



# West Dominica Children's Federation Inc.



Happy 10th  
Anniversary

## President's Comments



My name is Arthur Hilton and I have been involved with the work of the federation since 1985 acting in the capacity of a board member under a team headed by Mr. John Alexis as the chair person.

Back then it was called the Northern Child Development Project under the parent company, Christian Child Fund.

Having to deal with the many needs of children and families, ranging from financial, social and educational, was very challenging but it was worth it. Families were given a chance to live in better conditions, children were given a chance for better education and also social issues were addressed to protect the vulnerable and underprivileged.

I was then elected to be chairperson, playing a leading role with the support of very capable staff and subsequent to this the three development project offices, Northern, Southern and Western Projects were merged into one and registered as a new NGO called the West Dominica Children's Federation Inc

back in 2010. I was then elected as president of the federation by a general membership. This experience and responsibility was a huge one for me directing a new membership of more persons on the board, more community mobilizers and also a coordinator who all made the federation very effective in carrying out its objectives.

Again we saw the lives changed for families in significant ways, from school fees, transportation, medical bills, school feeding, repairs to schools and development of school libraries.

This is a journey that I can look back and see that great success was accomplished by the federation in the lives of many. And for me the satisfaction is for me to know that I was part of the group of people who assisted in this great work for the good of families, our children and Dominica as a whole.

Childfund leaving the Caribbean and Dominica in particular was a tremendous lost. However sad that lost that was experienced by all, Childfund exited but the Westfed continued through the faithful donors who wanted to see the young lives continued to be touched by Westfed. Thanks to all our donors local and regional and international.☞

## Coordinator's Comments:

Coming from a Corporate background in to the world of non-profit was new to me. Undaunted by the feat however I dove straight into and did what I would like to call paddled as hard as a duck below water to make things look smooth on water surface. The federation then went through a transition with its sole funder which made for challenging times for us. This took some change management skills on all fronts.

Out of this came many opportunities to seek funding elsewhere for the first time. This was compounded by the natural disasters forcing the federation into recovery and rehabilitation mode. This again presented unfamiliar territory and facilitated growth and new environments and new challenges. We have however kept the lantern burning and sourcing assistance for persons and communities by leaning on the different skills and competencies of not only myself but a small support

system in the persons of Vanessa Prevost and Joanne George. We have survived through consistent writing, collaborating and seeking of projects that are relevant and feasible and beneficial to the families and children that we

serve from north to south of the island. Special thanks to the board members, staff members and supporters and most importantly to our funders now and in the future..☞



# Brief History about the organization



## West Dominica Children's Federation Inc.

The West Dominica Children's Federation (West Fed) is a NGO working on behalf of children in 50 communities on the west coast of the Dominica. We serve children and families by implementing programs that target the following five priority issues: Alcohol & Drugs, Sexual Abuse, Unemployment, Climate Change Adaptation and Empowerment of Women and Girls.

Our programming approach is directed to changing the socio-economic landscape for deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children and families in Dominica.

### **Vision**

Create an economically vibrant community by building partnerships across all sectors of the community for the good of the children.

### **Mission**

Children and youth will reside in a caring and peaceful environment that promotes effective partnerships to ensure that they live in communities that are passionate about community empowerment.

### **Goals**

Increase child and youth access to nurturing and stimulating experiences conducive to healthy growth and development. Ensure children and youth have access to and complete basic good quality education. Enable meaningful youth participation in policies and programs that affect and can benefit their lives

The federations seeks to integrate programs and finance into project activities that are interesting to the children and youth and cater to the needs of the families that are Deprived Vulnerable and Excluded. We have a responsibility to the underprivileged who see us as a beacon of hope especially in times of extreme hardship. Our aim is also to ensure that we implore the highest level of meaningful participation and leadership of children and youth in schools and communities in what is happening around them.

There is considerable need for the

continuation of the work that we do. NGOs have a role to play in society that is far reaching. The overarching goal is to ensure that persons on the breadline do not go unassisted. In these difficult economic and socially unstable period, when the vulnerable are the ones who suffer and lack the most, the work of the federation becomes even more critical.



*Map of Dominica depicting  
Communities we serve*

The programs we implement must meet the people where they are. Training programs must be directed towards what would help persons to not live but thrive. The parents must be able to have some form of sustainable livelihood training for the ones who are not academically inclined and we have a responsibility to them as well. The work we do must always have the do no harm as its focus but also to drive independence and self sufficiency.

We continue to implement and adhere to policies and guidelines for quality operations of the Federation, quality assurance of financial agreements and performance management with our funding agencies and supporters. We can do this if we conduct effective monitoring and evaluation of projects through reviews, research, surveys, beneficiary tools, and using technology to give us the competitive edge when bidding for project funding.

