



Building Communities

SERVOL

News

Servol, no longer the best kept secret....



Fr. Ashton Pierre (Pg. 3)



Rupert King (Pg. 4)



Cocoa Project (Pg 5)



Parent Outreach Programme (POP) (Pg 6)



By Raana Ramoutar - Deputy Executive Director Servol

Servol has been in existence for almost 48 years....

a feat by international standards, which only a few NGOs, even with excellent government and private sector support, have accomplished.

For an NGO like Servol to accomplish this great feat, mainly under its own power via **Poor Man's Dinner** fundraising, as well as from donations from well-wishers, local and foreign and from engaging volunteers from within the communities we serve,

this is an incredible testimony of the **"will to survive!"**

Perhaps the most difficult accomplishment of all was gaining the trust of the people of the much marginalized Laventille community, especially during the time of great social turmoil in the 1970s .

(Continued ..Pg. 2)

Give a Special and Lasting Christmas Gift

Help us reach out to the disadvantaged children and youth in our country.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

POORMAN'S DINNER FUNDRAISER
11th December, 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

Servol is an organization of weak, frail, ordinary, imperfect yet hope filled and committed people seeking to help weak, frail, ordinary, imperfect, hope-drained people become agents of attitudinal and social change in a journey which leads to total human development. It does so through respectful intervention in the lives of others and seeks to empower individuals and communities to develop as role models for the nation.

Servol, no longer the best kept secret ! (Cont'd)

Because of this *“will to survive,”* coupled with the drive of our founder Fr. Gerard Pantin to fulfill his dream of empowering the weak, frail and hope-drained, Servol quickly grew from working in the community of Laventille to several other depressed communities across Trinidad and Tobago.

I have noticed during my years in Servol, working at all levels, that the organization has adopted the personality of its founder.

Fr. Pantin always carried himself with a quiet smile, a nod and soft spoken demeanour while, at the same time, feverishly fighting throughout the early years for government and corporate support. It reminded me of the proverbial *“duck in the pond”*, quietly and calmly floating along on the surface but paddling furiously under the water.



This is clearly the story of Servol and its style of operating over the years, quietly working in communities, assisting in every way possible, from helping mothers acquire birth certificates for their new born babies via the Parent Outreach Programme (POP) to guiding young adults in making positive changes and decisions in their lives at our Life Centres. People only knew of us and what we were doing through word of mouth, so much so that somewhere along this *48 year journey*, staff coined the phrase *“Servol, the best kept secret!”*



As with every great secret, however, there is a point where, when enough people find out and the work that you do speaks volumes, it explodes into the open and in this era of widespread, instant communication, secrets are especially hard to keep.

Servol has grown, both in reputation and operations, growing from a little office on Duncan St., Port of Spain and about 20 members of staff (mostly volunteers) to owning most of its training centres, throughout Trinidad and Tobago, with a staff of 400 and many more programmes than just skills-training. It now offers training in Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE), the Parent Outreach Programme (POP), Special Schools, Junior Life Centres, Adolescent Development Programme (ADP) centres, Hi-Tech Centres and the Advanced Skills Training Centre.



When an NGO has grown to this size, *having trained over 200,000 young men and women* and having been able to establish itself in the most difficult communities throughout this nation, as well as having caught the eye of diverse foreign NGOs requesting ADP training for their staff, we have to now change the phrase to *“Servol, no longer the best kept secret !”*

Raana Ramoutar, Deputy Executive Director



Welcome Fr. Ashton

Servol is happy to announce that at its recent AGM, **Fr. Ashton Pierre CCSp. was appointed to serve on its Board of Directors.** Fr. Ashton is a member of the Holy Ghost Fathers, as was Fr. Gerard Pantin CCSp. our Founder and first Chairman.

The Holy Ghost Fathers have as their charism **“option for the poor”** and this no doubt inspired Fr. Gerry to reach out to disadvantaged communities in his work with Servol and it remains a very important part of their mission.

