

# CITIZENS & FRIENDS

OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO INC

## YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD

The Citizens & Friends of Trinidad and Tobago was founded in 1996 with a mission to facilitate medical & surgical assistance as well as life enhancing services to needy children. We also provide medical supplies, equipment and training to public hospitals and other health care facilities in Trinidad and Tobago and the Greater Los Angeles area

[www.cfft.us](http://www.cfft.us)



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SAT AUGUST 20, 2016 [www.cfft.us](http://www.cfft.us)

# CITIZENS & FRIENDS

OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO INC



# 54

Years

## ANNIVERSARY

OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

DINNER DANCE AWARDS PRESENTATION

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT BY CHICO FERNANDEZ MUSIC BAND  
FEATURING AVIS HARRELL (Soloist, formerly of the Raylettes)

\*\*DJ MYSTERYMAN

\*\*STEEL PAN MUSIC BY SENSIE



## MISSION

Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago, Inc. founded in 1996 is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. The mission of this corporation shall be to facilitate medical, surgical assistance and life enhancing services to needy children, provide medical supplies, equipment and training the staff at public hospitals and other Non-profit (Public) health care institutions in Trinidad and Tobago. The organization works collaboratively with trained professionals to provide services to improve the lives of children in need throughout our local community and the Caribbean.

### Contact Information

P.O Box 881806, Los Angeles, CA 90009

Web: [www.cfft.us](http://www.cfft.us)

E-mail: [citizensfriends@cfft.us](mailto:citizensfriends@cfft.us)

(Join us on facebook and twitter)

Phone: (310) 762-2253

Dear Friends,

CFTT is constantly seeking new membership.

Application are available by visiting our website:

[www.cfft.us](http://www.cfft.us)

Or you can contact any member by calling

(310)762-2253

**"YOU TOO CAN HELP  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE"**

## THE MEMBERS

OF

**CITIZENS & FRIENDS OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, INC.**

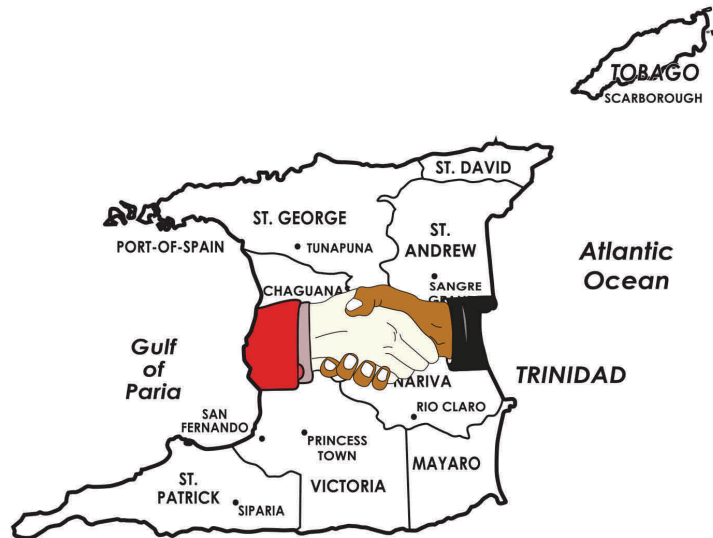
A 501(C3) Non-Profit Organization

WELCOME YOU TO AN EVENING OF

ELEGANCE AND SPLENDOR

YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US TO

**"MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE"**

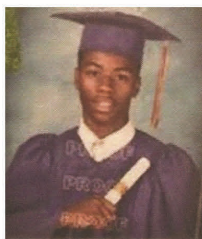


**Dinner Will Be Catered By  
Choura Venue Services**



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

The members of CFTT extend our condolence to the family and friends



Giovanni Edward Lyiscott



Dr. Bernard Mahabir



Ray Anthony Pete Berotte



Victor P. Girod



Raphael Sylvester Gooding



Milton Gabriel



*Gone But, Not Forgotten*

**PROGRAM**

7:00 PM—Guest Check In & Invited To Be Seated

7:15 PM—Opening Remarks

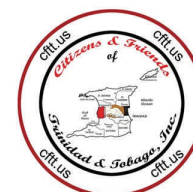
- President Speech
- Vice President Welcome
- National Anthems
- United States.....Page 6
- Trinidad & Tobago.....Page 7
- Moment Of Silence For Departed Friends and Family
- Special Tribute To The Late Dr. Bernard Mahabir, MD (CFTT Founding Member)
- Invocation

