

Annual



Report

September 2011 - August 2012

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the
GARD
center

GARD Center

Annual Report

September 2011 –
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Overview

Objective

To develop skills of men and women between the ages of 16 - 30 years, to be able to establish and operate viable farms or other agricultural and rural based enterprises, at a universally acceptable standard of living.

To encourage the formation and development of groups and other types of organizations amongst graduates of the GARD Center's training programs and to establish links with other existing local and regional organizations.

Our Vision

A sustainable, empowering institution through which young men and women can develop the capacity to increase their living standard through their movement in agricultural and rural based enterprises.

Our Mission

To build a premier enterprise development facility rooted in the agricultural and rural sector that caters to the training and personal development needs that support the creation and expansion of sustainable livelihoods of young men and women.

President's Message



I salute GARD Center, its Executive Director, Mrs Roberta Williams and her dynamic, competent and dedicated staff that during this past year the Center made further strides in its mission of empowering women and youth. The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) may have been the catalyst that brought this NGO into being over twenty-three years ago, but it has been supported by well-wishers at home in Antigua and Barbuda, agencies within the Government of the country, friends in Canada, the United States, Europe, the Organization of American States, and the Methodist Church of Great Britain (MCB). I make particular

mention of MCB because it supports some staff at the Center, through its Nationals In Mission Appointments (NMA) and Mission Partners' programmes.

I have personally been thrilled over the numerous developments at the Gilbert Agro- Heritage Nature Center, a symbol of great things to come. It is gratifying to note that GARD Center offers young people opportunities to develop skills in subjects that relate not only to agriculture and backyard gardening, but also to tourism, boat repair, cosmetology, plumbing, computing - a credit to the insightful and forward thinking of those who manage its day to day activities.

Young men and women lining up to register for GARD Center's exciting courses on offer, including those that form part of the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Programme, or at the other end of the spectrum, young men and women lining up to receive certification at graduation ceremonies, will remain engraved on my memory.

I plead for more persons to come forward and support the work of the Center. I am aware that despite financial challenges, God continues to provide donors at different points in its operation. I recall the handing over to the Executive Director of a substantial cheque from the CIBC/ First Caribbean International Bank Manager to support aspects of its work. I treasure the memory of the ground-breaking ceremony for a new classroom that was the gift of the Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago. GARD Center has partnered in a number of ventures by groups such as the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society and the Environmental Awareness Group. It would welcome the input of others who share its commitment to youth and women's empowerment.

May GARD Center grow from strength to strength and continue the good work it is doing of touching meaningfully the lives of young men and women.

Yours Faithfully



Executive Director's Message



In 2012, the global unemployment rate for youth (aged 15-24) remained stationary at crisis peak levels and is not expected to come down until at least 2016, according to the ILO report: 'Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012.' In order to begin to resolve the youth unemployment situation, the ILO in their 2012 annual meeting recommended five "tried and tested measures" where action must take place, employability and youth entrepreneurship were two of those critical areas.

The Center over the past year has carried out a number of actions to build its capacity to offer programs that will increase employability and youth entrepreneurship. It has also promoted quality internships to increase young people's chances in the labour market, provided access to microcredit, training, business mentoring, counselling and other support services that favour youth entrepreneurship.

With the assistance of a number of strategic partners, the Center continues to strive to carry out its mission of building a premier enterprise development facility.

With the increasing need for the Center's programs and the lack of classroom space, the construction of two new classrooms became a reality as a result of the partnership with the Japanese government through the Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago, completed under its international program, Grant Assistance for Grassroot Human Security. In addition, the computer lab facilities were upgraded with 20 new flat screened computers generously donated by the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science, and Technology.

The establishment of new and the strengthening of existing partners to diversify the types of courses, programs and facilities available to the Center's target groups has been facilitated by our involvement in the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program (CYEP) sponsored by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

We said farewell to the US Peace Corps who have partnered with the Center for over two decades. We have been very blessed with a cadre of volunteers who have brought so much talent and skills along with continued friendships which have lasted throughout the years.

Some of the successes of the GARD Center can be seen at our graduations which conveys a touching story of changed lives of young men and women who have been given a second chance, some of whom have never graduated from any school before or others who could never make a success of anything. To see these proud young people walk up to receive their certificates makes all the challenges that we have faced as staff, tutors and volunteers worth it. We have sown the seed for success and we pray that these young people will continue to grow and seek other opportunities with this new self-confidence that so many have demonstrated since attending the Center's programs.

It is with great pleasure that I submit this Annual Report to the GARD Center's Board of Directors.

