



JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

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JSIF/JNA STAGE NETBALL COACHING SUMMER CAMP

JSIF News, Wednesday August 18, 2010:

The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) in partnership with the Jamaica Netball Association (JNA) is currently staging a Netball Summer Coaching Programme for the communities of Bucknor in Clarendon and Central Village in St. Catherine.

Approximately 134 youth from these communities are being trained in the areas of coaching, umpiring and rules governing the sports of netball among other areas. It should however be noted that both males and females between the ages of 16 and 35 are being trained in umpiring and coaching while only girls aged 6-12 are being trained in how to play the game.

Scarlette Gillings, Managing Director, JSIF informed that the Netball Summer Coaching Programme “is geared towards using netball as a vehicle for providing recreational activity, building discipline and self esteem as well as developing umpiring and coaching skills which can be used to generate income”. Mrs. Gillings also pointed out that “the communities of Bucknor and Central Village are often characterized by crime and violence which can be attributed to high levels of unemployment and lack of recreational activities. One way in which the JSIF is addressing the situation says the Managing Director, is through sports, which was ably demonstrated when two of Bucknor’s home grown girls became members of the Jamaica “Sunshine Girls” netball team and also professional netball players for a team in Australia.

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Marva Bernard, President of the Jamaica Netball Association has expressed pleasure at partnering with JSIF in this way. “It is our way of giving back something to these communities. Sports is a great vehicle for expression of self. And we believe that to whom much is given much is expected. We have done this type of community out reach programme before using these national coaches as resource persons. We stand ready to assist in any way we can in the process of nation building through the way we know best – NETBALL. We look forward to more partnerships such as this with other communities where JSIF has a hand in development”.

In 2009, the community of Bucknor staged a Netball Rally hometown “Sunshine Girls” Romelda and Nicole Aiken and based on its success, the Bucknor Benevolent Society is administering the 2010 staging of the Netball Summer Coaching Programme. Nevertheless, all components of Netball Summer Coaching Programme are being coordinated by the respective Community Councils, an assigned JSIF Consultant Community Liaison Officer and Social Officer. The programme began on Monday August 16 and will end on Friday August 20, 2010 with a Rally at the May Pen Primary School, Sevens Road, May Pen starting at 10:00 am.

The cost to implement the JSIF/JNA Netball Summer Coaching Programme is \$1.5 million with the JSIF providing approximately J\$1.1 million from Inner City Basic Services Project (ICBSP) and Community Contribution from the Bucknor Benevolent Society in the sum of \$400, 000. The ICBSP is funded through a US\$29.3 million loan from the World Bank with counterpart funding of US\$3.5 million from the Government of Jamaica. Among its other objectives are improving access to basic infrastructure, crime and violence prevention, and land tenure regularization. The Inner City Basic Services Project is scheduled for completion in 2011. Additional information on the ICBSP and other projects can be found on the JSIF’s website at www.jsif.org.

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CONTACT:

Latoya Halstead

Communications Officer

Tel: 926-7419/577-9725 Email: latoya.halstead@jsif.org