8:00 PM—Dinner Served

- Presentation of Awards
- Keynote Speaker

9:30 PM—Floor Open For Dancing

1:30 PM—Event Concludes



HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED

# Message From The President



Mervyn Richardson  
President

## Reflection of the Past: A Leap Onward

Greetings former nationals and friends of Trinidad and Tobago,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation of your company this evening as we celebrate 54 years of our independence.

Spearheaded by the late Dr. Eric Williams, on August 31, 1962, Trinidad and Tobago achieved its independence from British Colonialism and Imperialism. Twelve years later, on the August 1, 1976, the nation became a Republic, but the “Republic Day Celebration” is observed on September 24th each year as that was the date when Parliament met to ratify the Constitution. This evening, we are celebrating this historic occasion of the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of our twin island Republic Nation.

This year, we are also celebrating CFTT’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Founded in 1996 by Dr. Bernard Mahabir and Shiraz Khan, former nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, and co-founders Dr. Phillip Smith and Ms. Coreen Fields, RN, both of whom were citizens of the United States. Even though Dr. Mahabir, Dr. Smith and Ms. Fields are no longer with us, their legacy continues.

The primary purpose of this organization is to support indigent children in Los Angeles and Trinidad and Tobago who are experiencing serious-medical challenges. Please visit our website at [www.cfft.us](http://www.cfft.us) to view what we are doing for these children in Los Angeles and Trinidad and Tobago. We appreciate your support of our efforts and thank you for continuing to make donations to this important cause.

This evening, I would like to make it my primary focus on the “Leap Onward” part of my topic because it depends on the continuity of Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago as a viable Non-Profit 501C-3 Corporation. Also, we want to follow in the footsteps of those visionaries, Dr. Mahabir, Dr. Smith, Mr. Khan and Ms. Coreen Fields, RN., in what they

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**“Help Make A Difference In A Child’s Life”**



To the left are photos of 5 year old Cerebral Palsy patient Jeremiah James being fitted with his bilateral foot orthosis provided by CFTT

**Other Children We Have Helped In The Past**

**Shamika Ali** was in need of a corneal transplant surgery on her left eye and CFTT provided monetary assistance to pay for the surgery in Trinidad that was succesful.

**Adam Samaroo** of Chaguanas, 3 years old, was diagnosed with ventricular septal defect (a hole in the heart) and was taking less than half his prescribed formula. At 8 months old, Dr. Alexander of Mount Hope Hospital referred him to Jacksonville Hospital in Miami for corrective surgery that allowed Adam to return to a normal life. CFTT pledged \$3,000 to assist in covering the cost.

**Kareem Aimes** needed an auto-conjunctival transplant on his blind left eye. He traveled to and stayed at The Ronald McDonald House in Los Angeles. He was operated at the Hollywood Hospital by Dr. Jonathan Song, both of whom volunteered their services. Expenses were paid by CFTT and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

**Simone Ragonath** of Piarco, was born with several defects. She had no anal passage and a hole in her heart. CFTT and The Gift of Life Foundation funded her medical attention and successful surgery at the Schneider’s Children Hospital in Hyde Park, New York.

have started 20 years ago.

The future is now! Therefore, the young people and new members, with a quantum leap onward, will move the organization through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond by keeping the legacy, purpose and mission of those departed souls of Dr. Bernard Mahabir, Dr. Phillip Smith and Ms. Coreen Fields alive.

