



Support Our Youth Month 2019

"Combating Crime with Assets"



ABOUT CIYDC

The Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium is a non-government, non-profit organization, founded specifically to implement asset-building programmes for Cayman's youth.

OUR PURPOSE

It is our belief that the proactive youth development approach of helping all young people develop their assets (strengths), is the most effective way of preventing their involvement in risky behaviour.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium is to motivate all children and young people about their assets, which encompass the support of their peers, family, school and community.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to ensure that every young person has an awareness of their assets and have a drive for success in all areas. In this we hope to see them as:-

- 1) Be God-fearing and have a recognition of their purpose in life
- 2) Have value for themselves and others

VALUES STATEMENT

We believe that:

All the young people of the Cayman Islands have the potential to succeed and if given the opportunity, they can succeed at whatever they put their mind to.

Executive Summary

We continued the theme “Combating Crime with Assets” for Support Our Youth Month 2019,, because relevance and timeliness.

All youth may face some risk factors that can lead to the problem behaviors of Substance Abuse, Delinquency, Teen Pregnancy, School failure/ dropping out of school, and Violence. While all youth face some risk factors, Hawkins & Catalano’s research found that youth that face multiple risk factors at home, in school and in the community, are more likely to exhibit more problem behaviors as adolescents. From this, and numerous research conducted in the Cayman Islands on the subject matter, we can conclude that the young people of the Cayman Islands are challenged on the path to healthy development by risk factors in their community, schools, family and among themselves.

However, based on the research conducted by Search Institute, there are 40 positive things that every young person need to lead healthy and successful lives. These assets include personal traits as well as support, empowerment and bonding to community, school and family. This framework encourages communities to come together and promote and foster assets in all youth. The more assets a child has the less likely they are to become involved in antisocial behaviors such as teen pregnancy, school drop out, violence and substance abuse.

At a time when there is great concern for crime prevention and the need to keep our young people occupied, it is important that our approach is not reactive and limited to specific challenging populations, but rather proactive and targeted to all youth. This way we are preventing problems and issues in the future, thus having a better chance for a thriving community. It is no longer acceptable for most attention and resources to go into apprehension, prosecution and punishment, rather than focusing on the personal experiences and factors which predispose persons to criminal behavior.

This year we started Support Our Youth Month with community presentations, in collaboration with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service community policing department. We held three meetings in George Town, one in West Bay, Bodden Town and North Side. No one attended the meeting scheduled for East End.

The Planning for Youth Success conference worked with theme “Accelerating Ideas into Action” to build on the efforts of previous years. Targeting key stakeholders, community members and young people the aim was to discuss proactive supports, opportunities, programs and services and crime prevention using asset-based strategies. The intention was that this would lead to specific actions within the districts. We had a good cross section of young people at the conference, with young people from public primary schools across the country and one public high school. Again, there was limited involvement of key stakeholders and community members.

The responses for participating agencies for Celebrate Our Youth Day was poor thus it was decided that we would set up booths at the conference. Only two entities were able to do so. The Alex Panton Foundation and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service.

Background Information

Overview:

In 2008 the Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium began exploring youth development models that would create a community-specific plan to develop the strengths/ assets of our youth. After reviewing several models for youth development and empowerment, it was decided that the Search Institute's Developmental Assets provided a framework which was simple and culturally sensitive. It was then adopted into the consortium's mission and vision as its proactive guide to providing positive alternative programmes and activities.

After reviewing data from various needs assessment and surveys and reports, and with holding focus group discussions at the consortium's Leadership & Prevention camps (2008 and 2009) and National Youth Development Symposium 2009, it was determined that the developmental assets approach was a good tool to use to further promote positive youth development and engage young people in positive alternative activities.

The Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign was developed in 2010 to get the ball rolling on promoting asset-building in the Cayman Islands.

Developmental Assets Framework:

The Search Institute has developed a youth development model identifying 40 positive experiences, relationships, skills, and qualities that all young people need to promote positive development and reduce their involvement in risk taking behaviors. This framework includes the 40 Assets which are organized in eight categories including external and internal assets. The Developmental Asset model offers innovative strategies for building community capacity to ensure that the community, family, and individual build assets in youth.

