



# LASCO CHIN FOUNDATION

JAN 2020 - DEC 2020

YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Helping Hands For A Better Jamaica

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"...Tell me that the world's been spinning since the beginning/And everything will be alright/Cover me in sunshine."

- Cover me in sunshine - P!nk, Willow Sage Hart

# 2020! What a Year! | Chairman's Message

The year 2020 will be remembered as the year everything changed. The global pandemic created unprecedented hardships for Jamaicans and others across the world. It was indeed a challenging year for the LASCO Affiliated companies as well as the LASCO Chin Foundation (LCF). However, we pulled through and made sure to help as many as we could along the way.

We immediately responded to the COVID-19 challenges as they emerged in March 2020 with the objective of assisting the most vulnerable. With the help of our partners we were able to assist over 98,000 persons in need with Care Packages. I am extremely proud of this "partnership to serve others," that quickly came together during this period of great need.

With our partners, the LASCO Chin Foundation continued to support at-risk youths, their families and others in need mainly through our SSI Schooling Support Programme and our SSI Entrepreneurship Programme. We also continued to support our frontline workers. We especially recognize and salute them for their bravery and tireless commitment during the pandemic. As we review and upgrade our CSR programs, we will continue our commitment to supporting nurses, police, teachers and principals.

It is expected that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue into 2021 and so will the associated hardships. It is therefore imperative that we continue our collaboration to help the most vulnerable.

The work of the LCF is only possible with dedicated staff committed to philanthropy and national development. I congratulate Prof. Rosalea Hamilton and her team for doing an outstanding job during these extraordinary times and ensuring that we could help Jamaicans who really needed our help.



Hon. Lascelles Chin, O.J., C.D  
Chairman, LASCO Chin Foundation



# 2020! What a Year! | CEO's Message

2020...what a year!!! The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant challenges but also created new opportunities. While addressing our own internal challenges, we worked tirelessly to assist the most vulnerable individuals and families in need. Through our LCF COVID-19 Relief Care Package Programme we collaborated with 62 partners and provided 24, 512 Care Packages and supported 5 Feeding Programmes that assisted 98,048 beneficiaries across Jamaica. Together with our existing SSI Schooling Support and Entrepreneurship programmes targeting at-risk youths as well as Lasco's core Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes, the LCF was able to provide assistance to over 128,723 Jamaicans in spite of the COVID-related challenges.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity was the opportunity to partner with incredible individuals and organizations that "stepped up to the plate" in providing compassionate support to those in need. I am truly grateful for this opportunity to meet and work with amazing humanitarians who really care.

Throughout these troubling times, the staff of the LCF went way beyond the call of duty to deliver benefits to our target groups. Their selfless efforts ensured that vulnerable individuals and families were assisted as they struggled to cope with the enormous social and economic implications of the pandemic. I continue to be grateful for their dedication and commitment to the work of the LCF and I feel privileged and honoured to be the team leader of this awesome team. Thank you Tahirah, Lisa, Errol, Anna-Kay and Paul!

As we continue to experience the fallout of the global pandemic, it is imperative that all of us find innovative ways to collaborate and work together to address the awesome challenges we face and take advantage of new opportunities that are emerging. This will enhance our capacity to achieve greater, more sustainable outcomes and improve our prospects of achieving our Vision 2030 goals as well as the global sustainable development goals (SDGs).



Professor Rosalea Hamilton  
CEO, LASCO Chin Foundation



# M Meet Our Board Of Directors



HON. LASCELLES  
CHIN



SIR GEORGE  
ALLEYNE



VINCENT  
CHEN



STEPHEN  
NEWLAND



WAYNE  
BEECHER

# M Meet Our Team



ROSALEA  
HAMILTON  
Chief Executive Officer



TAHIRAH  
FRASER  
Operations and Programme Manager



PAUL  
IRVING  
Behavioural Specialist



ERROL  
FINDLEY  
Accountant



ANNA-KAY  
McINTOSH  
Social Worker



LISA-GAYE  
BENDER  
Executive Assistant



# We Began with a BANG!



## SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTERVENTION (SSI) ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT

## Kingston & St.Andrew, Cohort II

Resulting from the displacement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 iteration of the Entrepreneurship Programme comprised a more far-reaching approach to entrepreneurial discovery and empowerment. Not only did our activities benefit those enrolled in our flagship programme, but we also made space to positively impact various entrepreneurial groups by partnering with like-minded organisations in the realisation of their social responsibility and community-building efforts.

