



The Shashamane Settlement

Community Development Foundation, Inc. – USA

Education 🇸🇪 Healthcare 🇸🇪 Housing & Construction 🇸🇪 Industry & Trade 🇸🇪 Recreation & Sports 🇸🇪 Social Welfare



www.shashamane.org

The Shashamane Foundation Inc.

P.O. Box 5845 - Takoma Park, Maryland 20913 U.S.A.

Tel: (301) 213-2818 or (202) 590-9000 | Email: kphillipotts@shashamane.org

SHASHAMANE FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER Volume 1 2016

Some Shashamane Foundation sponsors awarded by former President of Haile Selassie 1st University Dr. Akilu Habte at 14th Annual Fundraiser Wash DC 2014



ABOUT US

The Shashamane Foundation is a charitable organization established in 1998 in the USA. It is certified as a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt entity under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code to operate exclusively for charitable, educational and other non-profitable causes within the meaning of the aforementioned code.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support charitable humanitarian causes throughout the world , with a focus in particular areas of education, healthcare, housing, agriculture, industry & trade, social-welfare, sports and recreation.

OUR VALUES

We are committed to the core principles and values of love and respect for humanity , honesty, integrity, faithfulness, responsibility, transparency, accountability and in general, well-doing.

OUR CURRENT FOCUS

Since the year 2000, the Shashamane Foundation has been focusing on an educational project in a specific developing African country, Ethiopia, in the town of Shashamane. Much of our efforts have also been focused on bringing awareness to the international community about the significance of Shashamane. In the year 1948, 500 acres of land was granted by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie 1, to the Black people of the Diaspora, on behalf of the Government and people of Ethiopia. This land-grant was given out of gratitude for their enthusiastic support to Ethiopia during the Italian Facist occupation in 1937. One of our priorities is to garner support for Shashamane and the development of this particular Land-Grant Settler community in Ethiopia. We have to this end worked closely with the Jamaica Rastafari Development Community, a local community NGO Charity on the ground in Ethiopia. Our Foundation has worked with this local charity to establish and operate their educational project , namely the **JRDC KG and Elementary School**.

With our support his Kindergarten and Elementary educational institution has grown from a traditional style zinc shed and wattle and daub building (*Chika* mud hut) with 3 members of staff and less than 30 students in the year 2000, into a modern 11 classroom concrete building, and a student population of roughly 400, a paid staff of 32 and annual operational budget of roughly \$55,000. Since its inception, the Shashamane Foundation has been the primary funder and channel of other donors to this JRDC School. We rely primarily on private goodwill financial contributions from our families, friends and supporters, to carry out this important work. In addition to funding the larger portion of the budget, our board-members are an integral part of the operation of the school and play a very important management oversight role, even from a long distance. We have established a solid track record of being a prudent custodian of every penny we have received from our supporters in support of the school.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Karl Phillpotts, President
2. Mumbi Carter, Vice President
3. Roy McPherson, Executive Secretary
4. Zannabe Henry, Treasurer
5. Valerie Phillpotts
6. Crystal Pittman
7. Desmond Lee

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Our Partners in Ethiopia The JRDC



Some JRDC Board members in Shashamane at 2016 Graduation at School

The Jamaica Rastafarian Development Community (JRDC) is a charitable membership organization established in Ethiopia in 1991, by members of the diaspora repatriate community in Shashamane, for the purpose of :

- A) representing the collective interest of the community to the authorities;
- B) participate with the support of its overseas partners in addressing some of the various developmental needs of the community. The areas of much needed assistance identified are in education, healthcare, housing, agriculture, sports, recreation and social welfare.

The JRDC traces its roots to the JRC (Jamaica Rastafari Community) initiated by Dr. Vernon Carrington Aka Prophet Gad, in 1986.