Before leaving this function tonight, please ask one of our members for an application form, fill it out and let us know in what capacity you would like to be of service. You may also mail it to our office address and someone will contact you to attend our next scheduled meeting.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate our 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Awards Presentation for graduates, recognition of Community Outreach and Outstanding Achievement participants. Please enjoy the festivities.

Sincerely,

*Mervyn Richardson*

Mervyn Richardson  
President



Wayne "Tac" Joseph  
Carnival Costume Designer

Robert Greenidge  
International Panist

Edwin "Crazy" Ayounge  
International Soca/Calypso Artist



Dr. Harold Ganga  
Event Organizer And Humanitarian

Machel Montano  
International Soca/Calypso Artist And Humanitarian



Calypso Rose  
International Calypso/Soca Artist

Einstein Brown  
International Panist

Marcus Branche  
Caribbean Entertainment Promoter

**Rodney Foster**

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- Jasmine Napier/Vice President
- Raymond Kind/Publicity Director
- Julian Belgraves/Treasurer
- Denice Wint/Youth Affairs
- Carole De Gale/Recording Secretary
- Vincent Samuel/Entertainment Director
- Laurence J.S. Weekes, MD/ Medical Director

**Active Members**

- Keith Karmody
- Rodney Foster
- Arnold Simpson



## United States of America

### National Anthem

### Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's  
 early light, What so proudly we hailed  
 at the twilight's last gleaming,  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
 through the perilous fight,  
 O'er the ramparts we watched, were  
 so gallantly streaming.  
 And the rocket's red glare, the bombs  
 bursting in air,  
 Gave proof through the night that our  
 flag was still there.  
 Oh say, does that star-spangled  
 banner yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home  
 of the brave.

The Star Spangled Banner Lyrics  
 By Francis Scott Key 1814



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## Trinidad and Tobago

### National Anthem

Forged from the love of Liberty  
In the fires of hope and prayer  
With boundless faith in our destiny  
We solemnly declare.

Side by side we stand  
Islands of the Blue Caribbean Sea,  
This our native land  
We pledge our lives to thee.

Here every creed and race find an equal place,  
And may God bless our nation

Here every creed and race find an equal place,  
And may God bless our nation.

The National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago  
Lyrics and Music  
By Pat Castagne 1962

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## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### **COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** **George Lee Tillis, IV**

George Lee Tillis, IV graduated from Westchester Enriched Science Magnet High School on June 10, 2016. George has successfully completed several AP classes. He is a leader who was actively involved in extracurricular activities on campus. He was a member of The Game Club, The M.E.S.A. Club, The Debate Club, and he was The President of The Bible Club. George was a Decathlete member of Westchester High School's Academic Decathlon Team during his Junior Year. He was the captain of Westchester's Track & Field Team. He is an involved member in The Youth Ministry at Crenshaw Christian Center's "Ignite Teens LA". George is passionate about his relationship with Jesus Christ. As a follower of Jesus Christ, George strongly believes in doing The Lord's work and fulfilling the call to spiritual royalty through The Blood of Christ. He likes reading, dancing, music, socializing, and being in the presence of The Lord. He enjoys being around his family and friends. He currently lead a bible study class at his home every other Friday at 7:00 p.m. On April 30, 2016, George was honored as an Achiever by The Angel City Links Chapter, The Link, Incorporated 35<sup>th</sup> Affair of Honor. He competed and won for this year's Theme for the Program cover "ACHIEVERS Ready to Change the World and Impact Lives". George will be attending Biola University majoring in Biblical Studies/Theology to pursue his call to be a Minister.

