

**MARCH 2019.**  
**VOL. 1**

# PLACEMENT MATTERS

**YOUR NUMBER ONE INFORMATION SOURCE FOR ALL  
THINGS PLACEMENT**

***HERE'S WHAT'S NEW  
IN THIS ISSUE***

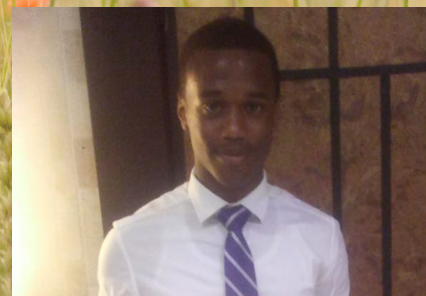
**Children's  
Home Feature**



**Featured  
Children's  
Officer**



**Meet our Kids-  
Kukoyi Irving**



*Contributors- Aileen Shirley (Placement Coordinator)  
Giovanni Fuller (Children's Officer, Placement)*




# *CHILDREN'S HOME FEATURE*

## *Mustard Seed Communities - Mary's Child Children's Home*

The Mary's Child program was designed in 1992 out of a need to provide a secure home and a spiritual environment for abandoned first-time teenage mothers who are usually referred to the institution by social workers, the police, schools, or health authorities. Mary's Child is more than just a shelter, it is dedicated to stimulating growth in every facet of the young mothers' lives.

At Mary's Child, each mother is exposed to daily morning meditation, mid-day rosary, and weekly Mass. Alongside her spiritual growth and development each mother is presented with educational opportunities as well as life-enabling skills. Among those offered are computer courses in the new lab constructed on site, home economic classes such as sewing and the culinary arts, and educational lectures on topics such as parenting skills and life choices. This is seen as an essential approach to providing a means of employability and independence once they leave the home.



# MARY'S CHILD GETS NEW HOME FOR PREGNANT TEENAGERS.



Mustard Seed Communities officially opened a new Mary's Child facility in Papine, St Andrew, Saturday, September 8, 2018.

Mary's Child had far outgrown the needs at the old facility at 8 Dillsbury Avenue in Barbican, which was a small facility that started housing pregnant teenagers, after a teenage girl jumped out of the window because she was pregnant.

The facility started with only one girl, but now caters to 20 girls and 20 babies with about 400 already passing through the system.

The current facility is more spacious and offers more convenience in terms of transporting wards that require medical attention, because a hospital is across the road from the facility. In addition to that, the facility is located next to the church where mass will be held.