We strive to increase high visibility of the organization and work with private and public sector and civil society to increase financial and technical resources to ensure growth and sustainability.☞



# Long Service staff members above ten years

**Ms. Magdalene Seraphin** - Still a beacon of hope, still a guiding light for so many. She has seen them grow from toddler to adult and helped them through the rough streets of life. They still call her Miss Queen or teacher Queen when they see her. Her interest in them and their well being has never changed. She will still ask about their parents, their siblings or even their own children. Advice is always on her lips, a word of prayer never far behind. She has endured through the changes and the milestones. Still with the federation at this ten year mark but has served at the development project ten years before! Well done to Ms. Seraphin for continuing on this journey of hope!!



**Mrs. Romilia Romain Burton** - (Ms. Romain at the time), our main contact to the sponsors in the outside world, she has held the office of Sponsor Relations and of Community Mobilizer between the years October 1<sup>st</sup> 1999- April 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. She would have known the name of each child and their community. Working with the mobilizers and being their connection to Childfund made things work smoothly for the federation as a whole. The children would look forward to their mail, finances and visits from their sponsor, all organized and overseen by Mrs. Burton. The work of the federation will always be in the hearts of the many who worked there and have moved on to other fields of work. Good luck to Mrs. Burton and thanks for the job well done!!

**Ms. Cordelia Guiste** - Our Finance Officer for close to twenty years at the federation, first at the northern development project office and then at the federation's main office in Mahaut. Ms. Guiste was organized and always thorough. Had the best interest of the federation at heart, and was very protective of everything she governed over. Steadfast in her role and always full of the necessary answers, Ms. Guiste served right through the transition from project office to federation office and continued into the post ChildFund era into the project based activity era. Her support throughout her time was valuable and the federation thanks her for her support always!



**Ms Georgette Henry** - We call her Ms. Henry, but in her community they call her Sheralyn, Miss Sheralyn or Aunty Sheralyn. She has worked in the Southern Child Development project and continued on after amalgamation to the federation. Serving almost twenty five years of impacting the lives of children particularly in the south of the island is a most humbling experience. She is well known and loved by almost every child in those communities, her office being a hub of activity for homework, letter writing to sponsors, parents visits and venting about their parent child relationships. A good listening ear and a base of good advice. The southern office has stood the test of time under the watchful eye of the very competent Ms. Henry! Well done!!

# Surviving the Post ChildFund Era

At some point there was an executive decision made from very high up in the hierarchy of ChildFund International to depart the Caribbean and cease operation in the islands of Dominica and St. Vincent being the last two islands that they were operating on. The plan being to equip the federations to operate autonomously in the future years. This was well planned out and the exit strategy was rolled out.

This meant that the West Dominica Children's Federation was no longer a beneficiary of the funding provided by ChildFund Caribbean. It now had to seek funding in order to implement projects similar to what it was accustomed to doing keeping in mind the target audience as the children and youth and communities that it normally serves.

This posed both a challenge and opportunities for the federation for never before had it sought funding elsewhere and never before did it have the capacity to do that. Going forward would be tough. It now meant seeking funding from agencies who support the work that you do or it meant doing the work that the funders would fund and somehow make the work that you do and the funds that they have available work for your organization. Literally this mean a paradigm shift in

focus. Time to get writing! Time to do some resource mobilization. We needed to set the federation on its own path. We needed to give it its own personality.

Give it a past, present and a future. There were some volunteers who were instrumental in this transition, Sylvie Lamothe worked with the team at WestFed to strategize the way forward to include the set up if our website most importantly and training in the area of resource mobilization. Also important was our social media presence as an individual organization standing on our own to feet.

We then needed to start writing. A process which is very time consuming and competitive. Many times we are seeking funding from a pool sought after by the entire Caribbean. We have however been very successful with our attempts and have had successfully received increasingly larger projects. Our goal is to continue to seek funds that will allow us to cover a wide range of

areas that will bring an improvement in the lives of persons and bring healing therapy in the lives of those who needs it.☞



Sylvie Lamothe



Vanessa Prevost

## Focus on Children and the SDGs for the future...



How bright is our future unless it is to get the children and youth of today to become acquainted and engaged in the achievement of the SDGs? The overarching goal of the federation as a community organization must be for the future of this generation to be as bright as possible. Each of the goals have a direct impact on their life. Each of the projects that we write to seek funding must be with these goals in mind.

It needs to form part of their new normal. The way they live their lives need to be guided by the principles of what the goals set out to achieve. How can the federation play a role in letting this become a reality?

What can we do to ensure that the lives of children and youth not only in Dominica but in the wider world benefits from these goals?

# Canadian Fund For Local Initiatives— Empowering Women and Girls

*Empoweredgirlsda.org*



West Dominica  
Children's  
Federation Inc.

