

*EJH Alliance, LLC*

***Building foundations for self reliance***

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**CARIBBEAN PHILANTHROPY: PAST AND POTENTIAL**  
*for*  
**The Ford Foundation**

Final Draft

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **Introduction**

“The Kalinago\* determined resistance to political and cultural dominance has relevance to the people of the Caribbean today in their struggle for self determination and survival as a viable group of nations.” So states noted Scholar Beverly Steele, in her “Grenada, A History of Its People.” Participants in this study seem to validate this view. The theme of remembering and honoring history, culture and tradition as the underpinnings of Caribbean giving has reverberated throughout this Caribbean Philanthropic Tour.

This report represents a limited study of Caribbean philanthropic giving within a subset of the English speaking Caribbean Nation States - A representative sample of The Leeward and Windward Islands: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. We chose these islands because we hoped we would enhance the likelihood that voices of the smaller and or less developed Caribbean Islands will be included in the broader regional and global philanthropic conversation.

Although individual Caribbean Islands have differing cultural, social, economic and educational practices, close examination reveals common historical threads that when joined with an understanding of the differences, allows us to capitalize on the unique philanthropic potential each nation and the region possess.

### **Study Highlights**

This study was conducted via a learning tour through select Leeward and Windward Islands. The goal was to discover the history of giving traditions, current giving practices and potential for future organized Caribbean philanthropic efforts to help advance Caribbean development, particularly philanthropic strategies that are culturally relevant and whose genesis is from the Islands themselves. In addition, we wanted to join the efforts of others to understand and/or strengthen cooperative philanthropy in the region.

This study is by no means comprehensive of Caribbean philanthropy. Much of the information conveyed is a combination of anecdotes, stories, data, and history. In addition, in our journey we discovered a rich oral history containing a wealth of information often not found in scholarly texts.

*\*The Kalinago are the indigenous Caribbean peoples. Today only about 2,500 remain living largely on the Carib Reserve in Dominica.*

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and traditions as  
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study tour

Face to face interviews were conducted with forty five individuals and several groups, such as boards of directors of giving organizations and membership meetings of service clubs. The interviews represent a range of Caribbean nationals and institutions including, government, business, philanthropic groups, service clubs and private citizens. These call forth an array of views and opinions from people who are able to contribute to the development of a common regional strategy. We also sought to engage representatives and leaders from key regional and global entities that play important policy and funding roles in the Caribbean region in this philanthropic dialog. Finally we reviewed literature and published reports relevant to the issues of Caribbean history and culture and philanthropic giving in the Caribbean and globally.

EJH Alliance pursued five goals. They were to:

- Document historical, cultural traditions that may influence giving
- Collect giving stories that illuminate historical survival and sacrifice
- Identify overall emerging trends in collective giving in the region
- Illuminate approaches to giving that may have the potential to become prototypes
- Identify current interest and potential leadership for regional collective, strategic giving vehicles

The study tour was enhanced by Philanthropic Liaisons on each Island visited. They provided knowledge, access to appropriate individuals to be interviewed and advice and council on the nuances of Caribbean protocol. They were also ever ready to solve practical problems such as transportation and lodging. In addition, they also agreed to facilitate a review of the draft report.

### *Past*

Our study first looked at how philanthropy has historically been defined. The interviews proved to be a valuable resource in examining giving practices in the past. The stories of philanthropy were oftentimes simple but powerful. They ranged from early practices of neighbors sharing fire by taking a stick of fire from one home to the next, which is how the phrase stick of fire is said to have originated, to how an entire community contributed to the family of the recently deceased. These stories are based on strong social networks with an even stronger sense of community.

Culture and traditions straddle the past and present and impact philanthropy via the values held by individuals across the Islands. The following values were identified in the course of the interviews:

- Work ethic – an old fundamental value
- Respect and valuing of the elders
- Respect and valuing of self and others
- Respect for property and planet
- A sense of self and purpose
- Honesty

- Sharing
- Communal self-reliance

A significant number of individuals interviewed see the issue of the decline of heritage and tradition in many Caribbean Islands as a crisis and a threat to future development, particularly in the context of globalization.

***Present***

There are examples and evidence of very active citizens who use a range of strategies to address pressing social issues. Current philanthropic practices include:

- Mutual Aid Networks
- Social Security Generated Foundations
- Community Foundations
- Service Organizations and Club
- Indigenous Associations
- Corporations and Businesses
- Local, Regional and Global Government Entities
- Churches/Religious Institutions
- Individuals and Families
- Tourism/Hotel Industries

Create a structure that will facilitate the coordination of philanthropic efforts of Caribbean Nationals at home and abroad for the benefit of individuals in the Caribbean Islands and the region.

Our review of each of these practices, along with the history and traditions of mutual aid, enables us to identify strengths, opportunities and challenges for developing sustained coordinated giving.

**Strategic Recommendations**

Based on the interviews conducted and a review of the literature of the history and giving traditions of the individual Island states and the region, the following strategic recommendations are being presented:

1. Catalyze a more strategic and coordinated approach to Caribbean giving built on the platform of historical traditions, which we begun to identify in the study, and select current practices.
2. Create a structure that will facilitate the coordination of philanthropic efforts of Caribbean Nationals at home and abroad for the benefit of individuals in the Caribbean Islands and the region.
3. Assess the role and impact of Caribbean National associations abroad and seek ways to coordinate and enhance strategic efforts
4. Begin conversations with key individuals who have expressed an interest in developing a coordinated philanthropic function and mechanism.
5. Develop partnership with major philanthropic global institutions to help support and enhance individual philanthropic efforts at the local and grassroots levels.
6. Strengthen the role that universities can play in providing and collecting data that can be used as a basis for communicating about giving in the Caribbean.

7. Assess feasibility and build on the current structure and network of youth strategies in the region.
8. Make heritage and culture an integral part of education in the schools and in social programs.
9. Work with individual Island governments to ensure cooperation and understanding of the benefits of private sector and NGO involvement in areas of history and culture; social and economic issues.

**Barriers:**

- Limited knowledge available of Caribbean history and traditions.
- The size of the Caribbean markets coupled with limited capacity for product development.
- Lack of confidence in individual Islands and the region to develop, particularly in the context of globalization.
- Difficulty in getting individuals to focus on their roles as citizens, particularly in the context of high levels of in and out migration.
- The growing issues of crime and drugs.
- Limited job prospects and continued issues of poverty.
- The downside of the free movements of Caribbean National through the beginning implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

## II. PARAMETERS AND PURPOSE

Like much of the developing world, the English speaking Caribbean Islands and nation states are struggling to understand and gain an economic and social position in the ever expanding global market place. In the United States, for nearly a century, philanthropy/charitable giving has contributed to the civic and socio-economic infrastructure and growth of many communities. Numerous attempts have been made, with varying degrees of success, to replicate United States philanthropic practices in the developing world and to test its viability as an agent of economic and social change. One of the key lessons learned as a result of these efforts, is the strong need to build philanthropic practices on the traditions and cultures of the host countries.

