

Village664 Newsletter

31 May 2024



"WELCOME to the inaugural edition of our newsletter. Village664 is a non-profit organization started by a group of Montserratians in the diaspora, who saw the potential to help grow and develop Montserrat by tapping into the skills and resources overseas, in a coordinated way. Our vision is to be the trusted resource for those seeking to improve socio-economic conditions in Montserrat.

I am Derek Osborne and I am honoured to serve on Village664's founding board. We are extremely excited about the many opportunities to help make **Montserrat a Choice Destination**.

In this inaugural edition, you will read about our March 14th launch, mission-driven initiatives and learn about some of the groups and individuals doing great work in Montserrat. You will also find details on how you can become a part of this effort.

We will regularly update you on our activities via newsletter, email, and social media. Visit our website **www.village664.com** and **sign up** so that you can let us know how you wish to get involved and give back.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Together, we will make real and lasting positive impact for our beloved Montserrat."

In this newsletter you can expect:

Highlights from
our launch

Digital
transformation
project

'Empowering
Social Growth'
Meeting Recap

Interview with
George Thompson
- Chairman FSC
Montserrat

Presentation to
The Small
Beginnings Music
Programme

NPO Feature of the
Week and more...



Highlights from our launch

Our grand launch took place on March 14th 2024 at Good Life, Montserrat. It was a lively event that featured speeches by our team, government officials and local non-profit groups. The launch allowed us to express our mission and vision for Village664; especially that we are here to support the local non-profit groups through skills or the provision of funding. In the long term, our plan is to offer grants that these groups can apply for based on their specific projects.



Digital Transformation Project

We were excited to also share the success of our digital transformation project. This initiative included training workshops and a grant of EC\$ 4,000 towards the expansion of the 'digital map' for shops, restaurants, businesses and other attractions in Montserrat.

There were raving reviews from the attendees at the workshops. The consensus was that the knowledge shared was very helpful for future endeavours. Many local businesses were struggling with social media and connecting with their clients through the virtual sphere.

The team of young professionals who worked on the 'digital map' succeeded in

providing greater exposure for various establishments in Montserrat. Many places can now be found via a Google search or on Google maps. This will greatly assist residents and tourists alike with traversing the various villages in Montserrat and finding essential services. The team also helped to revamp the social media of several businesses. This allowed opening hours and other crucial information to be displayed in a convenient manner for clients.

'Empowering Social Growth' Meeting Recap

 <p>Empowering Social Growth Thursday, April 18, 2024 @ 5:00pm</p>	
<p>Meet Our Featured Speaker, Fabianna Alexander</p> <p>Lead Consultant of FA Consulting; Fabianna is a social impact specialist with over 17 years' experience in the international development and nonprofit sector.</p>	<p>Calling all non-profit organizations in Montserrat</p> <p>Join us for an engaging discussion on social impact in Montserrat. Let us all work together for the betterment of our beautiful country.</p>
<p>Zoom Meeting Link: https://bit.ly/49E3xuA</p>	

Representatives from various non-profit organizations in attendance were allowed to introduce themselves and express the main challenges currently being faced.

Some of the problems identified were funding, the need for legislation that assists NPOs, the need for skilled & dedicated volunteers and assistance with registration & grant proposals.

Our featured speaker emphasized ascertaining the value of the work provided and keeping up-to-date accounts for the organizations. She also advised that organizations should have diverse income streams - generating income and not solely dependent on grant funding.

Interview with George Thompson:

Chairman of the Montserrat Financial Services Commission



1. What is your name and which board do you currently serve on?

I am George Thompson, the current Chairman of the Board of the Montserrat Financial Services Commission.

2. As someone who lives in the diaspora, was it challenging for you to become a member of this board?

With regard to being selected as a Board Member, this was not a major challenge. However, there were other minor challenges. Primarily, there were logistical issues

such as coordinating time zones to ensure that I can be available for discussions and meetings. The other challenge was juggling my own work commitments and, at the same time, demonstrating that I was committed to the task of being a Board member.

3. Are there any difficulties that you experience in fulfilling this role as someone who lives in the diaspora, as opposed to living in Montserrat?

One significant challenge is staying up-to-date with local developments in Montserrat, which requires extra effort to stay informed. Being present provides you with the 'soft intelligence'. However, thanks to social media's constant streaming of local issues and the Montserrat Government UK office in London, providing up to date credible information about what is happening - I still feel connected in some ways.

4. How has your experience been with virtual board meetings? Any challenges?

My experience with virtual board meetings has been largely positive, but not without challenges. Technical issues such as intermittent internet connectivity occasionally disrupt meetings. Virtual meetings can sometimes lack the personal interaction and rapport-building that in-person meetings foster, which is vital for effective collaboration; but once you are flexible and patient, you will succeed through these minor hiccups.

5. Has there been any requirement for you to be physically in Montserrat during your tenure?

There has been no strict requirement for physical presence in Montserrat, but there have been occasions where being on the island was beneficial for specific events or key discussions. However, I have made efforts to visit Montserrat to meet with other board members and key stakeholders in person, as my schedule permits.

6. Do you have any advice for individuals in the diaspora who are interested in becoming members of various boards in Montserrat?

