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

Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago, Inc. (CFTT) is a 501 (C3) not for profit charitable corporation dedicated to assisting the needy and dis-enfranchised in the United States, Trinidad & Tobago, and the entire world. Our membership is comprised of a diverse multi-racial, multi-religious, and multi-cultural group of people from all corners of the globe.

CFTT was founded in State of California in the United States in 1996 and we are based in Los Angeles, California, USA.

# www.cftt.us (310)762-2253

P.O. Box 881806 | Los Angeles, CA 90009

Email: citizensfriends@cftt.us

HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED AND GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

# Citizens and Friends of Trinidad and Tobago, Inc.



# Dinner, Show, Dance

An Evening of Elegance and Splendor

# SAT AUG 24, 2019

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Entertainment By The Samba2Love Dancers Music By DJ Mystery Man and DJ Dave STEEL PAN MUSIC BY SENSIE



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#### 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"





CFTT Corporate Officers Mervyn Richardson/President Jasmine Napier/Vice President Raymond King/Publicity Director Julian Belgraves/Treasurer **Denice Wint/Youth Affairs** Carol De Gale/Recording Secretary Vincent Samuel/Entertainment Director

**Active Members** Keith Karmody **Rodney Foster** Arnold Simpson Marva Bernadette Charles

Laurence J.S. Weekes, MD/ Medical Director

A 501C3 Non-Profit Orga www.cftt.us 310-762-2253





# 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

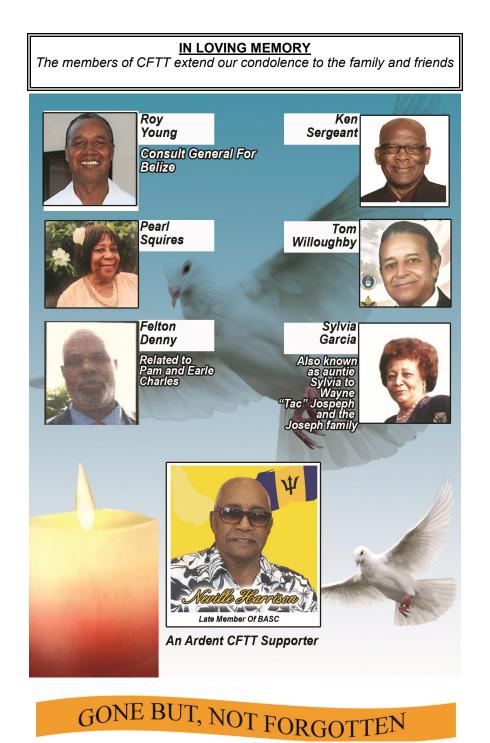
P.O Box 881806, Los Angeles, CA 90009 Web: www.cftt.us E-mail: citizensfriends@cftt.us (Join us on facebook and twitter) Phone: (310) 762-2253

## Dear Friends,

CFTT is constantly seeking new membership. Applications Available by visiting our website: www. Cftt.us, contacting any member, or by calling (310)762-2253.

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

Visit our web site: www.cftt.us or Call (310)762-2253





- -Guest Check In & Invited To Be Seated
- -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
  - Invocation
- —Dinner Served (Catered By Choura Venue Services)
  - Presentation of Awards
- -Floor Open For Showtime and Dancing
- -Event Concludes





