



PROGRESS REPORT 2008

Building for the Future 2008 was a year of building for Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire. The Board focussed on increased staff training and development, improved administrative systems and strengthening long-term funding support for the after-school program. The staff created new methods to build stronger relationships with parents and also gain greater family participation while the Board added a new member, Kerenza Rannou-Frans, who helps strengthen the financial management.

In August, new manager Jona Chirino-Felida took over the daily management of the youth center. Jona added considerable skills with her background and years of experience in social work. Karen Vangansewinkel-de Windt also joined the staff as a part-time activity leader for music, architecture and other artistic activities. Also in August, the homework help was upgraded and new 'brainwork' activities added for those who do not have homework. Plans were also implemented for the teens to take on more responsibility in planning the center's activities and events.

New Manager Brings Social Work Skills

In August of 2008 Jona Chirino-Felida took over as manager of the after school program from Bilha Thomas, who decided to open her own business after managing the center for almost five years. The changeover was a smooth one since Jona had worked with the center on several projects over the years and Bilha continues to work part time.

A trained social worker, Jona brings to Jong Bonaire deep experience of the island's social issues and problems. During 2008 she worked as a consultant to the center on our *Troubled Teen Intervention Program*, which you can read about in the following story. In 2007 and 2008 she also worked with Fundashon FORMA teaching life skills to young people with behavior problems and as a trainer in their Young Mothers program.

In addition to her social work skills, Jona also brings new managerial, organizational and training skills, which have already benefited the staff and Board. She is a dynamic and energetic

manager and quickly went to work to complete the 2008 activities while creating training sessions with the staff, establishing her vision for 2009, and implementing a new work plan for the center.

Originally from Curacao, Jona has lived on Bonaire since 1993 with husband Rudsel, a former youth leader at Jong Bonaire. They have a teenage daughter who is a member of the center and a pre-teen son who will soon be a member.

Investments in Training

Through a grant from SNAYDP Jong Bonaire was able to launch a serious staff and parent-training program that will continue into the future. Staff training for the first half of the year was developed and run by a former school principal from the USA, Beverly Jimenez. Focus of this training effort was on team building and the Jong Bonaire philosophy of Positive Discipline.

The center defines the Positive Discipline philosophy as "catching the kids being good and then praising and complimenting them for it." Very quickly they learn that they get the attention they seek by being good and not for bad behavior. And as the leaders know, getting attention is what it's all about for teenagers.

With the same SNAYDP grant, Jong Bonaire also was able to institute a 'Troubled Teen' program to give special attention to a number of students who were not responding to the Positive Discipline methods. Jona Chirino, as a consulting social worker, was hired on a part-time basis to intervene with the teens and their families to correct the behavior problems. At the end of the intervention, Jona, the staff and the parents all saw improvement in behavior for the participating teens. Two of the teens were even named 'Hoben di Siman' (Youth of the Week) because of their marked improvement and success.



Stichting President Rene Hakkenberg and outgoing manager Bilha Thomas congratulate Jona in August. Bilha remains with Jong Bonaire as a part-time youth leader.

Support and Training for Families

Helping parents deal with their teenagers and getting them more involved also became a strong focus for Jong Bonaire in 2008. In an effort to help ease the economic burden on families while improving parent participation, Jong Bonaire decided to reduce the cost of membership if parents would attend at least two family workshops during the school year.



Teen trainings during the year included programs by Emily Kocks, high school counselor, and Emmy Schermer, orthopedagogue at SGB, as well as a workshop from the health and hygiene department (DGH) on how they can help prevent Dengue Fever. These workshops were in addition to ongoing courses and individual counseling for the teens on drugs, alcohol, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Some of

the parent night topics included: how to prevent teen delinquency, dealing with menstrual problems, the importance of reading in education, dyslexia and, how to improve communication in the family.

Chrisanta Martha, who is an Education Specialist with STINAPA, leads one of the parent workshops in which parents discussed teen issues with trained leaders

The program was put into place at the start of the new school year in August and had an immediate impact on the number of parents attending the Parent Night sessions. After just four months, over 75% of parents had attended at least one workshop and 48% had already attended two or more. And this year the family Christmas dinner (Sena di Pasku), organized by youth leader Senaida Janga, had a record number of almost 300 parents and teens enjoying an evening together before the holiday vacation.



Leader Senaida Janga and Jong Bonaire 'graduate' Ytala Seket led the organization of the Sena di Pasku (Christmas dinner) that was attended by more than 300 parents and children.

Training Future Parents

In 2008 Jong Bonaire had 38 teen members participate in our KREBO program. For eight years this program has trained teen members on how to understand and work with young children so that during the summer months the teens can earn money working with FESBO, BJZ and SEBIKI at the many vakantie plans (summer day camps) for over 500 youngsters.

The KREBO team also organized a holiday party for less privileged children and distributed 140 Beanie Baby bean bag dolls which had been donated by part-time island resident Bonnie Pascoe. Former Jong Bonaire member Ytala Seket helped organize all the activities of the KREBO program, helped organize the International Rights of Children celebration and worked part-time with teen activities the last half of the year.





