



# Year in Review

**2010/2011**

***Aspire. Build. Advance***

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# **Spice Youth Toronto**

## **Community Initiative**

### **Year in Review**

**October 2010 – October 2011**

### **Current Executive Committee**

**President**  
Trisha Mitchell

**Vice President & Community Liaison**  
Kadon Douglas

**Treasurer**  
Susan Blackman

**Secretary**  
Marie Benjamin

**Scarborough Community Liaison & Floor Member**  
Khandi Alexander

**Floor Members**  
Adiel Modeste- Matthew  
Sherbin Joseph

## **President's Report**

Wow, time certainly flies quickly. I can't believe it's been a year since I have had the pleasure of addressing you all both as a community and as members and supporters of SYTCI. Let me first say that it has truly been an amazing year, full of wonderful memories, friendships and yes, a lot of hard work! On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, you handed to us a mandate; simple yet clear. You wanted an organization that would stimulate community development; sustain cultural remembrance and retention; provide resources and avenues for self development; create awareness about issues surrounding youth, and giveback to the homeland. During this year, we as the executive have strived to do just that by creating events within those particular themes. These will be itemized later in this report.

I want to instead focus on the ground work that has been laid for the sustainability and longevity of this organization. The Executive, in recognition of the fact that in order for any organization to survive there needs to be certain systems put in place, took the decision to apply for stand alone Non-Profit status with the government of Canada. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 that status was granted with all rights and benefits assigned. We are particularly proud of this accomplishment for it allows us to now move forward as a body of youth charting a course for youth.

This year, we have also added two new members to our team; a community liaison for Scarborough and surrounding areas and an additional floor member. This is to ensure that the team can function efficiently and acts as a symbol to encourage youth engagement, volunteerism and community building. We are also particularly proud to feel the renewed Grenadian spirit of togetherness and vibrancy within the community. We hope that this organization will continue to serve as an incentive for all youth to become more involved in their communities to **speak**, be **visible** and be **heard** so that their needs are adequately met by the community.

As I end, I would like to publicly thank every single member of the Executive of SYTCI, you ladies and gent are truly an inspiration to work with. I feel blessed to have your support and I am content that our vision is for SYTCI is the same. To all our community partners and supporters, thank you for your support and guidance and we look forward to your continued encouragement and support into the New Year as we strive to **Aspire. Build. Advance.**

Best Regards,

*Trisha Mitchell*

President  
SYTCI

## **Event Overview**

At our first AGM which was held on October 16, 2010 at the Oakwood Village Library and Arts Centre a constitution and mandate were handed to the executive of Spice Youth Toronto Community Initiative (hereafter called SYTCI). To design a plan for the organization to achieve these goals, we divided this mandate into four segments.

- 1) Community engagement, Cultural remembrance & retention
- 2) Self - Development Seminars
- 3) Giving back to Homeland
- 4) Charitable giving & Awareness

### **Community engagement, Cultural remembrance & retention**

- 1) **Independence Gala** ~ At the Independence Gala, the members and volunteers of SYTCI were instrumental in providing both hospitality (ushers) and entertainment (folk choir & Emcee) services
- 2) **Crick Crack** ~ A Literary Night. This event explored literature in all its forms: poetry, song, prose (fiction/non-fiction) and theatre. Led by historian Caldwell Taylor, the event featured live presentations by poet, Hudson George; author, Rowley Jeffrey; spoken word artist, Al St. Louis and Professor, Dr. Andrea Davis of York University. A dash of spice was added to the event by an entertaining and vibrant dramatization of an expert from Merle Collins' *'Angel'* by SYTCI members. Also on display throughout the evening, were several artifacts and antique text books used in the early 1900's in a 'mock museum' display
- 3) **Cricket Fete Match/Family Sports Day** ~ A community engagement and cultural retention initiative, hosted in collaboration with Spice Isle Association (SIA), Toronto Police 12 Division, Trethewey Youth Expressions and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). The event aimed to replicate a Grenadian Sunday afternoon *'down by the pasture'* with food, music, drinks, games for the children and talented, entertaining cricket players.
- 4) **Grenada Day 2011**~ SYTCI members featured very prominently in this years Grenada Day festivities ranging from sitting on the organizing committee, to providing event volunteers and initiating SYTCI community outreach at the Grenadian Community Organizations booth.
- 5) **SYTCI End of Summer BBQs** ~ Featuring the ever popular Oil down, the event aimed to encourage community togetherness and to create a safe and comfortable atmosphere to socialize.

### **Self - Development Seminars**

- 1) **Harambee** ~ A Professional Networking Event; hosted in collaboration with the Grenada Consulate Office and graced by the presence of Grenadian born entrepreneur, Mr. Perry Douglas, guest speaker. The event aimed to give youth the opportunity to network with prominent Grenadian and Caribbean professionals from different industries.
- 2) **Let's Talk About Sex Baby**~ A Sexual Education Seminar. Facilitated by Mr. Marlon Merraro, former Manager of youth services at St. Stephens community house and editor of the Books *'The Little black book for guys'* and *'The Little black book for girls'*; the 18+ event, challenged participants to be honest and open about their sexuality. Attended by a healthy mix of male and

female participants, the event addressed several sexual health topics that are often regarded as taboo in our Caribbean culture.

