



But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead Phil 3:13
"Registered Charity #614"



DRUG EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING SERVICES (DECS)

Youth Empowered & Alive (YEA)

Barbados  Since 2005

15th June 2023

To: Partners, Donors, Supporters

From: Director, DECS – Roger Husbands

Re: Updated Information

Drug Education & Counselling Services is pleased to submit this report on its progress during 2022 and 2023. I do apologize for the lateness of the 2022 report but due to illness and a busy schedule I was unable to submit.

Here are some noteworthy updates:

- ✚ **Roger Husbands Health** – I want to thank all those who have been supportive in helping me financially and by keeping me in prayer during this time of illness. I currently have three (3) more sessions of chemotherapy before I go back to two (2) more surgeries. The doctor's prognosis looks favorable, and we will continue to trust God for complete healing. Somedays I am not well, but other days I am able to work and have started back minor counselling.
- ✚ **DECS St. Lucy** – we had to close DECS St. Lucy chapter with urgency due to my illness, as you would have known this branch was open before I was rightfully diagnosed with cancer. However, after the operation the recovery process was very difficult and painful; I was sick most days and wasn't able to leave home. I could not get to the branch to conduct work and to increase its membership base. However, the student population started dwindling until we started seeing single number digits coming for classes. I decided, with the support of the board, to close this branch down to eliminate any stress or pressure it would have placed on me. We did not have the finances to hire anyone to supervise the branch and therefore, we decided to close. I spoke with the **Reverend Magistrate Bannister of St. Swithun's Anglican Church** whom with all his efforts tried to help save the branch from closing, but all his efforts did not materialize, as he could not source the support, but it was so good to have received his help. I want to thank Reverend Magistrate Bannister for his support and for allowing us the

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Moving young people from mere existence to purpose



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opportunity to host a DECS at his facility. **Peter Moore Barbados** would have supported fifteen (15) students to complete the CXC examinations for May/June 2022 and January 2023. However, based on information I had received from the previous administration, some of those students had dropped out of the classes and due to us closing the branch at St. Lucy, the balance of the students would have completed their classes online through our Bridgetown branch. Ten (10) of the students would have deferred their May/June 2022 examination to January 2023, but then further defer again until May/June 2023. We are still awaiting those results from those students from St. Lucy. I must apologize to Peter Moore Barbados Trustees as I was not there to physically coordinate these classes to ensure that students did attend and continued efforts to CXC January 2023.

✚ **DECS Bridgetown** – our counselling program has been inundated with many referrals from the Magistrate courts, Edna Nicholls, NCSA (National Council for Substance Abuse), Schools and individuals seeking help. We have today a waiting list of well over 50 clients waiting to receive counselling services from the organization. Currently, we have seven (7) counselors and two (2) of them are completing their internship with us, one (1) this month and the other in July. Therefore, we will only have five (5) counselors until UWI sends us more interns. We have been receiving tremendous assistance from **Sandy Lane Charitable Trust** who has assisted us in paying counselors to come in and assist with cases, but we find ourselves now in a position where we have no more space available for counselling days, as currently, we are only using two (2) rooms to conduct our counselling sessions. However, we are moving slowly to reduce the waiting list and have started groups to help elevate this backlog issue. **The Amarone Trust** continued for yet another year (2023) to support DECS budget which includes administrator salary, utilities, NIS, cleaning, cleaning fees, stationery, etc. These funds have been allocated month by month to support the budgeted areas. Without this support from the Trust DECS would have found itself in a very difficult financial situation, therefore, I want to sincerely thank The Amarone Trust for its support and partnership in helping the youth of this program.

✚ **Counselors** – we are currently in need of counselors, therefore, we decided to start some training courses here at our office to train individuals to assist with our easier cases in anger management. These individuals will be trained by our counselors and will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course. It is our hopes that we would see at least five (5) individuals coming from this group to assist us in the program.

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- ✚ **YEA** – Youth Empowered & Alive continues to provide mentoring and support services to those students who have completed their counselling program. Currently, there are forty (40) students attached to this program which meets every Saturday from 2:30pm – 4:00pm. They receive life developmental training in choices, decision making, drugs education, Aids/HIV/STI training; they go on hikes, picnics, retreats, etc. We also assist those who have completed school in finding jobs or higher learning by providing scholarships and incentives. The goal here is that any client that comes to our facility should be able to continue in the changing process by reaching higher in life through education and goal setting skills.

- ✚ **Second Chance Lessons** – we are continuing the effort to assist our nation's youth and adults with basic, short-term courses to help them earn extra money or open small businesses. I want to take this time to thank **Republic Bank** who had given five (5) of our students the opportunity to open a small business by donating \$5000 towards each business. Through the Republic Bank they also had the opportunity to enter BCC and other institutions to get training in small business development and other courses to assist them in becoming successful business owners. We have added new courses in the Auto area field and counselling courses. Recently, we also received from **Sagikor Inc** fourteen (14) refurbished desktop computers to assist us with our computer courses. Each client in YEA will now be trained in using the computer along with the Microsoft Office program. I want to thank Sagikor for their kind donation towards our computer lab. **DE Computers** and **Tropical Computers** also contribute keyboards and mouse as the desktops did not come with these peripherals.

- ✚ Other donors (not mentioned in the update) – I want to thank the following companies, churches, and individuals for their kind continued support to our program:
 - **The People's Cathedral** – every month from the beginning of DECS exists TPC has been supporting monthly with a donation.
 - **Sanctuary Empowerment Centre** – Bishop Husbands was very kind to commit to helping us pay our electricity bill for six (6) months. I want to thank him for his generous donation.
 - **H & B Hardware** – I want to thank Mr. Pinto for his continued support and partnership as we help our nation's youth. Thank you for your support in kind by supplying materials when needed.

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- **Carters General Store** – I want to thank Mr. Hurley who has been a supporter of the youth and their development in our society for years. Thank you for your support in kind by supplying materials when needed.
- **All Phrase Electrical** – I want to thank the staff and management for their continued support of the organization and the youth of Barbados. Thank you for your support in kind by supplying materials when needed.
- **Harris Paints** – for their sponsorship of our Painting and TrowelTex course, providing materials and offering the course free to students. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Conclusion

I want to thank once again all of you for your patience and continued support as I continue my fight with cancer; thank you for your continued prayers and support. We will continue to offer the youth of this nation the best, professional and accessible services we can, as we move our young people from mere existence to purpose.

Yours sincerely,

.....
Roger Husbands
Director/Chairman

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