Leader Lisa Marchena and her team from the Kushina Kontentu (Happy Kitchen) activity, prepared the snacks for the launch of the Papiamentu-English Dictionary and also served beverages at the launch of the 2009 Calendar Art Exhibit Story on page 5

Activities That Can Lead to Careers

A large number of the after school activities are designed to teach and train the teens for potential job opportunities after they finish school. Below are descriptions of 2008 results from several of these programs.

Kushina Kontentu Course

This popular cooking program has been expanded so that more teens can participate each week. Members learn to cook and also learn about good nutrition during the activity. But the best part is they get to eat the results. This turns out to be an important reason for participation and the reason the program was expanded. Members of this group also learn about presenting and serving food for potential careers in the hotel, restaurant and catering business. Under the guidance of leader Lisa Marchena the group prepared snacks for the media launch of the Papiamentu-English Dictionary (see page 5) and also the November Photo Exhibit (see page 5).

Manicure Certificate

Fifteen members of the youth center earned their Certificate of Manicure after taking a multi-week course and successfully passing their examinations. The certificate allows them to work in this field. Women from the 60+ clubs served as 'models' for the teenagers to show their skills during their final exam.

Jr. Ranger and Snorkel School

Over 30 teens passed the 8-week snorkel training course by STINAPA and then worked with that organization on their International Year of the Reef project. Another six teenagers participated in the Junior Ranger Program sponsored by STINAPA and Buddy Dive. In April and again in September, teens from the center joined the Sea Turtle Conservation group and STINAPA to clean up Klein Bonaire and help protect turtle nesting areas. During the year, the Divi Flaming Hotel's dive operation also sponsored snorkel trips to Klein Bonaire for the teens.



More than 15 teens volunteered to help clean up Klein Bonaire and protect the turtle nesting areas there. Young Bonaire teens also volunteer at the hospital, Kas di Sosiegu, animal shelter and at other community facilities as part of their regular activities.



Every day at least one hour (and more if needed) is set aside for homework. The teens have access to the Internet and also quiet, supervised areas to prepare their school assignments. Judith Meijers, Youth Leader, organizes this activity

Cultural Awareness

During the year most of the teens participated in activities which also teach cultural awareness. In cooperation with *Magazina di Rei* members had the chance to learn about many cultural traditions including the musical instruments of old. Leader Melvin Mijers (Shaba) spent many hours during the year teaching members about krio music and how to play the tambú and bari (drums). Lisa Marchena led courses in folkloric dances and, thanks to a donation from BONHATA, will be able to purchase costumes for new dancers in the coming year.

Working with SKAL, Jong Bonaire members also participated in the *Arte di Palabra* (the art of words) program in which they create songs, poems or writings that they perform in competition. Three members won awards in the final contest held in Curacao in the Spring.

Even during the three-day camping event during spring break the teens have learning opportunities.



Drum lessons are one of the most popular activities and one of the loudest!

The theme for the 2008 *Kampamentu* in Washington Park was 'The Antilles.' The 65 campers worked in three teams to discuss and learn about all the islands in the current Antilles constellation and then made presentations to the entire group.

Competitions to Challenge the Teens

A number of competitions are held throughout the year in an effort to teach the teens self-confidence as well as teamwork. This year the center fielded two Futsal (indoor soccer) teams to compete against other teams of high school boys organized by SEDREBO. One of the teams, Jong Bonaire Boys, took first place in the competition and the other team placed third. Leader Ruviano Josephia (Pichon) coached both teams. Other competitions were organized for the members by youth leader Paco Veeris such as ping pong, roller hockey, dominos, soccer and volleyball. While not competitions, 28 youth joined leader Ayako Winklaar on parts of Bonaire's first four-day walk around the island and the entire Friday group of teens climbed Mt. Brandaris in Washington Park.



Leader Ruviano (Pichon) Josephia and members practice the Simidan (harvest festival dance) at *Magazina di Rei*



Leader Karen Vangansenwinkel de Windt (right) plays the kuarta and sings during the *Sena di Pasku*. At left, Melvin Meyers (Shaba) plays the harmonica and teaches about traditional Bonairean music.

Jong Bonaire added several more musical instruments to our supply in 2008 so we could expand these popular activities.



Building Self Confidence & Teamwork

Competitions that were held to help teach poise and self-confidence include: the annual Song Festival competition in May, a talent show in October, the Arte di Palabra competition and the Mr. and Miss Jong Bonaire competition in December. Edgar Perez and Heleanne Domacasse were the 2008 Mr. and Miss Jong Bonaire winners.



Teamwork building is a feature of many of the activities. Leader Franklin (Paco) Veeris organizes a tower building



The costumes for the Miss & Mr Jong Bonaire contest impressed the audience in the a show for the whole community.

