



December 2014

Special Report

The Newsletter for Jamaican Alumni Associations in Florida

Published by the Coalition of Jamaican Alumni Associations of Florida

P.O. Box 970313, Coconut Creek, Florida 33097

(954) 510-6265

www.cjaaf.info

**EDUCATION
MATTERS!!**

FLORIDA'S COALITION OF JAMAICAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WALKATHON, A HUGE SUCCESS!

Dear Alumni Association Executives:

The annual alumni associations' walkathon on December 6, 2014 was a huge success, thanks to the 235 "registered" walkers from 25 alumni organizations. As with the previous years, the annual "All Alumni" walkathon is held on the first Saturday in December and serves to bring alumni associations' members together for some exercise, food, fun, and fellowship. Walkathons are exceptionally successful fundraisers and some of our alumni associations used this event as a major fund raising activity. Of course, there was the friendly rivalry and the show of school spirit with many alumni association members decked out in their school colors. This year the school with the most registered walkers (you could not miss them as they were so many of them all there in their blue shirts) was St. Hugh's Alumnae with 35 registered walkers. Runners up to St. Hugh's Alumnae were the Convent of Mercy (ALPHA) Alumnae (20 walkers) and XLCR Alumni Association (19 walkers).



At the plaque presentation, Sandra Schrouder, the Coalition co-chair (right) posing with; from left Wayne Golding, the Diaspora Advisory representative for the South east USA; Karen Lee Murphy, St. Hugh's Alumnae President; Xavier Murphy, JC Old Boys president; and Carrol White, St. Hugh's Alumnae Board member.

To mark the fifth year anniversary of the walkathon, the Coalition gave each alumni association that participated 5 tee-shirts. The black, green, and gold shirts had the Coalition's motto "EDUCATION MATTERS" on the front, this being the main reason why alumni association members volunteer hundreds of hours each year to finance projects at their alma mater and also to help those in need throughout Florida. If your members did not attend the walkathon and would like to purchase a tee shirt, or if others want to purchase additional tee-shirts, they can do so by calling us at 954-242-2529 or by writing to us at rgecon@hotmail.com. The cost per shirt is \$6.



Modelling the tee-shirt!

Along with the associations and walkers, the success of this year's walkathon is the result of individuals who went the extra mile to donate water, ice, coolers, and fruits, and helped in other areas. We single out their contribution as a way of saying thanks to them for their special individual and group contribution:

1. **Donna Fong, Patsy Lee and the sisters from ALPHA** organized the 50/50 raffle and the net amount collected helped to defray the cost of the walkathon
2. **Patsy Lee** would not attend without her usual contribution of fritters and this year it was truly a treat to have the fritters prepared on the spot

PLANNING BOARD: Sandra Schrouder, PhD & Rupert Rhodd, PhD (Co-Chairs (UWI)) * Jasmine Barnes (St. Catherine) * Joan Segre-Leroy (ALPHA) Natalie Chung-Cauldero (Queen's) * Allan Cunningham, DBA (Camperdown) * Lance Gibbs (Cornwall College) * Rudy Kameka (St. George's College) Audley Hewitt (KC) * Bethany Powell (Clarendon College) * Peter Scott (Ferncourt) * Audrey Smith (Montego Bay High) * Carol White (St. Hugh's)

Advisors: Cheryl Wynter; Dahlia Walker, JD; Larry Brown, CPA

3. This year as with past years **Beverly Smith, Audrey Williams, and Montego Bay Alumnae** have been servers of the food
4. **Dona-Lee Raymond from Munro-Hampton** assisted with the registration of groups and distribution of shirts.
5. **Peter Scott from Ferncourt** has ALWAYS provided his cooler with water along the walkathon route, and that certainly helped to keep our bodies hydrated
6. **Carrol White and Weston Nissan Volvo** have supplied hot coffee and tea each year.
7. **Avis Walker, Laurette Dunn and Manning's Past Students** Association contributed fruits that fed the entire group and more!
8. **Addie Chin**, our resident photographer who this year sent the link below with 519 pictures. She captured EVERY moment! *More walkathon pictures at <http://adriennechinogilvie.zenfolio.com/p155168729>*
9. **"Dreamy" Riley** from "Irietimes" streamed the walkathon so that others in the diaspora could view the event.
10. **Xavier Murphy**, the president of JC Old Boys' Association did a fantastic job as MC.

We may not have reported all the special contributions as some gave to the cause silently. We truly appreciate the notes of appreciation and share them with you:

"Congratulations on the planning and staging of another great event last Saturday! South Florida Chapter of Westwood Old Girls' Association was happy to be a part and our small team certainly had FUN! Already we are looking forward to next year."

"Thank you so much for ALL you do with the Coalition to bring the Jamaica Alumni Associations together. We had another successful Walkathon because of your coordinating efforts. The Florida Swans appreciate you both!"

We are grateful to our Grand Marshalls, the Hon. Franz Hall our Consul General, and Wayne Golding the Diaspora Representative, who despite their very busy schedules attended and functioned in their roles.

Stay safe, and have a wonderful Christmas.

Rupert & Sandra



Above, the Consul General Franz Hall, Diaspora Advisory Representative Wayne Golding, and the co-chair of the Coalition Rupert Rhodd leading the walkathon



Look good, the colors above may be the same but they are not all from Dint Hill. The first person on the left, Cleo Mills is from Wolmer's.



Kingston Technical Past Students Association proudly displaying their banner