A virtual graduation ceremony was staged to recognise entrepreneurs who had successfully completed Phase I in 2019. All graduates received certificates of completion for that course, as well as for completing the Institute of Law and Economics’ (ILE) Democratization Innovation in the Americas (DIA) Innovation Curriculum, of the Youth Urban Lab.

Streamed live on Facebook and watched by 183 viewers, the ceremony was hosted by Dwayne Gutzmer, CEO of the ILE. The Hon. Lascelles A. Chin brought congratulatory remarks and encouragement for the future; Julian Morrison, Curator from Global Shapers Kingston Hub presented the keynote address, while Sgt Ricardo “Wowski” McCaplin from the JCF Community Safety and Security Branch provided entertainment.

Top Awards were bagged by Nickiesha Britton, Resna Williams and Kevin Samuels for placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, based on their overall sales. Special Recognition Awards were made to entrepreneurs Marsha Watt, Dwayne Hinds, Felicia Prince, and Kimone Carty for their hard work, resilience and congeniality, and to Ricardo Thomas of LASCO Financial Services Limited (LFSL) for being an outstanding mentor.

In their reflections, the graduates opined that the programme was strongly supportive of their entrepreneurial goals. They were most appreciative of the tips they learned for improving their marketing skills and for guidance in developing their entrepreneurial skills, for the experience of working with others, and for the motivation to achieve more in life.





## JSIF/JPS/LASCO Entrepreneurship Training

Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and Jamaica Public Service (JPS) Foundation partnered with LASCO Chin Foundation and the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE) to include our SSI Entrepreneurship training into their 5 weeks of entrepreneurship empowerment training. Over a period of 3 weeks, close to 120 persons (mainly shop owners) from 18 volatile communities in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon and St. Ann received training in marketing, and customer service, and competed in challenges to incorporate the sale of LASCO products in their respective businesses.





## SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTERVENTION (SSI) SCHOOLING SUPPORT PROGRAMME REPORT

The SSI Schooling Support Programme is a long-term socio-economic programme designed to holistically enrich and enhance the lives of at-risk youth in Jamaica, so that they may choose alternatives to violence and criminality, and succeed in school.

The programme, which is currently being piloted at Clan Carthy High School, provides approximately thirty-six students in 7th Grade, aged 11-13 years, residing in Mountain View and its surrounding areas with various forms of targeted and untargeted assistance spanning financial, social work/case management, edu-psychosocial support, gender mentorship, nutritional, parental support, gender-based violence sessions and character and social development programmes. Students are monitored using individualized development plans and assessments which measure their academic performance, behaviour, psychological profile and attendance to school.

### Financial Support

LCF partnered with gracious donors to award financial grants covering school fees and auxiliary fees to fifteen of the most at-risk students in our programme.

### Social Work/Case Management

In the execution of their tasks, our social work team conducted Home and Community visits/ contact sessions and case management of the households of the fifteen students who are most at-risk. They worked closely with each student and their parent/guardian to treat the following social issues:

- With the Students: aggression, neglecting responsibilities, child-parent relationship, sibling rivalry, improving self-esteem, managing peer conflicts, self control, time management, delinquent behaviours (stealing, inappropriate deportment and language), personal development, and treating with environmental influences from both community and school; and
- With the Parent/Guardian: neglecting parental roles, time management, parent-child relationship, absenteeism, emotional control, communication techniques, livelihood support assistance, lifestyle guidance, substance abuse.

### Edu-Psychosocial Support

In conjunction with our behavioural consultant, psychologist and literacy and numeracy instructors, the following activities were carried out:

- Pre and post educational and psychosocial assessments for thirty-six students;
- One-on-one parenting consultation sessions with all parents/guardians;
- School visits with Grade Coordinators, Literacy and Numeracy Teachers, APSE Coach, Principal and Dean of Discipline;
- Planning and implementation of literacy and numeracy sessions for all students based on the school curriculum;



- Planning and implementation of psychological sessions for those students who had reported elevated levels from their assessments; and
- One-on-one student progress interviews focusing on the student's behaviour and academic performance.

## Youth & Community Outreach Programme (YCOP)

The YCOP is a Character and Social Development programme that is executed in partnership with Christ Church in Vineyard Town and targets youths aged 7 -17, from Mountain View and its surrounding areas. The programme, which was held each Saturday on the church grounds, exposes our students to:

- Music - Congo Drumming, Steel Pan, Choir, Guitar
- Dance
- Football
- Life Coping Skills
- Badminton (courtesy of the Jamaica Badminton Association)

The students also:

- participated in The Anglican Church-wide Football Competition;
- participated in the church's Annual Christmas Treat; and
- showcased the music skills they learnt with performances at the church's Annual 'Christingle' event and 4th Sunday Church services.