This report is by no means a comprehensive study of Caribbean philanthropy. Specifically the report has built in limitations in that it focuses on a sub-strata of the English speaking Caribbean Islands.

EJH Alliance undertook this Learning Tour to contribute to the knowledge of the history of giving traditions, current giving practices and potential for future organized Caribbean philanthropic efforts to help advance Caribbean development, particularly philanthropic strategies that are culturally relevant and whose genesis is from the Islands themselves.

There are several reasons for the focus on this sub- group of Caribbean Islands and Nation States. As part of the African Diaspora, this collection of Islands has been largely left out of the global philanthropic conversation, due in part to their size and their perceived limited economic viability. This is particularly true of the smaller Island Nations in the group. The colonial past has left many of the Islands with a lingering dependency on Great Britain, Canada and the United States. At the same time, the complexity and pull of the changing international markets have caused these global powers to shift their attention and resources to other regions of the world, leaving behind a huge challenge for Island governments to identify new sources of capital, new products and new markets.

Other important reasons for choosing to focus on this group of Islands include the following: Caribbean nationals at home and abroad are seeking ways to use their strengths to improve their quality of life and strengthen the region's place in the global community; the governments of the region are examining ways to create structures and policies that would strengthen the area's potential for economic growth through coordinated action. The Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) is one such example, although not the first or only attempt to unify the Caribbean economically.

A key question in this context is how might a strong indigenous philanthropy partnership between Caribbean nationals at home and those living abroad impact the social and civic infrastructure of the region?

Finally, we wanted to join the efforts of others to understand and/or strengthen

cooperative philanthropy in the region. These include, The Association of Caribbean Community Foundations, University of the West Indies Center for Caribbean Philanthropy and Regional Community Development Foundation to name a few.

### III. STUDY GOALS AND DESIGN

#### **Goals:**

Five goals were pursued by EJH Alliance. They were to:

- Identify historical, cultural traditions that may influence giving
- Collect giving stories that illuminate historical survival and sacrifice
- Identify overall emerging trends in collective giving in the region
- Illuminate approaches to giving that may have the potential to become prototypes
- Document current interest and potential leadership for regional collective, strategic giving vehicles

#### **Design**

The project design involved in depth on site interviews, phone interviews, targeted surveys, review of secondary data and materials from key global and Caribbean regional coordinating entities and a review of the literature on historical and present giving in the Caribbean region, United States, Africa, and Mexico.

We conducted 45 interviews with individual givers, representatives of corporate and private foundations, community foundation staff and board, government representatives, civic leaders and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO). We also sought to engage key regional and global representatives and leaders that play important policy and funding roles in the Caribbean region in this philanthropic dialog. In addition, we reviewed documents and publications by key institutions. These included, the Association of Caribbean Community Foundations, World Bank, United Nations Foundation, CARICOM, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), The Caribbean Conference of Churches, Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Regional Community Development Foundation.

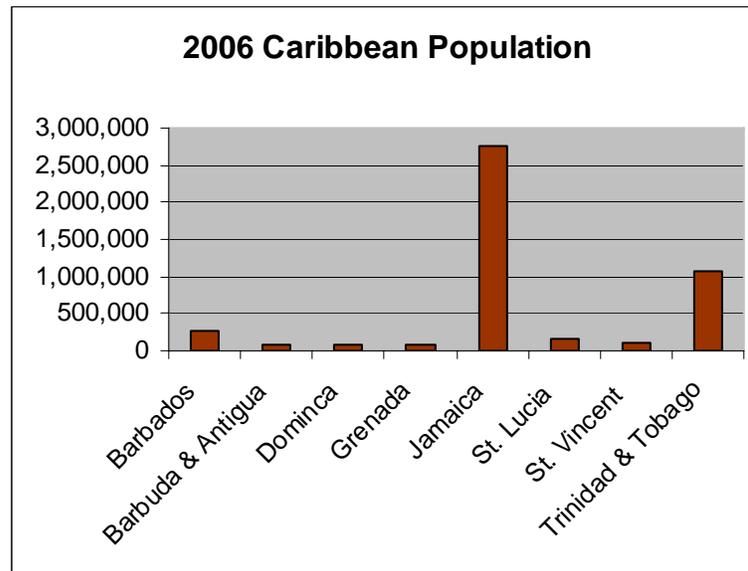
On average, the in person interviews lasted for approximately one hour. We interviewed 10 to 12 individuals on each of the smaller Islands, for a total of 60 interviews. In Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana and Barbados where there are a number of coordinating structures representing philanthropy and NGO's, we used a secondary informant and literature review approach to retrieve the data mainly for purposes of rounding out the context.

An interview guide was created to guide the discussion and ensure some level of consistency. This list of questions can be found in the appendix.

#### IV. CARIBBEAN CONTEXT

Although the study tour focused on a subgroup of the English speaking Caribbean Islands, we provide a brief geo/social overview of a larger group of Islands for contextual purposes.

The chain of English speaking Caribbean Islands stretches from Guyana at the Northern tip of South America to the tiny Island of Anguilla in the north. However the major emphasis of the study has been placed on the smaller independent nation states and remaining British territories within the Leeward and Windward Islands.

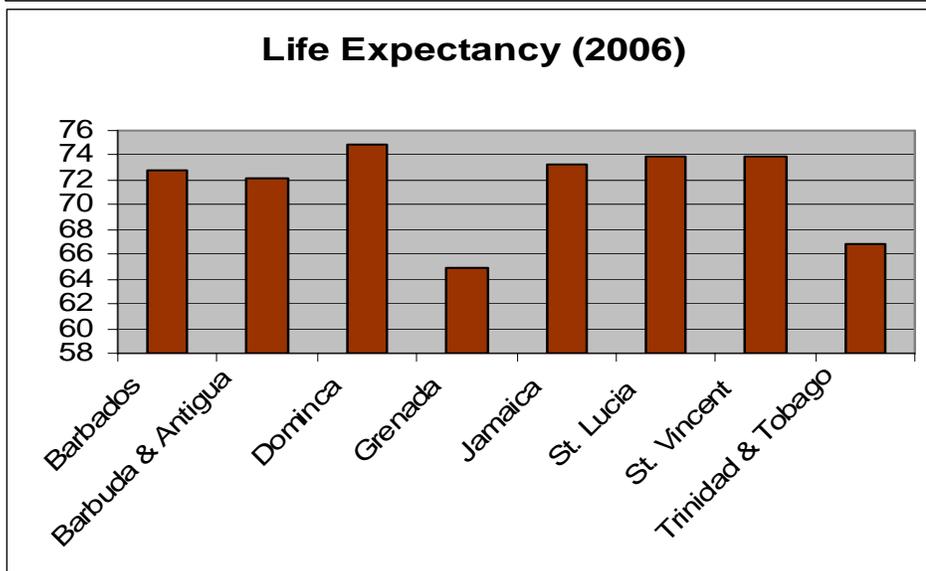
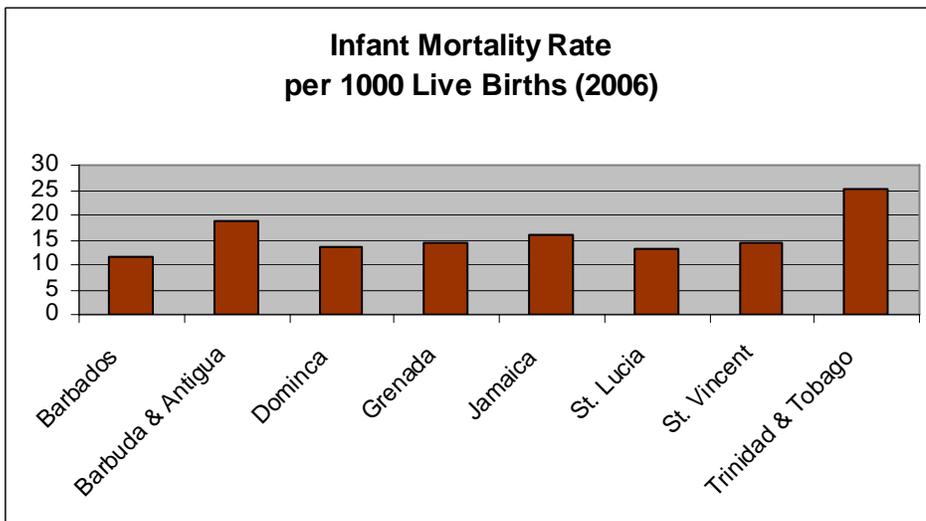


