

Hi Claire,

I am delighted to welcome you- belatedly- to our small charity KASSSI. As you know you are the very first international volunteer assigned to us.. and we are thrilled to bits! Do bear with us as our enthusiasm and drive are clearly in evidence! We are a new and innovative organisation; as a consequence, KASSSI offers an ideal forum for anyone who is keen to effect change and leave a mark. This said, we hope we do not give the impression that you must "**wuk- 'til y'u drap!**" (come on Claire.. you should have learnt this amount of **Patois** by now! ;-). You will find in my family as well as in the community members at large: much love, humour, respect and appreciation. We are happy to share our culture.. additionally, you will find a genuine curiosity particularly from the children, to understand your culture and life style.

Claire, please be assured that we are committed to making your experience a healthy and wholesome one, which you take pleasure in sharing with others. We further hope you will be able to recommend KASSSI to your organisation and others who may be thinking of volunteering in Jamaica. You have literally fallen on your feet, being matched with Sadie, Kenneth, Robert and the KASSSI Charity Organisation (JAMATE)... They are accommodating and responsive and will endeavour to make your stay enjoyable and meaningful. JAMATE have a dual- perspective in that they understand the village mentality whilst balancing this with the fact that they have lived abroad and, in the case of the Treasurer, Rob, travelled extensively. However, feel free to contact me at admin@kasssi.org, I, as well as the secretary, Judith Denise, will be more than happy to discuss any issue with you.

- Our website is currently under re-construction and will be up next week... we would like you to submit **ah likkle piece 'bout y'uself, fi de site, wid ah pikchur du!** ok just in case you are not up to speed yet.. I'll go for it in English.. **Would you please submit a bio and a photo for the website?** A couple of lines will suffice.

By simply agreeing to be linked with KASSSI, you have taken the first steps in contributing and enriching the lives of children and families in the Petersville, Westmoreland Area. For me, KASSSI is a culmination of a dream and a lived experience- the project is close to my

heart. To be a part of KASSSI is to understand that the local people have the capacity to change themselves.. with a little assistance!.. So "A hand up and not a hand out." We do not propose solutions, which separates families.. as we understand family dynamics, bonding, attachment and parental interactions etc.. This is a unique concept in charity giving, as it comes with respect, cooperation, dignity and support in equal measures. I am sure you are familiar with the concepts of learned helplessness/dependency or indeed operant conditioning. KASSSI wants to avoid this. You are at the cutting edge Claire! Let us be proud of the small part we play in supporting an individual or family in achieving a better dream, a better education, a better tomorrow.

With your help KASSSI offers an intellectual yet practical approach to giving. Giving time...giving..love.. giving appreciation.. giving knowledge.. giving resources.. giving money etc etc. And remember: "It is in the giving, that we receive" (St Francis of Assisi 1181-1226). There is a genuine appreciation from all of us. WELCOME ON BOARD CLAIRE!!

Kind Regards

Mr. Garth Walcott- CEO

DipSW, BSc (Hons), PGDip(HSSW), M.A.