## Intervention Programmes: Gender Mentorship & Debate

These programmes provided mentorship support and character and social development based on the students' genders and life-cycle stages.

The students praised the programmes for being safe spaces in which they could share their insecurities, their concerns and experiences of joy, anxiety, pain, coming of age, and more.

## Nutritional Support

The LASCO Feeding Programme is an important part of a range of interventions implemented by the LCF. Acknowledging the link between nutrition and overall well being, and especially its link with school performance, Renee Rose, Lasco Distributors Corporate Programmes Manager, in launching the programme in February 2020, stated:

**“We are working to chart a healthier, positive future for our country's youth through our breakfast programmes. We saw the need to encourage and empower the Clan Carthy students to be better informed about good nutrition and its impact on overall classroom performance.”**

Not only will the benefits of healthy and consistent breakfast accrue to all students; teachers have expressed their support of the programme, as they experience firsthand the difficulties of teaching hungry, anxious, maladjusted students.

We also continued to provide monthly care packages to the household of the fifteen most at risk students enrolled in the programme.

# ...And Then There Was COVID-19 | PIVOTING

**With restrictions on movement and gathering, all-island curfews, shortened business hours and reduced patronage, and islandwide school closures, the pandemic has had a severe impact on both our flagship programmes. Several activities were either suspended, shortened or transitioned online.**

## SSI Entrepreneurship Programme Phase II

The above-mentioned factors were particularly disadvantageous to entrepreneurs in Phase II of the Programme, causing job losses, extreme losses in sales, business closures and suspensions. Additionally, as originally conceived, the programme was designed for in-person contact to facilitate our entrepreneurs' business management and growth.

Adapting, much of 2020 was spent developing a deeper understanding of how the intersection of crime and COVID-19 affected our entrepreneurs' businesses and psycho-social well beings, and, more importantly, developing nuanced means of addressing these problems.

### CRIME & SMALL-SCALE COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP SURVEY

The LCF Team conducted a survey of 35 small shops in Majesty Gardens and Central Village between October 2019 and January 2020, to examine the high levels of criminality in the communities, and their deleterious effects on the business decisions of small operators.

The findings revealed that micro and small business are vital parts of the community development process, and as such, micro/small entrepreneurs require interventions that are accompanied by strong crime mitigation and prevention programs - the absence of such programmes profoundly negates their capacity to generate value, survive and grow, and will most likely serve as a deterrent to new investment, entrepreneurship and job creation in their communities.



Kimone Carty



Armed with this knowledge, LCF aims to expand partnerships with public/private organizations desirous of supporting at-risk youth and/or micro and small entrepreneurs; to enhance training quality to include e-commerce and digital marketing skills and, to strengthen long-term support in the areas of financing and financial/technical support.

### **VIRTUAL SALES/BUSINESS SUPPORT & MENTORSHIP**

In collaboration with JSIF and LASCO MicroFinance Limited, mentoring, business monitoring and support was conducted via Zoom and Whatsapp. These engagements focused on obtaining status updates and providing our entrepreneurs with financial and technical support for managing their businesses.

Recognizing the tremendous levels of stress faced by our entrepreneurs, psychoeducation workshops were also hosted via Zoom to support their adjustment to the “new normal”. These sessions were facilitated with the assistance of clinical psychologist Prof. Beverly Gordon, Chair of the Jamaica Diaspora Task Action Network’s (JDTAN) Health Taskforce.

### **COVID-19 RELIEF FOR ENTREPRENEURS**

To assist the micro and small businesses that shouldered the brunt of the economic downturn, the LCF, in collaboration with partners, provided 236 entrepreneurs with care packages, and capital in the form of LASCO products to restart or buttress their businesses.

In partnership with Global Shapers Kingston Hub, and Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), 99 care packages and 99 cases of beverages were donated to entrepreneurs who participated in the JSIF/JPS/LCF Entrepreneurship Training Programme.

With more support from Global Shapers Kingston Hub 62 care packages and 39 cases of beverages were gifted to entrepreneurs from KSA Cohorts I and II, and Montego Bay Cohort II who participated in the Liquid Streets Programme.

81 care packages were gifted to entrepreneurs from the Kingston, Montego Bay, Ocho Rios and Falmouth craft markets.