There are three dimensions to this approach:

- Cultivate community readiness and commitment
- Create an infrastructure in the community
- Build capacity through five "Action Strategies"

Whilst most people in the Cayman Islands might not be familiar with asset building there is a sense of commitment to promote healthy lifestyles and choices for our youth. Cultivating the community readiness might take some time but once people are trained from each sector then they could promote the Asset Building concepts, thus we would be creating the community infrastructure as we promote the ideas and concepts of asset building.

The Action Strategies are five domains within the community which have the potential to transform the lives of young people. They provide the framework for long-term action that must be consistent, intentional, and ongoing.

Influence Civic Decisions – influence decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of positive transformation of community and society.

Engaging Adults – promotes adults from all walks of life to develop sustained strength building relationships with children and adolescents, both within families and in neighborhoods.

Activate Sectors – Activate all sectors of the community – such as schools, congregations, youth, businesses, human services, and health-care organizations – to create an asset building culture and to contribute fully to young people's healthy development.

Invigorate Programs – invigorate, expand, and enhance programs to become more asset rich and to be available to and accessed by all children and youth.

Mobilizing Young People – mobilize young people to use their power as asset builders and change agents.

Overview of Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign

There are partnerships and opportunities that help our young people to succeed. These include programmes that provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences for our youth, as well as programmes that engage families, schools, churches, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults and thus building stronger communities.

The Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign is a national celebration of partnerships and opportunities to promote the critical importance of these opportunities for the success of our young people.

The aim is to encourage everyone in the Cayman Islands to engage in or support innovative youth programs and asset-building activities that ensure the holistic development and well-being of our youth.

Endorsed by government officials, community leaders and young people, the campaign is acknowledged every year during the month of January, as Support Our Youth Month.

2010 Proclamation

WHEREAS, The well-being of all our young people is of paramount importance to the future of these islands.

WHEREAS, the people of the **Cayman Islands** have clearly shown that they value partnerships and opportunities for our youth which

- Support or generate programmes that provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences for our youth.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.

Engage families, schools, churches, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults, and so building stronger communities.

and

WHEREAS, **The Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium** has done significant work in the area of the development and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that supporting our youth in asset-building is key to helping them become successful adults.

and

WHEREAS, **The Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign**, is planned to be a national celebration of partnerships and opportunities, starting in January 2010, to promote the critical importance of these opportunities for the success of our young people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Honourable W. McKeeva Bush, Premier of the Cayman Islands**, do hereby proclaim January, as "*Support Our Youth Month*"; AND I DO FURTHER DECLARE that as Premier, I enthusiastically endorse *the Supporting Cayman's Youth Campaign*, and encourage everyone in our islands to engage in or support innovative youth programs and asset-building activities that ensure the holistic development and well being of our youth.

Goal/ Objectives

Influence civic decisions - by influencing decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of this positive transformation of communities and society.

SUPPORTING CAYMAN YOUTH CAMPAIGN

Goal: Implement Support Our Youth Month Events and Activities

A planned national celebration of partnerships and opportunities to promote the critical importance of these opportunities for the success of Cayman's young people.

- **Planning for Youth Success Conference**
- **Celebrate Our Youth Day**

Developmental Assets and Key Stakeholders

External Assets

Parents/ Family
 Community/ Businesses etc.
 Schools
 Youth

Support

1. Family support	Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. Positive family communication	Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. Other adult relationships	Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. Caring neighborhood	Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. Caring school climate	School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. Parent involvement in schooling	Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

Empowerment

7. Community values youth	Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. Youth as resources	Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. Service to others	Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. Safety	Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.

Boundaries & Expectations

11. Family boundaries	Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. School Boundaries	School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. Neighborhood boundaries	Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. Adult role models	Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. Positive peer influence	Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. High expectations	Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

Constructive Use of Time

17. Creative activities	Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. Youth programs	Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.
19. Religious community	Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
20. Time at home	Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week

Developmental Assets and Key Stakeholders

Internal Assets

 Youth

Commitment to Learning

21. Achievement motivation	Young person is motivated to do well in school.
22. School engagement	Young person actively engaged in learning.
23. Homework	Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
24. Bonding to school	Young person cares about her or his school.
25. Reading for pleasure	Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

Positive Values

26. Caring	Young person places high value on helping other people.
27. Equality and social justice	Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
28. Integrity	Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
29. Honesty	Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
30. Responsibility	Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
31. Restraint	Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

Social Competencies

32. Planning and decision-making	Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
33. Interpersonal competence	Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
34. Cultural competence	Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/ racial/ ethnic backgrounds.
35. Resistance skills	Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
36. Peaceful conflict resolution	Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

