

## THE COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES HAS GIVEN OVER SIXTY YEARS OF SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN JAMAICA

*The Council of Voluntary Social Services was established in 1940 in an era of Jamaica's history well remembered for its social reform and creative social development programmes. The establishment of the Council was the brain-child of The Most Honourable Norman Washington Manley Q.C., one of Jamaica's founding fathers, who at the time was working hard at developing the programmes of the Jamaica Welfare Limited. It began then as the association of a few church women's groups and has grown to become an organization with over 90 affiliates involved in health, education, community development, agriculture, skills training and advocacy programmes. The CVSS, an affiliate of the International Council on Social Welfare, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, which has become an integral part of Jamaica's social welfare system.*

### Scope of Work

*The scope of work of the CVSS covers the following areas:*

- ◆ *Membership Education/Sensitization*
- ◆ *Training/Resource Development*
- ◆ *Advocacy*
- ◆ *Networking*
- ◆ *Data Collection and Dissemination*
- ◆ *Inter-agency Collaboration*
- ◆ *Services to staff*

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

*The Council has worked on a number of initiatives and has lent its support to many programmes during the past years. Some of these are:*

- ◆ The establishment and operations of the Jamaica Youth Council (established in Jamaica in 1968)
- ◆ The establishment of the CVSS Advice Service (1972) now the Citizen's Advice Bureau.
- ◆ Advocacy for children in lock-ups (initiated 1973)
- ◆ The establishment of the Belize Council of Voluntary Social Services (1973)
- ◆ Extensive research on the homes for the elderly and indigent in Jamaica (1975). Instrumental in the establishment of the Council of the Handicapped and the Council for the Aged.
- ◆ The successful lobby of the Government of Jamaica for relief from income tax on donations to over fifty voluntary organizations (approved by Government in 1976).
- ◆ The merger of the Jamaica Children's Services Society and the Child Welfare Association to form VOUCH (May 1979)

- ◆ The establishment of offices for the Canadian Jamaican Save the Children Fund (1980)
- ◆ The establishment of the CVSS/ United Way of Jamaica (1985)
- ◆ The production of several publications including six editions of the Handbook of the Social Services in Jamaica (1963 first edition, 1987, sixth edition)
- ◆ Research on Street Children in Jamaica (1987), carried out on behalf of the Save the Children Funds (UK). The research facilitated the Fund establishing a programme in Jamaica.
- ◆ The establishment of the Jamaica Coalition on the Rights of the Child. The initiative for its formation came from CVSS and CanSave (1989).
- ◆ The NGO Management Training Programme offered in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, with support from the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter - America Development Bank (2000).
- ◆ The establishment of the National Registry of Volunteers through support from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (2003)

## MEMBERSHIP

There are three categories of membership:

### ◆ Full Membership

*Organizations/ Corporate Entities and individuals engaged in recognized voluntary social services and who accept the Council's aims and objectives may apply for full membership.*

### ◆ Provisional Membership

*New applicants are given provisional membership status to allow the organizations to become acquainted with the Council's objects, functions and work. The Council uses this opportunity to become familiar with the standards, policies and operations of the applicant.*

### ◆ Associate Membership

*Any other informal, community-based organization engaged in social service activities may apply for associate (other than agencies) membership.*

Membership is open to Voluntary Social Service agencies, socially responsive companies and institutions and individuals with a commitment to improving the delivery of social services to the people of Jamaica

# "PARTNERS IN NATION BUILDING"

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OVER 64 YEARS OF SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Council of Voluntary Social Services is a national, non-profit umbrella organization. Our mission is to build the capacity of members and the wider community and create sustainable alliances, facilitating mutual support and joint action; and to represent the concerns of the social sector including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups at national and international levels.