

# PROJECT NINE MILE COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

## PROPOSAL OUTLINE

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of Project Nine Mile is to implement a computer education program at Stepney All Age School, located in Nine Mile, Jamaica. Technical leaders from Canada will be traveling to the school to install hardware and provide training to the school staff.

## GOALS

The goal of the computer education program is two fold. The primary goal is to provide intensive computer training to the teaching staff, and collaborate with them to refine lesson plans that will extend this new knowledge to the students at Stepney All Age. The second goal is to establish, through the application of the computers and new skill sets, processes for efficient management of school administration that, in turn, through the maintenance of accurate school metrics, will enable this school to be more efficient and act as one starting point to offering more opportunities to their youth.

The financial goal of this project is to raise \$10,000 to cover the cost of purchasing computer hardware as well as travel and living expenses of participants implementing the training and set up.

## SOLUTION

Resources and expenses for this trip will be covered through fundraisers in Toronto, donations of time and equipment and through the support of charitable organizations, both in Canada and Jamaica, as well as generous contributions from the community.

## BACKGROUND

In February 2008, Che Kothari, a key member of the project team visited the birthplace of Bob Marley in the remote area of Nine Mile, Jamaica. During his travels to the region he had the opportunity to visit a school that Marley had attended, Stepney All Age. Through conversations with school staff and most significantly the principal of the school, Che was moved by the lack of certain resources the school faced, particularly because Stepney All Age had encouraged and developed one of the world's great minds: international recording artist Bob Marley. Che made a commitment to the principal to provide his support, as they both knew that this school had the potential for many more brilliant minds to flourish. The computer project was the first initiative that the principal of Stepney All Age and Che discussed in their first meeting. Che hopes to see this initiative be a seed that will grow into a long-term project of developing a state of the art music and arts facility in Nine Mile.

Schools Without Borders & Manifesto Community Projects, not-for-profit organizations based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in collaboration with IdlerzLounge.com [IL] and Reasoning Radio, Jamaican for youth by youth organizations are creating the project to establish a computer education program at Stepney All Age School in Nine Mile, St. Ann's Parish, Jamaica.

The aim of this project is to institute a computer education program for staff and students at Stepney All Age, in an effort to introduce technology as an effective learning tool for youth. Providing comprehensive training to the educators of Stepney All Age will aid them in breaking down barriers of class, economics and geography that can serve as obstacles to education.

Mina Mikhail, a computer engineer and filmmaker from Toronto, will be traveling to Nine Mile in June to set up the computers as well as provide training and on site technical support for six weeks. He will also work on establishing local connections to resources in Jamaica to provide further help, collaboration and idea sharing.

Training for educators will focus on productivity software such as Microsoft Office, Internet usage and communications tools. The goal of the training will be to establish proficiency of computer programs to:

- a. Aid in effectively developing new curriculums
- b. Develop new ways to create lesson plans

- c. Create administrative procedures, to efficiently monitor student attendance and achievements.

Training for students will encompass basic computer usage skills in a manner that is fun and engaging. Using computers productively and responsibly through training with productivity software and creative applications will be the main focus of the initial lessons. Given the rural locale of Nine Mile, access to the Internet may pose a costly challenge. Access to the Internet will provide students with the advantages that others areas in Jamaica enjoy, including, access to up-to-date information, online communities and exposure to new ideas, art and information, resources that may not be currently available to them.

Along with lending his technical support, Mina will be documenting his experience in a film capturing the economic and social realities of Nine Mile. The film, which will investigate the intersection of Jamaican culture and the reggae industry, will also include the Computer Program at Stepney All Age and the experience of being a part of the implementation process. As part of this process we hope to create an online video blog, in order to provide the youth and participants the opportunity to share their voices and experiences with the world. Through the blog, youth will have a way to directly apply what they are learning while exploring the internet and computers as a means of connecting with other people outside of their community.

Gavin Hutchinson, the founder and director of IL as well as the co-producer, co-host and marketing manager of Reasoning was integral in planning and organizing the Africa Unite Youth Symposium 2008 in Kingston, Jamaica, where he also gave a speech titled, "The Way Forward for Pan-African Youth." Gavin and Che met at the symposium, where they became acquainted with each other and realized that they shared similar goals for social progress. One thing led to another, and now Gavin (along with IL and Reasoning) is providing local assistance for Project Nine Mile.

In order for our organizations to accomplish these goals, we are looking to you for your support in the way of in-kind donations of computers, printers and software, as well as cash. All charitable donations above \$50 CDN are eligible to receive a tax receipt.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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