My advice would be to:

- Stay informed and engaged with Montserratian affairs even while abroad.
- Build strong networks within your community and demonstrate a genuine commitment to the island's development.
- Participate in forums and discussions about Montserrat. Let people know of your interest.
- Get comfortable with virtual collaboration tools.
- Finally, don't hesitate to visit Montserrat. In-person connections can significantly enhance your effectiveness and integration into the board. If you are asked to serve, take this as a privilege and an honour to give back to the country which shaped your growth and development. It's a real privilege to be able to make this contribution.

Presentation to The Small Beginnings Music Programme



One on the ways that Village664 contributes to the development of Montserrat is via the provision of resources and skills. In keeping with this objective, we sponsored two items to The Small Beginnings Music Programme. This was their response:

"Mr. Herman Francis and The Small Beginnings Music Programme are extremely grateful for our latest gifts donated by V664 which, will go a long way in enhancing our teaching/learning experience. The printer which will be used to copy sheet music, some of our own compositions and arrangements and some we will get online, will certainly help with our creativity. The television will allow us to watch instruction videos, take master classes from overseas teachers and watch professional musicians play. We will also use it to watch and critique our own performances."

NPO Feature of the Week

Village664 has helped to raise awareness for the various non-profit groups in Montserrat; the good work that is being done and the main ways in which their cause can be assisted. Those we have highlighted recently include **PAKA, Helping Hands for Glendon and the Davy Hill Community Action Group**. Stay tuned to our social media (**Village664 on Facebook** and **@village.664 on Instagram**) and **sign up on our website (www.village664.com)** for future releases.

Village664 Feature
Spotlight on Non-Profit Organizations in Montserrat


PASSING ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE ALONG

PAKA (Passing Ancestral Knowledge Along) is a 501-C 3 Not-For-Profit Cultural Organization headquartered in New York City. Our mission is to preserve and promote the diverse cultures of the world through the arts and to serve as a beacon to unite people through cultural understanding.

CONTACT INFORMATION

 1-646-773-0017
 mypaka@gmail.com

 Passing Ancestral Knowledge Along Theatre Dance Company
 www.pakafoundation.org/

Village664 Feature
Spotlight on Non-Profit Organizations in Montserrat



Helping Hands for Glendon is a registered charity on the island of Montserrat founded to help raise funds for vital life saving equipment for Glendon hospital. Help us make a difference.

STAY CONNECTED ON MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

 @helping_handsglendon
 Helping Hands for Glendon

 www.helpinghandsforglendon.org
 www.helpinghandsforglendonblog.wordpress.com/
 www.youtube.com/channel/UCQZSWcazVe5hnr6SBB6fX0g

Village664 Feature
Spotlight on Non-Profit Organizations in Montserrat



The Davy Hill Community Action Group is a community based organization that is geared towards community development and improving the lives of all residents within the Davy Hill community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

 664-392-6099
 davyhillactiongroup@gmail.com
 Davy Hill, Montserrat, MSR 1210

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PASSING ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE ALONG

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Donations help to support the cause and any amount is greatly appreciated.
- PAKA is looking for volunteers to assist with setting up a new website PAKACaribbean.org
- PAKA has an entertainment event on May 12th 2024, as part of the Montserrat Progressive Society of New York's (MPSNY's) Mother's Day Event.
- Do you know a major investor who's willing to make a substantial contribution to the entertainment industry? PAKA is also looking for an ANGEL, who is ready to delve into film and television, with Montserrat as the ideal backdrop.

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Every helping hand makes a difference. If you like what you see, you can donate to:


PayPal:
https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=BD3AQ9EHBKUZI

Go fund me:
gofundme.com/1wo7sr7y0

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/helpinghandsforglendon>

Hands for Glendon Bank Account:
Bank of Montserrat
Account Number: 6521479

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **SUMMER SCHOOL (July 22nd - August 16th, 2024):**
Donations of educational items such as games, literature, arts & craft items and snacks are needed for the youth at this year's summer school.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**
Donations of educational material, literature or arts & crafts items for Sunday School.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL ITEMS:**
Donations of backpacks, crayons, writing books, folders, pencil cases etc. for the children of the Davy Hill community.

To donate any of the above items, please contact the president, Mrs. Anne Thomas at 664-392-6099



MAKING MONTSERRAT A CHOICE DESTINATION!



OUR MISSION

Village664 exists to mobilise the intellectual and financial resources overseas by building relationships with persons and organisations both on and off island to ensure a brighter future for Montserrat.

OUR VISION

To be an outcome-focused and trusted resource for those seeking to improve socio-economic conditions on Montserrat.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

SPREAD THE WORD



www.village664.com

ACTION PLAN

- Providing resources, information & training.
- Facilitating dialogue and shared learning.
- Building networks.
- Advocating for the inclusion of diaspora voices in policy dialogue.
- Seeking to build an environment in which all voices and initiatives are valued and recognized.

Village664 Board of Directors

Derek Osborne

Germaine Dublin

Anique Dublin

Coralie Joseph

Oslin Butler

Communications Committee

Natalie Francis-Clarke

Roniqua Gerald

Al Flemming

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