Yours faithfully,



2011 - 2012 Board & Advisory Committee Members

Board Members

- Rev. Dr. George Mulrain, Chairperson
- Mrs. Eusalyn Lewis, Vice Chairperson
- Rev. Otto Wade, Secretary
- Mr. Kirthley Maginley, Member
- Mrs. Maudlyn Richards, Member
- Mr. Neil Gomes, Member
- Ms. Denise Hodge, Member
- Mr. John Mussington, Member [Barbuda]
- Mr. Avondale Thomas, Member
- Ms. Jacqueline Yearwood, Member
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mrs. Roberta Williams, Member/Executive Director

Advisory Committee

- Prof. Richard Braithwaite, University of the West Indies, Trinidad
- Dr. Brian Cooper, Agricultural Consultant
- Mrs. Kathleen Forde, Agricultural Consultant
- Ms. Jennifer Maynard, Agro-tourism Consultant to the Ministry of Tourism

Staff Members and Volunteers

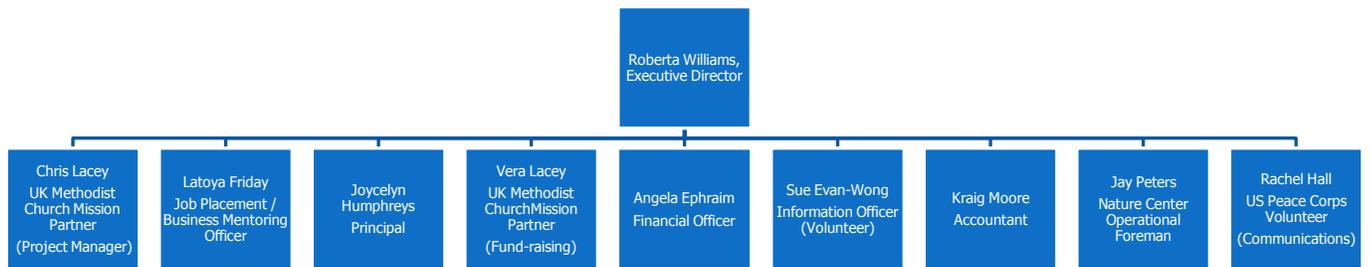
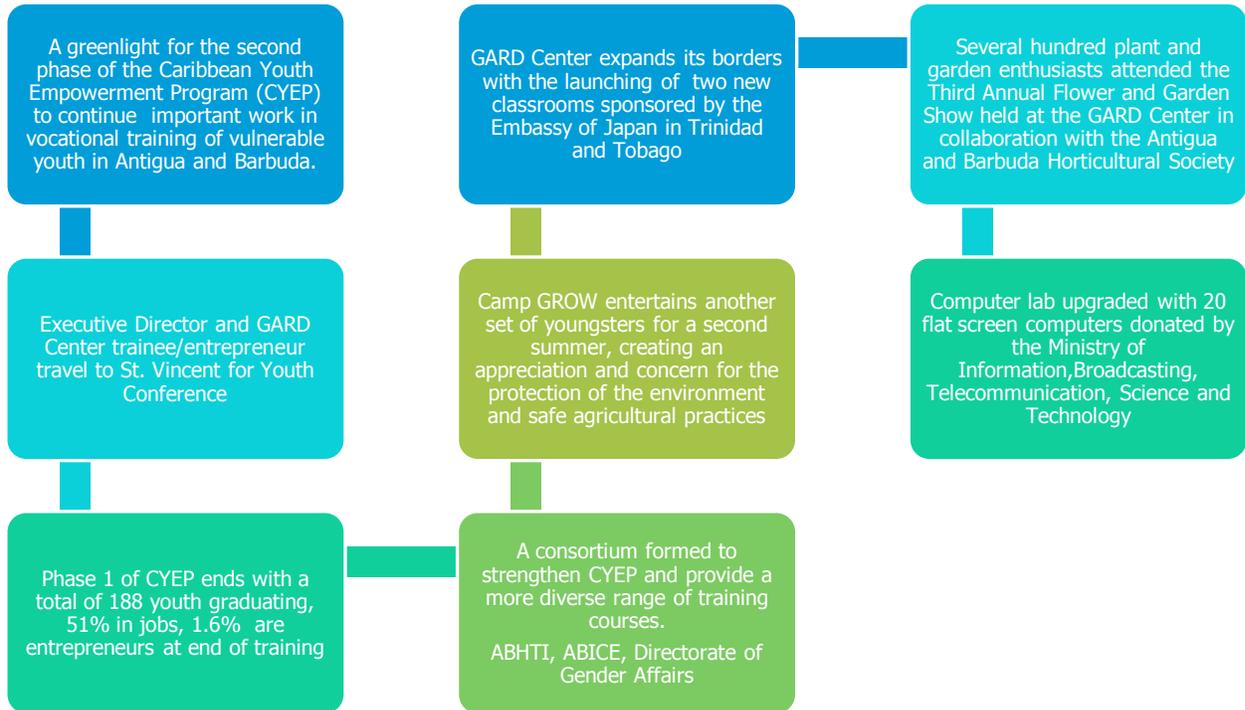


Figure 1
 Left front Roberta Williams, Lorne Matthew, Latoya Friday, June Jackson, Joycelyn Humphreys, Cariene Winston, Vera Lacey and little Sophie, back row right to left Angela Ephraim, Chris Lacey, Jay Peters, Michael Roberts, Sue Evan-Wong (missing from photo are US Peace Corps volunteer, Rachel Hall who left in August 2012 and Kraig Moore who joined staff in August 2012)

Highlights from 2011 & 2012



Visitors



Figure 2

L – R: Roberta Williams, Exec. Director; Joycelyn Humphreys, Project Coordinator; Rev. J. Thomas Quenet, Connexional Team of the Methodist Church in Britain & Christopher Lacey, Volunteer

Church in Britain came on a special visit to assess the welfare and work programs of two of the churches' mission partners, Christopher and Vera Lacey who are volunteers at the Center for two years. Volunteers are an integral part of the Center's family.

