

Friends of the Caribbean assists Alpha Boys Home in Jamaica

Just days after Hurricane Sandy tore through the Caribbean, the chair of the UK-based **Friends of the Caribbean**, a charity organization based in Milton Keynes, England softened the blow when its chairman, Wain McIntosh, delivered a donation to **Alpha Boys School**. On Wednesday, the 7th of November, Mr McIntosh toured the Alpha Boys School campus, met with administrators, students and staff and presented a much appreciated and needed check for £500.00 (JA\$45,000) to the school. The donation was the result of the charity's annual black-tie dinner which was attended this year by Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Jamaican High Commissioner to the UK and Basil Hylton, a past boy from Alpha now living in the UK and an active supporter of the school there. In addition to the financial assistance, Friends of the Caribbean, through the relationship established by Mr McIntosh, and Alpha Boys School are also discussing ways to collaborate going forward into the future in the areas of music and networking, both critical to the development of the school.



Mr McIntosh receives an update on Alpha's Woodworking program from woodshop manager, Mr Ellison



Alpha's Student Ambassador's lead Mr McIntosh on a tour of the campus



Friends of the Caribbean is a five-year old registered charity in the UK with 150 members whose objective is to promote the benefit of the public, the promotion and preservation of good health, the advancement of education, assist young people - in particular but not exclusively members of the Dual Heritage Community, the prevention of poverty in the Caribbean and act as an umbrella organisation for Caribbean Diaspora groups in the UK. In past years, Friends of the Caribbean have supported a Haiti charity and Diabetes UK as well as providing annual support to high school aged children in **St Lucia, Haiti** and the **Dominican Republic**. Mr McIntosh, a Jamaican who emigrated as a young man, said the connection to Alpha was two fold.

"We choose Alpha as our charity for 2012 for two reasons," said **McIntosh**. "Firstly our past Chairman is a Kingston College old boy who lived opposite Alpha for a number of years and secondly he always supported Alpha by providing monies for tickets for some of the boys to attend the KC annual chapel choir."



Alpha's Student Ambassador's show Mr McIntosh the school farm



An Alpha Student Ambassador shows his appreciation



Alpha Boys School is a vocational residential school serving at risk boys between the ages of 8 and 18 years old. Since the 19th century, the school has been administered by the **Religious Sisters of Mercy**. In addition to education and housing, Alpha provides skills training in vocations such as music, woodworking, tailoring and agriculture. The Friends of the Caribbean donation will be particularly helpful in that Alpha Boys School is currently in the process of adding entrepreneurial skills training to support its vocational programs.

"The assistance from Friends of the Caribbean will be critical in positioning Alpha boys for success after they leave the school," said **Pauletta Jones**, Administrator of Alpha Boys School. "We are extremely grateful to Mr McIntosh and Friends of the Caribbean for the support and look forward to building a long term relationship with Friends of the Caribbean and the community they represent".

Unwanted musical equipment can be donated to the school through info@friendsofthecaribbean.co.uk

For more information about **Friends of the Caribbean** please visit friendsofthecaribbean.co.uk.