Activity supported by the  
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives  
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du  
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Canada

This project was implemented mainly to Empower students and persons in communities to have greater awareness of what their rights are as it relates to their sexuality, their basic human rights and rights



to their bodies as it relates to abuse against women and girls. It also sought to give them a sense of empowerment in dealing with and standing up to their abusers.

The project sought to conduct educational sessions with students during school hours so as to maximize the reach of the program and conduct community sessions out of working hours to allow parents to be able to appreciate the information that was being shared with the children. It sought to

strengthen the knowledge that the students have on sexual reproductive health and illnesses (STIs and STDs) that can result if they are not mindful of their sexual interactions.

It sought to promote the work of all stakeholders involved in the project like the Dominica Planned Parenthood Association and the National HIV Aids Response Unit of Dominica. By working with these organizations, children will be aware of resources that are available to them. They will be able to make better lifestyle choices due to an increased awareness of the repercussion of their actions in cases of promiscuity.



Lester Guye



Nurse Julie Frampton

Staff of these two organizations were responsible for the components of sexual reproductive Health information as it relates to Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Dominica Planned Parent Hood Association also

contributed to components including sexuality and sexual reproductive Health. We thank Nurse Julie Frampton of Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) and Delia Cuffy Weekes for facilitation of empowerment sessions.

By doing this project and sharing this information we hope that



The then Minister of Youth Affairs Mrs. Justina Charles, showing support at our outreach meeting in the community of Grandbay where the Pierre Charles Secondary School participated in the project.

communities now have an increased tolerance level for persons of different sexual orientation from them with a direct link to human right Students of two co-ed schools also benefited from the project because there is need for the young men to also have a knowledge of the rights that women and girls have over their bodies. ☺



# Australia Direct Aid Program— Teaching Children Food Security

WEST DOMINICA CHILDREN'S FEDERATION INC.

SUPPORTED BY

Direct Aid Program of the Australian Government



West Dominica  
Children's  
Federation Inc.



Presents

*"Climate-Smart Small Scale Container Agriculture in Schools initiative"*

## Composting

Loading up the Compost bin!! The children get very excited and competitive when it is time to load up the compost bin. The show



of strength, the curiosity of wanting to see what the material has decomposed to form, or just wanting to be first. It all stems from being excited about the whole process of composting. This is one of the aims of the project. They got to see the different organisms in the bin and hopefully their curiosity was picked. Composting is so essential for growing food for the future and hopefully they understand that totally and will utilize it both in their schools and their homes.

## Look What I planted!!

From Pot to Plate!!! A small seedling to a lettuce that can be eaten in my salad bowl. Grown in a pot at the school, it did not need a large garden plot. Every school child can do the same at the school and



The food security issue is not just in Dominica or just in our community. By 2050 the world will be fighting to feed its population and the countries with fertile volcanic soil like Dominica stands a good chance of being able to be the bread basket of the Caribbean region. To do this

we need these very children to grow up with the mentality that it is our responsibility to grow what we eat and eat what we grow. They need to be the

champions of this with the skill that we have given them under this project. Skills at the

grassroots level will be inbred at their home. The federation has already shown the children at six primary schools how to grow their own vegetables in pots. This type of initiative needs to be continued to all schools and we see this as an opportunity for us to engage the children teaching them that food security starts with them.

grassroots level will be inbred



## Inputs

can be a deciding factor as to whether the school or an institution carries out a successful agricultural program or not.

Inputs can be expensive to the schools if they have to financially be responsible for it. This project funded by the direct Aid Program of the Australian Government gave us the opportunity to assist schools with inputs, tools, and practical hands on training for the children and teachers so that the program can be sustainable after the life of the project. Their teachers have a role to play in the future of the food supply.

# Canadian Fund For Local Initiatives: Women's Water Management



West Dominica  
Children's  
Federation Inc.

*" Building Women's Water Management Capacity  
after a Natural Disaster  
through the provision of Water Storage Tanks".*

Activity supported by the  
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives  
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du  
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Canada



Representatives of the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives had the chance to come to the field to meet with some of the recipients of the tanks. It was a joy for the federation to show the funding agency the work that was

To reduce women's vulnerability to water shortage following a natural disaster" This is what we set out to do in the above project . We saw the need to conduct training in the safe storage, treatment and use of harvested rain water for recipients of water storage tanks. We purchased and installed the water storage tanks for the selected women headed households for use during water shortages and after disasters.