Two members were named Hoben di Aña (Teen of the Year) in December 2008. Christopher Isenia and Marvelous Maingod received the award during the Sena di Pasku dinner while Ruviano Josephia was elected by the teens as the first Leader of the Year. Two Jong Bonaire teens, Charlton Christiaan and Erikson Vlijt, were also nominated for Bonaire's Volunteer of the Year award for their efforts with *Magazina di Rei*.

Products to Raise Funds

Despite the significant support Jong Bonaire receives from the Island Government and AMFO, it is still necessary to raise another ANG 200.000 each year. Starting in 2008 the center created two long-term fundraising projects designed to bring income by providing products for sale. This became extremely important toward the end of the year as the world economic situation worsened and made donations even more difficult to achieve.

Papiamentu-English Dictionary

The first 'product' introduced was the revised Papiamentu-English Dictionary by Betty Ratzlaff-Henriquez which had been out of print for over five years. Jong Bonaire negotiated the rights to reprint from Trans World Radio and in June launched the book on Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. Along with the launch of the book was an effort to get at least 500 of the dictionaries into schools on all three islands through donations from companies and individuals. The goal was met by late November, which qualified Jong Bonaire for a substantial grant from an anonymous donor in the USA.

2009 Calendar and Art Exhibit

Through an extremely generous donation of both time and money from Bart & Jacqueline Landheer, Jong Bonaire was able to launch its first calendar for sale as a fundraising project. Teen members entered an essay contest titled: "What is Your Ambition" and the 12 winners were then photographed by Bart & Jacqueline and featured on the calendar they designed. Youth leader Judith Meijers added this project to her long list of responsibilities and did an outstanding job. Stores, companies and individuals had bought almost all the 2,500 calendars by early December.

From 2 to 16 December, life-size prints of the calendar photos, along with some of Bart's Bonaire nature photos, went on sale during an exhib-

it at Kas di Arte. Income from the sales of the photos went to Jong Bonaire while donors get to enjoy their artwork for years to come. The Dutch government purchased thirteen of the large calendar photos of the Jong Bonaire teens for its new Regional Services Center on Bonaire which will serve the BES islands.



Governor Glen Thodé opens the photo exhibit

Other Fundraising Activities

In addition to these new efforts, the staff and members also staged three successful community events, which have become annual traditions for the island. Over 350 people joined the 8th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire in September as the opening event for Bonaire's Regatta Week. Over 150 joined the 20-km Jong Bonaire Fun Walk in February and 70 people, from age 9 to 66, participated in the Mini Fun Triathlon in June.

Structural Improvement Plan

The first step in structural improvement in 2008 came with the re-hiring of Seeta Chatoorang as administrator and bookkeeper. Seeta had left Bonaire for Holland in 2007 but, fortunately for us, she returned in early 2008. During the year efforts were also made to upgrade the office computer network to help simplify staff communication and administration. The office computers were linked to the Internet and the backup system was improved. The Board also completed a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan that outlines work needed to repair and improve the facility. Funding must be found to pay for these capital investments since all current funds are needed to support the after school program of the youth center.

Major improvements are needed for the gymnasium, which suffers each year during heavy rains; the parking lot, which needs to be made more functional and then covered with asphalt; the main auditorium, which needs improvement in air flow and temperature control (without air conditioning); and the computer room which needs all new computers and servers since the current ones are long past their expected life span and beginning to fail on a regular basis.

Your Help Makes a Difference

Thank you to the Island Government, AMFO, SNAYDP, Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire, SABADECO, Rocargo, RBTB Bank Bonaire, KPMG Curacao, VIP Sports, Bart & Jacqueline Landheer, It Rains Fishes and all the companies and individuals who made donations or purchased the dictionary, calendar and art from the exhibit, and those who have provided services, supplies and discounts to the center during the year. Also, thanks go to the many organizations and foundations who help with the numerous activities offered at Jong Bonaire. We couldn't do it without you!

You Can Sponsor a Teen

If you would care to sponsor one or more members you can do so by arranging a monthly transfer of ANG 25 per child or make an annual lump-sum donation to Jong Bonaire's bank account (see details at below).

Your donations help us provide safe, supervised activities for the teenagers of Bonaire each day after school.

To make a donation by bank on Bonaire:

Stichting Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire
Bank: MCB Bonaire
Account: 100.867.306

Donations in the USA -- a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation:

Friends of Jong Bonaire Foundation
c/o Sexter & Warmflash
115 Broadway 15FL
New York, New York 10006

Via Internet:

You can donate via the Internet using a credit card or PayPal. Just visit our Dictionary website and click one of the donation buttons (you don't have to buy a dictionary).

<http://www.papiamentudictionary.com>

Bank transfers from Holland to Bonaire:

Naar rekening: 103.716.01
Ten name van: St. Jeugdwerk Jong Bonaire
Adres: Kralendijk
Plaats: Bonaire
Land: Netherlands Antilles
Bankgegevens Telebankieren:
BIC: MCBKANCUBON
Bank: MCB Bonaire (Maduro&Curiels Bank, Kralendijk)
Omschrijving: "Donation in the name of :"

Thank you for your support.



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