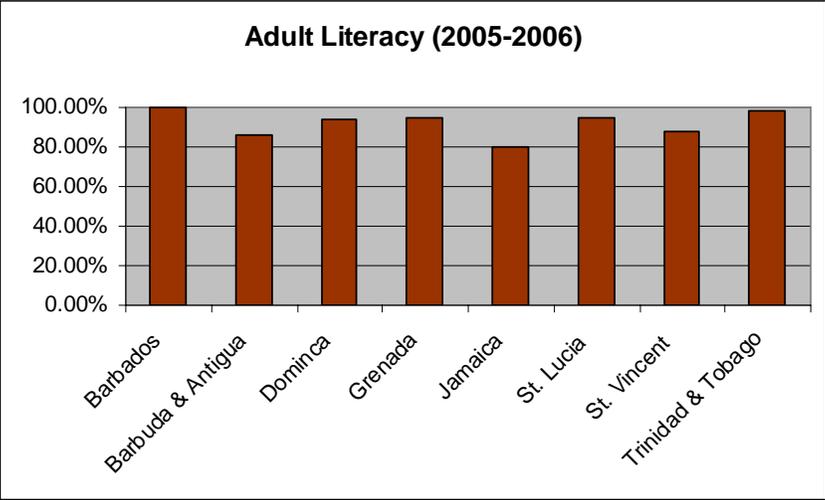
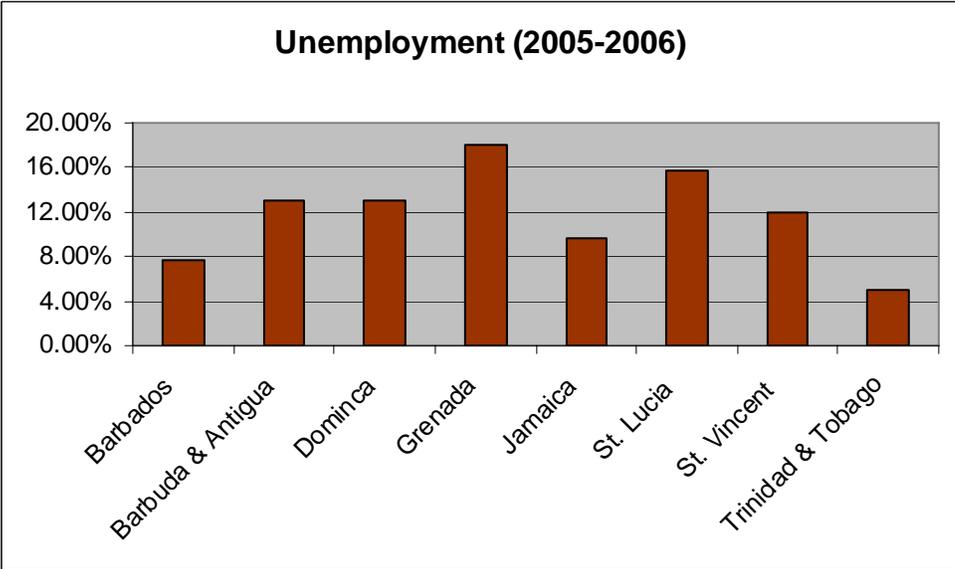
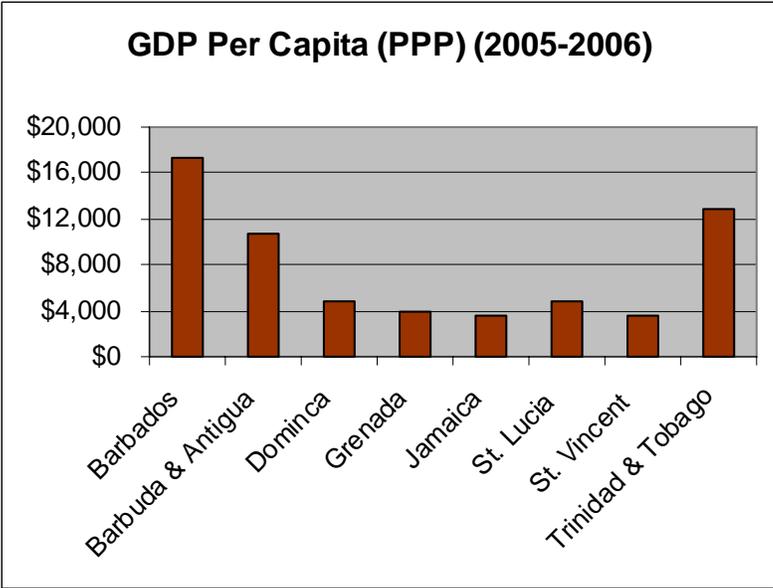
The Leeward and Windward are descriptors that designate two major geographic clusters of the Caribbean Islands. Within the Leeward cluster there are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. Comprising the Windward chain are Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent, Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Dominica. There are other more recent designations – CARICOM and OECS that seek to create a socio- economic construct as a unifying platform for these Island states.

The Islands vary greatly. Jamaica at 4,243 sq. miles and with a population of 2.7 million is the largest. Anguilla, which is still a British territory, with a population of approximately 14,000 is the smallest.

