



Vote of Thanks

For

Ms. Mona Sue-Ho

Senior Manager, Social Development, JSIF

At

**Closing Ceremony of the Best Practices Symposium in
Social and Community Development
2023**

On November 8, 2023

At the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Kingston.

Salutations,

Mrs. Rochelle Whyte, Chairperson and Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General at the Planning Institute of Jamaica

Hon Minister Fayval Williams – Minister of Education and Youth

Ms. Barbara Scott, Deputy Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Ambassador Alison Stone Roofe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security

Mrs. Sancia Bennett Templer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce

Mr. Lorenzo Escondeur, Chief of Operations, Inter-American Development Bank

Mr. Omar Frith, Deputy Executive Director, Social Development Commission

Dr. Elaine McCarthy, Chair, Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches

Good afternoon,

It is my privilege to have been asked to give the vote of thanks on this very important occasion, that brings together a broad cross section of human development practitioners in one place.

Firstly , I must express gratitude to all presenters for sharing your thoughts, ideas, lessons and perspectives; your insights will be a catalyst for many successful endeavors in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, an event like this cannot happen overnight. The wheels started rolling weeks ago. It required extensive planning and attention to details while keeping the bigger picture in view. We have been fortunate enough to be supported by a team of highly skilled and motivated professionals from the Planning Institute of Jamaica (Clap!).

Without distracting from the outstanding leadership of the PIOJ, I would also like to applaud the efforts of other important partners including the Ministry of National Security, the IDB, JSIF and the SDC.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it would be remiss of me if I did not express my sincere gratitude to our distinguished speakers: Dr. Kai Morgan who shared her experiences and results from introducing ground breaking interventions using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy with at-risk youth in Jamaican schools and communities; Dr. Ganesh Shetty, who delivered a presentation on his work at the Child Guidance Clinic, as well as on the new model for psychological services in Jamaica;

Dr. Carlos Bauche Madero, who shared his experiences on the use of cognitive-behavioural interventions to reduce youth violence and recidivism in Jamaica; Mr. Hector

Verdugo, who highlighted the results from his organization's gang rehabilitation and re-entry programme and Dr. Henley Morgan, a pioneer in the field of social entrepreneurship in Jamaica who shared his organization's model of social transformation. Finally, and equally important, I wish to thank all attendees (on line and in person) for their active participation in this event as well as the media for taking the messages to a wider audience in Jamaica and the world.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I conclude by echoing one of the popular Latin phrases translated to English " If we cannot find a way, we make one" . With this resolve we press forward to achieve our goal of making Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business.

Thank you.