Fr Ashton has been a member of the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) for over 30 years. He holds a Certificate in Education from Sheffield University and did Post Graduate Studies at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. He served over the years as teacher of Religion and Math at St. Mary’s College and while teaching, he also did weekend ministry in Sangre Grande, Delaford and Blanchisseuse. He served as Formation Director of his congregation and as Parish priest of Arouca and St. Theresa’s, Woodbrook. He is currently serving the parishes of St. Mary’s, Mucurapo and Assumption, Maraval.



**Fr. Ashton Pierre CCSp.,
Director Servol**

His vast experience in dealing with people and journeying with them will be of benefit to Servol while he serves on the Board. He readily accepted to add Servol to his already busy schedule. *He writes:*

“I look forward to working with the Board of Directors of Servol, its staff and students in forwarding the goals and aspirations of SERVOL. My relationship with Fr. Gerry Pantin CSSp. remains one of inspiration, admiration and challenge and it is a privilege to continue with others in his work.”

Thank you, Fr. Ashton and welcome aboard!

An advertisement for Charitt, a charity that partners with NLCB. The ad is divided into three main sections. The top section has three columns: 'DELIBERATE' with a thought bubble containing money, 'LOCATE' with an illustration of a play whe/lotto booth, and 'DONATE' with an illustration of a person donating to a booth. The bottom left section features logos for MyPay, VIA, and NLCB, along with the Charitt logo and the slogan 'Give Change. Make Change.' The bottom right section is a yellow box with the text: 'Make a donation to SERVOL No matter how big or small at any NLCB Lotto Centre, for example \$20 to MyPay'.

DELIBERATE

LOCATE
The Nearest
Play Whe/Lotto Booth

DONATE
To My Pay Account #15
(SERVOL)

Powered by MyPay
payment solutions limited

VIA

NLCB
Not Let's Lose Centre
www.nlcb.tt
Players must be 18 years & older

Charitt
Give Change. Make Change.

Make a donation to SERVOL
No matter how big or small at any
NLCB Lotto Centre, for example
\$20 to MyPay



A King is gone...Long live the King (Obituaries)

Rupert King was an extraordinary person. He was a teacher, a trainer *par excellence* and the hundreds who have been trained by him can testify to this.

He was always willing to take up the challenge and move Servol forward. When we started the Junior Life Centre Programme and did not quite know where to begin, it was Mr. King who accepted the challenge and helped with the programme for the curriculum and trained the teachers.

He was passionate about the ADP and went as far as Nigeria to train teachers there. He was one of those loyal Servol persons who was always willing to go the extra mile..... He served for many years on our Executive Committee, offering valuable advice. ***We extend our condolences to his family.***

Servol has also lost members-of-Boards who have supported us over the years:

Mrs. Ursula Haynes, former Board President of Princes Town Life Centre; **Mr. Curtis Spencer**, Board President of the Lawrencia Motas ECCE, Point Fortin and **Mr. Jeffrey Henderson**, Board President of the Cascade Junior life Centre.

Let us always remember them and the value they brought to the organization and the lives they impacted. To their families we offer our sincere sympathy....***May they rest in peace.***

Sr. Ruth Montrichard, Chairman, Servol

A Place of Hope on the Beetham

"Driver, driver, you heading to Port-of-Spain?"

Yes, he nodded and with that I hurried to the front seat and within minutes we were on our way to town.

Before approaching Port-of-Spain there is a place called Beetham Gardens. Every "Trini" knows that place because it is infamous in the news as a ***'crime-hot-spot'***.

Other recognizable features are the many billboards, the flying corbeaux and the several containers full of scrap iron. To my left I passed the land-fill and my right a gas station and a school.

The school I'm referring to is the Servol Life Centre, Beetham Gardens. After passing it so many times in-transit I eventually had an opportunity to train at this institute to become an Adolescent Development Programme (ADP) Instructor.