Many of these women are single, unemployed, or underemployed and are heads of their households with several children and sometimes extended family and home bound elderly to support. Having enough good quality water is a problem. This is not a problem that was being addressed directly and that was an ideal area for our support. The project had a positive impact on the environment as it harvests rainwater

sustainably for use by households who would otherwise have to trek long distances to carry water from general stand pipes or rivers close by. Because of the remote location of these two communities, Gallion and Campbell, up in the mountains, this was particularly helpful to the families. The project will have very little negative impact on the environment as the dimensions of water tanks are not very big and can be located close to households. The installation requires no clearing of lands so therefore does not require the use of hazardous materials.☞



*Representatives of CFLI and WestFed*



achieved in the field. It gives them a first hand view of the reality on the ground and also shows the integrity of the projects that we write. We are hoping to show how we aim to meet the needs of the most vulnerable by solving their problems with hands-on solutions. The management of water was one of the focus areas for the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and so is gender equality and our project target was able to do the job of combining the two areas. This was the third project that we have worked on with the CFLI, and have been satisfied that the work has been executed well and of both organizations have highlighted fully.☞



A recipient of one of the 250 gallon water tanks distributed by the federation under this project. The mother with her children will no doubt fully utilize the tank in the community due to the water shortage issues. Harvesting of rain water is not only a cheap alternative but also what is best in terms of climate adaptation practices for the future.



# UNDP GEF Small Grants - Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change



"Widening the Understanding of the Impacts of Climate Change by Engaging Youth and Community in Tangible Climate Adaptation Activities"

A Project Funded by The GEF Small Grant Programme in Collaboration with:



Being a resilient nation does not come solely from surviving a catastrophic event, but also from taking the necessary steps to overcome the disaster and better prepare for the future, making sure that history does not repeat itself.

There are various ways of preparing for a disaster which include physical and psychological. We need to take a wholesome approach to being prepared by educating ourselves about the risks, and how we can mitigate against the risks but also how we can adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The federation would like to see a community where all children are well aware of what they need to do to be

prepared at all levels. There is work to be done on the physical which include their home surrounding. But also the work to be done on the psychological level also. There needs to be a culture of preparedness and of adapting our lifestyles to the new normal of unpredictability and of recovery after a disaster being as fast and as smooth as possible without too much death and destruction.

We need to prepare our children by educating them about the impacts and how they can work with them. This work needs to start now.



Reduce Reuse Recycle is heard all year round but how seriously are we really taking this whole action and drive? Do we truly understand what a difference it can make to our planet? Are we seeing improvements in our surrounding. We need to continue any positive action that we have taken and continue to encourage others to take the same positive actions that can make a difference.

# The Maria Holder Memorial Trust— Sustainable Livelihoods



The Maria Holder Memorial Trust

"Tiling, Plumbing, Small Engine Repair, Ham Radio, Chain Saw, Sewing, Small Scale Agriculture"



In the post Maria era where hundreds of people lost not only their homes (over 90% of home were damaged or destroyed due to the Hurricane) but also their jobs because of severe damage to businesses and rampant looting.

Many businesses could not afford to continue to employ people, many were laid off. Also, many persons who were self-employed and had small businesses of their own lost all their assets and are unable to restart their business because they were not able to afford insurance, have limited or no savings and are heavily indebted to banks and other financial institutions. Thus they are unable to recapitalize immediately to recommence business activities.

Additionally, many of the people who lost their jobs were the heads of their household. Single women with children and other dependents such as elderly

parents and other extended family members to support.

In order for persons to be workforce ready or to be able to employ themselves they must be retrained and retooled to attract employers or to create entrepreneurial opportunities for themselves and their families. This project will seek to retrain

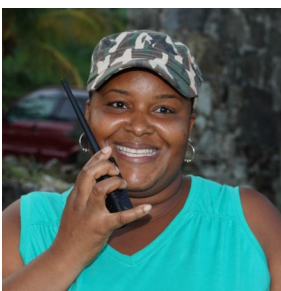
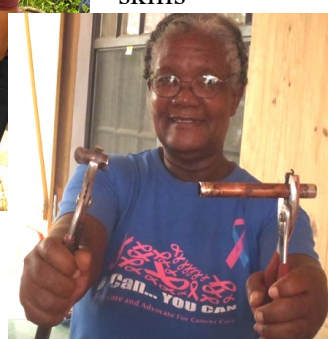
and retool women and youth in skills

which allow them to regain their ability to earn

a living and thus be able to support their families and those dependent upon them. Giving youth the skills they need to be employable or to employ themselves helps their self esteem

and makes them more productive members of society. This is of particular importance generally as employment in itself could lead to a boost in self-esteem which could improve the family structure and potentially abate abusive behaviour towards women and children.

For many people Climate change and its impacts has not been at the forefront of their decision making in their daily lives. For example, many people choose to build homes in close proximity or on the river beds and close to seashore even after this has been restricted by the Governments Planning Division. As a children's advocacy organization, the West Federation is saddened when children's lives are put at risk by so doing. This awareness campaign is meant to educate people about best practises as it relates to Climate Change response before, during and after a disaster and educate them on the impact of climate change on their livelihoods. ☸



There is a joy that Ms. Kimberly Francis gets from participating in disaster preparedness activities and equipping herself to help her community in times of a disaster. She is a trained CERT person, First Aid assistant and she also did the Ham Radio training along with her son. She can therefore lead and participate in both the disaster preparedness and recovery in her village!