Trinidad and Tobago has a population of 1.1 million and is the second largest Island Nation followed by Dominica with a significantly less land mass at 290 sq miles and a population of approximately 73,000. The land mass size continues to decline with Grenada at 231 sq miles, next at 170sq miles is Antigua followed by St Lucia at 168 sq. miles, Barbados at 166 sq miles and finally St Kitts and Nevis.

Land size, though providing an interesting mental picture, does not necessarily forecast an Island's social or economic development. Its typography on the other hand certainly has a significant influence. Barbados, for example, though small in land size, is more densely populated than Antigua, St Lucia, St Vincent, Dominica or Grenada. Barbados also ranks highest of any Caribbean Island on the Human Development Index- 31 of 177. The Human Development Index (HDI) is an index combining normalized measures of life expectancy, literacy, educational attainment, and GDP per capita for countries worldwide. The Island also has the highest adult literacy rates -99.7%. All of the Islands in our study have adult literacy rates above the 85 percentile except the largest, Jamaica, which is just below 80%. Barbados also has the lowest infant mortality rates at 12 of 1000 live births closely followed by St. Lucia & Dominica at 13 of 1000 live births. Grenada and Trinidad have life expectancies in the mid 60's with the other Islands ranging between 72 and 75. Please see charts that follow for comparative data on the Islands.





## **Contemporary Issues**

Although this picture seems relatively stable, because so many of the Islands are small in land mass, low in populations with limited product diversity and GDP's, they are critically challenged when competing on a global scale. This regional market challenge is quadrupled when one considers that each of these Islands competes against each other within the region and individually in the global context. Tourism has long replaced agriculture as the chief economic driver in most of the Islands. Their comparatively small populations, often weak infrastructure paired with relatively strong laws and human rights practices, may help explain why they have not generally become strong centers for US based offshore economic activity.

The region continues to grapple with poverty and what is said to be the second highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the world (Caribbean Conference of Churches). Food security is an area that was frequently mentioned in response to questions on pressing needs, particularly in the context of globalization and crime. Drug related crimes threaten to destabilize a number of the smaller Islands. Many individuals interviewed attributed the dramatic rise in crime to issues as varied as: poverty, materialism, the collapse of moral order, the free movement of Caribbean Nationals engendered by the CSME and the deportation of a significant number of individuals who were formerly in United States jails back to the Caribbean. In addition, natural disasters and the continual need to re-build continue to pose a threat to development, particularly in the less developed economies.

On the other hand, individuals interviewed consistently pointed out that the Caribbean continues to produce excellent students who compete internationally and that Caribbean Nationals continue to make global culture and economy impacts as Poet Laureates, novelists, scholars, artists, health professionals, political and military leaders.

## **V. FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS**

### ***Past – history and traditions of giving and mutual aid***

#### **Social and Filial Networks**

The Honorable George Brizan, former Grenada Prime Minister, author and economist, in response to a question on past giving and communal practices begins by saying “death is a very traumatic and sad occasion in a family but in the past, the passing of a loved one was shouldered by the entire community.” He indicated that the burden was not allowed to rest on the shoulders of the bereaved. The men took on the tasks of digging the burial hole and making the coffin; others applied cooling salves to the forehead, prepared all the meals and did all household tasks for three to four days.” Similar stories of mutual support were repeated through out the Islands. Others spoke of the practices of house raising, planting and bringing in the crops and boat building. The names varied - Coup de Maine (helping hand) in Dominica and St. Lucia, Jollification in Anguilla and Adjupa (sp) in Grenada- but the practices are consistent and recognizable from Island to Island.

Dr. Lenox Honeychurch, the noted Caribbean historian, revealed that the term “stick of fire” originated from the days when individual households shared fire by literally taking a stick of fire from one home to the next. This was the embodiment of the spirit of cooperation and mutual dependence that existed in many of the Islands. Rhona Richardson adds that her mother used to say “I can remember when eggs were thank you!”

Dr. Honeychurch indicates that in Dominica, which was considered a failed plantation system, white owners left as early as 1838 and free people of color in the trades and professions took over the plantations. Like Grenada, discrimination on the basis of color was abolished in 1832. Barbados, Antigua, Jamaica, St Kitts established schools. People got together to provide certain essential services. An infirmary was set up for the indigent which was the precursor to Roseau Hospital.

“Susus were a powerful form of savings and a weapon in the peasant community of the time.”

Many people also gave to the church to finance a pew or alter. In the late 1800’s to early 1900’s the Susu, a communal way of saving, became prevalent and remains in limited form to the present under different names. Brizen says “Susus were a powerful form of savings and a weapon in the peasant community of the time.”

As the plantations began to do well, banks were established and credit unions were started. There are stories of Nuns going door to door and from village to village encouraging and helping individuals to open accounts in credit unions.

Don Mitchell, a lawyer, author and civically active Anguillian tells the story of a relative who left Anguilla for Guyana in the 1890’s to find work. He never returned to Anguilla but throughout his life sent a portion of his salary back to Anguilla to help support relatives he had left behind. In his later years it amounted to about USD 80.00 or USD 90.00 per month. This practice, which has come to be known as remittances, played a crucial role in the survival of many households in all of the Caribbean Islands and prevented further destabilization in many of the economies. The practice is still strong today and may still account for a considerable percentage of an Island’s GDP.

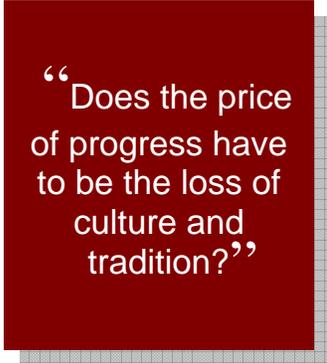
Many of the individuals who left the Caribbean to seek a better life formed Island associations for mutual aid and support abroad but also sent back collective donations of cash and goods. These practices were particularly prevalent in the 1940’s and 1950’s and survive up to today.

“It was the depression of the 1930’s and the interventions from Britain with airports, seaports hospitals, etc. to all of the then British Caribbean, which marks the beginning of the decline of communal support throughout the Islands. It represented a sea

change in how communities dealt with social issues”, observes Dr. Honeychurch.

### **Culture and Traditions**

A country’s heritage is what makes a country truly rich according to the Honorable George Brizan. The loss of this heritage- the values and traditions of the ancestors- is being lamented across the Caribbean. Avon Carty, President of the Optimists Club of Anguilla asked the question which seems to reverberate throughout the Caribbean and was continually expressed by many of the individuals interviewed: “Does the price of progress have to be the loss of culture and tradition?” Ms Carty thinks not. “We need to manage the pace of progress so that the price is not so high”, she admonishes. Many interviewees agreed with this position or as someone else articulated it, “we need a resuscitation of heritage”



“Does the price of progress have to be the loss of culture and tradition?”

During the conversations, a number of values were articulated with amazing consistency from Island to Island. The following is a summary of the historical traditions and values that were consistently identified by individuals across the Islands:

- Work ethic – an old fundamental value
- Respect and valuing of the elders
- Respect and valuing of self and others
- Respect for property and planet. A sense of self and purpose
- Honesty
- Sharing
- Communal self-reliance

A significant number of individuals interviewed see the issue of the decline of heritage and tradition in many Caribbean Islands as a crisis and a threat to future development, particularly in the context of globalization. Brizan describes it as “colonization of the mind.” He says it is more insidious and difficult to overcome than physical slavery.