Good Evening Guests,

On behalf of Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago (CFTT), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 57th Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago, Dinner and Dance. It's our pleasure to see those who have been supporting us throughout the years as well as those who are new to our organization. CFTT was founded in 1996 with the mission of providing medical, surgical assistance, and life enhancing services to improve the lives of children in the local community and the Caribbean. Throughout the years, you have certainly helped this organization uphold our mission – helping children in need. We are proud to share with you tonight a success story that could not have been accomplished without your continued support and dedication. Last year, we introduced you to Ms. Kyle Richards, a national of Trinidad and Tobago and medical student, who was in need of a cornea transplant surgery to save the vision in her eves. Through our fundraising efforts and the generosity of our thoughtful donors and friends, we are proud to announce that Ms. Richards had two successful cornea transplants, and is continuing her medical studies in Mexico. Ms. Richards' success story drives our organization to continue with the passion of helping to improve the lives of children and ensure they have a promising future.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all who generously helped us to make this event a success. Your donations are greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for your generosity. CFTT annual Dinner and Dance allows you to enjoy a night of elegance, while also supporting our organization's goals and mission. This evening we will be recognizing our new graduates, acknowledging our community service award recipients, and our quest of honor also sharing our accomplishments for the past year.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, we are appealing for new members to join our organization so we can continue to grow and fulfill our goals. We welcome members from all diverse backgrounds to join our organization. We are grateful for your presence tonight and have an enjoyable evenina!

Thank you all! **Jasmine Napier** Vice President, Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago

Visit our web site: www.cftt.us or Call (310)762-2253

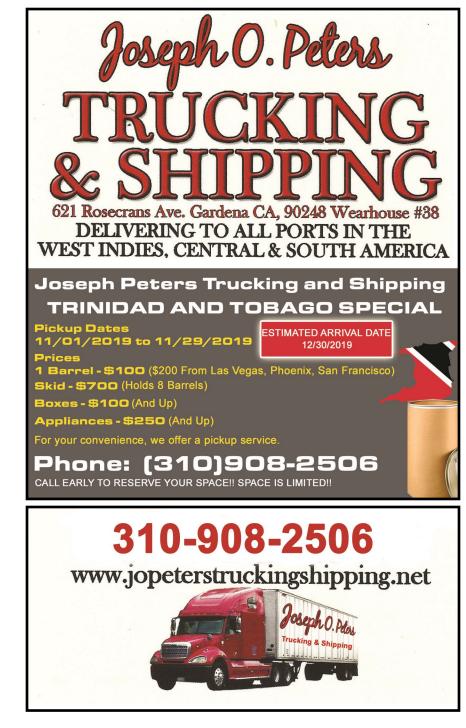
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Dr. Harold Ganga Event Organizer And

Machel Montano International Soca/Calypso Artist Humanitarian

April Sutton Damien Garcia Radio And Television Commnunity Social Activities

Jeffrey Gunther Actor











Internationa

Marilyn Lloyd Humanitarian

5

Wayne "Tac" Joseph **Carnival** Costume Designer

Robert Greenidge International Panist

Edwin "Crazy" Ayoung Soca/Calypso Artist

Marcus Branche Martin Calypso Rose Einstein Brown Barbara Barabino Barbara Sullivan Greenidge Caribl Community Service CFTT Community Service Award Recipients Award Recipien



**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



Graham Goddard and Denice Wint Host and Hostess MC DJ Vince







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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
2027	February	8 and 9
2028	February	28 and 29
2029	February	12 and 13
2030	March	4 and 5



#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup freshly squeezed lime juice " about 6-8 limes"
- 1 cup simple syrup
- 1 cup grenadine syrup 3 cups rum - "I use a Bacardi gold"
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup pomegranate juice
- 10 drops angostura bitters

nutmeg for garnish, (this is totally optional) orange and/or lime slices for garnish on glass rims

Simple Syrup

3/4 cup sugar

3/4 cup water

Directions

Bring the water to a boil.

Dissolve the sugar into the boiling water, stirring constantly until the sugar is dissolved, about 3 minutes. When sugar is dissolved completely, remove pan from the heat. (Note: Do not allow the syrup to boil for very long or the syrup will be really thick once it cools down.) Let cool completely before using.