The staff of GARD Center takes great pleasure in meeting the many visitors who come to observe our programs, trainees, and to meet with the Executive Director to discuss future relationships and potential funding possibilities. The Center was graced with World Bank officials who arrived to discuss their interest in business incubators, training related to this area and possible partnerships. An official from the Partnership in Opportunities for Employment through Technology in the Americas (POETA), Ms. Ermithe Charlemont visited the Center for the first time. The initial partnership with the Trust of the Americas started in 2007. Rev. Joaquin Thomas Quenet, Partnership Coordinator, World Church Relationships, Americas and Caribbean Mission and Advocacy, The Connexional Team of the Methodist

Two United States Agency for International Development (USAID) teams toured the Center's facilities and met with the Executive Director. A team of Regional USAID country representatives while in the country for a conference requested a visit. The Executive Director had an opportunity to showcase

the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program, which is sponsored in partnership with the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and USAID. Several of the CYEP trainees spoke with the group.

Members from The Mill Reef Fund paid a second visit to the Center after providing funds the previous year for equipment for the Agro-heritage Nature Center. This year The Mill Reef Fund offered welcomed funding for

Camp Grow as well as monies to purchase additional equipment for the Nature Center and to support backyard gardening sessions for the general public.



Figure 3 USAID Regional Representatives visit GARD Center

GARD Center's participation in the Eastern Caribbean Youth Micro-enterprise Project brought Michael Taylor, USAID Barbados Representative and a colleague from Barbados to meet with some of the young agricultural producers who were project recipients. Petula Nash, Program Director of IYF journeyed from Baltimore, Maryland to meet with the staff to prepare for the second phase of CYEP which was also awarded to the Center. In addition, the CYEP Program Manager, Joanna Ramos-Romero, visited the Center in June 2012 to provide an orientation to project personnel, to meet with the other consortium members and to visit their facilities, as well as to host a seminar based upon the IYF Guide for the Evaluation of Quality for Youth Employability Training Programs. In June the Center also received a visit from Dr. Larry Palmer, the US Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Staffing & Staff Development

A number of opportunities for training and conferences were made available for the staff to upgrade their skills and provide forums for exchange of ideas and networking, see Table 1.

Table 1

Staff Name	Activity	Location	Dates
Latoya Friday	Training on the use of an electronic business incubation management system & to host a stakeholders sensitization meeting	Antigua	November 10, 2011
Latoya Friday	Global Entrepreneurship Congress	England	March 12-15, 2012
Latoya Friday, Joycelyn Humphreys	NSA/UWI Project Proposal Writing Workshop	UWI Extra-mural Campus, Antigua	April 23-24, 2012
Roberta Williams	Entra21: 10 Years of Promoting Youth Employability	Panama City, Panama	Nov 8-9, 2011
Angela Ephraim, Roberta Williams	Workshop on Financial Management and Accounting for NGOs	Antigua	31 May – 1 June 2012
Roberta Williams Chris Lacey, Sheila Roseau (Dir Gender Affairs), Joseph Gilbert (ABICE), Ercil Charles (ABHTI),	Conference on Youth-Alliances-Employability	Washington DC	Jun 20-22, 2012
Roberta Williams, Barbara-Ann Carr, Asha Challenger, Cheryl Alexander (all of the Dir. Gender Affairs)	IYF/PTS Training of Trainers	St. Lucia	May 22-25, 2012

Courses and Workshops

Table 2

Course	No. of Participants	Date Held
CYEP Courses		
Foundation course (Entrance for Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute - Basic Cookery and F&B)	40	June 4-July 6, 2012
Yacht Maintenance 1 and 2	40	July 16, 2012-continuing
Tour Guiding	14	June 18, 2012- continuing
Other courses		
Entrepreneurship (Her Majesty Prison)	14	Dec. 1-2, 2011
Backyard Gardening	19	Jan 16-26, 2012
Rural Tourism (Swetes Village)	16	Jan 19, 2012 – on-going
Regional Girl Guide Workshop	100	April 10, 2012
Training of Trainers 1 (for tutors GARD Center)	13	August 9, 2012

Exhibitions & Displays

Third Annual Flower and Garden Show



Figure 4 Winning "Best of Show" prize from Governor General, Her Excellency, Dame Louise Lake-Tack

The Annual Flower and Garden Show catered to approximately 300 plant and garden enthusiasts who had an opportunity to participate in demonstrations of grafting and the art of pottery, as well as visit the vendors who displayed an array of exotic plants, featuring unique varieties of hibiscus, heliconias, anthuriums and orchids. The show once again was hosted under the patronage of the Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Louise Lake-Tack and in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society.

