

President's Report AGM - 2018

Association's Overview:

As we all watched with horror and dismay the untimely death of Princess Diana, we should not be forgetful about the major thrust of her life; and I quote -

'Nothing brings me more happiness than trying to help the most vulnerable people in society. It is a goal and an essential part of my life - a kind of destiny.

– Diana, Princes of Wales

Our organization, CTC Alumni Association Inc (CTCAAi) subscribes to that notion of benevolence in making a difference in the lives of many including current and past students. As a Not-for-Profit Organization, we aspire to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams in becoming graduates of CTC. This has become one of our perennial goals. Additionally, our organization will continue to provide avenues for past students to rekindle the nostalgic spirit of friendship and comradery once experienced on campus. As we continue to grow in numbers, an increasing number of past students become aware of the organization. I have not given up hope that over time the majority of members will become active participants, owning their membership in the organization as Paid-up Members.

CTCAAi is structured to have a board of directors (all volunteers) which consists of seven officers and other ex officio members who provide other supporting roles. The president of each chapter is automatically a board member. Each paid-up member in the association in good standing may run for open position on the board.

Scholarships:

CTCAAi continues to attract and solicit Benevolence in the form of Financial Support for scholarships, Awards, Bursary, etc.. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to our past students who have donated funds to the organization for scholarship. We wish to express our gratitude to three current donors, Marilyn Barnett, Hope Grant and Hettie Powell.

Ms. Barnett is the Benefactor of Kerr Jarret Gift of Hope (KJGH) Scholarship. The scholarship is intended for a student of Early Childhood Education and preferable living on KJGH.

Ms. Grant is the Benefactor of The Mary Stewart Bright Futures Scholarship (MSBF). The beneficiary has to be a past student of Godfrey Stewart High School which is the Alma Mater of Hope Grant

Ms. Hettie Powell is the Benefactor of the Hettie Powell scholarship. This is a targeted scholarship being awarded to a specific student.

CTCAAi has also given monetary awards and bursaries to help students with some of their financial obligations.

Thanks to the STAR Committee for the dedication and professionalism being exercised in their deliberation in making this process equitable. Special thanks to Marilyn Barnett (manager) and Liz Smith (document design and development) for their leadership and commitment.

We encourage many others to give back with whatever is comfortable, including cash and kind. R2R is our motto. The association is positioned and ready to assist whenever anyone is ready to contribute.

Fundraising:

We continue to encourage our members to participate in fundraising activities including payment of membership dues. Our board members serve on a voluntary basis. However, there are administrative costs associated with running the corporation. Costs include annual registration fees, communications, mailing, Website hosting related fees, just to name a few.

We appreciate all our members who have been supporting this venture and express special thanks to Tony and the Mandeville Chapter for their efforts; and Pam Blake-Rose who manages fundraising in South Florida. Thanks to everyone who continue to support our annual events even from a distance.

Membership:

Membership participation is encouraged in all aspects of the organization. It is at the pinnacle of our existence. Our membership director, Alejandro Wilson and others have been helping to grow the numbers. We observe continued interest among past students as we continue to see a steady growth in the numbers requesting addition to our Facebook site. We are looking for alums in different locations to start up chapters. Please speak with any member of the board if you are interested.

New Website:

Our new Website (<http://ctcalumniinc.org>) is published and ready for membership usage. As we continue to add content and adjust the navigation we ask that members use the 'Contact Us' page and send us your comments. A new addition to the site is the 'In Memoriam' tab under the 'Members' page. We would like to honor the 'fallen' among us while informing our readers about those whom have gone ahead of us. If you are aware of staff or students who passed and there are no objections by families to mention their passing on our site, please let us know or contact us at the 'Contact Us' page.

Challenges:

It is worth repeating that we recognize and acknowledge that every new ideas or efforts will only be made better when the challenges are recognized and worked on as a team. Expanding our foothold by building more chapters to reach and share the vision of the Association; continue to urge past students to invest in ownership of the organization; develop business relationship with specific businesses, especially those that are owned and/or run by past students are some of our main challenges. We invite and welcome those among us with varying skill sets that can advance our goals.

Events:

CTCAAi wants to develop a culture of expectations. Among these expectations are successful events that provide great interactions; a platform to reminisce and relive the nostalgic days on/off campus; a revival of friendships; sharing old and new pictures of self and family.

One of such events is the Black & White and Evening of Excellence on campus. Another is the June picnic and Christmas dinner in South Florida. We also learned of the group that meets in New York annually for Christmas dinner. Let us support these events and make them memorable.

Summary:

We have encapsulated this philanthropic purpose in our motto: **R2R (Return to Reciprocate)**. We understand our demographics and we also know that God has been good to many. Together, we can climb mountains and cross valleys. If I may paraphrase 'let us not ask what CTC can do for us, but let's ask, how can I help?'

Thanks to everyone for attending or helping in making this experiment a success. Those who could not participate we encourage you to become active or curious in what we are doing for our Alma Mater. We will not lay claim to having all the solutions to solve all the challenges, however, together we strive to learn from failures and build from successes.

I like to repeat this idea. We can set a goal of JAM\$10M dollars dedicated to education at CTC. Students and prospects would have an immediate funding source. So if one hundred people invested \$10K, we will have approximately JAM\$1.0M. If one thousand people invested \$10K, we could have JAM\$10.0M. This could be a great investment. Let us think about it!