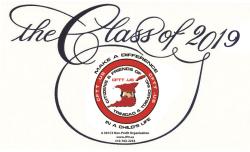
#### METHOD

- 1) Add everything together with the exception of the garnish ingredients and blend in a blender or place in a container and shake well.
- 2) Chill in your refrigerator until ready to drink.
- 3 Add ice cubes , sprinkle with nutmeg, garnish with lime or orange slices and serve



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# CONGRATULATIONS TO



### CFTT COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Noah Burton



Noah Burton graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychobiology – the study of mental disorders and psychopharmacology. With an interest in pharmaceutical drugs that affect people's mental states and sensations, Noah intends to apply to pharmacy school in the near future.

Noah is currently balancing his healthcare job and traveling to various countries. His most recent trip was to Japan, South Korea and China. Noah has always wanted to go to Japan to practice his Japanese! In his free time, he likes to play video games, watch anime, read, and write short stories or poetry.



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When shopping at Amazon, please use Amazon Smile and choose Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago.

When you choose CFTT, a donation percentage comes to us.

#### CFTT COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Nia Burton



Nia Burton is a freshman at Texas Southern University studying Business and Marketing. Since 6 years old, she has been on several cheerleading teams. By 17, she was the captain of three cheerleading teams: two nationally competing teams and one high school football team. She has traveled to Illinois, Florida, Michigan, and Nevada twice to compete nationally.

Nia also joined her high school dance team where she choreographed several pieces that she and others performed. She took advanced theater classes; performing in her school's rendition of High School Musical and other notable plays. In her spare time, she also participated in tumbling classes and joined her school's Black Student Union. All of these commitments took up her time; she was lucky to have one day off a week!

### CFTT COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Hayette Lopez



Hayette Lopez was the first to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in her family. Determined to continue her education and be an example for her younger sister, Mika, she recently graduated in May with her MPA specializing in investigations and oversight from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Ms. Lopez lived in Los Angeles for the past six years and decided to return home to New York where she was born and raised. She currently holds a position as a flight attendant for a commercial airline which falls right in line with her passion to travel. Having traveled to five continents and over 25 countries, she thrives and seeks to learn about culture and customs. This free spirit also has dedicated her free time to help those in the community of Puerto Rico, where her dad lives, after Hurricane Maria. Her next project is to assist in rebuilding three homes for families in Bogota, Columbia.

As Ms. Lopez searches for her life's purpose she will continue to serve others in her attempt to bring humanity back.

Queen cutting the ribbon for the Parade of the Bands, on Hollywood Blvd, then proceed a few miles ending at the main entrance to the Carnival Culture Village. Our village feature a 30' concert sound stage, full liquor bar, 12 international restaurants with well- known celebrities from various genres, comprising movie stars, and music icons. Several Caribbean top entertainers perform every year. Machel Montano is a crowd favorite.

In addition, to our Parade and Festival we sponsor 5 parties during the carnival week. Guest may purchase individual venue tickets or our popular Festival Passes on line.

Each year our presentation of this cultural fusion attracts more people from local, other Cities, and Countries to participate & experience the Carnival, and diverse multicultural celebration. We invite you to join us as a Band Leader, Band Section, Masquerader, spectator, Culture Village guest, or attend our great parties during carnival week.



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# **ONE WORLD - ONE PEOPLE** UNITY! DIVERSITY! TRADITIONS! CULTURES!

The Los Angeles Culture Festival<sup>®</sup> and Hollywood Carnival<sup>®</sup> Parade is the largest multi-cultural event in West Coast. With people representing from over 50 countries parading on the world-famous Hollywood Blvd, the entertainment capital of the world "Hollywood". We are a world culture Festival and Parade— expressing the colors of culture and freedom of the world as one people. This is a celebration of our cultures and traditions, featuring colorful costumes, dances, food, arts, crafts, entertainment, and music from around the world. The Hollywood Carnival Parade and Culture Festival takes place in June of each year. Join us for the 8 th Edition celebration in June 2019.