# Humanitarianism & Connections.....

The federation coordinator standing with the regional director of UNICEF—Maria Cristina Perceval, Director, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Muriel Mafico from the regional office in Barbados, and Paula Scelzi also of Unicef, Kareen Zabow representative from ISRAAID. The visit by the team marking the end of sessions of Child Friendly Spaces hosted at the Mahaut Primary School for children as part psychological support under the UNICEF EC Return to Happiness programme. Thank You UNICEF Thank You IsraAid!!



Thanks to a team from Global Medical of Canada who provided us with Water Purification Kits that were distributed in the village of Mahaut to aid in getting residents safe drinking water post Hurricane Maria. A short demonstration was given before the water kits/ and water purification sachets were distributed. Thank you Global Medical!!

Member of staff Romilia Romain at the time wearing the All Hands Volunteer T-shirt that was worn by all staff at the voluntary day of service that we collaborated on with this international NGO in order to clear the mud and debris from the homes of individuals in the village of Colihaut. Thank You All Hands!!



Members of the International Organization on Migration team who installed the two tents that they donated to the federation in order to operate various activities. It was used for the school in the first instance. Thank You IOM!!



Immediately after Hurricane Maria our office space was not completely damaged, but in fact only had some damage to the roof of the kitchen area. Kindly The West Indian Association of Bermuda asked how they could assist with projects. We responded that our office space was what we needed help with because without an office space no project could proceed and so they did, they were happy to help, Thank you WIA Bermuda!!

Hygiene Kits, toothbrushes and other hygiene products were delivered to school children after Hurricane Maria. These were sourced and donated to us through ChildFund International who made contact with Johnson & Johnson after the hurricane. The assistance from them went a long way. Thank you Johnson & Johnson!!



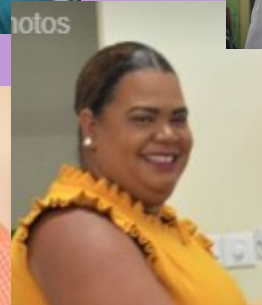
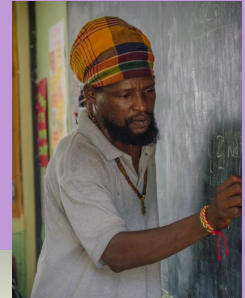
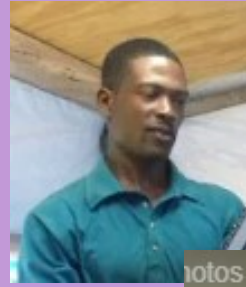




# Collaboration for Development—

Throughout the different projects that we have implemented, it has become necessary and worthwhile for some collaboration with other NGO, private and public sector. The project beneficiaries learn more when there is information from a diverse source. We have collaborated with various organizations to augment the message in our projects. These have included the National Development Foundation of Dominica (NDFD),

Dominica Solid Waste Management, Achievement Learning Centre, Dominica Youth Development Division, Discover Dominica, Dominica Planned Parenthood Association, National HIV and Aids Response Unit. We have also worked in collaboration with individuals who are experts in their field who have contributed greatly to our projects like Mr. Roy Ormond, from the Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement, Mr. Camille Leblanc agriculturist, Mr. John Christian from the Dominica Amateur Radio Club, Mrs. Vernie Moise, a fashion design entrepreneur, Mr. Marlon Alexander, tiling professional, Mr. Kenrick Ambo a plumbing professional, Mr. Ashton Lugay, Forestry Expert, Dr. Dave Lloyd, Soil Scientist and Mr. Kenny Blandford the Chainsaw Specialist.☞



## From CCF—MPM— Mrs. Sharon Vidal Francis



Being the last of 11 children from a single-parent home, I was fortunate to be a sponsored child under the Christian Children Fund program from 1989 – 1993. I have fond memories of receiving a new school uniform every academic year, a transportation allowance, all school books and Christmas shopping where Klim was a must! I remember people making fun of the program, but I was really happy to be part of those children because it was a great help for my mum. To this day I

am very grateful for the assistance and I am proud of who I have become as a result of being part of this program. I still remember my sponsor's name – Cheryl Jordan – and what would bring me the greatest joy is for me to meet her in person or through social media so that I can thank her personally thank you West Federation (CCF), and continue to make a difference in the lives of children!



# Thinking Outside The Box: Climate

The carnival band was an idea borne out of a need to come up with ideas that are receptive to children and youth whilst teaching them to fight against climate change. Under this project we engaged six different schools from varied communities and so we thought if these children who participated in the project would become good ambassadors for action against the impacts of climate change then we would have a good start towards taking positive action. The actions has to be organized and it has to be consistent and in order to achieve this the children and youth have to be taught to organize themselves into good strong action oriented groups who have clear visions as to what needs to be achieved when tackling the impacts of climate change.



