

## SF Based Organization Launches Scholarship Fund

Do you know of any Jamaican High School students seeking scholarship money?

If so, inform them of The Grace Scholarship Fund. Founder and Executive Director, Charissa Lawrence, is excited to spread the word about this monetary vehicle that is solely committed to helping Jamaican students fund their college and university education both domestically and abroad.

A graduate of Northwestern University and Harvard University Business School, Ms. Lawrence is a staunch supporter and promoter of education – especially in Jamaica. “As a child I spent nearly every summer and Christmas on the island – travelling everywhere from Kingston and Manchester to Grange Hill and Clarendon. I’ve also spent a lot of time in Jamaican schools shadowing my Grandaunt who is a retired teacher of over 50 years service. My time in Jamaica has really shaped who I am as a person so giving back in this way is completely natural for me.”

Currently The Grace Scholarship Fund is offering two scholarships. The Hummingbird Scholarship is targeted towards high school students planning on attending college in Jamaica while the Fly Away Scholarship will help to support students planning on attending college outside of Jamaica. The scholarships range from \$500 – 1,000 USD and are intended to mobilize students by helping to cover expenses related to room/board, travel, books, supplies, school fees and health insurance.

When asked if the Grace Scholarship Fund would offer additional scholarships in the future, Ms. Lawrence responded, “That’s certainly the intention. Right now we are starting off small – I want to see how the Jamaican community responds to this offer. While this has been primarily an individual effort, I have been approached by several people and businesses that would like to fund scholarships in their name and I will certainly consider that going forward. I’m happy to be a vehicle that helps connect worthy students with people in a position to help financially.”

Any Jamaican student that plans on matriculating in an accredited college or university this fall is encouraged to apply. While the applications require some basic academic information, students will also need to provide commentary on how they plan on giving back to the Jamaican community when they complete their collegiate or university education – an action very important to Ms. Lawrence.

All scholarship applicants must complete and submit their applications by the designated deadlines. Winners will be announced in late August and early September when funds will also be distributed.

“I’m really encouraged. We’ve already received applications from students residing in various parishes. I’m looking forward to reviewing more!”

When asked what others can do to help, she simply responded - "Spread the word!"

Additional information about the Grace Scholarship Fund and downloadable applications can be accessed on the organization’s website: [www.gracefund.org](http://www.gracefund.org) . You can also connect with the Fund on Twitter (@GraceFund) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/GraceFundJA](http://www.facebook.com/GraceFundJA) ).