## SSI SCHOOLING SUPPORT PROGRAMME



### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Literacy and numeracy interventions transitioned online via Google Classroom and Zoom. Classes began in July 2020 with lessons delivered by Ortavia Manning Dixon, Intervention Coordinator. All students enrolled in our programme benefited from online educational assistance; the Foundation also provided 22 tablets to students who either lacked resources for online schooling, or who did not have full-time access to smart devices.

### YOUTH & COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME (YCOP)

YCOP was suspended in March 2020. In light of gathering restrictions imposed on large groups and face-to-face engagements, Christ Church organised a WhatsApp group to maintain contact with our parents, guardians and children, and to provide spiritual encouragement.

### GENDER MENTORSHIP AND DEBATE

The debate intervention programme was also suspended, however, the gender-based programs continued with small groups. The students participated in character development workshops which focused on goal-setting, choosing healthy friendships, managing their emotions, coping with COVID-19, the basics of debating, and conflict management, trust and responsibility.

### PARENTING & NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

With technical support from the Jamaican Diaspora Task Action Network's (JDTAN) Behavioural Health Task Force, monthly virtual parenting sessions were held with the parents and guardians of our students. The sessions provided the parents with guidance on improving themselves and their relationships with their children.

The Nutritional Support Programme expanded to include the households of all students enrolled in our schooling programme - with partnership support from JDTAN and our fiscal sponsor, American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ), 193 care packages were distributed between January and December 2020.



## Caring Through COVID: A COVID-19 Relief Care Package Programme which established key partnerships to solicit donations and manage distributions.

Our Covid-19 Relief Care Package Programme kicked off in March 2020 with 33 partners and donors including the AFJ, JDTAN, the Union of Jamaica Alumni Association (UJAA), the Jamaica Alumni Association of High Schools (JAAHS), JWN Foundation, Sandals Foundation and Operation Save Jamaica (OSJ). This care-package drive was coordinated to provide the families of those most affected with basic food and personal care items.

Eleven partners and donors joined the LCF in hosting the Caring Through COVID online forum which served to highlight the significance of effective collaboration, and resilience in response to national crises as well as to encourage others to support similar initiatives. The event was streamed live on Facebook and was watched by 849 viewers.



### Caring Through COVID at a Glance:

Time frame: March – December, 2020

# of Care packages distributed: 24,512

# of Beneficiaries: 98,048

# of Partners: 62

Funds Raised: Over J\$46 Mil

Parish Coverage: 14



# All In All, A Race Well Run

## Partnerships & Collaborations

### CARIBBEAN PHILANTHROPIC ALLIANCE

The LASCO Chin Foundation (LCF) is a founding partner of the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance (CariPhilAlliance). CariPhilAlliance is a network of Caribbean organizations established to improve the lives of Caribbean people through sustainable development, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The LCF has contributed to the organization through the leadership of Prof. Rosalea Hamilton and the provision of other in-kind support. In her role as Chair, she has assisted in the development of the organization and has spearheaded their first project the Caribbean Tree Planting Project (CTPP) in collaborating with several key partners including Trees that Feed Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative. By December 2020, the CariPhilAlliance engaged 348 partners in 20 Caribbean countries and territories and planted 820,560 trees across the Caribbean.



### JAMAICA DIASPORA TASK FORCE ACTION NETWORK/PRIVATE SECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING WEEK

The Planning Institute of Jamaica, FHI 360/USAID Local Partner Development, and LASCO Chin Foundation partnered to host a successful week of strategic planning meetings and community tours as part of Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network's (JD TAN) needs assessment for their proposed 2020 Week of Action which was scheduled for June 2020. Despite the cancellation of the event strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships were forged, especially between members of the diaspora, private sector and corporate foundations. The stakeholders agreed to collaborative social and economic interventions in the Mountain View and Salt Spring Communities as well as environmental intervention to assist in the planting of at least 100,000 trees in Jamaica.



# Corporate Social Responsibility



## NURSE OF THE YEAR

LASCO and the Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) observed International Nurses' Day with a virtual commemoration service on May 12th, under the theme "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Nursing the World to Health". Over 300 'health heroes' tuned in to be treated to an outpouring of gratitude for their resilience, sacrifice and unwavering service to Jamaica.

Eighty nurses from the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), North East Regional Health Authority (NERHA), Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) and the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) were honoured during Nurses Week, where they were presented with the LASCO Founder's Day Award for outstanding service in their regions.



