

Ashby Windward Foundation: New initiative for future doctors

Sunday 21st June, 2009 marks a very special date for two young students from Carriacou. Callista Calliste and Janel Thomas are aged fifteen and sixteen respectively. This is the day they will arrive in Grenada to attend a ten-day course at St George's University Med/Vet Summer Camp Programme, courtesy of the Ashby Windward Foundation.

The Ashby Windward Foundation, initiated and chaired by Dr. Cristofer C. Ashby, PhD, MBA, is a non-profit body which has been involved with sponsoring or assisting in a number of medical care procedures in the islands of Carriacou & Petite Martinique. Its express purpose is to improve the medi-

cal healthcare system in the Southern Caribbean islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The mission is to serve those individuals without the means to pay for necessary medical treatment.

Having their roots in Carriacou, Dr. Ashby and the Foundation members have taken pro-active steps to make the mission of the Foundation a self-perpetuating dream, by initiating the programme of sponsorship, which is seeing Callista and Janel on their first steps towards entering the medical profession.

The students were screened and chosen with the assistance of Dr. Carole McIntosh, MD, FACOG, the medical director of the Carriacou Health Services, Carriacou.

Dr McIntosh was recently awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of her medical services to Grenada. Assisting in the selection process was Mr. Cosnel McIntosh, prominent Rotarian on the island of Carriacou.

All students in forms four and five of Hillsborough Secondary School and Bishops College were invited to participate in the nomination process. The qualification criteria focused on identifying students in the islands of Carriacou & Petite Martinique, with a strong aptitude for the sciences and an expressed wish to pursue a career in medicine.

When questioned on the ideals which motivate the foundation, Dr. Ashby expressed himself with these

words;

"Giving is a much more meaningful process when there is the ability to witness the impact of the gift and its derivative effects on the recipients, their family's, friends and other stakeholders in the treatment and/or education process.

As a child growing up in Grenada, I witnessed my parent's charitable work and now more than 40 years later, the impact of their efforts is still remembered."

The question also arises as to why the focus is on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique? Dr Ashby states;

"There are tangible and intangibles reasons for focusing on Carriacou. The tangible reasons are influenced by two residents of Carriacou, namely Dr. Carole



McIntosh and the late Mr. Edward Kent. Both of these individuals are truly giving people and personify many rare and extraordinary attributes. Their work, generosity and commitment to improving the lives of the residents of Carriacou is a great source of inspiration"

The Ashby Windward Foundation does not seek funds from external sources but urges that the best

way for the public and/or private sector to support initiatives such as theirs is to practice giving back to our respective communities.

In closing Dr. Ashby says;

"We all know that to give to those less fortunate than ourselves is a great thing If there is one thing that we would like to see as a result of the Ashby Windward Foundation's charitable

work, is the practice of gratitude".

Callista and Janel both express their deep appreciation and great excitement at having this opportunity afforded to them by the Ashby Windward Foundation.

The Ashby Windward Foundation wishes to express thanks to Dr Carole McIntosh, Mr Cosnel McIntosh, and Oprey Lines Ltd for their support and dedication in making this vision a reality.

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