

Kiwanis Club of Barbados South

President's Message - May 2021

My Fellow Kiwanians, as I'm typing this message to you, I'm sitting in my car at the beach watching the beginnings of what is promising to be a beautiful day! We need days like today. I don't know about you Fellow Ks but I've been cooped up for far too long, It's getting harder to breathe. I find myself fantasizing often about pitching a tent somewhere on the East Coast of the island for a couple months, just me, my bottled water and my Christmas movies. No radio, no TV, no Covid and certainly no volcanic ash. Ahhh...the dust...

We continue to handle the stresses as they present themselves but at what cost. Do we let go and scream about our discomfort and inability to do what, over the years has become pleasing and familiar to us or do we remain silent and deal with these stresses singularly?

Yesterday (Saturday May 01) morning we were privileged to connect with our Key Clubbers and the Caribbean Youth Ambassadors Java Sealy and Meghan Theobalds at the Kiwanis Club of Barbados South sponsored SLP Youth Forum entitled "COPING IN A PAN-ERUPTION", (as I type this I'm having goose pimples again). Special thank you to Past President Cidgred for identifying the need for this forum, she and Distinguished President Zelma did some 2:00 a.m. planning to pull this together. Feedback from participants included words like "fantastic" "amazing" "phenomenal". It was an eye opener for me. Come on Fellow Ks, we all know as adults we are completely stressed dealing with the virus, the vaccines and now the volcano! But our children? WOW!! To hear the ambassadors articulate the levels of stress that they themselves are experiencing, to watch them draw out our Key Clubbers who then in turn expressed their own concerns, to listen to the ambassadors' responses and the advice they offered to our Key Clubbers had me tearing up. One Distinguished President in particular had to turn off her video and retreat to the kitchen. (Side

note: DP Zelma is a softie). One of the Key Clubbers actually said Key Club was what she used in order to cope. If that statement fellow Ks does not take it home to you how important the Service Leadership program is, then absolutely NOTHING will! The forum was powerful!

When we started this journey on October 01st 2020, I wanted to concentrate on our SLPs for the entire year, of course that did not mean other needs within our community would not be met but I wanted to use the Chair to ensure that our SLP program was solid. I wasn't super clear on how this would be achieved but for me, the priority had to be our youth. I'm so pleased and excited to report to you fellow Ks that although we still have a way to go we are getting there by leaps and bounds. We are blessed with a very passionate Service Leadership Chairperson in Past President Cidgred and an equally passionate Assistant District Administrator in Distinguished President Zelma - those two together? A force of nature! Ladies, take a bow!! You have taken a dream I had at the start of this administrative year and totally exceeded my every expectation.

We are in the planning stages of a few more projects and I'm going to use my voice here, in this forum that I know is emailed to each and every member of Kiwanis Club of Barbados South. Get involved in the offerings of the SLP Committee. These programs are extremely important but we need support from all of you. Ask how you can help to push the program forward. Each one of these activities benefits our children that we promised to "serve" when we accepted the "K".

Have an awe inspiring week Fellow Ks and continue to stay safe!

President Sandra