

**Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs
Community Development Fund**

Final Evaluation Report

Coterie of Social Workers

Project Title: Vocational Skills for Young Adults		
Approval Date: October, 2003		Project Start Date: December 2003
Planned End Date: November 2004		Actual End Date: July 2005
Total Project Costs:\$193,530.00	CDF Funding: \$88,169.00	Group Contribution ;\$ 105,361.00
Actual Expenditure to Date: \$ 87,656.41		
Date of Visit: May 23, 2006		
Persons Interviewed: Mrs Ashby, Coordinator		
CDF Personnel on visit: Nerle Robertson, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		

Project Objectives

To provide 100 young and unskilled adult females from low income communities in Port of Spain and environs with vocational skills in garment construction and catering and training towards improving their personal development.

Effectiveness/Relevance:

The vocational skills training was done through YTEPP and included cookery and household furnishings. The cookery/catering classes commenced July30, 2004 and ended January29,2005. The Home Furnishing course commenced in December, 2004 and was completed in June 2005.

Eighteen persons registered for the cookery course but 10 persons attended and 7 actually graduated. Twenty persons graduated from the Home Furnishing Course.

Typically, the YTEPP courses include the Career Enhancement and Entrepreneurship components which enabled the trainees of the course to better participate in the training.

The training in cookery was well accepted and the 7 graduates obtained NEC certification.

The 'on the job training' which prepares the trainees for catering as a business was done by the group of 7 students who prepared lunch meals once per week for 4 weeks for office workers in the vicinity of the Coterie. This earned them experience and a small profit of \$1,460.

The second cycle of training in the Culinary Arts (food preparation) and household furnishing was held between July 2005 and February 2006 and targeted persons from the Conservation Corps. Twenty one persons registered for each of the classes.

A total of 49 persons would have graduated from the training conducted by the organization. This is a significant shortfall from the 100 which were expected to graduate when the project was planned.

The organization was not able to attract the planned number of persons to the training largely because no stipend was available to participants as was the case for other training programmes delivered by government agencies.

Efficiency:

The objective of training 100 persons could not be realized, and one may consider that the funds used were not efficiently utilized considering that 50% of the targeted number was trained. However, 7 persons who were trained through YTEPP are all employed in the food business. There is a plan to use the remaining funds for another set of classes but the challenge is to get the target group to participate so that funds would be optimally utilised.

The organization has records of participants on the various courses.

IMPACT

7 persons employed in the food industry

SUSTAINABILITY

Beneficiaries are not confident enough to go into their own businesses and are doing well in their present places of employment having been employed since the training ended almost a year ago.

The organisation's attempt to continue initiatives to alleviate poverty is often threatened by low levels of attendance at courses. In order to improve attendance the organization is seeking to link with organizations which work with groups especially since there is an arrangement to train in conjunction with YTEPP with YTEPP using the well equipped kitchens and other facilities.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The organization lends support to the deprived members of the community and the facilities are used on a fulltime basis providing varying types of assistance to individuals, courses including scholarships to secondary school students, reading classes, remedial academic classes for young

persons. Some years ago, the organization lost its government subvention and while trying to regain a steady source of funding to continue its work relies on contributions from well-wishers.

CONCLUSION

This CDF project was undersubscribed and therefore the objectives of this project could not be achieved. However, those persons who availed themselves of the opportunity have benefited. The facilities and equipment for training in sewing and cookery are in place. As a result Ms Ashby is attempting to coordinate another programme to be conducted by YTEPP possibly using a captive audience for example, persons who attend the Conservation Corps.

The Coterie of Social Workers has been in existence since 1921 and operates through fund raising activities and the benevolence of members of the society. The Chairman of the organization, Mrs Ashby stated that persons continually show up for assistance and they try to meet peoples' expectations although it is becoming more difficult because of financial constraints.

Signature and Date of Report