- 3) **Cent, 5 Cents, 10 Cents, Dollar** ~ A Money Management Seminar ~ The first in a series of interactive workshops facilitated by financial professionals and designed to openly discuss 'Money Matters'. Facilitated by Mr. Orlando Lopez (TD), Mr. Glendon Delisser (Investment Professional) & Mr. Lancelot Lambert (SunLife), the workshop focused on understanding the credit system, personal budgeting and beginning the discussion about both short term and long term investing.
- 4) **Our Stories – I came, I saw, I conquered?** ~ The open concept forum aimed to provide newcomer resources and to open the discussion surrounding migrant experiences. Participants were encouraged to share stories regarding the transition into Canadian living and to explore the initial '*culture shock*' and other obstacles faced and the resulting skills gained from having overcome these obstacles.

### **Giving back to Homeland**

- 1) **Grenada Diaspora Conference Initiative/Diaspora Youth Forum**~ This initiative is a product of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Grenada) and is designed to organize and harness the power of the Diaspora to support nation building.
  - a. SYTCI initiated contact with youth from various parts of the Grenadian Diaspora in North America, namely Montreal (SPYCO) and New York (GAYWA) and worked to create linkages between our various youth organizations, through visits and social media.
  - b. SYTCI hosted a '**Diaspora Youth Forum**' aimed at encouraging youth to speak to the issues that affect them as youth in the Diaspora and to discuss ways in which we as youth can contribute to the development of Grenada
  - c. These consultations culminated in the production of a shared paper between SYTCI & SPYCO outlining the ways that youth can contribute and participate in this initiative; the paper was presented by SYTCI President, Trisha Mitchell and Tesfa Peterson of SPYCO at the Founding Conference held in August 2011.

### **Charitable giving & Awareness**

- 1) **Scotia Bank Toronto AIDS Walk for Life/CIBC Cancer Run for the Cure**~ Two charitable initiatives in the city that SYTCI supports and promotes.

## **Statement of Financial Position - Treasurer's Report**

**For the Year Ended September 30, 2011**

<b>Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
Cash & Cash Equivalent	<u>795.55</u>	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>152.55</u>
		<b>Net Assets</b>	
		Unrestricted	502.24
		Suspense account	<u>140.76</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	795.55	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	795.55

### **Revenue**

Fundraising costs as proportion of revenue from fundraising is approximately 40%. This suggests that it costs the organization 40 cents to raise \$1. There were significant increases in fundraising costs in the 3rd quarter due to; expanded social networking and promotion; increased costs to support events and programs held, costs to register for non-profit status, costs for Diaspora initiatives, and costs to support the events of other community organizations.

The financial statement revealed that it is cheaper to generate revenue from donations compared with fundraising. Income from membership fees represents just 1.6% of total revenue. Unrestricted account refers to funds available to support the organization and which will be allocated as is necessary.

### **Expenses**

Fundraising costs are the largest single expense representing 25% of total expenses. Licenses and permits represent 10% of total expenses. This amount comprises of costs associated with use of parks and recreational grounds and the non-profit status which is a one time costs and will not affect our operating expenses next year. Marketing and promotion also represents a significant expense accounting for approximately 18% of total expenses. This amount includes the costs of SYTCI member T-shirts, printing, banners, flyers etcetera.

### **Suspense Accounts**

Unclassified income and expenditures are posted to suspense accounts. They will be posted to the appropriate accounts accordingly.

## **Membership and Outreach Report**

SYTCI continues to grow as a vibrant youth organization. During this summer we focused on building membership, developing a deeper relationship with the Grenadian community, and connecting with community/youth organizations.

We now have a membership of approximately 40, and have added two new persons to our executive, including a community liaison officer for Scarborough and surrounding areas. A lot more work has to be done on increasing numbers and we will include that in our 2012 goals.

In 2011, we also launched our volunteer program. By attaining non-profit incorporated status, we gained the right to offer volunteer opportunities to high school students to fulfill graduation requirements. A few of our dedicated volunteers were recognized during the Annual General Meeting.

The summer months allowed us many opportunities to fulfill our outreach goals. We participated in community events where we were able to connect with youth, and other organizations and individuals who are dedicated to youth development. Our greatest membership/volunteer drive was at Grenada Day, where we attracted 18 new youth members, and a number of community supporters.

Facebook, Twitter and our weekly update are all ways in which we strive to maintain a connection with the community and bridge youth with the many resources available to them.

In 2012, we will be reinstating our membership newsletter, which will include events and opportunities (academic, professional) available to Caribbean youth. We will also invite our members to contribute their writings, or videos (if you are musically inclined).

## **A note of Gratitude**

Over the year, SYTCI has forged through with the support of a committed network of members, volunteers, advisors and community partners. We have adopted the charge to Aspire. Build and Advance as one community. With your continued support and assistance, we can undoubtedly realize our full potential.