My knowledge of Servol was attained from friends and family-members who attended there; though it was sketchy. I entered the Programme confident and to my surprise, everything I thought I knew about Servol vanished into thin air, ***Poof!***

The tour of all the departments is one I would have never imagined and would surely never forget. Students at the establishment have so much to gain and to offer. Skills courses like Television Production, Nursing, Catering, Electrical Welding, etc. help to nurture, develop and prepare students for the world of work.

On the other hand, the ADP incorporated classes like Public Speaking, Self-Awareness, Group Counselling, Art Analysis, Craft and so much more. It was at this point I realized that ...

Servol was not just a place where you "go an learn ah trade" but rather a place with great possibilities for overall development.

As my days turned into weeks my colleagues and I developed a strong bond with a positive attitude. Our instructors provided us with the tools, knowledge and understanding that will indeed not only be beneficial to us in our careers but for life itself. The students and staff of Servol are warm and accommodating. Who would have imagined that all this potential is rooted in one name that is **SERVOL**.



Past ADP Trainer's First Impression of SERVOL

In the News...

THE COCOA PROJECT

In Term III of 2017/18, the Parent Outreach Programme (POP) and the Freeport Junior Life Centre entered into a collaboration where Field Officer Rachael Laidlow assisted with the supervision of trainees while some instructors from that centre went on training.

During that term, Mrs. Laidlow introduced ***“The Cocoa Project”*** to the trainees at the centre. She engaged the trainees in the process of breaking, fermenting, drying, patching, shelling and grinding of the cocoa beans to produce our local chocolate. When this process was completed, both staff and trainees enjoyed a hot cup of rich cocoa tea.



Rachael Laidlow, POP. Field Officer



HIV/AIDS Seminars done by TEST

TEST (Trainee Extended Support Team), on the request of Servol’s Executive, planned and executed **three (3) HIV/AIDS Awareness Seminars** for *all* trainees currently enrolled in *all* Servol ADP/Skills centres, as well as their instructors.

The Seminars; two in the North-East and one in South-Central were spread over three consecutive Wednesdays (2nd, 9th and 16th. May, 2018). They had three (3) key aims:

- To enhance trainee (and staff) awareness of how HIV can/cannot be contracted.
- To dissuade trainees and staff from prejudicial and discriminatory practices against persons whom they may know (or suspect) to be HIV+.
- To cause any trainee/staff-member who may be HIV+ to not only be aware of his/her rights, but responsibilities as well.



Feedback received from trainees and staff from *all* three Seminars indicated that they were “very informative”, “very well-organized”, with “interesting, down-to-earth presenters who didn’t bore their audiences” and who “kept it *real* with the trainees” The Seminars were ***“simply...awesome!”***

TEST sincerely thanks ***every single presenter at each Seminar***, from the **Ministry of Health**, the **National Aids Coordinating Unit**, **Childline** and the **two private individuals living with AIDS** who shared their very sobering, moving personal testimonies, ***all free of charge!*** We also thank the **two ADP/Skills Zonal Coordinators** and their **Administrative teams** who assisted well, from the ***‘get-go’***. We thank, as well, **the Executive** for arranging for the use of the well-appointed La Joya Auditorium, St. Joseph, for the first of the two North-East Seminars and for the services of the reliable **Mr. Daniel** of Public Relations Department.

Take a bow, TEST! Excellent work!

We trust that staff and trainees in all centres would now ***internalize*** the excellent material from the Seminars and be more responsible in their sexual behaviours, as well as non-discriminatory in treating with those who are HIV+ or living with AIDS.

Happy Anniversary POP

Happy Anniversary POP... 25 Years Serving the Community !

SERVOL has always been guided by the findings of social and behavioural scientists. There is general agreement among all experts that so dominant is the influence of home life and early up-bringing that it accounts overwhelmingly for the good or bad character and personality traits of the individual. Psychologists and psychiatrists are almost unanimous in saying that by the age of three (3) the character of the child is substantially shaped and by the age of six (6), it is resistant to change.