In June of each year Hollywood Blvd miraculously transform into a Grand Carnival & Street Extravaganza with paradegoers and masqueraders dressed in vibrant, breathtaking costumes dancing to pulsating rhythms of the world. The celebration commences with the Grand Marshal and Parade

### CFTT COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Xavier Martin Dickens



All throughout his elementary years at the school of St. Pius X, Xavier Martin Dickens has been renowned for his extensive mental prowess and superb behavior in school. Since his third grade of elementary school, he has continually achieved the distinguish honor roll every year until graduation. He was also known for his excellent behavior with his peers and also the

school staff. He was a part of his school's student council for two consecutive years. His first year running for office, he was student body secretary, and in his second year of campaigning, he was voted into office as 2018-2019 student body Vice-President. In his two terms of service, he exceeded the expectations of his school's faculty and staff and made an impact on his school. He is beloved by his past teachers and peers, both, who are excited to see what he will accomplish in high school.

Xavier graduated from his elementary school with the Class of 2019 and will be attending La Serna High School. Xavier is very eager to embark on this new journey of responsibilities and opportunities, as he begins to explore his new world of adulthood. Although he is very nervous of what the future has in store for him, he finds comfort in knowing his family will always be with him to love and support him throughout his journey. He enjoys science and history, and dreams of working in those fields later on in his life. He also loves music of all kinds and foreign programs. His goals after high school will be to Stanford University and become an engineer. Whatever Xavier's plans are for the future, he knows God and his family will be there to support him with whatever challenges lie ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS TO



#### **CFTT COREEN FIELDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Ariana Robinson**



"You are Braver than you believe, Stronger than you seem, and Smarter than you think."

- A. A. Milne Christopher Robin Nathaniel Narbonne High School's Class of 2019 Motto

Ariana Robinson '19 graduated from Nathaniel Narbonne High School and is the first of her four siblings to graduate from high school and attend college. She is the proud daughter of Avanell Lynch – who was born in Trinidad and Tobago. Throughout her high school career, Ariana took numerous Advanced Placement (AP) courses in various fields such as Government, English and Science. In addition to her studies, Ariana participated in the Business Entrepreneurship Technology Academv (BETA) and coached for the Hawaiian Gardens Cheer team. These extracurricular activities have solidified Ariana as a strong community leader. Ariana will be continuing her academic studies at El Camino College in the fall and majoring in Health Sciences with the intention to pursue a career in the medical field.



## **CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD Michelle Allan**



Michelle Allan was born in the United Kingdom and migrated to the island of Guyana at the age of 18 months. Her parents instilled in her to have empathy and compassion for others and although her parents did not have a lot, they always had enough to share with other in their community.

As a result of these values and morals, Michelle has become an active and prominent member of the Caribbean American community. Michelle has donated her time and talent to various non-profit organizations in Southern California, such as the Citizens and Friends of Trinidad and Tobago (CFTT) and the Bajans and Friends for Health and Education (BAFFHE). Michelle has also extended her efforts to the greater community in relief efforts for many of victims of Hurricane Maria and Irma. Michelle balances her community work with her career as a payroll manager in the medical industry.



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Our prayers and love are with Ms. Janelle Small. We are happy to know that she is making drastic improvement with her recovery from a near fatal vehicular accident while on vacation in Jamaica.





#### CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD Susan Child Ellis



Susan Child Ellis was born in Biabou in St Vincent & The Grenadines. At age 13, her family immigrated to San Diego, California. She has a devoted husband and adoring daughter.

Susan entered the insurance business and progressed to become the Commercial Insurance Supervisor for a large, local San Diego Agency.

She always fondly remembers her homeland and continues to be dedicated to the concept that even a small amount of assistance can vastly improve the lives and futures of disadvantaged persons. Her persistence and passion to accomplish that idea led her to be a founding member, and President, of SVG Helping Hands, Inc.

This nonprofit entity is committed to providing direct assistance to several charities, schools, clinics and the hospital that continuously demonstrate positive impact on the lives of indigent and dispossessed people in St Vincent.

SVG Helping Hands, Inc is observing its successful and continuing growth by celebrating its 10th anniversary in October.



