



“The 10th Anniversary of the Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados.”

By Opt. Andre Davidson

A Review of the Progressive Optimist Club in Action.

The Progressive Optimist Club (POC) has come a long-long way. Created in May 2010 we have watched it develop into to a Club that has been punching well above its weight from "get go".

POC has been setting trends throughout the years by way of creating signature Service Projects such as 20/20 Eye Screening and the National Uniform and Back-to-school supplies drive just to name a few.

This short production is geared to showcase some of the many highlights that the club has engaged in during its 10 years of existence.



My POC Experience

Contribution by Joy-Ann Carter

Joy-Ann Carter:- *Charter President of the Progressive Club of Barbados on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados.*

Progressive...By definition it means making use of ideas, opportunities and findings; being able to



capitalize on them in a manner to derive a level of success. In April 2010, our (now) Optimist International President Adrian Elcock, of the Optimist Club of Barbados - Bridgetown

reached out to me to extend an invitation to be part of a new service club that was being formed. I was able to meet various members of the Bridgetown club and hear them speak to a group of us about the wonderful service platform Optimist International provides to Optimists to bring out the best in children around the world. At that time, no thought of being The Progressive Optimist Club's Charter President was even in my mind; I was just excited about being able to have the opportunity to serve our community and give back to Barbadians in whatever way I could.

Having been provided the opportunity to be the Charter President, it was certainly an honour and privilege to work with our board and members to

chart a new path for us, with our parent club always by our side to provide any support required.

When our club was considering a name, the word progressive kept coming to the minds of many of us. We felt it embodied the forward thinking initiatives, goals and aspirations we had for our club. It took hard work and determination, but the Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados and its members were determined to serve the children of Barbados in whatever way they could. I will forever hold close to my heart fond memories of some of our first projects.

Back in those days, our first fund raising initiatives included a Garage Sale, sponsored walk and movie night. Once we were able to gather some much needed funds, our first project took place in August 2010 under the name Progressive Makeover. This project entailed our club working with Jones Private School to

provide much needed refurbishment assistance to several areas of the property.



Progressive Makeover – Jones Private School August 2010



The project truly encapsulated the level of camaraderie and unity needed to boost the club towards greater initiatives.

Progressive Cheer was another project undertaken in 2010 and this was an outreach initiative to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's Children Ward, where our club members spent several hours over two consecutive weekends with the children making Christmas decorations, singing and trimming the Christmas tree. The Club also provided gifts to the children and a donation to the Ward.

Our most ambitious project in that formative year was the conceptualization of Progressive 20/20, a project that continues to this day with the provision of vital optical screening opportunities for school children in Barbados.



*The
Original
Team
Progressive.*

As I reflect on the success of the Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados through the years, I am filled with pride, joy and admiration over the many projects and initiatives it has been able to achieve.

Ten years represents a significant milestone, and I take this opportunity to wish the Progressive Optimist Club of Barbados continued success in its endeavours as it continues to reach for the stars to bring out the very best in our youth through its continued service in our Barbadian community.

My POC Experience

By Opt. Janelle Ottley.
President 2015-2016

"I was proud to be a charter member who contributed to the formation of the Progressive Optimist Club. Making that decision to join Progressive has changed my life. It afforded me the opportunity to give of my time and



energy to volunteerism. What made it special was being able to effect change in the lives of the children and families I interacted with through the numerous club programs. I was also able to encourage friends

and family to give of their time and resources wherever they could.

Some of my highlights included attending the International Optimist Conference in Canada, the Caribbean Optimism Summit and District Conference 2016 and having the pleasure of meeting the International President Mr. Dave Burns. In 2015-2016, I was elected President and there were many projects I was proud of, however the Gold Button drive in support of Childhood Cancer was one that touched my heart. "



My POC Experience

By Opt. Margot Aquan.
President 2016-2017

Thinking of my pending retirement from the



teaching service, I wanted to continue interacting with children. I joined The Progressive Optimist Club on 21st June, 2010. Here I was excitedly getting into A new mix of activities to Bring Out the Best in Kids’.

The Club was then about 3 weeks old so we were all pretty much finding our way into the Optimist movement together, through the guidance of our Club Builders from the Barbados Club of Bridgetown---Optimists Kelly Hunte and Adrian Elcock—the President and International Vice Pres. Southeast region respectively.

