

P r o g r a m m e
SUCCESS **U**LTIMATELY **R**EASSURES **E**VERYBODY

R E P O R T

A VISIT
by
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INTRODUCTION

The visit to the Programme S.U.R.E. facility was in keeping with the suggestion by Dr. Diggiss, that instead of the MedNet Staff focusing on the usual gift exchange for Christmas, 2017, everybody was invited to commit to giving a specific amount to be contributed to: **PROGRAMME S.U.R.E.**, a government assisted program for male students, 14-16 years of age, with disruptive behavioral issues.

The Program was started, February, 1992, and was believed to be a breakthrough program for troubled male students. Young men were to be offered an opportunity to acquire life-altering tools for personal development in order for them to take their rightful place in a progressive Bahamas. The program began with 65 students; today, presently, there are twenty five (25). Twenty six (26) years later, at a time when the escalation of teenage disruption, crime and violence is unprecedented, it is amazing that the school has less than half the number of 1992.

Somehow, it appears the vision for the institution has fallen through the cracks: a spirit of indifference seems to have taken over. Much needs to be done to restore the integrity of the vision; to realign how provision may be established; appropriately applied and justly address the growth and skills base development opportunities.

The administrator, Ms Hunt, is most accommodating and welcoming. However, it does not take long to appreciate the uphill struggle that characterizes the project. From the outset, it is difficult to find the compound; there is no signboard to advise the public of its existence. In addition, the issues run from the need for: additional qualified staff; areas to be painted; cleaning the mould-infested areas; restoring the agricultural and the poultry sectors. A walk-about the compound reveals how, the failed sectors, are indeed the key areas of hope for an impactful program. As long as the available resources remain limited or nonexistent; there will be very little or no success for the program. Fundamental to the immediate function is the need to update the office equipment and a budget that can be facilitated.

Given the very nature of the program, if marketed through the wide range social media, and reliable support from the business and private sectors, the development of the project can and will be put on a firmer footing.

To this end Dr. Charles Diggiss initiated a significant support for the institution; to which others are invited to be involved. This may be done by establishing a line of credit at business places (electricity, water, food supplies...etc), personal service and/or a monthly commitment. Needless to say, the institution has to be encouraged to generate a realistic portion of its annual budget, from events and sale of locally harvested produce.

The bottom line rests with the intended purpose and function of the institution: *“To provide chronically disruptive students with an opportunity to acquire acceptable social skills and to improve their academic performance while developing a high sense of personal accountability.”*

In as much as the intent is to create a positive opportunity for teenage boys, care must be taken not to foster a situation that may be equally as bad or worse than where they are coming from. There is only one way to help the young boys: **offer them better.**