### **Present**

#### **What is the question here?**

According to almost all of the individuals interviewed, much of the voluntary mutual aid traditions built around communal and social networks have given way to more focus on the individual and the nuclear family. Materialism is a term that cropped up in many interviews to describe the dominant driver of people’s aspirations. Brizan illustrates this through his stories of young people who make a salary of USD 800 per month and will purchase Nike sneakers on payday for USD 400.

Honeychurch who has studied the Caribbean extensively, voices some concerns along a similar vein. He speaks of the need to repress ostentation since the societies really cannot sustain it. He feels that, at times, people's expectations are simply unrealistic.

There is also evidence that individuals in the Caribbean continue to excel academically. Several interviewees observed that there are many individual strengths and talents in the region. However, these assets are being used almost exclusively for individual advancement. The question is how do we get more individuals to see their responsibility to the larger good of the individual islands and the region?

Despite the preponderance of concerns raised over individualism, there was also acknowledgement that there are examples and evidence of very active citizens who are working on responses to pressing social issues. Across the Caribbean, particularly the smaller Island States where we were on site, there is almost a consensus that youth issues are a top priority followed quickly by health care and crime. The challenge, as is often the problem in other places, is that many are focused on interventions which are woefully under-sourced and everyone looks mostly to the same internal & external sources for financial support.

### **Current Philanthropic Practices**

The following are the types of giving practices that emerged from interviews and literature reviews. Although our focus is on identifying indigenous philanthropy, the lines between philanthropy that originated from a given Island State or the Caribbean region were often difficult to separate from externally grown philanthropy or their influences. Also, the philanthropic efforts of the ex-patriot community, in many instances, could not be isolated.

#### ***Mutual Aid Networks***

With their deep roots in the history and early survival of many Caribbean communities, practices such as Susus, though they may have limited serviceability in the current social and environmental context, continue to be practiced today in more targeted ways and under different names. Susus are pooled form of savings. An individual from the group is chosen to hold the funds and make distributions called "hands". Each member, often referred to as players, "throws" the agreed upon sum into the pool (called a "box" in Antigua) and one member receives the total take called a hand. The pool rotates each month or quarter until each person gets a hand, then the cycle starts again. How often the funds (hands) are distributed depend on the rules set by the participants and are frequently driven by the size and needs of the group. In every Island there are stories of how a Susu enabled individuals to fulfill dreams or meet economic and familial obligations- down payment on homes, seed money for a business, contributions to church, paying of school fees, travel to start a new life or gifts for children at Christmas.

#### ***Social Security Generated Foundations***

One of the philanthropic approaches that come close to being indigenous to the Island/ Region is the setting aside of a percentage of social security resources for the funding of community social needs. Several Islands, including Dominica, Anguilla, St Lucia, St Vincent and Barbados utilize this approach and others, including St Vincent are studying the feasibility of the practice for their Island. For those Islands that are currently implementing the approach, there are two styles of implementation: a) government controlled foundation or b) independent institution.

- a) Government Controlled - the government sets aside a pool of dollars which is managed within the department by one of its senior staff, with all funding decisions being made by the overall social security board. This model exists in Dominica and St Vincent. Both departments also fund a broad array of social issues throughout their respective Islands.
- b) Independent Institution- Anguilla and St Lucia pioneered this approach where the Government designates a portion of the Social Security pool to an independent organization to be used for social issue grant-making. In both of these Islands the Community Foundation was created with significant funds from the Social Security Board and each year receives a designation. A representative from the Social Security Board sits on the Community Foundation's Board of Directors. The funds become a part of the larger pool of resources available for grant- making at the community foundation.

### ***Service Organizations and Club***

Throughout the Caribbean, one of the consistent mechanisms for charitable involvement is the Service Club. Once seen in the Caribbean as the province of the upper classes and the ex-patriots, the Clubs now seem to attract a broader cross section of the working community. In each Island the international clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Optimist, Kiwanis and Syroptomist (sp.?) have a strong presence.

### ***Indigenous Associations***

There are also the more indigenous service clubs. In Antigua, for instance, there is a group of professional women called POWA (Professional Women of Antigua) that are involved in raising resources for community issues. There are also a number of locally grown environmental and beautification groups which tend to be headed by ex-patriots. The role and contribution of Island Associations operating in Europe, Canada the United States are also significant, although there are no reliable figures available. These groups are involved in providing resources to the Islands, from medical equipment to educational scholarships. There are also local counterparts to these associations, in addition to the many local friends groups attached to hospitals and schools, etc.

Throughout the Caribbean, one of the consistent mechanisms for charitable involvement is the Service Club.

### ***Community Foundations:***

Community Foundations have their origins in the United States of America (USA) starting as far back as the early 1900's. In the USA they are defined as tax exempt, non-profit, publicly supported, nonsectarian philanthropic institutions with a long term goal of building permanent, named component funds. The funds are established by many separate donors to carry out their charitable interests and for the benefit of residents of a defined geographic area, typically no larger than a state. Community Foundations operate largely as grant-making institutions but may also provide direct charitable services.

This model has been adapted in the Caribbean and is in the early stages of being developed and tested. There are three Islands within our study's foot print with Community Foundations. They are Anguilla, BVI and St Lucia.

The National Community Foundation of St. Lucia, established in 2002 describes itself as primarily a grant-making organization which supports initiatives that engender self-development and social upliftment. Its grants, \$440,000 in 2006, focus on youth at risk, older persons, health care, homeless/disadvantaged persons and pensioners. Since being founded in 1999, has provided more than 100,000 USD in support to local NGO's on Anguilla. Both St Lucia and Anguilla are governed by local boards with representation from various sectors of the community. They also have a partnership with the National Insurance Corporation which has provided sizeable grants to each institution and has a seat on each foundation's board. In addition to individual donations and the establishment of charitable funds, both groups have also developed a tourism component to their fundraising and significant corporate sponsors and contributors. Special events also play an important role in development with St. Lucia hosting a National Telethon and Anguilla, an annual Classical Concert. Anguilla has also received funding from the Ford Foundation and the Global Fund for Community Foundations to help stabilize its operations and build a prominent and dominant fund.

Not without its challenges, the adapted Community Foundation model is taking hold in St. Lucia and Anguilla.

Anguilla Community Foundation's Executive Director has led an effort to coordinate the community foundations of the region under the umbrella of the Association of Caribbean Community Foundations, established in 2005. This organization has received support from a number of US based foundations including Ford Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The three community foundations in the study's footprint were a subset of six foundations that comprise the group. The association is in hiatus and is reassessing its future direction.