The group bonded and jumped off the deep end as it



were with its fundraising, community projects and conducting Eye Screenings in over [30] thirty Primary Schools to date. Of course, there was always time for Fellowships-hiking and games evenings to mention a few.

Throughout the Ten years I Chaired a number of committees and held a number of posts.

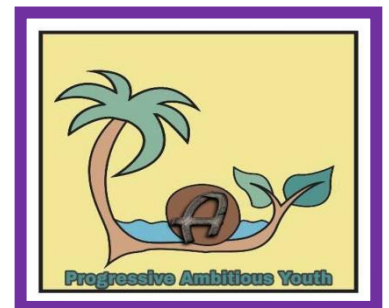
In the year 2016 – 2017 I became President and I had expressed at the handover function that one of

my goals was for POC to sponsor a Club during my year of Presidency.

This became a reality in Aug., 2017 with the assistance of PLtG Edwin. The “**United Generations Club**” was born.

The following Opt. year, 2017-18, I became LtG. and from attending one of the District meetings, I became interested in the idea of having 'a-Club-within-a-Club ' as outlined in a presentation by the OI rep. at one of our sessions. I was encouraged greatly by my District Governor Calvin to pursue it. In Aug.2018, '**PAY**' (**Progressive Ambitious Youth**) was formed

with the assistance of Pass Pres. Carmel and Opt. Shirley. The members were installed by the present LtG Laura.



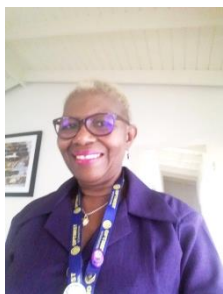
These two events would have been my highlights over the (10) ten years of my POC. experience. I have enjoyed and benefited greatly from my many experiences with The Progressive Optimist Club.

Finally, I am wishing that the Club, through its members, continues in the words of one of the tenets in our Optimist Creed “To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.” We must continue to make a difference especially in the lives of the children through our many projects.

Congratulations!!
Optimist Margot

My POC Experience

By Opt. Maureen Dottin
President 2018-2019



I transferred to Progressive in January 2014 immediately settled in and got my "feet wet" the Progressive way. I was a member of various committees. In 2016-2017 was secretary to then President Margot and assisted in building the New Generations Optimist Club.

Under the tenure of Past President Charmaine in 2017-18 was successful in obtaining sponsorship of items from PriceSmart (Barbados) Ltd through their Price Philanthropies Foundation to assist in our Back to School, Rural Families & Christmas Cheer programs. Also planned & executed successful flea markets.



As President in 2018-2019, the most memorable event was the launch of the project encouraging persons to collect their used cooking oil to be recycled and take it to the St. Lawrence Primary School where the project was launched. This project Recycling Old Cooking Oil ("ROCO") in collaboration with Niven Eco Oil was the brainchild of Opt. Shaina.

It gives me great pleasure to assist children in need and see the look of excitement and appreciation on their faces whether it is the Christmas Cheer, Easter Cheer or Back to School programs.

My POC Experience

By Pres. Shirley Hoyte
President 2019 2020

I came to Progressive Club inspired by the community based projects related to children. I like to help whenever, and wherever I go. This was just where I exercised my extra energy.



I concentrated on working with the JOI clubs and visited the Graydon Sealy and Springer Memorial Schools every week

possible to share in their activities. As the Community projects came to focus I was ready to motivate the children to prepare and eat local foods using my traveling kitchen. During my visits to schools helping with 20/20 vision screening I realized that the children at the primary level need more attention and as the President this is where we started our work.

This, the tenth year of the club's existence our focus was specifically the NEEDS of children. We adopted the Westbury Primary Breakfast Club, made up of 17 boys and 6 girls to carry out our mandate.

We hosted panel discussion evening, examining some of the learning disabilities in children then focus on dyslexia and autism some of the more recent.

As we progressed Nicole Griffith a young teacher/dietitian who volunteer her services to assist children to cope with diabetes and Michael Williams a who despite his health issues was able to fulfil his dream at Lincoln University graduating top of the class as a pastry chef received the clubs Youth Awards.



