

STELLA MARIS MINISTRIES

The Stella Maris Foundation

The Stella Maris Foundation (SMF) is an outreach ministry of the Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church, incorporated in October 1997 as a non-profit organization, and has its offices at 1 Grants Pen Road, Kingston 8. Its mission is to promote the kingdom of God by our tangible signs of “Doing what love requires”. By seeking to foster respect and goodwill, the Foundation aims to empower all who either present their needs or participate in the programs offered. This is achieved through the execution of a broad mix of skills training and varied counseling and spiritual programmes.

The Foundation was conceived through the instrumentality of parishioners, inspired by Monsignor Richard Albert (then Patron and Pastor of the Stella Maris Church) and led by Mr. Peter Mais (first Chairman), who coined our motto, “doing what love requires”. Our current Patron is Reverend Father Howard Thompson, current Pastor of Stella Maris Catholic Church. Together with our current Chairperson, Mrs. Beverly Lopez, they have taken up the mantle of continuing to inspire, encourage and remind the Foundation’s Board, Staff and Stella Maris Parishioners of the importance of our work and mission - Community transformation towards the growth and improvement of our nation.

Over the past 19 years, SMF has held to the same five [5] Core Values listed below; and successfully pursued a process of Spiritual, Social and Educational transformation through the following Strategic Objectives:

The core values that drive the organization are:

1. Spirituality: The mission of the Foundation is inspired and motivated by the deep spiritual convictions (Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church) that informed its beginning. It is the manifestation of the Christian virtue of ‘Doing What Love Requires’.
2. Leadership: We Listen to and learn from the community as we aim to address the community needs and mobilize resources for the common good.
3. Equity: We strive for equity but are focused primarily on the most vulnerable.
4. Inclusiveness: We practice and champion inclusiveness in our community. We honor diverse strengths, needs, voices, and backgrounds of all members of our community, respective of age, gender or political affiliation.
5. Accountability: We serve as stewards for our community investments and honor the charitable intentions of our donors to meet current & future community needs. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethics, integrity, service, and fiduciary responsibility.

Its Strategic Objectives:

A. To Promote Education & Skills Training:

- Skills Training (in partnership with the HEART Trust NTA) including: i) Call/Contact Center Operations (replacing Data Operations), ii) Early Childhood Education & Care;

and iii) Electrical & Plumbing (plumbing to be started, both supported by the Jamaica Emergency Employment Program)

- CXC Mathematics & Accounts
- Pre-Vocational Skills (Literacy & Numeracy)
- Supporting community students in schools, to help improve student achievements by facilitation a Homework Programme
- Scholarship Funds including: i) ProComm/Stella Maris Scholarship Fund & ii) The American Women's Group Scholarship Fund

B. To facilitate Employment & Business Development opportunities:

- Help foster interconnectedness within the community whereby low income residents can be provided with the tools and opportunities necessary for jobs and careers that lead to economic self-sufficiency
- Identify economic/job opportunities for citizens through a Job Placement & referral system (Skills Bank)

C. To ensure access to Basic Health, Mediation, Counseling & Outreach Services:

- Counseling Centre
- Day Care Centre
- Medical Referral System (Panel of Medical Doctors who offer voluntary quality service to the community)
- Mediation & Conflict Resolution
- Workshops and seminars with various agencies & expertise
- Coordinating & supporting community sporting events & activities

D. To Help Build & Facilitate Spiritual Awareness for Wholesome Development:

- Encourage spiritual awareness & presence through liturgical celebrations
- The promotion and facilitation of opportunities as well as exposure to life skills, mentoring, grooming & social etiquette