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## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Tariq Branche

Born in 1998, Tariq Branche was introduced to soccer at an early age. Tariq graduated from North High School in Torrance, California. He started with American Youth Soccer at the tender age of 5 where he continued to play until he was 12 years old. In 2011, he transitioned to club soccer, which introduced him to a higher level of competition. Tariq was a two-sport athlete in high school. He played both soccer and ran track and field. Over the years he has earned many nominations including Scholar Athlete of the Year, Sammy Saxon Athlete of the Year, Varsity MVP, Offensive MVP, So Cal Prep Legends Play of the Week, All Pioneer League First Team and All Area Soccer Team. This while maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA and making the high school Faculty Honor Roll. His dedication and hard work earned him a scholarship to the University of Pacific. This fall Tariq will be playing Division 1 soccer for the university while majoring in civil engineer.

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## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Emmett C. Rodulfo

Emmett Rodulfo "18" was born in Inglewood, California. Both of his parents Amoy and Sydney are from Trinidad and Tobago. He attended St. Joseph Middle School and graduated from Animo South Los Angeles High School as an Honorary Panther student. At Animo, Emmett was the captain of the football and basketball team. He was able to carry his basketball team to an undefeated season and became division 2 champions. Not only did he excel in sports, he was a force in the classroom as well. Through his 4 years in high school, Emmett received multiple awards such as; honor roll, perfect attendance, and student of the month. When he is not participating in school or sports, Emmett enjoyed volunteering his time helping others. For instance, with programs such as Helping Our Veterans, Rebuilding Compton, and Feeding the Homeless.

Emmett will be attending El Camino Community College in the fall and transferring to USC, Northridge, or Dominguez to pursue his career in civil engineering. Along with his engineering degree, Emmett wants to be able to give back to the community in some way and be able to have a big impact. In 10 years Emmett sees himself in the career of his dream taking care of his family and his love ones. Not only do they don't only expect great thing out of him, but he expects it out of himself. Emmett is the type of person who is very humble and will never give up.



**CFTT**  
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 and Tobago  
 On 54 Years of Independence

## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Monique Tillis

Monique Tillis graduated from Southern University and A & M College, as a LS-Lamp Scholar with honors and was awarded a Bachelors of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering on May 13, 2016. Monique completed her college career with a cumulative 3.2 grade point average, even though during her last two semesters she had 22-24 units per semester. Before graduation, she received full time position offers from Raytheon, Northrop Gruman, and NAVSEA; in addition to four summer internship offers one of which was from NASA. She has recently received a verbal offer from the Air Force. She is a leader who was actively involved in numerous organizations. For the National Society of Black Engineers (N.S.B.E.) Southern University Chapter, she was the Communications and Public Relations Chair, in addition to being The Communications and Public Relations Chair for the N.S.B.E. Fall Regional Conference. In addition, Monique worked for N.S.B.E as a Lead Mentor in Houston, Texas and taught engineering concepts and lead engineering design products for a class of fifth graders. For the Society of Women Engineers Southern University chapter she served as the Vice President. For the Etta Kappa Nu Zeta Psi Chapter she served as the President. She is also an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer. In addition to being an excellent student, she played college basketball as a shooting guard for two years and in one game made four three pointers in a row. She loves traveling, photography, writing poetry, attending concerts and music festivals, and playing and watching basketball. Monique will be working for Raytheon to begin her professional career in engineering in the Fall.

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### **COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** **Alexis Minters**

My name is Alexis Minters. I was born on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1998. My wonderful parents are Kenisha Joseph and Reginald Minters.

I attended Elizabeth Hudson for both elementary and middle school. While here, I participated in the school orchestra playing the violin. I was also on

Honor Roll consistently.

I attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School and graduated on June 15, 2016 with a 3.0 GPA. While attending Long Beach Polytechnic High School, I was a member of the Track and Field Team.

My life's goal is to help people through giving back to my community making it a better place that is why I will be attending college to become a Pediatric Surgeon. If I could educate children on how to care for themselves and their peers, our future doctors, lawyers, etc. this will make our community better for the future.