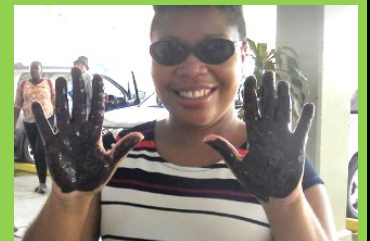
Therefore Group Dynamics formed part of the training that we offered under the project funded by the UNDP GEF Small Grants program. There needs to be continued efforts towards keeping these groups focused and motivated because the impacts of climate change is not short term and it has many compounding issues along with it that puts Dominica at risk constantly. Strong Groups are needed for consistent action against climate change.

## Stamp Your Hand to Stamp Out Abuse—

Our signature event which we are know for taking a stance against all forms of abuse. Persons from all strata of society roll up their sleeves to dip their hand in washable paint to stamp it on paper in an effort to make their personal statement to show support to the victims of abusers. The court system has been wanting in its bid to give satisfaction to many victims. It has proven to be a frustrating and inconvenient process especially to children who have been abused. A high number of cases get shut down prematurely because the young child has gone years of showing up to court without getting their case heard and often when it is heard the sentencing is not at a standard that signal the punitive element that it should. The court system needs to be more amenable and sympathetic to the abused. Though there has been much talk



about new laws coming into effect, unless a more judicious court system that takes the plight of the abused into consideration there will still be a system that frustrates the persons who come to court looking for some justice. Until there is a court that treats the abused with more dignity and does not allow children to sit across from their abuser who may be



intimidating to them there will be a large number of cases that does not receive justice. What this can do to the mind of the abused is far reaching and could be avoided if we had a more well balanced and judicious court system.

# 10th Anniversary Congratulatory Messages



Today, with great joy, I congratulate the past and present staff, board members and beneficiaries of the West Dominica Children's Federation on their 10 years anniversary!. I know first hand that this organization has a passion for helping children and families thrive.

The staff are dedicated to making a meaningful difference in reducing inequalities and violations that hinder children and families from realizing their dreams. Much work and many hurdles were overcome to smoothly refine and enhance the West Dominica Children's Federation over the years in order to ensure a smooth transition and a strong foothold in the void that could have been left by the exit of ChildFund. It is a pleasure for me, as a former manager of ChildFund Caribbean, to see the continuity and the

perseverance of the federation which strives to remain relevant and helpful to its beneficiaries.

It is an absolute success story that the Federation can continue to pursue partnerships and resources to be of service to others in their local communities. The rapport and respect between members of the communities and the NGOs that work with them are a joy to experience. When people feel supported and empowered, it is comparable to bright light bulbs turning on. I want to encourage the Federation, the communities, donors and partners to continue to meaningfully participate and support each other in making our lives and communities richer.

West Fed, I wish you enduring success! Continue to light your world!

***Gelina Fontaine***

Former Program Manager & Officer in Charge of ChildFund Caribbean



Surviving a decade is a remarkable achievement for any organization more so a Community Based Organization which is dependent on volunteers and the benevolence of well wishers and donors. This achievement speaks loudly to the ability of your leaders to carve out a vision that is reflective of the aspiration of its target population. Equally important, it speaks to the quality of the day to day management in developing and implementing programs and activities while at the same time nurturing a culture of responsiveness, relevance, and accountability. These are the values that continue to attract benefactors, donors and partners while expanding beneficiary participation. Congratulation on this milestone and I wish you well as you continue to give relevance to the all-important work of social protection for Deprived, Excluded and Vulnerable Children and families on

the island of Dominica. Remember you stand on the shoulders of those who began the process and others in the future will stand on your shoulders to continue the journey. Stand straight, stand tall, stand true.

The late Coretta King wife of civil rights leader Martin Luther King stated ``The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members`` holds true. Therefore, as past Area Manager I congratulate you. As a Dominican I thank you for your commitment, your effort and sacrifice as you work in the shadows, giving hope, shedding light and making dreams of the least among us come true.

Congratulations!!!

***Martha Joseph Fagan***

Former Area Manager ChildFund Caribbean



# 10th Anniversary Congratulatory Messages

The Maria Holder Memorial Trust has been a proud funder and supporter of the West Dominica Children's Federation's training programmes since 2018. We are extremely pleased with the results to date and also their commitment to the community that goes way beyond the scope of the project. The organisation has made wonderful strides and has grown in the work that you do that benefits many audiences, which would lead to having an impact on those who are in need. 10 years of service is definitely an achievement and most deserving of recognition and celebration. We wish you continued success in your future endeavors and offer best wishes and congratulations on this occasion of your 10th Anniversary.