Kyla Richards would like to thank Citizens & Friends of Trinidad & Tobago, Inc. US and their supporters for their generosity in making it possible for her to continue her studies in the medical field after successful eye surgery.

#### CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD Sheldon Thomas



Sheldon Thomas was born in Trinidad and Tobago where he played competitive soccer as a youth. He coached youth soccer for more than 15 years. His professional playing career started in 1998 which took him to Asia where he played in Hong Kong with South China Athletic Club.

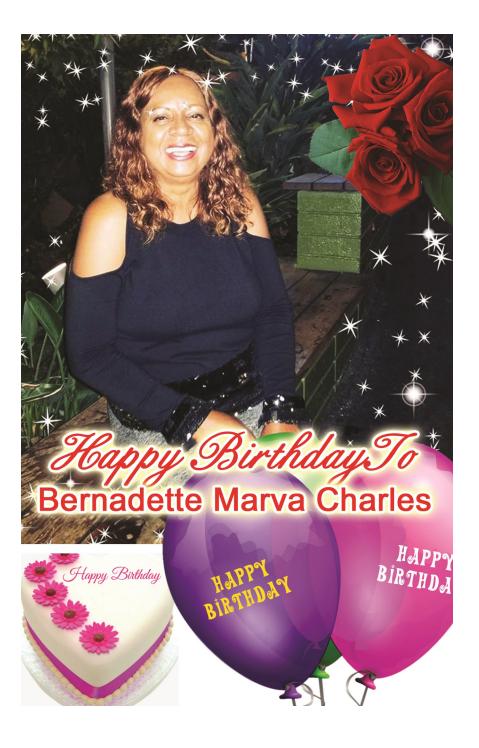
While there he won honors of MVP with a double championship in the Vice Roy Cup & Hong Kong FA Cup. In Asia he represented the club in the Asian Club Championships.

He represented Trinidad and Tobago National Team in the Caribbean Shell Cup 1998. Sheldon also played in the US for Orange County Waves in the "A League". As the farm club of the Los Angeles Galaxy he was called up to play with the Los Angeles Galaxy for the World Club Championships of 2000.

Before his professional career he played in College at Cal State University Fullerton, as a transfer student from El Camino Junior College. In 1996 he achieved honors of All American and Athlete of the Year Awards in 1996 and 1997 for the Mountain Pacific Division while attending Cal State Fullerton.

He recently got the Assistant Coaching job for Women's Soccer at West Los Angeles College which is a Community College in West LA. Prior to that, he coached at Bishop Montgomery in Torrance and St. Bernard High School in Playa Del Rey CA. He enjoys working at the youth level with the focus of development for each player's transition to the next level.





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#### CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD Mike Asfall



Mike Asfall who is of Jamaican decent, lived in England then migrated to the US with his family. He has been coaching for 35+ years. He has won 3 City Championships. Two were back to back in 2016 and 2017 with Harbor Teacher Prep High School and his third was with Diego Rivera High School in 2019.

Sheldon Thomas migrated from Trinidad & Tobago to follow his dreams of playing soccer. He was coached by Mike while playing for his Junior College team, earning MVP awards which allowed him to get a full ride scholarship to Cal State Fullerton. In his 2 years he earned Player of the Year and All American honors. He then transitioned to play professionally in China. He also played for his National team during the '98 Shell Cup. After he was done playing overseas, he came back to the US where he played in what was called "The A League" at that time. This lead him to be called up to play for the LA Galaxy. These two gentlemen who have had their own journeys down different paths, eventually reconnected and decided to do something they both had a vision for. Creating access for youth within the inner cities to give them an opportunity to follow their dreams of going to the next level in the sport of soccer.

They created a soccer club called Spartans Wolves which has been growing now for 3 years. They have been able to get 3 of their players to transition from high school to college. Their dream has now become a reality with the continued passion and effort. These two gentlemen have shown what is possible when we find our purpose in life. They decided to use their talents to create a space for many more individuals to find their dreams.