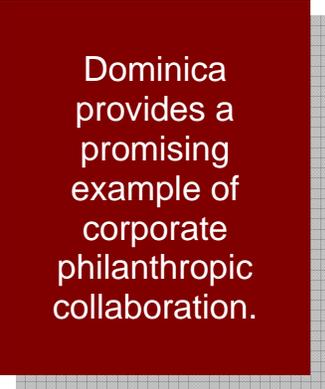
### ***Corporations and Businesses***

Corporations and businesses play a key role in supporting a range of social and educational activities. For the smaller businesses sports, mostly in the form of uniforms and equipment, is a key area of focus. The larger corporate entities are consistently tapped to support a range of social programs. In the smaller Islands the

major corporations are mainly banks and telecommunications. In the larger energy producing Island States, such as Trinidad and Tobago the companies have corporate giving programs to benefit the communities from which they extract resources.

Valarie Pilgrim of Trinidad and Tobago observes that the larger private sector institutions, wishing to demonstrate corporate responsibility, are investing in internal structures for managing charitable giving and often involve the community in the decision making processes. She says that this type of charitable giving is now the major source of funding for civil society in Trinidad and Tobago. She hastens to add though, that while this type of charitable giving by major corporations is at the national level and well publicized, the smaller businesses are also loyal contributors and sponsors of social activities, particularly sports, within their immediate communities. This latter observation was also made, to varying degrees, by interviewees in the smaller Islands.

Dominica provides a promising example of corporate philanthropic collaboration. The major banks and corporations have come together to form a cooperative fund to finance health projects. Mr. Williams of the National Bank of Dominica, who serves as the President of the group, indicates that there is a dire need for medical equipment. Citizens who experience medical trauma are extremely vulnerable since the local hospital does not have the facilities to respond. Individuals must be taken by medical helicopter to the neighboring Island of Martinique. Since Dominica does not have its own medical helicopter, it is at the mercy of helicopter services from Martinique. We were told that often these services will not lift off from Martinique to pick up medical passengers in Dominica unless they have received payment. Similar stories were told in Anguilla.



Dominica provides a promising example of corporate philanthropic collaboration.

### ***Local, Regional and Global Government Entities***

The local governments provide most of the funding in all areas of social, educational and economic activities. In many of the smaller Islands, government is still the largest implementer of social and economic activities.

There are several regional organizations that represent coordinated efforts of the governments of the region. These include: the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), CARICOM, Caribbean Development Bank Foundation (CDB). Others such as Commonwealth Foundation, the United Nations Foundation and The World Bank are key resource partners with the governments of the region.

All of these entities are involved in developing joint social and economic policies and practices and resources for the advancement of the region. They provide key funding for a host of projects, including a potentially promising youth initiative. The CSME is a product of CARICOM and its implementation is being managed and monitored by them.

### ***Churches/Religious Institutions***

Churches have been a crucial part of the history of the Caribbean region since the late 1800's and have played a key role, not only in religious instruction, but, in building the social, economic and civic structures. Today churches continue to play a role in charitable giving.

Many churches still follow the tradition begun more than a century ago- the first Sunday of every month a collection is made for the poor and distributed to the community by a committee. Almost all churches of every denomination are involved in quality of life improvements at the community level. Beyond the offerings from the pews, many churches have established programs to have targeted impact in areas such as education, health and economic development, and are generating regional and international partnerships to address some of the most pressing social issues.

The Caribbean Conference of Churches, headquartered in Trinidad with additional offices in Antigua and Jamaica, is an excellent example. As a partnership of 33 churches, it has a diverse geographic and cultural representation –Dutch, English French and Spanish. It is involved in issues ranging from HIV/AIDS to dialogs with regional governments on key issues through their partnership with CARICOM.

Another example of faith based institutional investment comes out of St. Lucia. Marcia Boxill described her role in Caritas- an international Catholic charity with a social justice frame- work whose name is the Latin word for charity. She is responsible for the work in the territory which parallels the OECS member states. Their foci include a partnership with the Clinton Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, sustainable development-issues around the decline in agriculture, at risk youth initiatives, including leadership training and emergency cooperation which has recently resulted in the building of 60 homes costing \$2 million USD in response to natural disasters.

There are Black owned and run schools, primary and secondary, that were started post emancipation that are now in the hands of the second and third generation of the founding families.

### ***Individuals and Families***

There are many local individuals and families who continue the tradition of giving of their time, talent and treasure for the good of individual Islands and the region. In each Island where conversations were held about philanthropy, names of individual families were immediately shared. There are Black owned and run schools, primary and secondary, that were started post emancipation that are now in the hands of the second and third generation of the founding families. Today much of the giving is based on interests, requests from non-governmental organizations and community groups and sometimes requests to partner with government on community initiatives. Allen Sanford, a business man in Antigua, is said to have given \$1 million to the Antigua library with the expectation that a room will be named in his honor. In addition, hundreds of

Antiguan individuals have given to the capital campaign. Antiguan born business man George Ryan's giving is being advanced by a new generation of Ryans. His son Paul Ryan is president of Antigua Rotary. Mr. Ryan senior is proud to be known for his honesty and authenticity in business and in his willingness to support individuals in need as well as small economic development projects. In Grenada, The Lady Williams Foundation's annual fundraising Gala attracts a broad cross section of Grenadians with the proceeds going to educational scholarships.

"If people knew how they could change a life they would give" so says Marcia Boxill with conviction. She knows. She runs Carasco and Son Ltd., the business started by her grandfather and continues to give up to 3% of its profits to charities. She says they have always given. Earlier on it was deeded land to employees as donations. Now she gives time, talent and treasure through her fund at the National Community Foundation, donations of space for the offices of a battered womens' shelter and as chair of the First National Bank of St. Lucia.

Dominica's Francisco Esprit is working on a family foundation that reflects the history and traditions that helped his ancestors survive and thrive.

In St. Lucia and Anguilla the relative success of their respective Community Foundations is based on the willingness of individuals to give financially and to volunteer.

Individual Caribbean nationals living abroad contribute significant sums in support of family members at home (remittances) as well as donations to social issues, particularly in the areas of health and education. We heard stories of donations of ambulances, medicines, numerous scholarships and adopting of roadways.

### ***Tourism/ Hotel Industries***

Tourism, the largest economic driver of most of the English speaking Caribbean economies, currently, plays some limited role in responses to social issues in the region. However, there does seem to be a growing trend to seek donations and partnerships with the hotels on the Islands and the cruise lines. There is also evidence in Anguilla and St Lucia of efforts to gain access to guests directly for the purpose of accessing assistance for specific social issues. The Community Foundations of Anguilla and St Lucia have outreach to hotel guests as part of their resource development strategies. The Royal Caribbean cruise line recently gave USD 200,000 to Antigua for the Children's Library, a component of the larger public library which is being built by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda but with considerable community financial contributions and design input.