**Ruchelle Roach,**  
Chief Project Manager,  
The Maria Holder Memorial Trust



The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme Dominica congratulates the West Dominica Children's Federation on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operations. The WDCF has demonstrated commitment to serving the youth of Dominica. The UNDP/GEF SGP is pleased to be associated with the WDCF and applaud WDCF as a grantee to take up the responsibility to raise environmental awareness and solid waste management and contribute to our sustainability.

**Agnes M. Esprit**  
National Coordinator  
GEF/SGP UNDP Dominica



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is pleased to recognize and extend sincere congratulations to the West Dominica Children's Federation on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

IOM thanks you for your work in support of vulnerable children and looks forward to continued collaboration in supporting and advocating for the most needy in society. Happy first 10!!



**Maxine Alleyne-Esprit**  
Communications & Community Engagement Officer  
IOM UN Migration Dominica

Once again, on the behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the NDFD we wish the WDCF a huge CONGRATULATIONS on making it to the big 10!

We look forward to continued partnerships and successful execution of the objectives. May God continue to bless your team with the health and strength needed to continue providing our country with this valuable service.

**Mr. Cletus Joseph**  
Managing Director  
National Development Foundation of Dominica



# 10th Anniversary Congratulatory Messages



Congratulation to the West Dominica Children's Federation on your 10th Anniversary after the closure of Child Fund Caribbean. You have kept the faith amidst financial constraints because of the rewards when you assist the less fortunate in your midst. May the good Lord continue to bless all of you who give precious time to reaching out to the vulnerable in wanting to see them reach their fullest potential that can bring them to financial prosperity for themselves, family and help develop their community and the country by extension.

Happy 10th Anniversary WDCF!

*Agnes Benjamin*, (Past Senior Project Worker)  
Western Dominica Child Development Project (1992-2010)

Junior Achievement is pleased to have partnered with West Dominica Children's Federation in the past and we look forward to further partnerships as we work towards the development of the children and youth on the island.

We would like to wish you all Happy 10th Anniversary and continued inspiration in creating programs which positively impact the population!

Best Wishes!!



The Youth Development Division congratulates the West Dominica Children's Federation on the celebration of its 10th Anniversary. The Youth Development Division is pleased to have been associated with the WDCF during the past decade, and is grateful for the invaluable contribution the WDCF has made to the improvement of the quality of life of our children in Dominica.

The Youth Development Division prays for the sustainability of this very important institution, especially during this paradigm shift and new normal; and look forward to strengthening our mutual partnership for the benefit of our most treasured assets, our children.

Best Wishes!

*John G Roach*  
Chief Youth Development Officer



Happy Anniversary!!  
The achievements of any organization are the results of the combined efforts of every individual who has worked or contributed to it. Happy 10th Anniversary .Thanks for your contribution to elevating the socioeconomic status of Dominican youth.

*Mrs. Terry Ann Remy Timothy*  
Dominica Youth Business Trust

# 10th Anniversary Congratulatory Messages



I wish to congratulate and appreciate the celebration of the 10 years of the West Dominica Children's Federation. It is a great feat to honour and congratulate the work of this organization.

The focus has always been on our vulnerable families and children within their respective communities. Keep up the good work and congratulations to you and your formidable team in the work you all have undertaken in looking out for our children and their families.

I'm hopeful that the people and organizations within the community will continue to assist the ongoing work of the West Dominica Children's Federation. All the best, keep up the good work.

**Francis Joseph**  
Past Manager CCF

Congratulations to the West Dominica Children's Federation on their successful 10 years of the organization. I know it's hard work, dedication and passion towards the organization that has the federation still going strong.

Once again congrats to you Westfed I wish the organization all the best for the future. I did enjoy working with you and the organization.

**Georgette Henry**  
Past Staff Member



A decade of continuous and effective service to humanity is no mean feat. I have been privileged to witness this service in several different forms – financial assistance to students, parents and single mothers, provision of resources to schools, provision of emotional and psychosocial support to student post a disaster, the provision of life skills to young people just to name a few.

I am delighted therefore to salute the West Dominica Children's Federation (WDCF) on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Your invaluable contribution to the advancement of humanity and the development of your country will not go unnoticed and should be recorded in the annals of Dominica's history.

Congratulations to the Management and Staff of WDCF. May your organization continue to "Live on" for many more decades. Long live the West Dominica Children's Federation.

**Jerry C. Coipel**  
Principal Trafalgar Primary School



As a former sponsored child of Christian Children Fund and West Dominica Children's Federation and as a former board member of West Dominica Children's Federation, I would whole heartedly like to express congratulations to the West Dominica Children's Federation on this milestone achievement of being in active existence for 10 years. Your presence and contribution in Dominica is much appreciated. I wish the board members, sponsors, staff, partners, parents and children of West Dominica Children's Federation all the best in the future.

