

Palmyra Foundation Provides Textbooks for Basic School Students in St. James

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Chairman of the newly formed Palmyra Foundation, Kathi Constanzo, addressing the official launch of the foundation in Rose Hall.

Approximately 2,000 students from early childhood institutions in St. James will be provided with required textbooks this September at cost of \$4.4 million, by the newly formed Palmyra Foundation.

The foundation, which was officially launched yesterday (June 26) at the offices of the Palmyra Resort and Spa in Rose Hall, has also pledged to extend the assistance in the future, by also supplying the students with uniforms, school lunches and other related supplies.

"The Palmyra Foundation feels strongly about giving back to our community and we are dedicated to the objective of providing every child in St. James with the financial support to attain a proper education," said Chairman of the foundation, Kathi Constanzo.

"The foundation is here to help . in the best way we know how. We are truly blessed and take a strong interest in giving back to this beautiful country of Jamaica. I truly believe that the future of Jamaica is extremely bright and beautiful and I believe that the children are our future. We can make a difference," she stated.

Minister of Education and Youth, Maxine Henry-Wilson, who gave the main address at the launch, commended the Palmyra Foundation for partnering with the government to provide a brighter future for the nation's children.

"By your action here, you are exhibiting faith and confidence in our people, a recognition that this investment in Jamaica is multiplied exponentially when you invest in the development of our people . yes, you are fulfilling your corporate responsibility but more significantly, you are playing a role in shaping the human capital of our nation. This, we consider the rooting of an enduring partnership," she stated.

She pointed out that on Monday (June 25) Cabinet approved more than one billion dollars for the acquisition of textbooks for primary schools.

She informed that the primary curriculum was revised six years ago to make it far more interactive and to allow for children to be more creative, while a new curriculum has been developed for the early childhood level and "we hope to roll it out and we have to now go to the stage of preparing the teachers to deliver this curriculum."