Projects

Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program

Phase 1 extension came to a close in November 2011 with a grand graduation which always brings much excitement amongst the trainees, for in many cases it is the first time they have experienced graduation. Of the 123 students who started training in the extension period, 101 completed classroom training. Ninety-two completed the training which included technical training and internship. Several key persons were invited to give remarks, including Dr. Edmond Mansoor, Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology who delivered the feature address. Remarks were given by Mr. James Goggin, USAID Representative, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Mrs. Jennifer Whyte, General Manager of St. John's Cooperative Credit Union, Mr. Mansfield Blackwood, Senior Technical Specialist, USAID Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Mr. Hesketh Williams, Labour Commissioner and Life Skills tutor Ms Barbara-Ann Carr presented the certificates to the graduates.

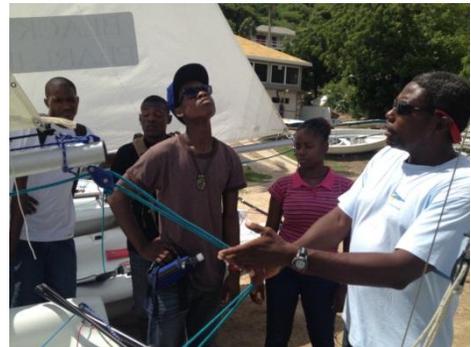


Figure 5 Yacht Maintenance trainees learning rigging



Figure 6 Yacht Maintenance Trainees fiberglassing

During the period the Job Placement unit hosted its first ever Career Day activity. The event which was attended by over one hundred and fifty youth was held under the theme, "Build Your Tomorrow Today, Participate in GARD Center's Career Day." Attendees who included CYEP students, graduates, tutors and other professionals described the event as being "successful." Youths present agreed that the event helped them to think more about their career options and commented that they would recommend the event to others. Guests included professionals as well as entrepreneurs from a cross section of industries and sectors which included ICT, Spa and Wellness, Agriculture and Manufacturing as well as

Environmental. NCO Financial Company Ltd., who has in the last two years become one of the leading employers in Antigua, attended the event conducting on-site interviews for vacancies which were available at that time.

The Executive Director and staff entered further discussions concerning a Phase 2 which was successful and commenced in May 2012. A number of new measures and partners were introduced into this phase to further strengthen the program and broaden its visibility. The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, (ABHTI) The Antigua and Barbuda Institute for Continuing Education (ABICE) and the Directorate of Gender Affairs formed a consortium with the Center which would bring on board additional facilities and resource personnel, more diverse courses, and the opportunity for sharing expertise.

This strategic partnership with the International Youth Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has greatly assisted the GARD Center in building its capacity in the areas of vocational training, monitoring, evaluation, networking and organizational management.

CTA Reinforcement of GARD Center's Information Resources



The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

The strategic partnership between CTA and GARD Center established since 2004 has been of great benefit in expanding the capacity of the Center to better target its clientele with interventions that enable the Center to effectively respond to the diverse information needs of its stakeholders i.e. agricultural producers, Ministry of Agriculture staff, Cooperatives, garden hobbyists, graduates and others in Antigua and Barbuda. The GARD Center with financial support from CTA and technical expertise from the Ministry of Agriculture has been successful in:

- Establishing a Documentation Resource Unit,
- Training agricultural producers in the use of ICT in business,
- The establishment of a Question and Answer Service, and
- The production of a number of repackaged user-friendly information materials for the Center's target groups.

This recent project and the relationship with CTA have greatly benefitted the GARD Center. A number of the Center's staff has attended CTA's training courses and workshops. The Center's capacity in the information and communication services has improved on many levels from internally within the Center to nationally. The ICM Strategy Plan has been an excellent guide for projecting a way forward. The visibility of the Center as an information provider has significantly increased and is well established nationally as the institution to contact for information needs in agriculture. The website, publications and the training infomercials have increased the accessibility of information in a user friendly format.

In addition, increasing the visibility of CTA's services and products through display booths and being present at various festivals, workshops and other events has also increased accessibility to information. A sincere thanks to CTA for this partnership and hopefully there would be further collaboration in the near future.



Figure 7 Display at National Youth Week

Plant Biodiversity Project



The Environmental Awareness Group in collaboration with the Global Environmental Facility undertook a project to raise awareness of and to educate people and communities about the:

- importance of forested hillsides as healthy watersheds
- rich native biodiversity and the problems of biodiversity loss
- threats caused by fire setting, free-grazing animals and uncontrolled development

Some of the activities which are on-going:

- Developing trails and guided tours to both bio diverse and degraded areas to see the results of fires and overgrazing.

- Training members of neighbouring communities in: leading guided tours, plant identification, horticulture, trail blazing and rural tourism.
- Raising community awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity and watersheds through the media, infomercials, production of a video, posters etc.
- Producing recommendations for conservation practices for input to the legislative process.