Additional research findings also indicate that parents generally bring -up their children in the way they themselves have been parented, for example, if they had experienced abusive parenting they will tend to repeat this pattern of behaviour with their children. Based on these findings, in **1993, SERVOL established a Parent Outreach Programme (POP).**

The program utilizes a team of competent and trained Facilitators, Field Officers and Coordinators, who conduct home visits in rural areas. These visits focus on empowerment sessions to increase the life chances of children and restore stability in the families with whom they work. Group sessions are held to allow parents to share common problems and solutions. **Well done POP !**



POP Parents' Open Day at Forres Park

In September 2017 POP Facilitator Lystra Mitchell started weekly support-sessions with a group of parents in the Forres Park area.

On 22nd June 2018 Ms Mitchell held an Open Day at the Forres Park POP Office. On display were items such as valances, table cloths, curtains, floor mats, quilts, cabbage cushions, neck rolls, place mats, etc., made by parents Joanne Walcott, Sharon Sookdeosingh and Natasha Pascal-Walcott over the course of the few months.

Specially invited guests, Coordinator Charlene Phillip, Field Officer Vanessa Blenman, ADP staff and students, Pre-school staff and pre-schoolers, POP facilitators and a small group of parents and children from Tabaquite all complimented Ms Mitchell and the parents for a job well done! One parent of this group had no previous experience in sewing but became empowered enough to proudly display what POP parents can do.



POP's Workshop for Parents of Newlands Primary School

On the 13th March 2018 Parent Outreach Programme Facilitator Monica Richardson held a workshop on "Children need Love and Effective Discipline" with the Newlands P.T.A at the Newlands Primary School. The objectives of this session were: For parents to understand different discipline styles, e.g. aggressive, passive and assertive. For parents to internalize and discuss the purpose of disciplining, what is acceptable behaviour, and how to handle problematic or conflicting situations as a parent. Zone One Field Officer Mr. Mansingh lent support to his Facilitator. The workshop provided very useful information and participation was excellent.





**WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT**

*Tickets can be obtained
from any Servol Centre or
Call..*

Public Relations
110-112 Oxford St. POS
623-1632 / 0053

Accounts Department
624-7324 or 627-9383

Beetham Life Centre
623-6234

**Regional Training
Centre (RTRC)**
58A Pembroke St. POS
623-5308

Forres Park
659-2431

La Romaine
653-5402

Or Email
pro@servoltt.com

Give a Special and Lasting Christmas Gift

*Help us reach out to the disadvantaged
children and youth in our country.*

Our 48th Poor Man's Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 11th December 2018

As our country moves more deeply into recession we expect more poverty, more crime and probably more children dropping out of school as families face new problems and someone once added "and Servol will be there to pick up the pieces!"

We will be there only with your help !

The earthquake in August 2018 caused some damage to buildings and further undermined the stability of our Forres Park Life Centre which is in dire need of repair and rebuilding. This is going to cost a considerable amount. As well, this year we would like to set up two Day Care Centres to be able to help young parents and grand-parents find a safe place for children, while they seek employment. With the level of abuse and neglect of young children this becomes important, as children who are not properly cared for and supervised often as adults will turn to crime and abuse and a cycle of violence continues. So your **help** is crucial at this time to **give hope** to the many who need quality education and a second chance in life.

We ask you to join hands with **The Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre** to help us reach out to many thousands of children and adolescents who need a second chance in life.

Tickets are \$150.00 for the meal of a bowl of soup and a loaf of bread.

We share this meal in solidarity with the many children in our society who go without food, education or comfort daily.

If you would like to make a contribution and give your ticket to a child to attend the dinner or simply make a donation: Cheques can be made to Servol Ltd., and posted or dropped in our mail box at 91 Frederick Street, Port of Spain.

Please contact- Servol's PRO- 623-1632 / 0053

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

**Cheques payable to
SERVOL LTD, 91 Frederick Street Port of Spain**

***We would like to purchase ()
tickets @ \$150.00***

Total Enclosed \$ _____

or

Make a donation of \$ _____

Thank you for your Support



If Undelivered
Please Return to Sender
SERVOL
91 Frederick Street, Port of Spain
Trinidad, West Indies.