Although descendants of Africa began arriving to take hold of this gift of land in the early 1960s the majority of the members of this repatriate community arrived in Ethiopia shortly after 1974, when the Government of H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie I was overthrown by the communist Derg regime. The community has survived through those ensuing 17 years of war, civil strife, uncertainty and the challenge of day-to-day survival that engulfed Ethiopia. With the fall of the Derg Regime in 1991, the new government ushered in an era of improved stability with an emphasis on reconstruction and development. In response to the need for a reliable “one voice” community organization in this new era of critical developments, the JRDC was inaugurated with a democratically elected Board of Directors. The organization is registered with the Government of Ethiopia as a local non-governmental organization (NGO) Charity and membership is open to all settlers regardless of sex, age, religion and nationality. In Ethiopia, NGO status is granted on the basis of a clearly defined project-proposal that is accompanied by a letter of support from an overseas partner/sponsor.

The first approved project is the JRDC Kindergarten & Elementary School and the U.S. based Shashamane Foundation is its overseas partner. With the support of the Shashamane Foundation, the JRDC has been engaged in the development and operation of the School since 2000. The JRDC is managed by a Board-of-Directors, consisting of the following persons:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 1.Desmond Martin, President
1. Joan Douglas, Vice President
3. Lorna Curtis, Secretary
4. Ronald Simmons, Treasurer
5. Desmond Lee
6. Angela Williams

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KG and Elementary Graduating Class of 2016

The Jamaica Rastafari Development Community (JRDC) School

The Jamaica Rastafarian Development Community (JRDC) School is located in Ethiopia in the city of Shashamane. This community organization is registered as a local Charity with NGO Status. The Kindergarten and Elementary school represents the first phase of the organization's community development (NGO) Education project, which has been underway since the year 2000.

Its early beginnings can be traced to the home schooling of the children of early settlers on the Shashamane Land Grant. This all started in 1970s at the humble homes of Rastafari brethren Daniel "bro. Flippin" Leach and followed by Karl Hamilton both of Jamaican nationality. The responsibility of educating their young children in this rural, remote, non-English-speaking environment, was a number one priority for the newly arrived English-speaking settlers .

In the early 1980s this home schooling operation was fully assumed by Brother Karl Hamilton, a trained teacher from Jamaica and New York . With limited and scarce resources he conducted classes under a shady tree in his yard, with the students sitting on flat stones and make-shift wooden benches. Bro-Karl was an excellent teacher and taught his students well including Bible Knowledge. His favorite and often repeated class-room nursery rhyme and mantra was "silver and gold will vanish away, but a good education will never decay".

In the early 1990s, brother Albert "Teach" Allen, a trained teacher from Jamaica arrived with a plan to establish a school and soon assumed the responsibility of expanding the effort and vision by relocating the school of 15 students, into a 15' X 30' zinc-shed on the premises of the Twelve Tribes of Israel HQ. Bro. Karl Hamilton continued as a volunteer teacher and Sister Janet McLaughlin was brought on board as a volunteer teacher/secretary.

In late 1991, for the fourth time since its founding, the school was relocated into a newly-constructed two room adobe building at its current 3-acre site, on land given free-of-cost by a member of the community in support of the community's development effort. There 45 students and the 3 teachers were also joined by Yoseph "Mamoosh Leach, a son of one of its early initiators, Donald Leach.

With the establishment of the community organization, The Jamaica Rastafarian Community (JRC) in 1988 at the behest of Vernon Carrington AKA Prophet Gad , the community organization developed with the assistance of settlers on the ground and the Shashamane Foundation, into a full fledged NGO with the addition of the word *Development* to its name and was registered as the JRDC.



Section of JRDC School 11 class room building

The school was adopted by consensus of its founders by the JRDC and developed as the first phase of its approved NGO Education project, which lists the Washington, DC, based Shashamane Foundation as its primary overseas sponsor and authorized fundraiser. All 4 teachers now became paid members of staff.

With ongoing funding through the effort of the Shashamane Foundation, the efforts and labour of community members on the ground and others of good-will, the school gradually evolved from into a 4 classroom KG school, a modern 2-floor/8 classroom Elementary school, a separate Director's office building, a library, a computer room, an Art building, a kitchen and canteen, modern toilet facilities for boys and girls, a student population of over 400 (52% girls); a paid staff of 27 teachers (76% women), 3 guards, 3 janitors, a maintenance person, a secretary and an administrator; 99% of whom are native Ethiopians.

