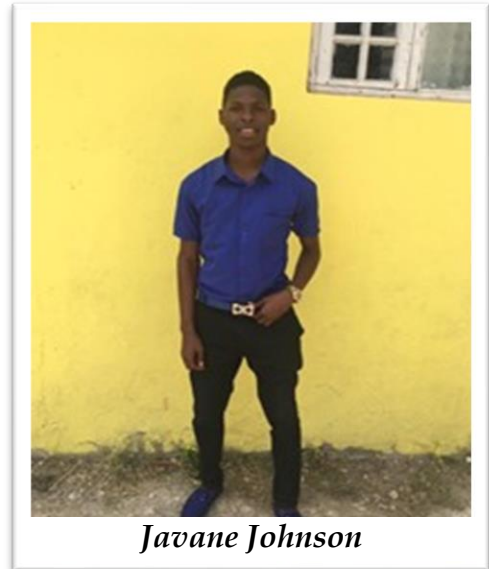
Tameka's husband makes a meager living, and the family has limited options in ensuring that the educational needs of these young ladies are met. Through her own perseverance, Tameka was recently certified in geriatric care from Distinction College in Spanish Town and is seeking employment. Someday, this may cover the family's expenses, but for now, Tameka could really use help in supporting her daughters' education.

This young man deserves a chance to pursue a college degree.

Javane Johnson is a 20-year-old second year student at the University of the West Indies, living in St. Catherine, Jamaica. He is majoring in management studies with a minor in accounting. He currently takes full-time classes online, due to the ongoing pandemic.

Javane is humble and unassuming. However, after meeting him, it is easy to see the potential in the young man who has excellent deportment and a great all-around attitude, despite the many challenges he faces. Javane has not had an easy and sheltered childhood. He grew up in the rough environment of Old Harbour Road near the volatile Ellerslie Pen and Tawes Pen communities.

His mother and sister do the best they can to support him. His mother sells juice and dry goods on Old Harbour Road, while his sister works for low wages at a call center. They sacrifice financially to help keep Javane focused and active in school.



Javane Johnson

Despite his challenges, Javane is an A student. He achieved an 8 on the Caribbean Examination Council while attending St. Catherine High School. He repeated that feat by acquiring passes in 8 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination subjects while attending 6th form (academic years 12 and 13) at Jose Marti Technical High. He has maintained those high standards in his first year at the university by scoring a 3.25 grade point average.

Last year, Javane was recommended for back-to-school assistance and submitted his application. Unfortunately, there weren't enough funds for tertiary level students. When Javane was advised that his application was unsuccessful, he was very mature and understanding about the outcome. Already thinking positively, he worked for his uncle repairing air conditioners while in school. However, he needed to focus on his studies, as he realized what was at stake in terms of attending classes and completing coursework.

Javane survived by taking out a student loan, which paid 25% of the school fee for the first year. During our interview, Javane told us, "I was really worried about where my school fees would be coming from. I knew that if I did not pay, I would not be able to register for classes or see my current examination results. It was not an easy time for me, and I am hoping that a donor will help me to continue my studies. Thanks in advance for your concern."

These children deserve a chance at a proper education.

Saneika Walker of St. Catherine, Jamaica has 8 children, including a set of twins and a set of triplets! This 36-year-old, self-employed mother must cope with the daily struggles of caring for her family. Her main form of support comes from her spouse and father of her children. Kemoy Higgins, who drives and operates a public passenger bus for a living, can barely provide for his large family. To augment their household income, Saneika raises chickens, and hopes it will eventually support her children's education in the future. Even between them, the parents' combined income is not enough for such a large family, but they do the best they can.



Saneika Walker with her 7 dependent children.