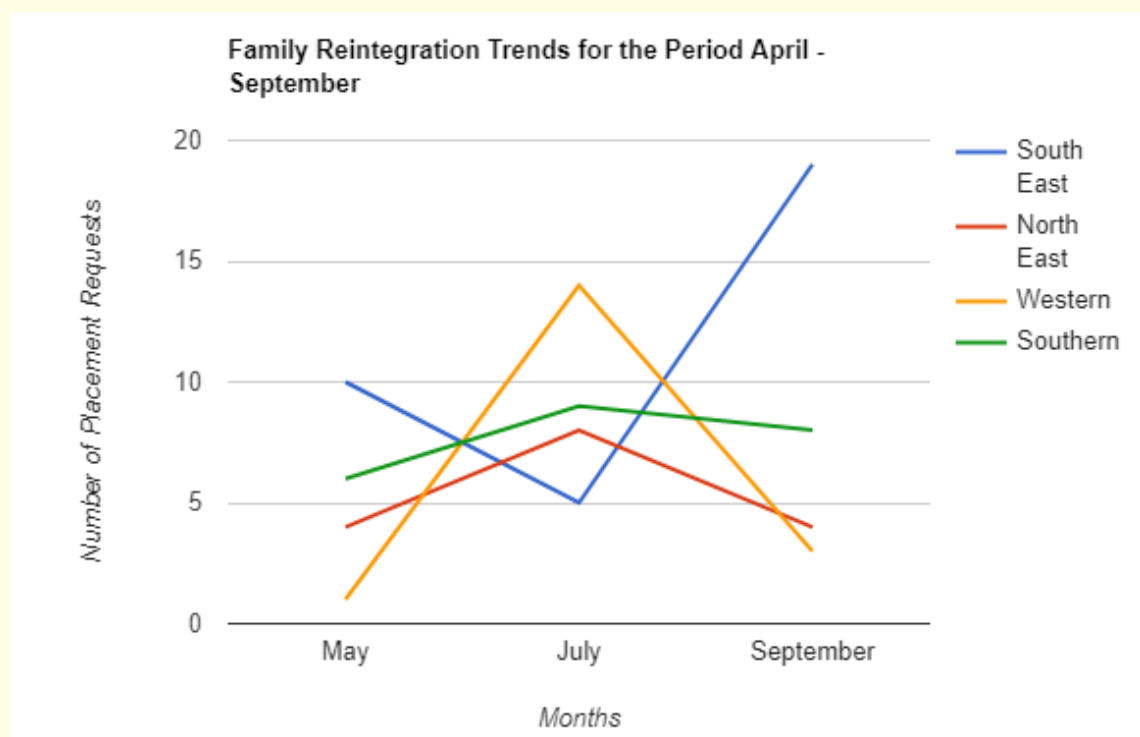
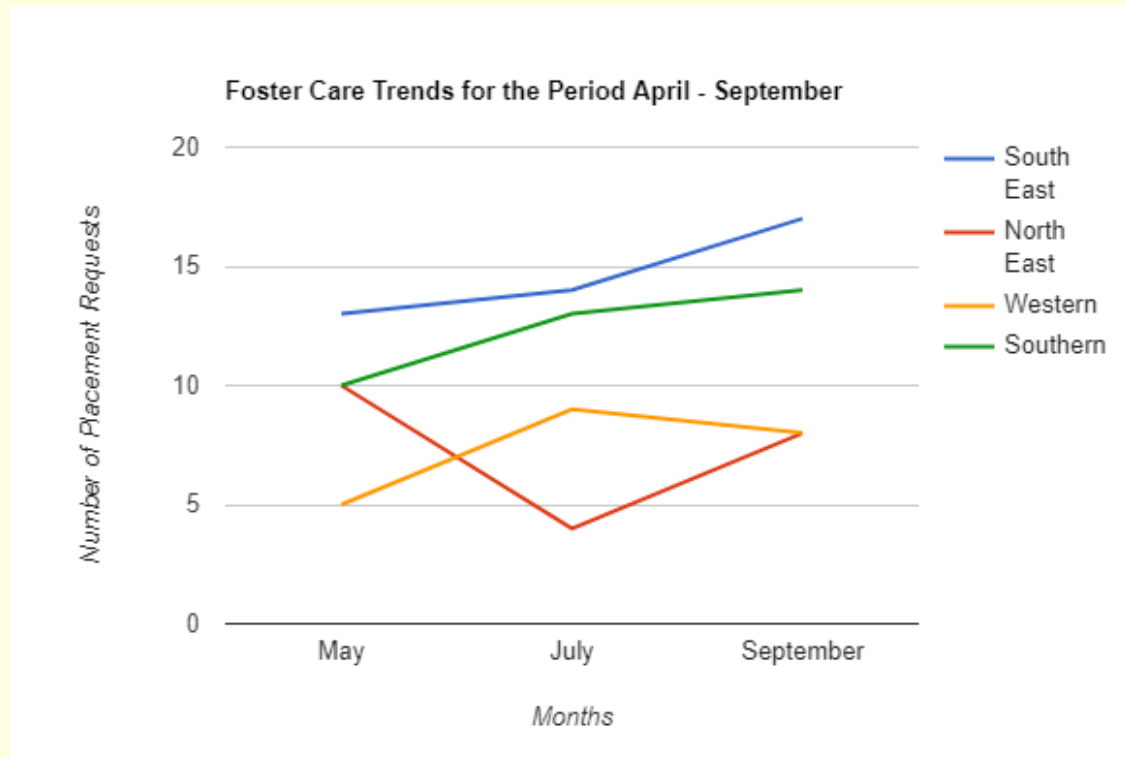
A new computer lab has been included at the facility, which is open to not just the staff and residents of the facility, but the members of the community as well. Upon completion of each computer course, students are presented with certificates.

**Did You Know?**  
**New born babies and their mothers will have a space at the facility for 6 months to a maximum 1 year after the birth of their child.**



# SUCCESS AT L.I.F.E

*Foster Care and Family Reintegration trends for the regions in the period April to September 2018.*





# SUCCESS AT L.I.F.E

*Congrats to the featured  
Children's Officer:*

KEMOLYN FROST  
(SOUTHERN REGION,  
MANCHESTER)



**Fav. Colour:** Pink

**Fav. Food:** Jerk Chicken

**Fav. Sport:** Table Tennis

**School Attended:** St. Mary High School and the University of Technology (B.Sc in Child and Adolescent Development).

**Motivation to study selected programme:** I wanted my first degree to be in an area that did not focus solely on one specialty but on various areas relating to children. I wanted to have the knowledge and technical skills needed to bridge the gap between government and the services offered to children

**Started working at the agency:** I joined the Agency November 14, 2016

**Most liked aspect of job:** The opportunities given to be an agent of change in the lives of children

**Least liked aspect of job:** The lack of communication which is at times present among the team.

**Most memorable case:** A case involving a female child who has diagnosed mental illness. She has experienced a lot of instability and exploitation in her life which has greatly impacted her trust for others and her ability to operate as a normal child in society's eyes.

**Lesson learnt from case:** That as adults we have to learn how to allow children to feel express their feelings and then provide the support needed to help them understand what they are feeling.


**My most memorable childhood experience:** Meeting my biological father for the first time when I was 9 years old. He had been living in Canada before my birth and had only returned for the first time in 2002.

