



Jamaica Best Kept Secret

MGHS PSA NY CHAPTER 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

In reading this annual report, I know you'll be as proud as I am of the NY Chapter's accomplishments this year. We take pride in the showcased celebration of our success and achievements; we are amazed at the new opportunities and initiatives that keep us going; and we are humbled by the partnerships and collaborations that mark true difference-making.

In 2018, the Merl Grove High School Past Students' Association NY Chapter Inc. established a **"One Small Thing"** campaign with the guiding statement **"What small thing will you do in 2018, so together we will make something wonderful for our alma mater"**.

This statement has been the north star of our 2018 strategic plan to engage and inspire the MGHS Past Students' community. So, as we ventured on this path forward adhering to our slogan of **"Embracing the past; Enriching the future"** and advancing our mission, engagement and fundraising initiatives blossomed.

TOGETHER WE HAVE MUCH TO CELEBRATE

Our deep commitment to supporting our alma mater to achieve excellence, fuels a desire of success for our programs, projects and activities. Though this can be a daunting task at times, the strength, determination and diverse talents of the NY Chapter Executive Committee makes it possible. So, as we celebrate this year's successes together, we are energized to continue our work.

- ✓ We returned to the Caribbean cultural scene with our inaugural Women's History Month Caribbean Celebration Dinner theatre with the presentation of "Mother-In-Law". A play by Trinidadian playwright B. Nandi Jacob. Our guests were delighted with our presentation. Thank you to our major sponsor Zwanger -Pesiri Radiology and Tower Isle Jamaican Patties for their donation to the cocktail hour.
- ✓ Our 2nd Annual Women's History Month raffle was also a success. Our 2017 first prize winner won this year third prize Fine Dining for 2 at Ruth Chris. We hope he and his wife (Merlgrovia) had a great time. Thank you to Jamaica Grand Palladium Spa Resort for the donation of the first prize.



- ✓ We successfully secured thirty (30) computers with peripherals and four (4) printers donated by the United Nations. They were earmarked for the new technology lab at MGHS.

- ✓ This year we were able to obtain donations from Bic corporation, Legacy Publishing, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. We received pens, seven desktop dictionaries, and small notebooks for the Backpack School Supply Drive.

Labor Omni Vincit- Hard Work Overcome All difficulties

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

. SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITES

The NY Chapter is forever, seeking to forge new opportunities to advance its programs and standing within the community.

- ✓ This year the NY Chapter seized the opportunity to work on the 501 (c) 3 mandated community involvement with our maiden participation in the Martin Luther King Math Club Competition. We awarded \$150.00 to the top prize winner in the Bronx. Members also donated their time in volunteering at the event in Bronx and Queens. We hope the volunteer numbers will increase for 2019.
- ✓ We also started talks with Dr. Christopher Box the head of the Environmental Science Department at Medgar Evers College. We hope this communication will lead to a fruitful partnership.



TOGETHER WE PARTNER FOR SUCCESS

We recognized that more is accomplished, and we grow stronger, when we work together.

- ✓ For the first time we collaborated with another sister chapter. We reached out and partnered with our sister chapter in Toronto to participate in the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Association to sponsor a student to their summer Emerging Global Leadership Workshop. This one-week workshop focuses on leadership building, youth empowerment and innovation for future leadership development. This year's attendees have started a Leadership Club under the stewardship of Miss Paige. We look forward to sponsoring two (2) students along with Ms. Page in 2019 to the summer workshop.
- ✓ We once again collaborated with Dinthill and St. Elizabeth Technical High Schools for the Pre-Christmas Dance Fundraiser. We hope more of you will join us in 2019 at this awesome fundraiser.



Labor Omni Vincit- Hard Work Overcome All difficulties

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NY CHAPTER'S IMPACT

At the heart of the NY Chapter's mission is ensuring that the students at MGHS have the tools and support they need to become successful students and responsible citizens.

- ✓ The Backpack Drive celebrated a 69% increase with a total of sixty-seven (67) backpacks with school supplies donated by the past student community, friends of the NY Chapter along with corporate donors. As usual we saw a growth in first time donors. Thank you to Monica McKain who secured and donated eleven (11) backpacks along with school supplies, Rosalie Bernard who donated eight (8) backpacks and to all our donors who stepped up with donations of two backpacks this year. Once again, we did not attain our goal of 72 but as you can see each year, we get closer!



- ✓ We answered the call of the Robotic Club with the donation of a robot. Thank you to Grace Hamilton-Brooks who donated a laptop to the club. We know they will be ready for 2019 Red Springs Competition. We hope to be able to supply a competition robot in 2019.

- ✓ We are currently maintaining two (2) Ellorine Walker Scholarship recipients. We have taking a hiatus as we revamp our process and monetary awards. We hope to be able to resume this program in 2019.

“Phew” what a notable year of progress and achievements we attained!

The NY Chapter would not be what it is today without your continual support. For the past eight (8) years the MGHS past student community, friends and families along with business partners have provide funds, gifts and time to all that we do. Our heartfelt thank you for the support!!

2019 is already emerging with a list of needs. So, can I **“Count you in, together we can”** to check complete on most if not all the needs request and to rally other MGHS Gems, family and friends to achieve another banner year!! **“LET’S GO MGHS GEMS “**