## TEACHER/PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The Teacher/Principal of the Year Awards Ceremony was presented virtually, on World Teachers' Day, October 5, 2020 via Facebook and YouTube.

Under the theme, "Our Teachers Our Heroes - Leading in Crisis, Re-imagining the Future", 104 educators were honoured by LASCO, the Ministry of Education, and the Jamaica Teaching Council, for their exemplary performances in face of the COVID-19 pandemic.





## POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The annual Police Officer of the Year Awards ceremony was also staged virtually. Under the theme “Saluting our Heroes”, 130 police officers were recognised for their exemplary service and were awarded with plaques of appreciation.

In response to the impact of the pandemic on the special needs community LASCO in collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) donated personal care and non-perishable food packages valued at \$200,000 to the Law Enforcement Special Olympians and their immediate families.

LASCO also continued its support of the initiatives undertaken by 2019 Police Officer of the Year, Samantha Brown-Thompson, who, despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, organized a treat for men of the Guy’s Hill community on November 19, 2021, International Men’s Day.



## LASCO RELEAF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME (REAP)

Priory Primary & Infant School emerged the 2019/2020 winners of REAP. The school leapt to victory, having planted 2,545 trees and collecting 187,000 bottles for recycling. The champions secured for themselves 5 desktop computers and a cash prize courtesy of LASCO. Village Primary and Junior High School secured a Smart TV as the second-place winners. The award for Best Energy Conservation & Innovation went to the Sommerton Primary and All Age School.

In spite of 2020’s challenges, 30,000 students from 71 schools participated in the staging of REAP. Outdoing themselves, our young environmentalists collected and recycled over 40,000 plastic bottles and, planted some 8,465 trees.





## LCF brings Hope, Love, and Peace for Christmas

In keeping with our mission to qualitatively improve the lives of Jamaica's at-risk youths and their families, LCF invited corporate Jamaica, the Diaspora and private donors to participate in a Christmas campaign aimed at spreading well-needed Christmas Love, Hope, and Peace. The Christmas Relief Drive provided essential care packages of food, household, and personal items to families most affected by the pandemic and the devastation caused by the October flood rains. With the help of our donors, 1,468 packages were distributed to families in need.

In addition, the Joseph and Vera Douglas Family Foundation (JVDF) and Dress for Success Jamaica sponsored Christmas Gift Boxes for at-risk women who are also survivors of domestic violence. Through this partnership 60 Personal Care Gift Boxes and 60 Family Care Packages were graciously donated.



# Epilogue

Although “fear”, “anxiety”, “pivoting”, and “adjusting” are the words which define my 2020, I am grateful to have been part of a team that prioritized rendering assistance to scores of Jamaicans in need.

The work of the LASCO Chin Foundation would not have been possible without commitment and support of our local and international partners, donors and well-wishers. We are grateful that they continue to invest their time and resources, and continue to demonstrate the willingness to address the pressing issues faced by the most vulnerable in our society.

Because of their partnerships we are better able to achieve our shared goals and can look forward to doing more, doing better, and conquering bigger challenges together.

As we embark on a new year, let's use the lessons learnt to chart a renewed path forward, and be each other's keeper!

*Tabural Fraser*

LCF Operations and Programme Manager



DONORS

80+



PARTNERS

60+



No. of ACTIVITIES

60+



No. of PEOPLE REACHED

128K+



No. of TREES PLANTED

60+



# HELP US DO MORE TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A BETTER JAMAICA

Donation Methods:

 Online  Cash/Cheque

Online Donations:

## **DONATE TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME**

<https://lascofoundation.org/en/ssi-model/ssi-entrepreneurship-programme-for-at-risk-youths/>

## **DONATE TO SCHOOLING SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

<https://lascofoundation.org/en/ssi-model/ssi-schooling-support-programme-for-at-risk-youths/>

## **DONATE TO COVID-19 RELIEF CARE PACKAGE PROGRAMME**

<https://lascofoundation.org/en/i-will-donate/>

**MAKE YOUR US TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY BY GIVING  
THROUGH OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA CAUSE PAGE**

## **SSI SCHOOLING SUPPORT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME**

<https://theafj.org/causes/schooling-support-and-entrepreneurship-programme/>

## **COVID-19 RELIEF CARE PACKAGE PROGRAMME**

<https://theafj.org/causes/lasco-chin-foundation-covid-19-relief-care-packages/>



## HELPING HANDS FOR A BETTER JAMAICA



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