I started my journey of helping people while attending high school. I attended a Simulation Lab course where I was taught emergency preparedness for earthquakes, car accidents and fires. I took this course because I wanted to learn this valuable information for myself and be able to teach others so they too can be prepared in the event of any emergency. Another class I attended was the medical and clerical class, where we were sent to the Veterans Affairs Hospital near California State University Long Beach; here I learned a variety of jobs in the medical and clerical where I gained most of my knowledge from actually being in the hospital, and saw first hand knowledge of how the medical field works, I learned terminology, procedures diagnoses and patient care. I became knowledgeable about the veterans themselves, which helped me to have a different perspective on them and the help they need to become more productive people in society; I was very sympathetic with the veterans and was able to understand their struggles. This class specifically thought me how to care for the sick, be compassionate and make them comfortable.



  
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My journey of helping people will never end; as I will constantly be learning new ways to help inform, care for, and educate not only myself but others in the community.

I wish to thank all the people who helped me to charter my path to success.

**Are You Planning On Going to Trinidad and Tobago Carnival. Here Are Future Dates for Trinidad and Tobago Carnival.**

**Carnival Monday and Tuesday Dates**

2017	February	27 and 28
2018	February	12 and 13
2019	March	4 and 5
2020	February	24 and 25
2021	February	15 and 16
2022	February	28 and March 1
2023	February	20 and 21
2024	February	12 and 13
2025	March	3 and 4
2026	February	16 and 17
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2030	March	4 and 5



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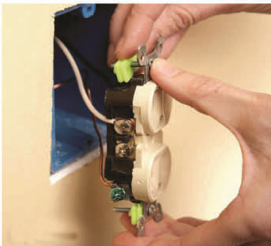
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## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sun Aug 21st  
Cocktails-The Play @ The Santa Monica Playhouse  
1211 4th St Santa Monica, California  
6pm Adm: \$35**

**Sun Sept 4th  
(Labor Day Weekend)Free Backyard Party  
@7802 Glengarry Ave., Whittier, California**

**Sat Sept 24th Marcus B birthday Bash  
@ SOL venue 313E. Carson St Carson, California**

**Sat Oct 15th  
Comedy Night Special Featuring Wil Sylvince  
@ the Comedy Union 5040 W. Pico Blvd, LA, California**

**Sat Oct 22nd  
Bus Ride To Rosarito Beach Mexico**

**Fri Nov 25th Papa Michigan Live In Concert  
@ SOL VENUE 313 E. Carson St, Carson, California**

**Sat Dec 31st NYE DANCE  
@ SOL VENUE 313E. Carson St, Carson, California**

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**RECOGNITION AWARDS**  
 We Salute CFFT's Past President in  
 recognition of their service to the organization



*Jasmine  
Napier*



*Ashley  
Elie*



*Shiraz  
Khan*



*Bernard  
Mahabir*



*Joan  
Forbes*

**RECOGNITION AWARDS**  
 We Salute CFFT's Past Graduates

Amanda Napier  
 Betty P. Stephens  
 Beverly Charles  
 Beville Constantine  
 Breanna Edwards  
 Britney A. Ferguson  
 Charly Jeune  
 Corey K. Stacker  
 Emily Hampton

Ingrid Cherrington  
 Louraine "Kereene" Duntin  
 Lybrya Kebreab  
 Lydia Nesbitt Samuel  
 Raenelle Krystal Duntin  
 Rayneesha P. Ferguson  
 Samara Alisa Cadogan  
 Peta-Gay Gordon  
 Mishanda Freeman  
 Yohance Serrant

## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD Marilyn Lloyd

I was born in Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies and migrated to Los Angeles California in March of 1983.

I joined the neighborhood watch club, and by 1988 became the block captain after serving for four (4) years.

In 1989 became a volunteer with the Inglewood Police Department Juvenile Unit, as a curfew coordinator for two years, until a new Chief of Police was elected, and the program was discontinued.

