



DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO HOST 2ND YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, July 18, 2014 – GIS: The Social Services Division of the Ministry of Social Development and Housing will once again be catering to the needs of over 30 selected young persons around the island, through a 2-week Youth Summer School Rehabilitation Programme to be held in La Portrie, St. Andrew.

Carded to run from July 18 to August 1, 2014, the Summer Programme targets 11 to 18 year olds and is aimed at equipping youths with the relevant skills that would empower them to live positive, productive lives, as well as promote peer support among juveniles of different socio-cultural backgrounds.

The two-week initiative will include activities that are educational, recreational and psycho-social in nature. As a strong component of process, drama will also be infused throughout all the activities. This component will be facilitated by Mr. Roger Williams (CFM) who is a senior at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica.

Topics such as the legal implications of juvenile offences, drug abuse, basic life skills, self-esteem and sex education will also be presented by a broad cross-section of facilitators from the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development; the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Religious Affairs; the Ministry of Health and Social Security; the Royal Grenada Police Force; Her Majesty's Prison; members of the Legal Community and independent presenters.



Process Drama Facilitator, Abena Vincent, at a session with participants at the Division of Social Service's 1st Youth Summer Programme, held at the Happy Hill Secondary School in 2013.

Throughout the sessions the young participants will get the opportunity to interact and share their life experiences with each other.

The main focus will be exploring some of the issues affecting the youth. It is hoped that this process will help them to find solutions for their own benefit.

Chief Social Development Officer, Yvonne DaBreo, says that her Division is avidly working toward

making this programme a success, since it can provide a way of escape for many young persons who are tempted to go down the wrong path.

According to Mrs. DaBreo, "The focus is on providing young persons with opportunities to make positive choices and decisions."

The Youth Summer Programme will also be used as a platform for the launch of the initial training for the Adolescent Media Network (AMN), which is a UNICEF initiative. AMN allows young persons to tell their stories through the use of the media.

The 30 plus young participants will be the first to get a foretaste of what the programme has to offer.

The Social Development Summer School is the second of its kind. The first was held in 2013 at the Happy Hill Secondary school, with 18 young persons from Secondary Schools across the island.

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