Positive Identity

37. Personal power	Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
38. Self-esteem	Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
39. Sense of purpose	Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
40. Positive view of personal future	Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

Assets and Organizations

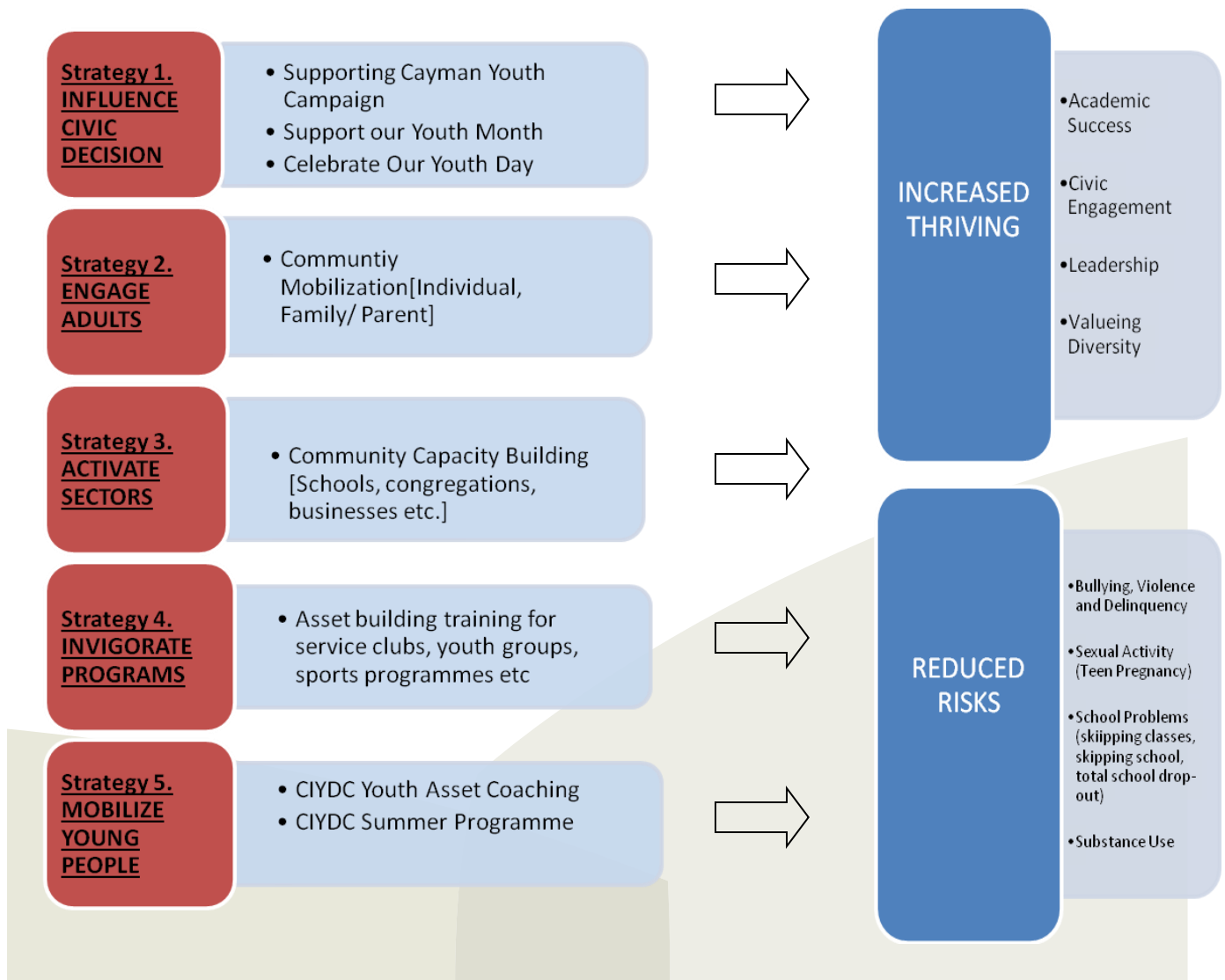
SUPPORT	EMPOWERMENT	BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS	CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME
1. Family Resource Centre 2. Big Brothers, Big Sisters	1. Save Our Youth Foundation 2. Youth Services Unit 3. Rotary/ Rotaract/ Rotaract Blue 4. Lion's Club/ Leo Club 5. Kiwanis/ Key Club 6. Cayman Aids Foundation 7. CI Red Cross 8. Optimist Club 9. Toastmasters Club 10. Feed Our Future 11. National Workforce Development Agency	1. Neighborhood Policing 2. Royal Cayman Islands Police Service 3. Her Majesty Prison Service 4. Community Rehabilitation Department 5. Neighborhood Policing 6. Royal Cayman Islands Police Service 7. Her Majesty Prison Service	1. Girl Guides 2. Scouts 3. Duke of Edinburgh 4. Cadet Corps 5. Junior Achievement 6. Church Youth Groups 7. Child Evangelism Fellowship 8. CNCF Young at Art 9. Sports Associations/ Clubs 10. Cayman Drama Society 11. National Gallery 12. National Trust 13. Cayman Youth Choir 14. Music Schools 15. Positive Intervention Now 16. Tutoring Programmes 17. YMCA
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING	POSITIVE VALUES	SOCIAL COMPETENCIES	POSITIVE IDENTITY
1. Schools 2. Libraries 3. After-school Programmes 4. Tutoring/ Educational Support Services 5. Colleges 6. Scholarship Programmes	1. National Drug Council 2. Cayman Aids Foundation 3. Public Health 4. CI Red Cross	1. Youth ACT	1. Church Youth Groups

