

Empower Youth International

“Empowering youths, impacting communities”



Holiday Gift Drive 2012

Special points of interest:

- About Empower Youth International
- The Gift Drive
- Upcoming Events
- Donor Opportunities

In 2012, members of Empower Youth International (EYI) sat in a restaurant conversing about the commercialization of Christmas. What could they do to make a difference in society, especially for less fortunate children in Barbados?

That very evening, the EYI group decided to take action to bring joy and hope to vulnerable children in local communities.

Their first undertaking was “Operation Christmas Gift”. This project was aimed to provide for children with special needs and those affected by domestic violence with gifts wrapped in love. A special effort was made to provide gifts for children who were usually neglected during the usual Christmas gift giving.

EYI, with the help of sponsors, volunteers and friends, was able

to raise funds to present approximately thirty (30) Christmas gifts to underprivileged children.

The reports of joy and appreciation resounding from the hearts of the gift beneficiaries and their parents was satisfaction enough for the EYI team.

Recipient organisations are now excited about further collaboration with EYI on future projects.



Mrs. Franz Harewood-Hamblin Director of EYI (left) making a presentation to Mrs. Fernlyn Crichlow, Director of the Autistic Association

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
Parenting Tips	2
Special Thanks to sponsors	2
About EYI	3
Donations & Volunteers	3
Contact Details	4
Why we need EYI	4

Domestic Violence Shelter of Barbados Gets Christmas Surprise!

The hearts of the children at the Barbados Domestic Violence shelter were warmed by the gifts donated to them by Empower Youth International. The Coordinator of the Crisis Centre Ms. Marlene Hewitt along with a Mrs. Pat Seale representative from the Shelter received the donations on the children’s behalf with much enthusiasm.



From left to right: EYI’s Secretary Ms. Tracia Agard and Mrs. Franz Harewood-Hamblin presenting gifts to Ms. Marlene Hewitt and Mrs. Pat Seale representatives of the Crisis Centre .

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES



Empower Youth International will be providing professional tutoring services, within communities to children 6-11 years old. **Target group: students who have difficulty completing class or homework assignments and who have low academic performances in grammar or maths.** The programme focuses on assisting and developing students' reading, grammar and math skills.

The goal of Empower Youth

International After School Homework and Summer Programme is to provide, a structured opportunity for children of low-income families to have access to after school and recreational activities without a financial cost to their families.

These activities would promote the safe and healthy development of children, with a balance of academic, social and physical development. Children will learn the

importance of making good choices, accepting personal responsibility, developing their physical, mental and social skills.

All qualified families will have equal access to this programme regardless of race, ethnicity or religious affiliations. **Please see contact details on back page.**

PARENTING TIPS

Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself. ~Harvey Fierstein



How do you protect your kids against bullying? Clinical psychologist Jo Lambie gives her top tips for raising confident kids. There is less tolerance for bullying in schools now, but many parents still don't know how to protect their kids against it. Here are five ways to help them cope...

Try role-playing

For kids of any age, particularly little ones, the easiest way to teach them how to deal with a bully is to role-play. Show them how to stand up, tell another child that they don't like being hit or teased, and then walk away. If they learn early that the best way to handle a bully is to show strength and walk away, they're much better equipped to deal with problems when they get to 'big school'.

Lead by example

Being a good role model

doesn't just mean you should never bully anyone yourself. It's also important to model confident behaviour. If your kids hear you complaining that you're not good at anything or you're not able to stand up to a difficult person at work, they will be listening and learning.

Set realistic goals

Confident kids are less likely to be bullied. The best way to instil confidence in them is to help them to be realistic. Whether they're upset their drawing isn't perfect or they're not the best swimmer, help them to understand they're expecting too much. Encourage them to enjoy learning, rather than aiming for perfection. Perfectionism should be stamped out as soon as you notice it.

Resolve conflict

If you always step in when the kids are fighting with each other, they never learn how to

resolve things. If you hear or see your kids squabbling, leave them be for a while to see if they can sort it out themselves. If you do step in, encourage them to use their words and tell their sibling what the problem is or what they want.

Teach about empathy

When you teach your kids to have empathy for others, they begin to understand that another child's behaviour may be due to a lack of confidence or a difficult home life. When they have empathy for others, they are less inclined to take things so personally and their confidence can remain high. And an empathic child is less likely to become a bully themselves.