Figure 8 Interpretive panel erected at entrance to Body Ponds

The community sessions in rural tourism have very rewarding. The sessions included exposure to topics such as:

- i. The motivations and interests of tourists;
- ii. Inventory of attractions and classification of attractions;
- iii. How to develop an attraction;
- iv. How to develop a story around attractions;
- v. Visioning of touristic possibilities.

The facilitator of these sessions, Ms. Jennifer Maynard Agri-tourism specialist with the Ministry of Tourism made a number of valuable recommendations and has continued to volunteer her time since the completion of these sessions.

Eastern Caribbean Youth Microenterprise Project



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The USAID funded ECYM Project was designed to assist young vulnerable men and women to accelerate the creation of sustainable livelihood and self-employment opportunities. Antigua and Barbuda was selected as one of the six Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs) countries to participate. The GARD Center's agricultural project was accepted which brought together six young agriculturists, three new producers and three who had established farm enterprises. The project offered training in computerized record keeping, planting material, fencing, irrigation equipment for one acre each; a tractor with implements and harvest boxes. Two persons from ECYMP visited GARD Center and met with the ECYMP trainees.

Camp GROW

Camp GROW is a partnership between United States Peace Corps Volunteers, the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) and the Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center (GARD Center). In 2012, 60 campers, ages 8-11, were selected from around Antigua to participate in the camp. Local community members and organizations donated their time and expertise, along with the US Peace Corps Volunteers who assisted throughout the process. Camp GROW empowers youth and inspires leadership through the development of life skills such as decision-making, critical thinking and teamwork. It provides an opportunity for campers to have fun and get their hands dirty while developing a relationship with the world around them. The Sandals Foundation launched Camp GROW with a press conference in June 2012.

Many thanks to our monetary and in-kind sponsors of Camp GROW 2012 which included: major sponsors The Sandals Foundation and The Mill Reef Fund. Also thanks to Horizons



Supplies Limited, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, Stingray City Antigua, Antigua Nature Tours, Adventure Antigua, Sugar Ridge, Caribtrans Antigua, State Insurance Corporation, and SignPro. A special thank you to the two US Peace Corps Volunteers, Rachel Hall and Jennifer Davis who suggested the idea of a camp of this nature and who brought their passion, professionalism and organizational skills together to make it a success.



Figure 9 (Left) Camp GROW Volunteers handling a Racer Snake on Bird Island. (Right) Camp Grow Campers

Body Ponds Demonstration Project

This project, which forms a part of the Body Ponds Demonstration Sub- Project of the Sustainable Island Resources Management Mechanism project being conducted by the Environment Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, sought to address some issues of sustainable agricultural production in the Body Ponds area. The GARD Center was contracted in May 2009 to look at the risks associated with agricultural production in an area important for its contribution to the supply of potable water. These risks are associated with the use of agricultural chemicals used for pest and disease management. These risks are of particular concern when agricultural production takes place in areas adjacent to sites where active wells are supplying water to the national system. Other risks relate to tillage or clearing of soils in the course of production and the dangers of causing soil erosion and the resultant contamination of surface waters with increased sediment load.

The project sought to raise the awareness of farmers about these issues and to provide some training and alternative technologies which would assist farmers in mitigating some of these risks. The project has experienced major delays due to very difficult weather conditions causing water-logging and there was actual flooding taking place on several of the selected demonstration farms. In addition, lengthy delays with equipment breakdowns caused the project to be extended past its expected deadlines.

Despite these delays, farmers were involved in training sessions conducted in organic farming techniques, integrated pest management and the most extensive demonstration was the construction of bench terraces on hillsides that enable farmers to plant and manage tree crops much more easily, while limiting the risks of



erosion from these steeply sloping areas. The particular terrace constructed on a tree crop farmer's land, was also able to demonstrate how these terraces can be designed to act as water catchments and provide additional water for seedling management and sub-irrigation of the terrace. It is hoped that this technology can be adopted elsewhere in the Body Ponds area.



Figure 10 View of Body Ponds

Mill Reef Fund

The Mill Reef Fund once again supported the efforts of the Center with monies to purchase equipment for the Nature Center, i.e. a computer printer, laminator, air-compressor, paper shredder, leaf blower, chainsaw and a trimmer. In addition, funds were donated for the second annual Camp GROW, which enabled the camp to purchase tents, picnic tables and chairs. This partnership is greatly valued and many thanks are extended to Mill Reef for supporting the Center's programs. The Center staff is looking forward to future collaborative efforts.



Figure 11 Tents, Tables & Chairs donated by Mill Reef Fund

Barbuda Flamingo Reintroduction Project: Feasibility Study



This project continues to struggle to come to a possible successful conclusion that will make all parties involved feel satisfied that the time and effort has brought some important information that can be utilized either at present or in the near future. The United Nations Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded a project to determine the "Feasibility of Reintroducing the Caribbean Flamingo to Barbuda" continued its implementation activities in 2012. In May, Dr. Carmen Lake completed a GAP Analysis which included a Stakeholder Assessment and a Socio-Economic Assessment. These showed that if the birds were to be reintroduced, combined with other tourism offerings such as the Frigate Bird Sanctuary and activities on the Codrington Lagoon, they would aid in making the island more attractive to eco-tourists.

Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the Capacity Building activities we had planned in collaboration with the Barbuda Natural Cultural and Historic Society due to the sudden departure of its president. The project therefore is now focusing on completing an assessment of feral animals and roaming livestock to ascertain potential impacts that they may have on the birds and surrounding habitats.

During this period the Flamingo project received additional funds from the United States Embassy to the amount of \$US 5000. These funds facilitated further research to build a pool of information that can be used at an appropriate time when required. Mr. John Mussington, Marine Biologist and Board Member of the GARD Center was kept informed and his guidance sought.

Other components of the project will include: a Plan of Action which will take all of the recommendations from the studies above and create a roadmap to their implementation; an expert review of the Wetlands Assessment and a final presentation to the Barbuda Council and the Codrington Lagoon National Park (CLNP).

CIBC/First Caribbean International Bank

As a member of the Caribbean Group of Youth Business Trusts, the GARD Center has been fortunate to be a part of the CIBC/First Caribbean International Bank's project funding which has contributed \$US20,000 to the Center's youth entrepreneurial programs. These funds greatly assist the Center in building its capacity to support youth entrepreneurship in this country. Training, start-up loans, a mentorship program, counselling etc. are some of the support services that the Center is trying to strengthen.

Australian Embassy



A pilot project for the establishment of a mixed business incubator was submitted to the Embassy to be located at the GARD Center's Nature Center. The incubator would cater to 20 trainees (incubatees) assigned to one of four business labs: handicraft (beach glass bead jewelry), agriculture (seedling production and solar drying) or marketing. The Embassy agreed to provide partial funding for the equipment and supplies for the incubator labs. Funding from other sources is being sought to establish the incubator and provide the training. Many thanks to the Embassy for providing a head start to this project which is taking the Center into a new area of entrepreneurial training, business incubators.

Japanese Embassy, Trinidad & Tobago



Figure 12 New classrooms

A computer lab and lecture room were constructed with funds from the Japanese Embassy through their Grant Assistance for Grassroot Human Security. The project would enable the GARD Center to increase the number of students that the Center currently serves, offer a wider choice of courses, provide e-self learning (literacy and numeracy) and improve the quality of the Center's training programs. The staff and Board of GARD Center are indebted to the people of Japan for this invaluable contribution and partnership.



Figure 13 Construction start (left) inside finished Classroom (right)

Women's Division - United Methodist Women / General Board of Global Ministries



This ongoing valuable partnership is to equip women, and disadvantaged youth with the necessary skills to ably join the workforce or to start their own businesses. This funding is contributing to training programs in vocational skills and business management; Math and English proficiency; marketing; computer literacy; and administrative support. In addition, funds have assisted with purchases for the Nature Center's shade house, solar dryers, handicraft raw materials, agricultural equipment and supplies.

Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)



In Antigua and Barbuda, the dominant industry, and hence source of revenue for individuals, is that of tourism. In order to increase the opportunities for youth to participate in this sector, the GARD Center has partnered with the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI), with a view to placing 25 vulnerable youth into its accredited programs: in the fields of Basic Cookery, and Food & Beverage Service. In order for our students to participate in those courses, the GARD Center identified a need to train the target group aged 17 -25 years in a remedial or "foundation" course prior to being assessed for entry to ABHTI.

Twenty-five (25) enthusiastic youth proceeded to undertake the year long training program run by GARD Center and ABHTI. The Pan American Development Foundation graciously awarded this grant which they sourced through the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines (RCL). They responded to our need of financial support for the "foundation" course, which gave our trainees the impetus needed to enter this service-oriented industry.

UK Methodist – NMA, Joycelyn Humphrey's Project Manager salary

The purpose of this grant was to pay a fulltime salary for five (5) years of a staff member of the GARD Center who had responsibility for the Caribbean Youth Empowerment Program for "youth at risk".

The duties include overseeing the day-to-day operations and the implementation of the project activities.

More specifically to:

- Schedule, plan, organize and coordinate events, i.e. classes.
- Maintain records of all activities, i.e. attendance, evaluations.
- Ensure the effective flow of information between the consultants/tutors, Center staff and participants involved in the project.
- Coordinate and oversee training activities with service providers, to name a few.

This contribution has been a tremendous support in sustaining the needed staff compliment for the various programs of the Center. Many thanks to the UK Methodist Church.

Education Services – UK, Irrigation project, 2nd year



Figure 14 Herbal Garden with irrigation lines being laid

This was the second year the GARD Center has received funds sent from this organisation for the purchase and upgrade of the irrigation system at the Gilbert Agro-heritage Nature Center, which is still under construction. We wish to sincerely thank this organisation for its continued support.