The paid staff is supplemented by several community volunteers, including the JRDC Secretary and the Treasurer, both of whom work on a full-time basis in overseeing the operation of the school.



Chairman of JRDC Desmond Martin presenting award to Elementary Principal

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **1.** Over the 15 years of operation (2000-2015) over 900 students have graduated from the Kindergarten school (approximately 30 per class) and over 1060 have graduated from the Elementary school, with a grade 8 education (32 per class).
- **2.** Over the five year period, 2009 to 2014, the high quality education offered at the school resulted in 100% passes for students sitting the Bureau of Education's grade 8 regional examination, with most students scoring 80% and above grade point average; setting the second highest achievement scores in the region.
- **3.** The vast majority of the 8th grade graduates have moved on to institutions of higher learning and the school has received feedback from the area High Schools that our students are among the highest achievers.
- **4.** Graduates of the school are either attending Universities or holding jobs in the community, at banks and in the local municipality.
- **5.** Extra-curricular activities are being developed and in sports competition, the girls and boys soccer teams of the School finished second in the Shashamane Bureau of Education's 2014 soccer championship.
- **6.** In 2014, the JRDC awarded its first scholarship (of Ethiopian Birr 20,000), to a deserving student, in honor of Brother Karl Hamilton, one of the founders of the school, who passed away in 2013.



KG 2016 Graduates sitting on benches and some staff members in background.

FUNDING HISTORY

With a student population of roughly 400 and a paid staff of 33, the school receives no government funding whatsoever and relies primarily on private goodwill financial contributions, to cover its annual operating budget of roughly U.S. \$55,000, which consists of salaries, water, electricity, telephone, internet, office and school supplies, furniture & fixture, maintenance and repairs etc.

Neither the JRDC nor the Shashamane Foundation has ever received any Grant-funding from any Corporate source, and it is primarily through grassroots fundraising activities and Organizations such as the Ghetto Youth Foundation, Motherland Promotions, The TTI New York and Jamaica, and the Connecticut Hartford Community, that the Shashamane Foundation has been enabled to underwrite the greater portion of the budget, thereby enabling the school to survive over these many years.

These fundraising activities have included (1) the staging of two annual fashion shows/dinner dances, one in the Washington DC area and the other in Hartford, Connecticut; (2) a sponsor-the-education-of-a-child program whereby, for U.S. \$100 each per year, a person or organization can sponsor one or more children at the school, and (3) soliciting and accepting donations from our families, friends and supporters. The schools motto:

It is the duty of the educated few to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the unfortunate many. (words of Haile Selassie1)

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21 of 36 members of staff at JRDC School Shashamane with President of the Shashamane Foundation and JRDC Treasurer; 2016

GOING FORWARD /LOOKING AHEAD

Our immediate goal is to help the school achieve sustainability as soon as possible, so it will be less dependent on outside sources of funding, for its survival. This will also serve to lighten the load that the faithful few have shouldered for over 15 years, in ensuring the day-to-day survival of the school.

In the meantime we are seeking grant-funding, endowments, donations and/or gifts that will help the school to achieve the stated goal of sustainability as soon as possible. With a solid foundation established and a clear and transparent track record in place, we have prepared a comprehensive 5-year project document (Business Plan), which gives the history of the school, shows where things are currently and outlines the budget for the upcoming five years. Provision is made in the budget/wish list, for the acquisition of a 18-passenger mini-bus in Ethiopia that could generate enough income, to make the school self-sufficient. There are other well-considered ideas about how to achieve the goal and we are prepared to expound on these with potential funders, if and when the opportunity lends itself. The JRDC school and its accomplishments demonstrates how a tangible, important and positive contribution can be made in Africa by a resettled diaspora community working together with an international community, with limited resources, love and determination. It is worthy of the support of all people of goodwill.

In listing all that has been achieved we of the Shashamane Foundation are bound by gratitude to give thanks to the Most High God for allowing us these accomplishment as He demonstrates His loving favour through the hearts and hands of our partners and supporters.

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