Planning for Youth Success Initiative

Raising successful kids takes more than just a single family or school; it takes an entire community. An engaged community requires many people—educators, faith community leaders, parents, governmental figures, and others—to come together to support youth.

CIYDC's mission includes providing communities with the resources and information they need to organize and mobilize individuals and groups on behalf of youth. The planning for youth success initiative is the intentional approach of CIYDC to coordinate communities across the Cayman Islands as they engage and mobilize to develop the assets of their young people. Community initiatives based on the developmental assets, work thoughtfully to determine how people in all spheres of life can be involved.

Adopting the five action strategies of the Search Institute for transforming a community towards positive change, CIYDC's planning for youth success initiative covers strategies 1-3 and its programmes covers strategies 4-5. Held during Support Our Youth Month the community presentations, planning for youth success conference and celebrate our youth day are key events for the implementation of the strategies outlined. The end result of this approach is increased thriving of our youth and reduced risks.



Implementation of Community Presentations 2019

Objective of Community Presentations

Of the five action strategies identified by the Search Institute for transforming a community towards positive change. CIYDC's planning for youth success initiative covers strategies 1-3 which includes influencing civic decisions, engaging adults and activating sectors. The community presentations held during Support Our Youth Month has the intention to cover strategy 2, which is to **engage adults** from all walks of life to develop sustained, strength-building relationships with children and adolescents, both within families and in neighborhoods. The objectives of the community presentations:-

- Introduce basic information about the eight categories of the developmental assets
- Help participants examine their personal responsibilities, ability, and opportunities to build assets
- Help participants develop new skills to help them develop ways to be effective in building assets
- Help participants commit to specific ways to build assets for young people in their family, school, neighborhood, organization or community

Collaboration with Royal Cayman Islands Police Service

Meeting with Chief Inspector Courtney Myles, Neighborhood Community Policing Department

In October 2018 I had an initial meeting with Chief Inspector Myles and Sargent Bogle to discuss CIYDC plan to collaborate with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service to conduct community meetings in each district. We talked about liaising with the neighborhood watch groups to conduct an informative meeting introducing them to the developmental assets framework. Subsequent to this meeting Mr. Myles expressed full support of the community policing department with Sargent Pompey as the main liaison.

Meeting with Sargent Cornelius Pompey, Neighborhood Community Policing

In November 2018 I had a meeting with Sargent Pompey to discuss the objectives and plans for each community meeting in each district. We discussed the needs of each district and worked out the best dates and times to do community meetings. Subsequently information was distributed to liaising officer for each district.

Follow-up Meeting with Chief Inspector Courtney Myles, Neighborhood Community Policing Department

In January 2019 I had a follow up meeting with Mr. Myles to discuss the finalizing of the community and the logistics surrounding the arrival and facilitating the keynote speaker.