Started working at Federal Express in 1999, but still felt the need to give back to the community; I started feeding the homeless with my income. The first time I feed the homeless; I prepared 40 dinners, and realized this was not enough, and this has to continue, my charity "Give Thanks Feeding" was formed; to date I have made 121 dinners, 65 soups, numerous cups of coffee for the homeless. Over the years I have received donations and other help from my family, close friends and members of Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago. In 2011 one of my sisters in Trinidad and Tobago called me enlisting my help to open a Sunday Bible School in her area for kids ages 4-12. I helped my sister with her request; in addition, I also sent her story books, coloring books, crayons, water colors, pens, pencils and much more. This way the kids can have fun while learning about our Lord and Savior.

I also have a neighborhood Christmas party every year for the kids, where they play games, get their faces painted, eat and each child goes home with a gift. Last year I was able to provide a bouncy castle to add to the fun and excitement .

awards a contract instructor for Theatre Of Hearts/Youth First, and is currently in pre-production for two films. His upcoming film musical, "Revival" is scheduled to be released in 2017, where he plays Herod to Chaka Khan's Herodias. He is an actor/director/producer/father, and teacher of voice and articulation and American Sign Language, he curates Target Sunday for the California African American Museum, and plans to present Derrick Walcotts "Beef No Chicken" this fall in L.A. His face is most recognizable from Michael Jackson's "Black or White" video, where he was morphed into posterity.

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## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### **CFTT OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (GUEST OF HONOR)**

Years ago at the Rialto theatre in Jamaica West Indies, Jeff saw his first movie, titled One Potato, Two Potato, the story of a white family in crisis, held together by the nanny of the children, a woman who happened to be African American. He admired the talent, class and

sophistication of the woman portraying this character, and turned to his mom and said,

“That’s what I want to do when I grow up, be an actor, and be as good as that woman”.

Years later he auditioned for the Urban Arts Corps who was casting for their current production of “Play Mas” by Mustapha Matura from Trinidad, the role was a dancing witch doctor in a grass skirt and he should be a west Indian, who can sing, dance, and act. He landed the role and was on his way to pursue his dream under the guidance of the artistic director of the UAC. Four Broadway shows and countless regional shows later, he realized that his mentor and director of the Urban Arts Corps was the same actress he saw years earlier in the movie “One Potato Two Potato” Ms. Vinette Carroll, the first African American woman, director and producer on Broadway. He’s since done many movies for the screen, “Predator II” “Marked For Death” “Don’t Be A Menace” “Only the Strong” to name a few, and numerous guest spots for television including series lead roles in “Hudson Street” for ABC and “Union Square” for NBC, prime time shows and daytime soap operas, and other series lead roles for the major television networks. A director of numerous productions on, and off Broadway. He recently directed and premiered “Speak Of Me As I Am”, the story of Paul Robeson, with K.B. Solomon for the North Carolina Black Theatre Festival to rave reviews, the show is now touring. He was Associate Producer for, and performed in, the “Black Stars Of The Great White Way” event, at the prestigious Carnegie Hall, NY, in June of 2014. He owned Calabar Travel in New York, He is the founder and Artistic Director for The Caribbean American Repertory Theatre, West, and sits on the boards of the National Black Theatre Festival, in North Carolina, Hollywood Diversity Association and Splasher . com, winner of several NAACP theatre

## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT

### **CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

#### **Gregorio “Damien” Garcia**



I was born in the town of Arima in Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies. I grew up in the country with my grandparents, in my teenage years I lived with my aunt in San Juan while being employed by Bermudez Company.

I later obtained a job with Charlo’s catering which catered to the employees of BWIA which is now known as Caribbean Airlines. During that time I got married, my wife and I migrated to New York in the United States in the early 80’s and had our daughter Charisse. We then relocated to New Jersey where our son Damien was born.

I was offered a job in California, so I made my way out West. I worked for a few companies and lived in different cities before settling in the Bellflower area then become self employed. I was also the proud owner of a West Indian restaurant in Inglewood Ca, known as Caricom. I joined the Islander’s Soccer Team becoming one of the teams most improved players.

