

NEWS @ GCU

January 2010 – 1st Issue

The New Year has started with a buzz and with it the incredible prospects that always come from starting something new. This is a time for renewal and a time for new beginnings. It is a time to end bad practices and become the person you have always wanted to be.

Anything is possible if you want it enough – just do it...



Every year has its achievements and we certainly have achieved a lot in the year 2009, before we share we want too thank all those who have believed in GCU over the years. Your contributions over the years have help to keep more than 250 kids from the streets and away from Gangsterism. We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity which is certainly making a huge difference. Thank you for being part of everlasting change...

**“Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a poverty of ambition.
It asks to little of you. And it will leave you unfulfilled”**

Barack Obama

Education

One cannot hide from the fact that the lack of quality Education over the years has and is still crippling our communities. Drop-out rates are hitting sky high and kids as young as 9yrs are dropping out... Where are our children going to end up?? is the question in our community. Our tutoring program "**Help Me to Help Myself**" program has been running very successfully this year. We believe by planting the seed of reading, will one day pay off in our members life.



We have launched a new program **I CAN** for the school drop-outs. The boys in the picture below all dropped-out of school at a young age & joined gangs etc. They have decided it is not too late to make something of their life and is very excited to be back at school. This is what we want to achieve with our tutoring programme, to prevent kids from dropping out of school. They are taking a ABET course at Woodlands Primary. This is a huge achievement for us as we have been working towards this for the last 4 years.



GCU with the help of Backpackers' volunteers have re-open Woodlands Primary school library which have been out of function for the last 10yrs. The lack of teachers and resources has made it very difficult for the school to run the library. We placed a volunteer Alice from England in the library and she facilitated the different grades, reading hours in the library as they use to doing it in the classroom. The idea is to make the kids' library, environment friendly as they don't know how to make use of a library.

Picture: Alice with kids, Aristoy came during his interval to read amazing impact!



Sports

Over the years it has been our vision to have a sport code for girls; reality is not all of the girls have an interest in soccer. GCU in association with Gordons Bay Gymnastic Club started a rope skipping program at Woodlands Primary for girls on a Thursday afternoon. It's making a huge difference in the girl's lives as they are enjoying sleepovers at the gym and just having lots of fun. The sport has really helped them develop in their personal life and they have a more positive outlook on life. Rope Skipping is an art and each skip they perfect are an encouragement for them to achieve there dreams.



This was the first year we had u/7 soccer players, and what a joy it was. They started off losing their first game 8-0 and the next few games, but they ended off the season very strong. Our teams did fairly well from u-9 to senior and GCU had 4 teams in the knock-out finals which only the **u/11a** went on to win. Being in finals and ending in the top four of our divisions just show how the boys have grown together as a team, and understand the value of working hard and respecting each other.

Picture: U/7 team, U11/a knock out winners.



Life skills

In the last year over 30 new gangs have started the latest the FBI (Female Body Inspectors) they are a bunch of 9 -11 yr old's. Over 50 new drug dealers have hit our streets and drug trafficking is increasing by the day. Because of the huge drug abuse HIV/AIDS is hitting our community.

The biggest problem still is the lack of role models in our community kids have no one to look up to, but gangs that give them a sense of identity and belonging. Our coaches have worked around the clock to be positive role models and show them love which most of them is lacking.

Feeding Scheme

We had a very successful year in the kitchen we continued our porridge program at Woodlands Primary. Our members also enjoyed a peanut butter sandwich in the afternoon before/after tutoring.

1000+ Campaign

We have managed to pay 6 of the GCU member's school fees through our 1000+ Campaign.

Would you like to be part of change, please visit our website for more info and get involved...

Potential

We owe it to ourselves to live to our potential, but also to our families and communities who depend on us to play our role in making society work in a way that makes us proud.

Society can only work if it provides that opportunity for everyone to be the best they can be and to realize their potential...

Thanks

The project could and will never be successful without your contribution. We want to thank the following people:

People that has been sporting in gifts or kind:

- Robert Kerr
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- Prudence Smart

The success of this project, as always, is dependent on support and donations. Any form of support, time or finance, will and has been greatly appreciated. All donations can be deposited in the following account.

Name: Great Commission United

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Branch code: 020009

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