# *PSY-ching you up!*

## *Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD)*

***“Attachment is the deep connection between a child and his/her caregiver that is encoded into the brain of a child during the early years of their development” (villagebh.com).***

*Reactive attachment disorder (RAD)* can be defined as a complex, severe, and a relatively uncommon condition in which infants and young children do not establish lasting, healthy bonds with parents or caregivers. In many cases a child with RAD has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or abandonment or is orphaned. These children have never established a loving, caring attachment with anyone.



## Signs and Symptoms of RAD include:

**Relationships:** Bossy, untrusting, manipulative, and controlling. Challenges giving or receiving genuine love and affection.

Unstable peer relationships are tenuous at best, as children and teens with RAD blame others for their mistakes or challenges.

**Behavioral:** Destructive, irresponsible, impulsive, and defiant behaviors. May steal, lie, abuse others, start fires, behave cruelly to animals, or act in a self-destructive manner. May also avoid physical contact with others, and engage in drug or alcohol abuse.


**Moral:** May lack faith, compassion, and remorse for their actions.

**Emotional:** May feel sad, moody, fearful, anxious, depressed, and hopeless. May also display inappropriate emotional reactions.


**Thoughts:** May have negative beliefs about themselves, life, and other relationships. Unable to understand the concept of cause and effect. Additionally, they may experience inattention and challenges with learning.

## Risk Factors of RAD include:

- \*Living in an orphanage
- \*Inexperienced parents
- \*Frequent changes in caregivers
- \***Institutional care**
- \*Extreme neglect
- \*Prolonged hospitalization
- \*Physical, sexual, or verbal abuse
- \*Extreme poverty
- \*Removed from neglectful or abusive home
- \*Parents with mental illness, drug abuse, or anger management problems
- \*Mother who have post-partum depression



**Attachment to a loving caregiver or parent who provides support, love, and guidance is one of our basic human needs.**





# Meet Our Kids

*Kukoyi Ajani Irving- This month's featured Child.*

Kukoyi Ajani Irving has been in state care since he was 10 months old. He remembers, finding out the reason for being in state care, and meeting his biological family at age 7 which left him feeling betrayed and sad. With the help of a trusted individual, he was able to fully understand why he was placed into a facility, and is now at the place where he believes that being placed in the care of the State is the best thing that ever happened to him. Kukoyi describes himself as a very focused young man who goes after anything he wants. He had a dream of attending Kingston College and through hard work and perseverance; he sat the Grade Six Achievement Test and received the highest average from Content Gap Primary School which earned him the title of valedictorian and a place at Kingston College. High School brought many challenges as he was called “Homes Boy” due to the marked van that would carry and pick him up from school. Driven by his passion for excellence Kukoyi has been on the Honour Roll at Kingston College every year since he started attending the institution. He recently graduated from 5th form with nine CSEC subjects, with five distinctions. His academic achievement won him the crown of CPFSA top student, and he was honored by Kingston College with certificates and medals. He is currently in sixth form.

*With your help we've come a far way.*

# Meet Our Kids

In Kukoyi's own words:

"It's not where you come from, it's where you're going, I'm not a perfect child, I have fought many battles, and some I narrowly escaped. Some I can truly say I won! I'm a proud ward of the state and I wish I could remain a ward long into adulthood, but the journey must continue. It is my dream to go into the field of business. As a ward I learned that I can be anything I dream of becoming. As long as it is a good venture, the officers will be right by my side cheering for me and I really love, admire and appreciate all the support. Continue to cheer as it is my intention to take all the help and make all of you and myself proud. I crave your support as I continue to strive for excellence, Thank You" (Kukoyi Ajani Irving, Ward at City of Refuge Children's Home).



*Kukoyi poses with Mrs. Louther (City of Refuge) and Ms. Audrey Budhi (Director of Programmes, CPFSA) after the CSEC Awards Function*

*With your help we've come a far way.*

# PLACEMENT TIPS

## Factors Driving the Placement Process

The placement process is influenced by the need to have a child in a safe and nurturing environment. The following are to be taken into consideration in influencing the type of placement for the child:

### 1. Remand (Place of Safety)

- Special needs
- Child is in danger
- Child in need of care and protection
- Emergency
- Child is pregnant or nursing
- Child's behavior is deemed uncontrollable

### 2. Permanent (LIFE, Children's Home)

- Child on a Fit Person Order
- Emergency situation/ risk level is high for child to remain in current situation
- Any safety or health issues affecting child
- Home closing/change of use
- Wishes of the child depending on age and maturity

## Did You Know?

**A Foster Home can be used at a Temporary Place of Safety.**



## **The Placement Unit**

Our Mission is to contribute to the well-being of children in Jamaica by supporting those in need of care and protection through placing them in family-based and alternative care settings appropriate to their needs, while systematically reducing the number of children living in residential child care facilities.

*Please submit all your placement matters to the Placement Unit by sending an email to [placement@childprotection.gov.jm](mailto:placement@childprotection.gov.jm)*