My home in Bellflower eventually became the “Trini’s in Southern California” liming (hang out) spot and the location for numerous fundraising events, such as parties, all fours card games also breakfast and lunch cook out. At one of our regular fundraising activities the group “Regulars’ Entertainment” was formed which led to the birth of our now world famous “Hollywood Carnival” of which I am one of the founding members.

I attend events of all the Caribbean groups and organizations in the Los Angeles area and generously contribute to Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago. My goal and desire is to unite all the Caribbean people in Southern California.

## RECOGNITION AWARD CFTT



### **CFTT OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (GUEST OF HONOR)**

April Sutton is an award-winning Television Broadcast Pioneer in Hollywood. She made history becoming the youngest Inductee in the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1993 for her outstanding television reports on Black Entertainment Television (B.E.T.) Network.

More than 40 million TV viewers have watched her entertainment reports covering the Oscar Awards, Grammy Music Awards, Emmy Awards, Golden Globe Awards, American Music Awards, Hollywood Movie Premieres, and Red-Carpet gala events.

The Ohio native became the first hired Hollywood on-air talent for B.E.T., as the “Face of Hollywood” for 10 years, which sealed her name as part of BET’s early history.

Her list of celebrity interviews includes: Oscar winners Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Hudson, Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, Tom Hanks, and top artists Jim Carey, Tom Cruise, Beyonce, Janet Jackson, Quincy Jones, Sean Connery, Chris Rock, Jessica Alba, Jennifer Lopez, Mariah Carey, Madonna, Samuel L. Jackson, Robin Williams, P. Diddy, Eddie Murphy and Michael Jackson just to name a few.

Her status as a Hollywood Socialite and popular TV Host soon opened new career opportunities. In 1996 she became a contributing West Coast Television Correspondent for the Geraldo Show (CBS), covering the O.J. Simpson case, the Princess Diana story, the Ennis Cosby story, the Tupac Shakur story, Hollywood movie premieres and Red-carpet gala events.

Ms. Sutton has received many honors for her television work in Hollywood as the Producer and Host of the “April in Hollywood” Show, which has aired on the Time Warner Cable Television Channel. Additionally, the City of Los Angeles presented special proclamations to her, along with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, City of Compton, City of Lynwood, and top recognitions from many civic and community organizations.

In addition to her many achievements, Ms. Sutton is a committed advocate of Tanzania. She has sent countless numbers of boxes of brand new tennis shoes to children in Tanzania, and has worked tirelessly,

developing projects which bridges the gap between top celebrities and Tanzania.

Last year, she produced a video titled: “Hollywood to Tanzania” featuring celebrities giving greetings to the people of Tanzania. Her cultural and artistic campaigns have also successfully attracted entertainers who have written messages to the citizens of Tanzania, which was given to the country for a special museum exhibit. This year, her work continues as the Founder of the Diversi-Tea Celebration. The evening gala recognizes Union Day in Hollywood.

She has observed the United Nations General Assembly, where World Leaders including Presidents, Kings, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers speak in front of an international audience about global issues. Her attendance at international summits, and leadership forums, keeps her current on topics discussed by participating Diplomats.

Ms. Sutton lights up when she talks about the road that has brought her to this plateau. Her unwavering focus on inter-cultural affairs and her extensive association with world renown celebrities seems to be a tailored made match for the next phase.

She will always be known as the first hired Hollywood based Television Personality on the first Black Television Network in American history, but she remains clear on the importance of her global efforts.

She states, “I am certainly linked to B.E.T. and the public never hesitates to remind me that I had a major role as the first “Face of Hollywood” for the network, but my television career also gave me a broad range of international interests.” She adds, “I felt compelled to develop artistic, cultural, and media initiatives for Africa, which have been successful because of the willingness of celebrities and community supporters, who like myself, see the importance of connecting with global citizens.”

Currently residing in Los Angeles, Ms. Sutton is single, and conducts workshops for youth and college students across the country. She holds a Masters Degree in Television Communications from Kent State University, and a B.A. Degree in Speech Communications.