## VI. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the interviews conducted and a review of the literature of the history and giving traditions of the individual Island states and the region, the following strategic recommendations are being presented

- 1) **Catalyze a more strategic and coordinated approach to Caribbean giving built on the platform of historical traditions, which we begun to identify in the study, and select current practices.** There was consistent agreement that there needed to be more coordination of efforts within individual Islands and across the region. For this to occur there needs to be a common understanding and conviction that working together will add value and resources. This needs to come through a consistent process of education about common history, needs and destiny.
- 2) **Create a structure that will facilitate the coordination of philanthropic efforts of Caribbean Nationals at home and abroad for the benefit of individuals in the Caribbean Islands and the region.** The structure in Figure 1.1 is an attempt to conceptualize such a structure.
- 3) **Assess the role and impact of Caribbean National associations abroad and seek ways to coordinate and enhance strategic efforts**
- 4) **Begin conversations with key individuals who have expressed an interest in developing a coordinated philanthropic function and mechanism.**
- 5) **Develop partnership with major philanthropic global institutions to help support and enhance individual philanthropic efforts at the local and grassroots levels.**
- 6) **Strengthen the role that universities can play in providing data and collecting data that can be used as a basis for communicating about giving in the Caribbean.**

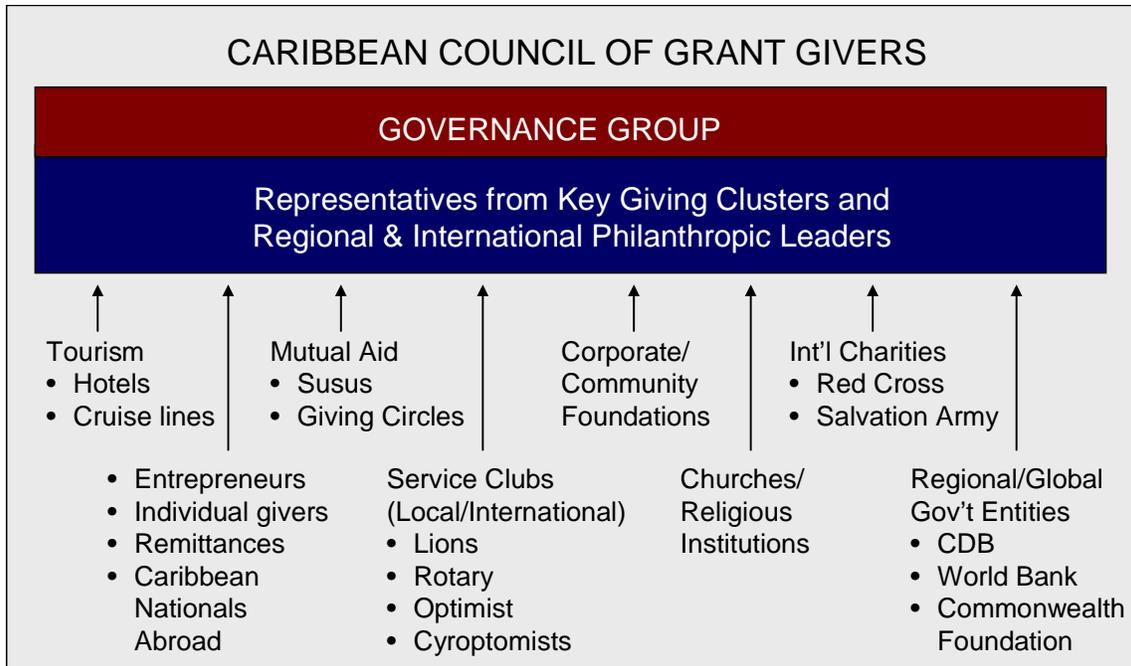


Figure 1.1

The Council's governance board will be comprised of representatives of the Giving Clusters that exist on the Islands and have been identified during the study tour and key regional entities. Their roles will be to:

- ❖ Collect data and giving stories about current philanthropic practices in the region.
- ❖ Analyze and refine giving data to create effective practices and prototypes that can be replicated.
- ❖ Create common standards that can be used to monitor giving activities.
- ❖ Attract resources from the global community to be used as incentives for giving among Caribbean nationals at home and abroad, for the benefit of individual Islands and the region.
- ❖ Distribute resources to the individual Giving Clusters- Mutual Aid Networks, Tourism, Service Clubs, Corporate and Small Business, Religious Institutions, etc. as matching grants to increase giving from that Giving Cluster for key strategic issues that have been identified and vetted as key cross cutting issues and need, such as youth development; health education and prevention on pressing issues such as AIDS, teenage pregnancy prevention; entrepreneurial development, health equipment and facilities, environmental issues, etc.
- ❖ Communicate and market the philanthropic needs, strategies and outcomes of the individual Island and the region to the Islands, the region and the global funding community.
- ❖ Develop more consistency in tax incentives across the region.

The roles of the Giving Clusters are to:

- ❖ Coordinate activities between the groups, organizations and individuals that are involved in giving of their own resources or raising funds to support social or economic issues.
- ❖ Collect data on issues and impact of funding and share with the governance body.
- ❖ Raise resources and encourage increased giving from individuals within your clusters.
- ❖ Expand membership of individual Giving Groups thereby expanding the size of the Giving Clusters.

7) **Assess feasibility and build on the current structure and network of youth strategies in the region.** Everyone agrees that reaching the next generation now is critical. Efforts need to be made to assess current strategies which exist in each Island and the regional youth networks to produce measurable youth development outcomes. The proposed Caribbean Council of grant givers should view this as a high priority.

8) **Make heritage and culture education an integral part of education in the schools and in social programs.** Develop a strategy using key civic and corporate leaders who understand the role of culture and heritage to work with educators, service clubs churches to consistently infuse culture into their program designs and implementation.

9) **Work with individual Island governments to ensure cooperation and understanding of the benefits of private sector and NGO involvement in areas of history and culture, social and economic issues.** Based on our findings, this needs to be an integral part of the vision and strategy of the Caribbean Council of Grant Givers if they are to see movement towards the goal of greater coordinated.

## VII. COMMENTARY/CONCLUSION

Dr. Valda Henry of Dominica opened our conversation with the following observation, “we must take an activist role in our own lives ..... Non Governmental Organizations and giving efforts can work but it requires skilled coordination.” What has emerged from the discussions across the Islands is that many individuals and groups within each of the Islands continue to give and support efforts for the betterment of the community but there is an absence of activist coordinated action within Islands and across the Island States in spite of a strong common history and traditions on which to build. Many individuals also reflected on both the reasons for the absence of coordinated action and the potential and eagerness for emergence of such an effort.

“Each island has its own idiosyncrasies but the time is right for this type of collaboration.”

The discussion of barriers to Caribbean development from the perspective of the group of the lesser developed Islands, with possible notable exceptions, is first and foremost the size of the Caribbean markets and how this can be solved; a lack of confidence in individual Islands and the region to develop; getting individuals to appreciate their roles as citizens particularly in the context of high levels of both in and out migration. Lucien Isidore, a member of the National Foundation Board, says that accountability is a big issue. “When people are aware of how and where to give and there is accountability and they will give more.” He continues to say, “each island has its own idiosyncrasies but the time is right for this type of collaboration.” Jacintha Lee, former Executive Director of the Foundation concurs, “if the ideas come out of the community they will give.” It is clear from many animated conversations on the topic of migration and free movements of Caribbean nationals that, be it on a much smaller scale, the immigration issue in the Caribbean is mimicking the patterns in other global communities- how open should borders be? How linked are poverty, lack of jobs and crime to immigration?