Friends of GARD Center

A very special thank you continues to be extended to all of those who so generously donated to the GARD Center over the year in review. The Center would not be not have been able to function efficiently and effectively without these contributions. The Friends of GARD Center membership offers discounts on courses, tours, lectures and demonstrations. It will also provide discounts at special events, for example, when the Nature Center opens such as Jazz Night, hiking tours etc.



Let's be Friends!

Do you love the GARD Center? Do you want to be kept up-to-date on all of the new and exciting things that are happening regularly with our organization? Becoming a Friend of GARD allows you to get even more involved with the Center. Your membership fees help us to fulfil our mission and you get some cool benefits too!

- Friend of the GARD Center t-shirt (pictured to the left)
- 10% discount on all GARD Center courses
- 10% discount on registration fees for Camp GROW
- 10% discount on summer "Music in the Park" to be held at the Gilbert Agro-Heritage Nature Center
- Subscription to "The GARD Center Exclusive".

Become a Friend of the GARD Center
For just \$60 (EO)
Visit www.gardc.org/Friends or call 463-4121

Financial Statements

Grants

The GARD Center has received a number of grants during the period under review.

In addition, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda maintained its subvention to the Center, with EC\$85,800.00 towards the payment of salaries for the administrative staff.

Fortunately for the Center, In-Kind Donations continued to be significant during this period. The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) continues to contribute 5 acres, plus, of arable land. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda continued its contribution of our premises, electricity and water.

We sincerely thank all of our Sponsors for your continued support and hope that you will continue to partner with our organisation. The Center welcomes new partnerships as we continue to equip the youth of Antigua and Barbuda with skills to assist them to enter the job market or to become confident entrepreneurs and thus improve their lives and the lives of those in their communities.

Revenue September 2011 – August 2012

GARD Center Revenue September 2011 - August 2012

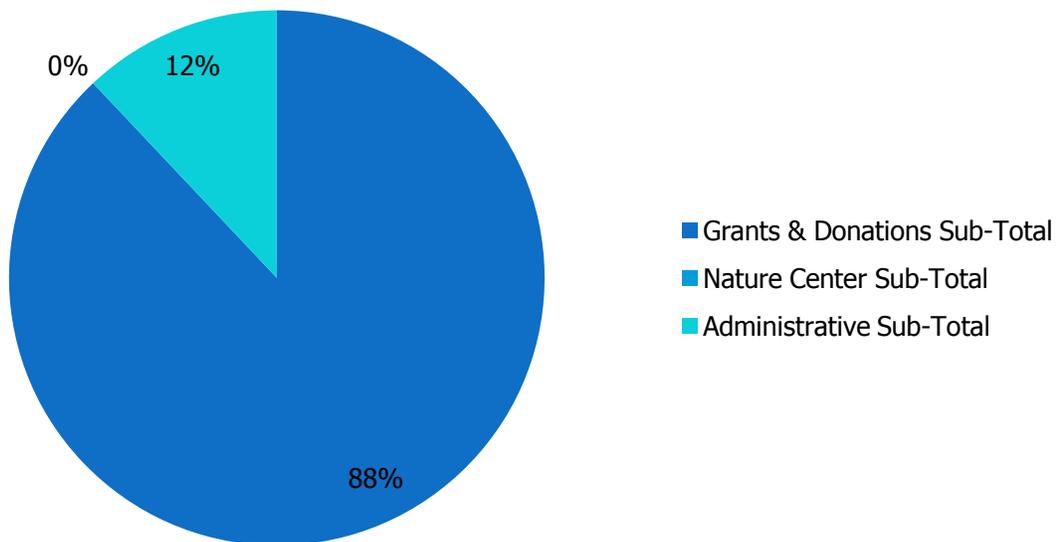


Figure 15

Revenue *(continued)*

Summary of Financial Figures

Grants and Donations	Amounts in EC\$
Australia Embassy	\$21,634.63
General Board of Global Ministries	\$26,799.80
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)	\$41,414.54
CIBC/First Caribbean International Bank	\$53,548.94
International Youth Foundation	\$150,978.76
Environment Division – WIDECAST	\$3,150.00
Environmental Awareness Group - Trailblazing	\$2,700.00
U N Global Environment Facility	\$33,584.08
Mill Reef Fund – Camp GROW	\$14,786.96
Mill Reef Fund – Training & Equipment	\$13,439.90
Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism (SIRMM), Body Ponds Project	\$12,000.00
Education Services – UK	\$2,084.10
Friends of GARD Center	\$8,499.53
U K Methodist – NMA	\$60,059.12
Pan American Development Foundation - PADF	\$22,795.94
U S Agency for International Development Flamingo Project	\$10,647.37
Japanese Embassy, Trinidad & Tobago	\$239,449.22
Environment Division – Body Ponds	\$21,520.00
Sub-Total	\$739,092.89
Nature Center Sales (Produce, Animals, etc.)	
Fruits and vegetable sales	nil
Sub-Total	nil
Administrative Support, Course Registration, etc.	
Admin and Workshop fees, Course Registration, Rental of equip.	\$6,323.40
Booth Rental and Flower & Garden Show Sales	\$787.35
Miscellaneous – Career Day; Photocopies	\$185.00
Subvention paid by Antigua and Barbuda government	\$85,800.00
Interest	\$8,000.00
Sub-Total	\$101,095.75
Total	\$840,188.64