Meeting with Chief Inspector Courtney Myles, Community Policing Department of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service



Meeting with Sargent Cornelius Pompey and other police officers of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service



Follow up meeting with Chief Inspector Courtney Myles, Community Policing Department of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service



Collaboration with Department of Children and Family Services

In November 2018 I met the executive team at the Department of Children and Family Services regarding the events of Support Our Youth Month 2019, discussing how they might be able to assist or get involved in some way.

George Town Community Presentation - Prospect and Red Bay Area at the Seafarers' Hall

Facilitated by Sylvia Wilks, Caribbean Youth Assets

Date: Monday January 7th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

Activities: The introductory video on the developmental assets was shown and the developmental assets list was distributed to attendees.

Sargent Pompey suggested that the meeting for this area be held on this date as a meeting was already scheduled by the Prospect Red Bay Community group. Despite the fact there was a delay with the distribution of information, the president Mrs. Sabrina Turner was gracious to accommodate our presentation. Key community advocates were in attendance, including the Premier Mr. Alden McLaughlin, and Councilor Harris. Although the current police officer assigned to the area was on leave, three police officers attended. Community development officer, Ms. Dorline Welcome, also attended.

West Bay Community Presentation - at John A Cumber Hall

Facilitated by Sylvia Wilks, Caribbean Youth Assets

Date: Tuesday January 8th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

Activities: The introductory video on the developmental assets was shown and the developmental assets list was distributed to attendees. A community development officer, a few community members and two half-way house representatives were in attendance. There was no police officer present due to an incident during the time of the meeting. After the video the participants gave valuable feedback regarding the issues that community members face in West Bay. Amongst issues like social breakdown, poor living conditions etc., suggestions for creating a healthy community were also given. The suggestions included more community gatherings that should be done island-wide, more comprehensive assessment and intervention for mental health and other immediate needs, as well as family coaching and the monitoring of resources allocated to organizations.

George Town Community Presentation - at George Town Town Hall

Facilitated by Sylvia Wilks, Caribbean Youth Assets

Date: Wednesday January 9th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

Activities: The introductory video on the developmental assets was shown and the developmental assets list was distributed to attendees. In attendance was a police officer, government minister, community advocate, parent association president and a community development officer. The discussion after the video yielded some vital suggestions. Minister Joseph Hew suggested that organizations that receive funding from government should be mandated to be involved in activities that showcase and promote their services and programmes.

Department of Children and Family Services Executive Team



George Town Community Presentation - Prospect and Red Bay Area



West Bay Community Presentation - Sir John A. Cumber Primary School Hall



George Town Community Presentation - Central Area



George Town Community Presentation - Southern Area at South Sound Civic Centre

Facilitated by Sylvia Wilks, Caribbean Youth Assets

Date: Thursday January 10th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

Activities: The introductory video on the developmental assets was shown. No developmental assets list was available for distribution to the attendees.

Two police officers, government officials, community advocates and a representative from the Alex Panton Foundation was in attendance.

Questions were asked about further promotion and training about the developmental assets. Councilor Barbara Conolly suggested that more organization be made aware of the assets, especially entities that provide mentoring.

George Town Community Presentation - Southern Area



Bodden Town Community Presentation - at Bodden Town Civic Centre

Facilitated by Sylvia Wilks, Caribbean Youth Assets

Date: Friday January 11th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

Activities: The introductory video on the developmental assets was shown and the developmental assets list was distributed to attendees. Approximately seven officers and a community development officer were in attendance, with key members of the neighborhood community groups. Despite some challenges to the venue, the participants were patient and helped with logistics. A previous educator asked about the possibility of the developmental assets being taught in the curriculum.

Bodden Town Community Presentation



North Side Community Presentation - at North Side Civic Centre

Date: Monday January 14th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

Activities: The introductory video on the developmental assets was shown and the developmental assets list was distributed to attendees. This was the only meeting which had the presence of young people. Also in attendance was the Leader of Opposition, Mr. Ezzard Miller, a teacher and other key community members. Mr. Miller asked about the possibility of implementing a programme for their primary school students and requested a proposal.

North Side Community Presentation



East End Community Presentation - at Gun Bay Civic Centre

Date: Tuesday January 15th, 2019

Time: 7pm-9pm

No meeting held!