Covid 19 has challenged our delivery of service to youth community and self but introduce the opportunity for options of creativity. Congratulations to the builders and founding members of Progressive Optimist Club ten years ago for the vision and to those members who continue to keep the fires burning.

My POC Experience

By Pres. Kelly Hunte
Progressive Optimist Club Builder

OTHER POC PRESIDENTS



Opt. Carmel Haynes
President 2011-2012



Opt. Simeon Ellis.
President 2012-2013



Opt. Edwin Workman.
President 2013-2014



Opt. Cameron Sobers.
President 2014-2015



Opt. Charmain London.
President 2017-2018

As one of the builders of Progressive Optimist Club, it delights me to be greeting you on your 10th anniversary. That some of your charter members still remain active



members is a testament to the success your club has enjoyed over the years. The enthusiasm for this club grew so rapidly from the initial meeting, that on Charter Day, additional people turned

up for induction than was indicated to Optimist International resulting in insufficient Charter Member Pins.

It has been a pleasure watching you bring great projects from conception to implementation. I recall that Vision 2020 was one such project birthed at those initial meetings. Today, your Back to School project stands as one, if not the largest such project on the island, an achievement of which you can be justifiably proud.

In these years, your members have served at the Regional level, and who knows, maybe the next Caribbean Governor or International President might emerge from your ranks. Hearty Congratulations on your first 10 years and continued success for the next 10. Promise yourselves

PROGRESSIVE 20/20

THE ORIGIN

By Opt. Simone

It wasn't long after I'd completed my residency program in Durham UK I decided to move back to



Barbados. Knowing my personality I wouldn't have been able to work for anyone and decided to start my own practice. I think we were about a month in and thoughts of giving back to my community weighed heavily on me. As fate would have it out of the blue

I received an invitation to be a part of the charter for a new arm of the Optimist movement. I jumped at the opportunity.

I would never forget the excitement that I felt to make a mark. The President at the time of our sponsor club was Adrian Elcock who graciously invited us all to a mixer at his house. There he would charge each of us with a task to come up with a program that our new club could execute. With my optometry background, I figured wouldn't it be great to create a screening program in the primary schools to help with the prevention of blindness or visual impairment.

I presented it to the board after I worked out the

specifics and it was approved as one of our projects. With a very enthusiastic team we formulated a plan and started with the pilot program. Elated with our success, the members worked on different aspects of the program whether it was financing or training, as a team we were full speed ahead.



It truly gives me great joy to see how after 10 years this program has grown by leaps and bounds. What we started as the progressive club has now been adopted by clubs locally and regionally.

Governor Bruns visits an eye screening session at the Gordon Walters Primary School.

The club has also gotten the recognition



from the international body for the Goliath effort from it's members who continue to work tirelessly on this project and maintaining it's integrity as we pursue that one goal and mission we started 10 years ago. I salute the many volunteers who gave of their time and energy to see that no child in Barbados ever experiences a preventable visual impairment.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Progressive Optimist Club is the Parent Club to the Garrison JOI Club and the Springer Memorial JOI Club



The Progressive Optimist Club created a Club within a Club and is now the Parent Club to the Progressive Ambitious Youth Club.



The Progressive Optimist Club facilitated and chartered the creation of the United Generation Optimist Club.



*The Progressive Optimist Club have been fortunate to develop a relationship where each year the **Barbados Association of Texas** provides funding for Grants for selected candidates who may qualify to receive them.*



Above is a snap shot of the Barbados Association Of Texas Scholarship Presentation 2017 - 2018

AWARDS



Service Projectes

“Vision Screening”



Wesley Hall junior School was only one of the many schools that POC conducted **“Vision Screening”** throughout the years.

“Internet Safety”



Another one of our Service Projects where Key Presenter Mr Anthony Alleyne delivered a very informed **“Internet Safety”** presentation to a selected group of kids from two primary schools (Belmont Primary, Charles F. Broome Primary..

“Respect for Law”



POC conducted yet another **“Respect for Law”** presentation with PC Hall at the Wesley Hall Primary School.



The Back-To-School Drive is one of our signature projects that we conduct each year servicing hundreds of families.