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#### CFTT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD Marcia Foster



Marcia Foster McBean hails from a little district in the cockpit country of Trelawny in Jamaica and now resides in Riverside, California. She has worked in the banking industry for over 30 years.

Marcia has a passion to serve and spends her time volunteering and supporting various

organizations. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce and is an Executive Board Member of the Jamaica Awareness Association of California, (JAAC). Marcia serves as Treasurer of the Rancho Del Chino Rotary as well as an Advisory Board Member of the Caramel Connections Foundation Inc. She previously served on the Board of Directors for the Rancho Del Chino Rotary Foundation. Marcia volunteered with the 2017 Caribbean Hurricane Relief Fundraisers to support victims of the Caribbean who were affected from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She has participated in many social services projects which include, LA Feed 500 Veterans, Ontario Salvation Army Annual Thanksgiving Day Family Dinner, Inland Empire United Way School Beautification Project for Del Norte Elementary and Corona Elementary Schools. She served as an Ambassador for the Corona Chamber of Commerce, and Ambassador Chair for the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce. She has volunteered for many event that seek to provide assistance for the underserved in our communities. These include the Annual Gala for Inspire Life Skills, Wine Festival for Habitat for Humanity, LA Family Housing Shelter, Chino Hills Special Olympics to the City and at the recently held Hollywood Carnival. She also participated in the Rotary Team Leadership Camp and worked with over 200 teenagers.

Marcia is very dedicated to the organizations she serves and is committed to making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Marcia has successfully chaired the recent annual JAAC Independence Celebration event to raise funds to continue the work of JAAC. Marcia further demonstrates her love for her country and for giving back by joining other volunteers of JAAC who visit Jamaica during the week-long Annual Medical Mission trip where the organization provides free health and dental care to the less fortunate.

Marcia is a graduate of Westwood High school and later obtained her Associate Degree in business studies at Brown's Town Community College.



# Hill, Morgan and Associates, LLP

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Every year Marilyn Lloyd donates her time and resources towards her annual Hunger Prevention Program. CFTT supported, assisted, and congratulates Marilyn on her 2019 homeless feeding and food distribution.

# TO VOLUNTEER CALL MARILYN AT: (424)221-0214



## CFTT GUEST OF HONOR Kenneth A. McDonald



Kenneth McDonald was born on Eight Avenue in Barataria Trinidad and grew up in Point Fortin. Before leaving Trinidad and Tobago in 1980, he graduated from the San Fernando Technical Institute as an Electrical Engineering Technician He spent 5 years working for Hess Oil Company in St Croix, United States Virgin Islands prior to relocating to Atlanta, Georgia in 1985.

Kenneth McDonald currently serves as the President and CEO of Long Beach Transit. He has led the organization for the past six years since August 2013. Long Beach Transit provides public transit services for the City of Long Beach and 12 surrounding cities in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Additionally, the agency runs water taxi services along the Long beach coastline.

Prior to coming to Long Beach Transit, Kenneth was employed as a Vice President for Transit and Rail Systems with the engineering consultant firm Parsons Brinckerhoff and was based in Atlanta Georgia. Kenneth also worked at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Kenneth also served 20 years with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority in a variety of leadership roles.

He is currently the chair of the Long Beach Midtown Business Improvement District, a member of Long Beach Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. Kenneth is an immediate past member of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance Board of Directors. He often dedicates his time to encourage middle and high school students to enter into technical fields of study.

Kenneth has a Masters of Science degree in the Management of Technology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia.

Mr. McDonald believes that public transit is a vehicle for mobility, community enhancements, business development and economic vitality within any city or town.





## **CFTT SUCCESS STORIES**

## "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.









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Vincent Samuel on behalf of CFTT Presented a plaque to Dulcie Harrison in memory of a wonderful man Neville Harrison on Saturday March 9, 2019.