Significant Successes

Success	Factors That Supported Success
THE VENUES - Access to all Civic Centres requested MEETING ATTENDEES - Attendance of Government Officials - Attendance of Police Officers - Attendance of Community Development Officers MEETING OBJECTIVES - All objectives of the community presentation were met	- The fees of all Civic Centres were waived by Ministry of Commerce, Planning, and Infrastructure - Information regarding the meetings distributed to civil service - Collaboration with Royal Cayman Islands Police Service Community Policing Department. Information regarding the meetings distributed to civil service and directly from the community policing department - Collaboration with Department of Children and Family Services. Information regarding the meetings distributed to civil service and from the Director of Children and Family Service executive team - Presentation of introductory video, distribution of developmental assets list

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

Shortcoming	Recommended Solutions
- Attendance of community supporters low - Attendance of young people low - Limited representation/ participation of schools and churches	- Partner with media to promote Support Our Youth Month. - Liaise with other community groups - Collaborate with youth organizations to encourage young people to attend eg. C.I Youth Assembly - In collaboration with schools, initiate SOYM Ambassador Programme for each district and include community service component for points and credits at school - Select Support Our Youth Month liaisons as promoters

Implementation of Planning for Youth Success Conference 2019

Objective of Planning for Youth Success Conference

Of the five action strategies identified by the Search Institute for transforming a community towards positive change. CIYDC's planning for youth success initiative covers strategies 1-3 which includes influencing civic decisions, engaging adults and activating sectors. The Planning for Youth Success conference, held during Support Our Youth Month, has the intention to cover strategy 1, which is to **influence civic decisions** – influence decision makers and opinion leaders to leverage financial, media, and policy resources in support of positive transformation of community and society. The objective of the Planning for Youth Success Conference is to bring together key adult leaders and young people to talk about what is needed to help young people grow and become successful adults, utilizing the developmental assets framework. The theme of the conference was “Accelerating Ideas into Action”.



Opening Remarks from Deputy Governor, Hon. Franz Manderson

After the invocation by Mr. Felix Manzanares, Mr. Manderson gave a brief opening remark highlighting the importance of community initiatives and having a personal drive for success.



Testimonial from Mr. Hooker

Similar to last year Mr. Hooker shared his personal experience and testimony regarding criminal activity and over thirty years of addiction. In addition to the information shared last year Mr. Hooker added the significance of the developmental assets, even for recovering addicts/ ex-convicts.

Keynote Speech by Mr. Coleridge Minto, Assistant Superintendent of Police/ Director for Security and Safety in Schools

Although there was limited key stakeholders and community members present, Mr. Minto shared information and statistics regarding violence and gang activity in Jamaica. He also shared the strategies being implemented by the Ministry of Education and Youth to deal with problems within the schools, especially in relation to bullying and abusive behaviors. He shared a synopsis of the Safe School Programme and emphasized the significance of community safety programs that involved partnering agencies.

Speaking specifically to the youth audience he used the acronym S.T.A.N.D to encourage young people to take a stand. S-Success which stood for a successful community that develop proper morals and values that carve out good characters; T-Time for using their time wisely; A-Attitude for having the right attitude for community development and building; N-Negativity Mr, Minto warned the young people about negative thoughts towards themselves, their worth and their abilities. Instead they were encouraged to think positive at all times; D-Determination against all odds.

Panel Discussion

The panel included Mr. Christopher Murray, counselor at John Gray High School, Mr. at Her Majesty Prison; Mrs. Luisa McLaughlin, Research Officer at the National Drug Council; Ms. Mohyndra Brown, Youth Representative and a Royal Cayman Islands Police Service representative. They gave a brief update on the current state of our young people, based on their knowledge and experience in their respective fields or from their perspective. Most of the feedback questions was directed the Drug Council or Prison.



Breakout Session What it means to become an asset leader - Young People (Primary School/ Secondary School)

Only a select set of students from Bodden Town and Red Bay Primary remained for this session. The participants completed the activities in their handbooks. We started with a session on the things I need to succeed, then they completed a SWOT analysis of their assets, highlighting their internal assets strengths and weaknesses, as well as their external assets opportunities and threats. The session ended with the participants creating a personal asset building plan.



Booth Display

There were two booth displays: RCIPS, Community Policing Department and the Alex Panton Foundation.