“If the ideas come out of the community they will give.”

The significant question posed by the Philanthropic Learning Tour was what, if any is the role for philanthropy in the on-going debate on Caribbean development? 80% of individuals interviewed felt that there was a role for philanthropy in the strategy around the future of Caribbean development. Becoming part of the conversation is the first step but for this to occur there needs to be a regional Caribbean table that will have a number of key roles. They are to: understand and articulate the social and economic needs of Caribbean communities; Understand and articulate these need in the context of historical, and social traditions; provide a process that is strategic rather than reactive where people can get ahead of the issues; link the Caribbean to the global conversation on philanthropy, particularly the conversation in other emerging democracies and developing nations; provide a structured link to Caribbean nationals

abroad and those living in the Caribbean; build and nurture relationships between NGO's business and government in the interest of human development.

# **APPENDICES**

## **Caribbean Philanthropy Learning Tour Interview Guide**

The following is a guide and contains questions that may be asked during the interview. The interview may contain additional questions not included in this guide and all questions may not be asked of each individual interviewed.

### **PAST**

- What are your earliest recollections/memories of charitable giving/acts by individuals or groups?
- What stories do you have and can share about individual giving and sacrifice that you heard, observed or were told as a youth?
- Do you have other information on the history of charitable giving in St. Lucia or the Caribbean that you can share?
- What are the characteristics of individuals and/or groups involved in early mutual aid and other charitable efforts in St. Lucia?
- Do you know of others who might have historical perspectives/stories/data on charitable giving- mutual aid, self help- that they might share?
- Have you been involved in charitable giving with a group or as an individual? Please describe.

### **PRESENT**

- Are you aware of any organized or individual philanthropy taking place in St. Lucia or more broadly in the Caribbean or trans-nationally for the benefit of the Caribbean?
- Are you personally currently involved in philanthropy in a group, organization or individually? Please describe.
- What do you see as the key social issues facing St. Lucia and the Caribbean?
- Are you aware of any philanthropic activities that are responding to these issues?
- Are you aware of any joint philanthropic activities between St. Lucians at home and abroad to impact social issues in St. Lucia?

### **FUTURE**

- Do you think that the history of mutual aid and other charitable forms might create a platform for future organized giving in St. Lucia?
- Do you have ideas as to how targeted philanthropy might improve social outcomes in St. Lucia?
- Are you aware of any current conversations/ plans to have philanthropy play a major role in coordinated action to improve economic and social outcomes for the Caribbean region? (For example CSME)?
- Would you be willing to be a part of further conversation/action on this matter?
- Are there other individuals with whom you would recommend that I speak?
- Are there other questions I should have asked? Do you wish to share additional info?

## Individuals Interviewed

### *Face to face Interviews in:*

#### **Antigua and Barbuda:**

\**Cleon Athill* -Director, Youth Affairs- Government of Antigua and Barbuda- Member of POWA (see below)

*Hon. Hilton N. Baptiste* Ministry of Housing & Social Transformation

*Evelyn Davis*- and Sister (get name) Local education pioneers, school started by mother now being run by brother.

\**Dwayna Derrick*, President, Friends of Holberton Hospital- Antigua's main Hospital.

\**D. Gisele Isaac* -Speaker of the House; Chairperson, Board of Education; member of POWA (a group of professional women involved in social issues- need to get the specific acronym).

*Martha Gilkes*- AB Independent Tourism Promotion; Antigua Beautification; Anti Whaling Campaign.

*Ken Kentish*- Lions Club and Rotary Recycling Project.

*Dame Yvonne Maginley*-Former Deputy Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda; Former Director of Tourism; head of the Public Library Building Committee.

\**Paul Ryan*- President, Antigua Rotary; Prominent business and giving family.

\**Dr. Errol Samuel*

\**Norma Simon*- President of Sun down Rotary and Business Woman – Etha Henry spoke at a meeting of the Sundown Rotary. There were about 15 members present. There was a lively discussion and a request to be kept informed of any follow up activities.

#### **Grenada:**

\**Honorable George Brizen* – Economist; Author, Former Prime Minister of Grenada;

*Sir Paul Scoone*- Former Governor General of Grenada; former head of Commonwealth Foundation

*Mervyn Toussaint*-Clark of the Supreme Court

*Governor and Lady Williams*- Charitable Foundation which focuses on education (Etha Henry attended the Foundation's annual fund- raising luncheon, met several donors representing a broad cross section of the community.)

**Dominica:**

*Abraham*- Ex. Director, Operation Youth Quake

\**Brown*- Women's Bureau- Government of Dominica

\**Francisco Esprit*- Ex Director, SPAT - community development organization and Mr., Esprit is also developing a family foundation.

*Dr Valda Henry*- Business owner, former Director of Social security for Dominica.

\**Janice Jean*- Jacques Thomas-Director, Dominica Social Security Board

*Francis Joseph* – Ex Director, Christian Children's Fund

\**Reginald Washington*- Banker and President of the locally grown Corporate Giving collaborative to fund health issues.

*Reginald M. Winston* Barrister at Law, Registrar General- Supreme Court of Dominica

**Anguilla:**

Anguilla Community Foundation Board (6 members)

\**Avon Carty*- Manager, Community Relations, Cable and Wireless; Charter member and President, Optimist Club

*Ijahnya Christian*- Newspaper Columnist – Originally from St Kitts.

*Crispin*

*Carrolle Devonish*, President, Anguilla Community Foundation;

*Bonnie Franklin, PHD* – Permanent Secretary, Health and Social Development

*Seymore Hodge* – Liaison, Government of Anguilla; Anguilla Progressive Assoc.

*Don Mitchell*, QC (Queen's Council); produces Mitchell's West Indian Bibliography, community activist who sits on many boards.

*Rhona Richardson*- Entrepreneur; Board of Anguilla Community Foundation

**St Lucia:**

*Jacintha Annius*- Lee- Former Ex. Director, National Community Foundation.

*Marcia Boxill* - Business owner- family business in its fourth generation; has a Fund at the National Community Foundation of St Lucia; Chair, First National Bank of St Lucia

\**Emma Hippolyte*, Formerly Director, National Insurance, Board chair, Association of Caribbean Community Foundation.\*\*

\**Lucian Isidore*- Board Chair- Government Representative to the National

*John Robert Lee*- Folk Research Center

**Trinidad:**

\**Valarie Pilgrim*-Director of Capacity Building Services. Caribbean Development Bank.  
- Barbados.\*\*

\*Interested in follow up discussions.

\*\*By phone and written responses

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