We continue to operate our Gold Button campaign in which we educate students about childhood cancer and seek contributions in exchange for our Gold Buttons.

Environmental Projects

The JOI Club engaged in an intense session of agriculture at the Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute of Barbados (CPRI).



It is a non-profit organization that provides the demonstration and education of permaculture in

partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program (SGP) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and The Ministry of Agriculture of Barbados.

“Let’s Recycle Old Cooking Oil was Launched”.



In light of the challenges that have been faced with the South Coast Sewage Treatment Plant, we embarked on a project to encourage persons to collect their used cooking oil, rather than pouring it down the drain.



Springer Memorial JOI Club beautifying and donating garbage cans and staying in line with keeping Barbados clean.

Community Outreach Programs

As a mandate of Optimist International, this Community Out-Reach Program is geared towards youth development and learning some vital life skills. Our aim is to create favorable environments that would enable our youth to progress and to give them alternative avenues that will positively impact their lives and endeavors.

Parkinson Community Outreach Programs

The Progressive Optimist Club Creating a favorable environment for our Nation’s children as we pay a visit to the Parkinson Community



Here the children at the Parkinson Community are being taught rules and customs of Etiquette

& Social Graces” which was presented by the late Ms. Mary Rose.



*One of our service projects, “Respect for Law” being delivered by the then Senator **Santia Bradshaw** now Minister of Education.*

Grazettes Community Outreach Programs

The Grazettes Community Outreach Program was a huge success. We covered many programs which have included; Respect for Law & Environment, Anti-bullying, Youth Health and safety (First aid), Public Speaking, Craft (creative hands), Healthy lifestyle (cooking & eating healthy), Sports and Conflict Resolution & Anger Management.



Pictured above are a few of the children that participated in the many programs accompanied by POC members.



The Children were treated to A First Aid and Life Saving Demonstration which was delivered by a 25 year E.M.T Veteran Michael Grant. Here the kids are pictured administering CPR to a dummy.



Pictured here are two young participants delivering their public speaking address and fielding questions from the audience.



Pictured above is Opt.

Shaina engaging the youth in a very informative presentation of "Respect for Law & The Environment".



At our Easter Cheer Kite-making was a huge hit with the boys as you can see them pictured here posing with their finished product.



Also at Easter a Bonnet Parade was a joyous success with the girls with a few boys in the mix. The children made their own bonnets and modeled them in front of judges for prizes; these bonnets were outstanding and very creative.

Special Thanks



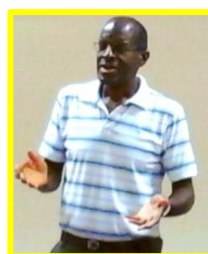
This is a before and after photo of the room that POC concerted into a **“Library”** which then gave birth to the **“Homework and Reading Programs”** on Saturday Mornings.



Guest Speaker **PLTG Michael James** of the Bridgetown Optimist Club gave a very insightful presentation to POC that highlighted **“His Journey as an Optimist”**.



Guest Speaker **Mr Kammie Holder** Director of Future Centre Trust delivered a very passionate presentation on **“The serious impacts that plastic bags have on our environment, our health and our economy etc.”**



Guest Speaker **Dr Derek Griffith** gave a very insightful presentation that opened our eyes to his philosophical approach to parenting without punishment and the way we should move forward in moulding our relationships.



Guest Speaker **Mr Adrian Reid** gave an informed presentation about crowd funding for not for profits organizations and explained how the Caribbean can carve out it's niche in attracting some of the funds circulating in this multi-billion dollar global financial space.

Christmas Cheer





POC were treated to a very enlightening presentation on **Sign Language** with **Opt. Sandie Fields-Kellman**. Her presentation was very engaging and accompanied with demonstrations. She also

spoke about the benefits of undergoing training as well as the potential opportunities that present themselves for trained persons.

Tributes

Tribute to Mary Rose a person of Excellence who showed compassion and professionalism in everything she did. We are truly indebted to her for her support throughout the years.



Tributes to Zoran who was one of our Cancer assisted Youth that we grew to like and adore as one of our very own. We truly miss his smile and mannerism as we all knew him as a very humble human being.

Special Thanks to Corporate Barbados



“To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater Achievements of the future.”