

Good News! Children Are First Network and "The Island Connection"



Happy New Year!

The jolly good-fellow, Father Joe Burgh, the prince from the Mother Land, Father Zack, the friendly and fun-loving French, Father Roland and the medical professionals from different regions of the United States, as well as Sophia from **Children Are First Network** have something in common; **they love children and love serving children.**

Father Joe Burgh, Father Roland, Sister Susan and Sister Mimi serve the children at Our Lady of Hope Children's Home and St. John's Bosco Home for Boys in Manchester, Jamaica. Sophia visited the facilities and children's residence and was rather intrigued and fascinated by the quality care that the children receive from these humanitarians. "I see the glass half-full and I believe that these are people who truly care for the unfortunate, thus, we at **Children Are First Network** consider

it a privilege to partner with such organizations for the benefit of our children; we embrace everyone who makes a difference in the lives of our children", says Sophia. The smiling faces of the children reflect the love and care that they receive from the leaders and volunteers who take the time to serve them with gladness by providing healthcare, education, financial contributions and recreational activities to bring a balanced lifestyle to the children.

St. John Bosco Boy's Home operates its own school program approved by the Ministry of Education which is exceptional as the class curriculum is customize to suite the literacy level of each child. The administration implements and executes programs that teach the boys productive life-time vocational training; the Butcher Trade Training Program, the Farm & Livestock Program, the Catering & Dish Rental Program.

The Sponsor a Child Program was set up in the hopes of providing one sponsorship for every child at St. John Bosco to

assist with special needs of that child. This could be special educational needs, particular medical or dental care or assistance with training or other specific need. Homeless children are given priority in this program; however, the goal is to have every child in the institution sponsored.

Children Are First Network joins in partnership with the Sponsor a Child program in an effort to enhance and improve the literacy level of the boys of St. John's Bosco Home for Boys.

The words of St. John's Bosco Home for Boys that captures the heart and soul:

"A thousand years from now it will not matter what kind of house I lived in, or what kind of car I drove, or what my bank account was... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child".

CHILDREN ARE FIRST NETWORK
"FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE"

Happy New Year

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Children Are First Network

Winter 2008-2009 & 2008 year in review

- Featured and named amongst the "movers and shapers of Health and Fitness Sport's Magazine."
- Featured on "People's Politics" TV show as contribution to children of the global community in Houston, Texas
- Embraced the Atlanta community with radio host Jason Walker of WRFG—FM 89.3
- Embraced Jamaica with RJR Communications TVJ 's Latoya Johnson
- Generously supported local and international organizations thru financial contributions, volunteer hours and special projects.
- Expanded our partnership with local and international organizations of mutual interests.

SOS Village—Jamaica

Sophia of *Children Are First Network* met with the staff of SOS Village, Montego Bay, Jamaica to discuss a projected program that will assist with raising the bar to improve the literacy rate amongst the children at SOS Village. According to the National Director, Anita Tharpe, one of the greatest challenges that the organization faces is literacy amongst the children. Literacy and education on a whole is of great concern to us at *Children Are First Network* and we are delighted to partner with such an outstanding group and hope to see results that will benefit the children and the global community at large. A big thank you to the hard working staff and smiling faces as they all play an integral role in the daily operations of SOS Village—Jamaica. Ms. Anita Tharpe, National



Director; Mrs. Lillian Crichton, board member and Canadian Consulate to Jamaica; Gregory Wint, assistant director and Nadine Williams, HR executive.

A dedicated group from **Campus Crest**, South Carolina, USA show their passion for the children at SOS-Village, Jamaica; Shannon, John, Tina and Jeff along with

Sophia and the caretaker of one of the homes, “Auntie” [*who does an exceptional job in caring for our children*] is seen in photograph for memories and the children’s sake. “Regardless of the challenges that we all face, the favorite *ole Jamaican* saying, “*no problem man*” is written all over these faces and that is one reason it is such a *joy* to serve our purpose with passion”, said Sophia.



The Director’s Voice - Sophia Manning

Praises to the Creator of the universe, hugs and kisses to all our children across the globe and greetings to my fellow man-kind. It is indeed an honor to be able to serve the children of our world and I hereby express my gratitude to the partners, volunteers, contributors, well-wishers and potential friends.

My mission is driven by my passion which is to provide first class treatment to

children regardless of any misfortunes they have encountered. *Children Are First Network* is not just the name of our organization, but a statement that corresponds with daily practical application; “*we put our children first*”. Our partners and volunteers devote collective efforts to ensure that the children in our care are well-kept and loved.

This new year promises lots of opportunities and as we move forward, we invite you

to partner with us to set the bar for success and change and then surpass it.