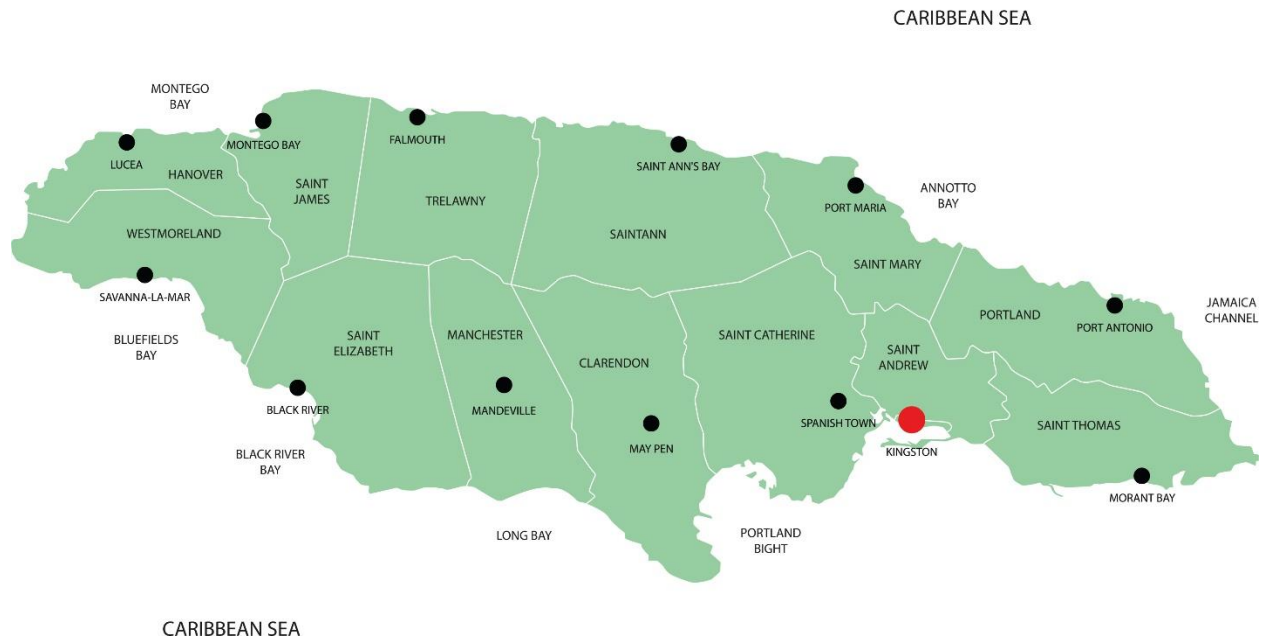
Saneika is on the approved housing recipient listing through our Jamaica programs, but she still has dependents who require nutrition, care, and access to an education. One of her children is now an adult. Her remaining dependent children are:

- Tyrese Higgins (age 14) attends Guys Hill High School, grade 8.
- Tyrique Higgins (age 13) attends Guys Hill High School, grade 8.
- Tajae Higgins (age 13) attends Guys Hill High School, grade 7.
- Danika Higgins (age 11) attends Cedar Valley Primary School, grade 6.
- Cordilla Higgins (age 11) attends Cedar Valley Primary School, grade 5.
- Duwayne Higgins (age 11) attends Cedar Valley Primary School, grade 5.
- Janika Higgins (age 4) attends Bronx Street Basic School, grade K2.

Tajae, Cordilla, and Duwayne did not advance to the same grade as their same-age siblings due to poor academic performance.

Major challenges include affording food, sending the children to school, and the light bill, which is paid in cooperation with other family members. The family has no access to potable water, other than from neighbors. Saneika would love the opportunity to receive assistance through this project to ensure they reap the full benefits of an education.

JAMAICA



Budget

QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Tuition and books				
1	Sum	18 basic school students (ages 3-6)	\$900.00	\$900.00
1	Sum	97 primary school students (grades 1-6)	\$10,392.86	\$10,392.86
1	Sum	237 secondary students (grades 7-12)	\$67,714.29	\$67,714.29
1	Sum	74 tertiary students (college and university levels)	\$79,285.71	\$79,285.71
Modern devices				
18	Each	Tablets for basic school students (ages 3-6)	\$126.00	\$2,268.00
97	Each	Tablets for primary school students (grades 1-6)	\$126.00	\$12,222.00
237	Each	Laptops for secondary students (grades 7-12)	\$544.00	\$128,928.00
Total Direct Costs				\$301,710.86

Indirect Costs	
Corporate, Network, & Field Operation	
In-country project management expenses	\$15,085.54
Food For The Poor fulfillment, project management and monitoring expenses	\$30,171.09
Total Indirect Costs	\$45,256.63
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$346,967.49

The funds you generously contribute to Food For The Poor will be used toward completion of your project of choice. If any of your donation exceeds budget cost, rest assured that it will be used to fund other Food For The Poor programs and organizational support to meet the urgent needs of the poor.

Contributions are tax-deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

About Food For The Poor

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families living in poverty primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for vulnerable children, care for the aged, skills training, and micro-enterprise development assistance. For more information, please visit www.FoodForThePoor.org.