

Grand Opening & the “One-Love” Soccer Tournament – December 2005



The community of Nine Mile, St Ann, celebrated the grand opening of the Cedella Marley Booker Basic School on December 21st, 2005. Several hundred people enjoyed a day of football, music and community fellowship. The guest of honour was Cedella Marley Booker (or Mother B as she is fondly called by her neighbours), who delighted the crowd by performing her poem “The House That Bob Built”, in honour of her son, Bob Marley. She cut the ribbon to the new classroom, officially opening the school. The day was full of many surprises, including a performance by Ernest Smith, who delighted the crowd by singing at the opening ceremony.

The new school consists of two classrooms, a pavilion and separate buildings for the kitchen and the toilets. The construction is of the highest quality, comprising of block and concrete, with impact resistant windows and is designed to be a hurricane shelter for the community.

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The “Green-Recycling” School is designed to teach the children and the community to be aware of their environment. The eight 1,000 gallon water tanks were full on the day, as the concrete roofs and aluminum gutter system provide excellent water collection and take advantage of any rainfall. The grey water coming from the kitchen and hand sinks is also collected in two water tanks, and will be used for watering the vegetable and fruit farm, which is planned for completion in 2006. The farm will be used to provide lunch for the students as well as an education tool to teach the appreciation and value of farming to the local community. Waterless toilets were installed and hailed as a great success. They are hygienic, odour-free and easy to maintain.

The day started off early as six local teams competed for the “One Love” Soccer Trophy. The newly mowed field looked very well, with the lines marked out with lime. The trophy was won by “Pioneers” from Alexandria, with the home team coming in second place. The event was so successful, that the teams are now lining up to participate next year.

The perfect day stretched into the night. To honour Mother B and the opening of the school, members of her family arrived in the village that evening. They included Rita Marley and Damian “Junior Gong” Marley. To the delight of one and all, Junior Gong performed for the villagers later that night.

This year, the Nine Mile Charitable Foundation have plans to improve the surface of the football field this year, provide night lighting, build a basketball and net ball court. Longer term development plans include the building of a community center, a job-training workshop and a health clinic.

Many thanks to all our sponsors, including Tuff Gong, the Bob Marley Foundation, the Dart Foundation, Golden Sands Charitable Foundation, Barry Sheehy and Keanes Cabinets.

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View of new toilet building, new classroom & the outdoor pavilion.



Waterless Toilets



Hand sinks with timed faucet

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Mother Booker reciting “The House that Bob Built”



Ernest Smith performing.



Mother Booker cutting the ribbon to the new classroom.

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One Love Soccer Tournament 1st
place winners – “Pioneers” from
Alexandria



One Love Soccer Tournament 2nd
place winners – “Nine Mile Football
Club”



View of back of school – soon to be a
vegetable & fruit tree garden