Pro Vice Chancellor Carrington visits WAND projects

St Vincent

University of the West Indies (UWI) Pro Vice Chancellor and Director of the School of Continuing Studies (SCS), Professor Lawrence Carrington has been getting a close-up look at WAND’s projects in St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. In St Vincent, he met members of the Fancy Help Group and was updated on the progress of the project there.

The main project is organised along the lines of a cooperative, where women own and rear pigs which are sold on the open market. They also are involved in sewing, making school uniforms and sheets for the community. They are also getting involved in cake icing to meet the Christmas demand.

It is proposed to introduce a parenting project at Fancy, similar to one launched in Barbados, to help members enhance their parenting skills.

Prof Carrington told the women he was very impressed with their commitment and the way the project was developing. He said projects like these indicated the relevance of the university in the community and had the support of the SCS, of which he is Director. WAND is a unit within the SCS.

St Lucia

In St Lucia, Prof Carrington visited a new pre-school at La Pointe, which accommodates 22 children up to age five years. His visit coincided with the dedication of the school for which residents raised $8,000 to construct the building with support from WAND and the Poverty Reduction Fund of the Government of St Lucia. WAND also provides professional training for teachers in the school and plans to extend there the parenting programme started at Bay Primary in Barbados.

Prof Carrington commended the community on the efforts to help themselves and recognised WAND’s contribution as critical to bringing the university to the community, which, he noted, was what university outreach was about.

WAND’s work with the La Pointe Development Committee since 1995 has focused on the development of leadership and business skills, raising levels of social consciousness, strengthening community relations and conflict resolution.

The tours were conducted by Community Consultant, Christobal Ashton, who we commend for the outstanding work she has been doing in these two communities.
10 more people with disabilities provided with computer training

Ten more people (eight women and two men) with disabilities are getting computer training at the Bridgetown, Barbados, Academy of Learning. This is the second batch of 10 being trained in a project started by WAND last year.

Deepening scope of parenting workshop

The unit is stepping up its work in parenting with the pioneer group from Bay Primary School, St Michael, Barbados. A second workshop was held November 20 - 24 to accommodate 15 parents, three more than the first held last July.

In-depth discussions were held on topics such as “Tie the Heifer, Loose the Bull: Gender Relations in the Family”, “The Protection of the Child”, “Elements of Budgeting and Nutrition”, “Family Values - Spiritual and Social Aspects” and “Juvenile Delinquency”.

WAND also intends to take the programme into its other project areas (see stories on front page).

Getting the issues right

Our last edition was dated issue 3&4 2000. Sorry about that error. It should have been issue 1 & 2 2000. This edition is issue 3 & 4. Hope you were not inconvenienced by this slip. Thanks for your understanding.

Caribbean women and globalisation

The following is an excerpt from a speech by the Tutor/Coordinator on Globalisation, to a Barbados Lions Club meeting on November 25, 2000:

“Regarding the situation of women, some have undoubtedly benefited from the opening up of new opportunities in the private sector, but these are few. For the majority of women, globalisation has meant reduced access to health services, or higher cost for such services, more privatisation of education and falling quality in the public education system.

At the same time, new openings for working women have appeared mainly in the service industries, characterised by relatively low salaries. While the proportion of women thus employed has been increasing, the proportion of males employed has either remained stagnant or has been on the decrease, albeit not dramatically. At the same time, men who are out of work and young men who find few opportunities to enter the workforce have to be supported by these same women on their low salaries, adding to the continued burden of taking care of the needs of children and the health of the household. The overall effect is that the poverty of households has increased and the relationships between women and men and parents and children are in crisis, especially since women who go out to work have little or no support for childcare in the private sector, the public sector and the society as a whole.”

“Your door is shut against my tightened face,
And I am sharp as steel with discontent,
But I possess the courage and the grace
To bear my anger proudly and unbent”
- Claude McKay, The White House