Significant Successes

Success	Factors That Supported Success
THE VENUE UCCI was a good venue	The discount offered was beneficial, the space was adequate for display and conference activities
MEETING ATTENDEES - Attendance of young people good - Attendance of Police Officers good	- Corresponding with schools - Collaboration with RCIPS

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

Shortcoming	Recommended Solutions
MEETING ATTENDEES - Attendance of community supporters and stakeholders low - A select group from all of the attending primary schools left the conference prematurely to participate in basket ball tournament nearby. This caused a ripple effect with the exodus of the high school students and in some cases the entire school had to leave because they were utilizing one bus	- Partner with media to promote Support Our Youth Month. - Liaise with community groups eg. churches - Stakeholder meetings and information updates - Ensure there are no clashes with other events

Implementation of Celebrate Our Youth Day 2019

Background

Celebrate Our Youth Day is planned as the event of Support Our Youth Month that would bring together young people and their supporters together to promote the assets that help them succeed.

Young people would showcase their talents, organizations and schools promote their programs and services and the general public is engaged in activities that build their awareness of the developmental assets.

This year's Celebrate Our Youth Day was scheduled the day following the conference. It was decided that since responses for booth participation was low, we would merge the two events, allowing organizations an opportunity to set up displays at the conference. Only two organizations set up booths.

Shortcomings and Recommended Solutions

Shortcoming	Recommended Solutions
No representation of organizations	Individual Stakeholder meetings/ workshops
No representation/ participation of schools and churches	Select Support Our Youth Month liaisons as promoters
No Attendance of community supporters and young people	Partnership with media to promote Support Our Youth Month

Conclusions, Implications & Recommendations

Conclusions

Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign has the potential to become an impactful national initiative however, limited funds and resources results in limited outreach and participation. Despite this fact, this year's events yielded some important and key information that can inform the way forward.

The testimonial from Mr. Hooker and the presentations from the panelist were a reminder of why proactive work is so important when it comes on to dealing with the risk factors in our environment, such as the availability and use of drugs.

The keynote speech did not only offer information and statistics to inform the few stakeholders and adults in the room, but was also engaging and motivational for the youth attendees.

Even though last year we started a National Asset Building Plan, with the input shared by the young people through their self-assessment, community mapping and coming up with ideas for community initiatives, It is clear that more emphasis need to be placed on building on efforts to support our parents, but also proactive, community work to utilize young people as resources and improve on how they are viewed.

From all the activities of this year's Support Our Youth month, one thing is clear, we are still a far way from mobilization, action and continuity for asset building in the Cayman Islands.

Implications

Combating crime with assets or being intentional about the success of our young people is too crucial a matter not to be taken seriously by all stakeholders. Furthermore, not only is it to be considered a serious cause and satisfaction sought in isolated work, but serious enough for a combined effort. The risk factors that are causative to youth problem behaviors are multiple and from different domains. So it is with the developmental assets. The more a young person has, the less likely he/ she is to gravitate to negative adolescent behavior, and the more likely they are to succeed. However, no one individual or entity can provide all of the assets of one young person or all of our youth. Considering this, it would be prudent that all stakeholders agree and actively participate in Support Our Youth month.

Recommendations

Similar to that which was recommended in previous reports, in order for the Supporting Cayman Youth Campaign to be fully realized the following factors are needed:-

- CIYDC need a fully functional secretariat with full national support to implement all action strategies
- Purchase of Search Institute Survey prior to Support Our Youth month for analysis and recommendations to be presented at the conference
- Organizations and schools complete and submit organizational assessment prior to Support Our Youth month for analysis and recommendations
- District groups set up to complete asset building community mobilization grid prior to Support Our Youth month for analysis and recommendations
- Two day conference instead of one to facilitate completion of National Asset Building Plan and include a component for young people to create their own asset building plan
- Stakeholder commitment and participation
- Partnership with national agencies such as National Youth Commission and Youth Services Unit
- Add research component to Planning for Youth Conference to allow opportunity for local researchers, including young people to submit research papers and make presentations at the conference
- Development of an action plan at the end of the conference with specific action items for each district to accomplish and report on at the following conference
- Selection of district committees that will liaise with schools and churches within their districts to plan a special activities and/ or event during Support Our Youth Month
- Partnership with marketing companies to help promote Support Our Youth Month

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands, Financial and in-kind sponsors, as well as all the participants, individuals and organizations that made Support Our Youth Month 2019 a success!



P.O. Box 773,
George Town
Grand Cayman KY1-1103
info@supportingcaymanyouth.com **or**
sylviawilks@caribbeanyouthassets.com