“Fashion With Passion—2009” Father’s Day Fashion Show for the children at DePelchin Children Center—Theme “Fashion Now International”

“*Fashion with Passion*” will be featuring an international theme this year with a variety of food, fun and fashion from the continents and different regions of our *beautiful* globe. We have committed designers and models who promise to virtually take us around the world with fashion as it is NOW. The notion is to bring social awareness to the children who may not have the opportunity to experience this otherwise, or at this stage

in life, and one way to do so is to highlight different cultures and ethnic background globally through fashion, the arts and authentic dishes.

We look forward to serving our community by spending quality time with our children at DePelchin on father’s day and hope to provide state-of-the-art entertainment through a wide genre of musical selections, an exceptional social environ-

ment and generously contribute to the benefit of our children in all the ways we can.

* Come see us “*rock the runway*” for the children’s sake.

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its hope for the future”—John F. Kennedy

“Happy Bunch International” — partner in Europe

The happiest people in Europe, “*Happy Bunch International*” celebrates life everyday with people from all walk of life as seen in the photo below with Alberto Cova, Italian athlete and 1984 Olympic gold medalist for the 10,000 m. Alberto is a strong supporter of the project and believes in our children. He makes it a point to visit with them and share his blessings as often as possible.

Cristina Oliva-Klos, founder/executive director and staff are pleased to announce their partnership with *Gray Daniels* from Canada who will officially join Happy Bunch International in September, 2009 as an ESL instructor. Thanks to Cristina

and the terrific team for keeping the bunch happy with such progressive directive.



*“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats it’s children”—
Nelson Mandela*

For Children’s Sake— X-mas dinner at Sonrise Shelter, Houston, TX

A special thanks from *Children Are First Network* to Sonrise Shelter and Ms. Jennifer Hathorne, administrator for allowing us to serve Christmas dinner at Sonrise. We got lots of hugs and kisses from all the smiling faces who had a “**blast.**” Kudos to Rynne and the volunteers for their gifts of serving our children and we look forward to a greater 2009.





Children Are First Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization strategically created to provide direct assistance/enhancement to children globally and is organized to foster an interest among children in civic, educational, and philanthropic fields. Its members dedicate themselves to serving the community through volunteer work focused on children by providing services to organizations on a project-oriented basis. Embracing and Sharing is their theme.

SERVING PURPOSE WITH PASSION

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“Embracing and Sharing”

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Currently, Children Are First Network partners with Happy Bunch in Europe, www.happybunch.org, House of Hope South Florida, www.hopesouthfl.org and SOS Village in Montegobay, Jamaica, www.sos-jamaica.org. Children Are First Network is privileged to serve the children at DePelchin Children Center and Sonrise Shelter in Houston, Texas with seasonal projects and other international organizations worldwide that provide for children.

Mission Statement

- Effecting change within the community
- Embracing and sharing; gaining an understanding of – and having an impact on – international humanitarian issues.

***** Special thanks to Mr. Fullerton, Esq., Jamaican Consulate/ Fullerton Law Firm and Cleveland Harris, CPA/Globus Financial Services.

“Whatever things that are of good report.... Think on these things”

- **House of Hope, South Florida— Teens Walk For Teens - A SUCCESS!**
- **Gorgeous Georgia Group - * Project Georgia— to benefit children with HIV/AIDS**
- **Congratulation to Courtney Rose**

House of Hope of South Florida boldly confronts the crisis, looks beyond the causes and diligently seek ways to empower the teens. “The first annual walk was a great success and we are delighted to have accomplished our mission” said *Suzanne Marcellus*, president and founder. *Children Are First Network* applauds the efforts and was happy to be a part of such great accomplishment.

Children Are First Network cheers our children that excel in academics and community involvement. The Gorgeous Georgia Group in Lithonia and Conyers are indeed outstanding in all their academics and community actions. The Gorgeous Georgia Group poses at Stone Crest Mall in Lithonia, Georgia for Thanksgiving treat from our Georgia partners. *Back row from left to right Brandon, Renee, Nicole; front row, Cameron and Ariel.*

Children Are First Network will be working with a group in Georgia on a

project to benefit the children with HIV/AIDS in the greater Atlanta Metropolitan area in the Fall of 2009. *Sandy Rogers*, author, fashion designer, entrepreneur and community advocate will be partnering and co-directing the event with Sophia and other Georgia associates. Special thanks to Jason Walker of 89.3 FM, Jacqueline Vongsamphanh and Peter -Gaye Manning.



Children Are First Network extends congratulations to Courtney Rose, one of our aspiring actors who has been featured on the front page of *The Pearland Journal* and a short film, *Selfish*, playing the daughter of the main character, Angel. Courtney will also be a principal actor in a lead role for *Daddy’s Little Girl*, by Les Stubblefield.