Figure 16

Expenses September 2011 – August 2012

Training	Amount in EC
Materials, Supplies and Books	\$46,294.16
Facilitator / Tutor / Consultants/Job Placement Coordinator	\$151,108.67
Administration Fees	\$3,707.54
Travel – Consultant - Air / Boat / Ground / Accommodation	\$4,371.53
Stipends	\$12,371.00
Equipment	\$9,332.91
Public Awareness/Promotion	\$27,485.82
Workshops /Conferences, Refreshments, etc.	\$6,525.05
Close of Project /Reimbursement of Funds (CYEP 1)	\$75,554.27
Training Sub-Total	\$336,750.95
Maintenance of Nature Center	
Labour and Contract Work	\$42,299.61
Materials and Supplies	\$5,100.51
Transportation and Vehicle expense	\$1,697.50
Nature Center equipment purchase, maintenance/repair, etc.	\$6,482.17
Repair / maintenance – building	nil
Land preparation at Nature Center	\$1,590.00
Body Ponds project, land preparation – offsite	\$48,650.00
Construction of Training Facility - 1 Classroom & 1 Computer room	\$227,826.72
Maintenance of Nature Center Sub-Total	\$333,646.51
Administration	
Utilities, Insurance, Office supplies, etc.	\$18,839.37
Salaries, wages, Benefit payments – etc.	\$154,736.12
Office equipment, maintenance and rental	nil
Bank charges	\$1,563.21
Miscellaneous	\$545.03
Camp GROW	\$10,573.20
Audit Report	\$18,000.00
Administration Sub-Total	\$204,256.93
Total	\$874,654.39

Figure 17

GARD Center Expenses September 2011 - August 2012

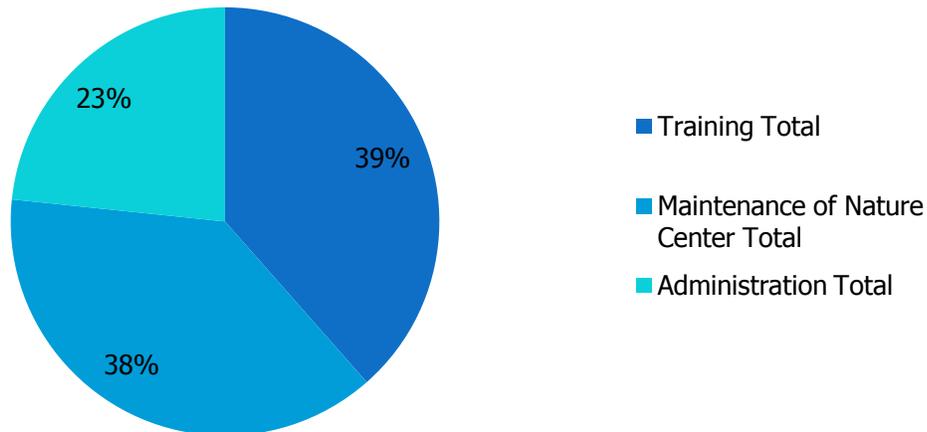


Figure 18

Acknowledgements

GARD Center continues to flourish with the blessings of many partners, friends and volunteers. We are very grateful for the support and interest of those partners who have donated financial support, those who have pooled their resources with the Center in collaborative programs and those who have volunteered their skills and talents. A special thank you to our auditors PKF who annually assist us with their services pro bona. This contribution is greatly appreciated.

We say farewell to the US Peace Corps who have travelled the 23 year journey with us, sending incredible volunteers who have contributed significantly to the development of this Center. A sincere thank you to the US Peace Corps for all of their volunteers.

Our donor partners who contribute funding to support the many programs and services of the Center are instrumental to our very existence. As a grassroots organization that provides for the disenfranchised, our programs and services must be subsidized to be accessible to the underprivileged. We are indebted to organizations such as: International Youth Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, General Board of Global Ministries, Pan American Development Foundation, Global Environment Facility, The Japanese Government, Mill Reef Fund and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Volunteers play a major role at the Center in contributing to capacity building. Once again we thank Rachel Hall for her invaluable contributions. Vera and Chris Lacey our volunteers from the UK Methodist Church have been a tremendous asset in the organizational structuring and management

of the Center, bringing this facility into more advanced technological operations which caters to better monitoring and evaluation, feedback and more sophisticated reporting. Our Junior Office Administrative Clerk, Cariene Winston who started as an intern for her High School practical returned after graduation and offered her services as a volunteer to the Center. This is very commendable and very much appreciated.

Of course with or without funds, if staff is not supportive no program can be successful. GARD Center has been blessed with a staff compliment that can be matched by none. A heartfelt thank you for the staff who work as a team and as a family, may God continue to bless them all. Finally, a warm thank you to the Board of Directors who continue to support this institution and staff by guiding its direction and future.