**Mitchel John**  
Former Sponsored Child

# 10th Anniversary Congratulatory Messages



The parents, teachers, students and principal of Mahaut Primary School extend congratulations to you on your 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During all those years you have served and worked on behalf of all our children on the west coast of Dominica. You have set up projects to empower and educate young men and women to make better choices for themselves and families. West Dominica Children's Federation has one of the best reputations in the distribution of grocery-packs, food and clothing with pleasure. We are looking forward to working with you to continue providing more projects that lead to the youth becoming self-employed.

Additionally, we hope that you continue with your commitments to bring value to the community and brighter future for our children. We wish you God's blessings and good luck for the future.

***Mrs. Victoria Roberts***  
Principal Mahaut Primary School

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to West Federation on the occasion of the institution 10th anniversary. This is indeed a milestone to celebrate!

West Dominica Children's Federation has been partners of Child Fund Caribbean for many years working towards improving the well-being of children worldwide; those who are deprived, excluded and vulnerable.

Many of our nation children, youth and families were privileged to have benefited from the programs offered by the organization. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

***Romilia Romain –Burton***  
Past Member of Staff



Congratulations and best wishes to West Dominica Children's Federation on the occasion of your 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is always a pleasure to work with your team. Best wishers for another 10 years!!

***Peter Laurent***



It is indeed a pleasure to be able to share my congratulations to the Federation on this grand occasion! I am very proud to have been part of such an outstanding organization in Dominica.

The Federation is a prime example of never giving up and making a mark in the communities which benefit from the services offered. I feel proud when I run into the students and families who I worked with and they share their gratitude for the assistance and guidance which they received from the Federation.

Happy Anniversary to the Federation, continue to grow from strength to strength!

***Marilyn Etienne St. Jean***  
Past Member of Staff



# 10th Anniversary Congratulatory Messages

I wish to extend congratulations to the West Dominica Children's Federation on a note worthy 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as president of a civil society organization, the Bafond Point Development Committee and on my own behalf having benefited from a very important training module in ham radio operations. As a result of the aforementioned training, the Bagatelle Radio Club was formed which seek to assist the community with effective and concise information sharing before, during and after emergencies.



Let me again thank West Dominica Children's Federation and extend warmest congratulations and also encourage the organization to press on. Thanks for bridging gaps between the very young and middle age persons providing life skills through your programmes.

Based on your outstanding and diverse accomplishments, I am convinced that the WDCF is motivated to move the social safety nets and social protection agenda forward.

**John Fontaine**

President Bafond Point Development Committee

On this 10th Anniversary Celebration, I wish to congratulate the West Dominica Children's Federation for all its achievements this far. I express sincere thanks to you for your generous contributions given to me and my students during my term at the Roseau Primary School.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver-  
May He continue to guide and bless you all. m 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9: 6-7

Hon. Gretta Roberts  
Former Principal of Roseau Primary School



Ten years of building community, empowering the nation and encouraging healthy lifestyles is indeed a great feat, worthy of commendation.

The evidence is clear. Through its innovative programs targeted at children and families these communities have developed the capacity to deal more effectively with challenging issues of Climate Change, Alcohol; Drugs, Sexual Abuse, Unemployment, Teenage Pregnancy, and Violence. Fifty communities have benefited from this initiative.

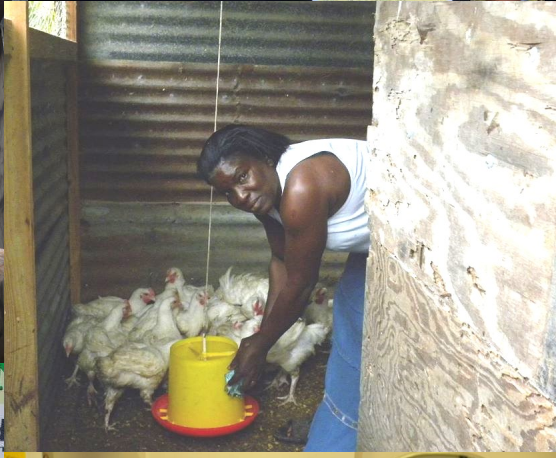
Despite their many limitations, specifically that of finance and human resource, the Agency continues in its aim to build peaceful communities where children and youth can live in a clean, safe and drug free environment.

It is an honour to salute the committed and dedicated staff of the agency on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Wishing the very best in your future endeavors.

**Ms. Marcia Dublin,**  
Community Social Worker





# *The work continues on our Priority Issues*

**Child Protection & Rights,  
& Human Rights**

**Sustainable  
Livelihoods**

**Empowerment of  
Women & Girls**

**Wise Water  
Choices**

**Entrepreneurship  
Development**

**Good Climate Smart  
Adaptation Practices**

**Action for Sustainable  
Development Goals**