EMPOWER YOUTH INTERNATIONAL MISSION & OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

EYI exists to empower at risk youth (ages 5 - 17 years) and their families to reach their full potential by providing aid support and valuable learning opportunities.

Through our preventative and socio-educational developmental programmes, we seek to give youths the tools that are necessary to promote and create positive change in their lives and communities.

OUR SLOGAN

“Empowering youths, impacting communities”

OUR OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide valuable learning opportunities, aid and support.
2. To establish, operate and promote Empower Youth International nationally and internationally
3. To establish or assist in the provision and promotion of social and educational programmes for vulnerable

children.

4. To build supportive and collaborative links with social agencies, organisations and individuals with similar aims.

OUR VALUES

- Focus on strengths
- Respect Others
- Partner with People
- Positively Impact
- Accountability
- Capacity Building



“One of the greatest discoveries a person makes, one of his great surprises, is to find that he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do.”
Henry Ford

OPPORTUNITIES TO DONATE & VOLUNTEER

Volunteers not only provide Empower Youth with needed human services, but volunteers allow us to offer a more compassionate service to vulnerable children we serve in developmental and recreational programmes. In return, we strive to provide all of our volunteers with a rewarding experience that

matches their interests.

Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- **Volunteering** for our Events or Drives
- **Tutors/Mentors** (to children 6-17years (Background checks required)
- **Office Support** Help with website, face-book ,

newsletters)

- **Counsellors** (Help provide one to one counselling or group counselling (BS. in Social Work / Psychology).

The support of our donors and volunteers make all of our pioneering programs possible. To donate or to see what vol-



SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS

The holiday gift drive this year was an immense success! We would especially like to thank those who donated their resources and time to make the holiday season special for vulnerable children in domestic violence shelters in Barbados and the special needs children of the Autistic Association.

Thank you again for your generosity. We were so happy with the turnout that we can hardly wait to see what the 2013 Holiday Season brings!

We are especially appreciative to **our sponsors, volunteers and members for their kind support.**

Special Thanks to:

- Deanna Dash Toy Store
- Christian Literature
- Sports & Games
- World Bedding & Furniture Inc.
- Woolworth
- The Book Den
- Jaysons





Empower Youth International

294 Windward Gardens,
St. Philip
Phone: 246-271-3256
Cell: 246-235-5303 / 231-2341
E-mail:

**“Empowering Youth,
Impacting Communities”**



WHY WE NEED EMPOWER YOUTH INTERNATIONAL ?

Worldwide, there has been increasing concern regarding levels of violence generally and in particular the effects of violence on children, our most vulnerable citizens. Violence not only leads to the obvious signs of physical harm when children are victims, but often to long term psychological consequences, whether the children are direct victims, observers of violence or its aftermath, or have family or friends who are victims. Younger children may show regression to more immature behaviour. Long term effects may include the children themselves demonstrating antisocial behaviour and aggression, and poor school achievement with the resultant reduced employability or earning potential. Also, some youngsters who drop out or leave school without an adequate education may be more likely to be drawn into a life of crime and violence. (UNICEF’s Report on Violence Against Children, 2006).

Empower Youth International seeks to provide a safe environment where you can deal with the social and emotional issues that affect their potential. E.Y.I provides empowerment opportunities that allow youth to reach beyond their current circumstances.

It is found that "young people are empowered when they acknowledge that they have or can create choices in life, are aware of the implications of those choices, make an informed decision freely, take action based on that decision and accept responsibility for the consequences of those actions. Empowering young people means creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others." (Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, 2007–2015).

SOME OF EYI’S BOARD MEMBERS PROFILES & COMMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E.Y.I, board of directors are drawn from a variety of fields including Social Work, Psychology, Accounting, Education and Humanitarian development. They have many years of experience in working with vulnerable groups such as those with disabilities, the poor, persons living with HIV, children and the homeless. Some of their general responsibilities at E.Y.I include approving organisational policies, structure, programmes, strategic plan and budget. Other duties include approving financial transactions, auditing, monitoring and evaluating the organization.



EYI’s Director

“What I like most about EYI is the ability to positively impact youths and their families.”



EYI’s Treasurer

“I enjoy being a member of an organization that seeks to reverse the negative trends in our communities.”



EYI’s Secretary

“I believe in empowering individuals so they can reach their full potential and with EYI, I can do just that.”
