



# Progress Report 2009

2009 was a year to celebrate because it marked the 10th anniversary of the after school program at Jong Bonaire and also the 50th anniversary of the foundation. More than 250 members and former members joined in the three-day celebration and youth conference. We were able to connect with former members and do research to learn what Jong Bonaire meant to them when they were in school. The celebration ended with another successful Swim to Klein Bonaire.

It was also a year full of trying new things and reaching new heights, with our Futsal (indoor soccer) team beating Curacao for the championship. A new program to help strengthen families, Spinashi pa Famia (Spinach for Families), was launched along with new activities for the teens and a stronger emphasis on homework. And to close the year on a high note, a new computer lab was installed in December, thanks to the Regional Service Center of the Dutch government that was established for the BES islands.

## 10-year follow-up and celebration

As part of the 10-year celebration, Jong Bonaire began an effort to track former members and find out what the center meant to them when they were in school. The responses were heartwarming and clearly showed that the center is meeting its goals of teaching responsibility and respect, which were two of the most frequently mentioned things the former members said they learned at Jong Bonaire.

Ninety-five (95) percent of the respondents reported that Jong Bonaire helped them in their lives. Over half of the young people mentioned the help they got with their school homework as one of their favorite things of Jong Bonaire.

Typical responses to the question: 'How has Jong Bonaire helped you?' were:

- "Because of Jong Bonaire I was not on the street after school and I didn't make bad friends I also didn't just sit at home with nothing to do." (woman, who is now 22)
- "I learned how to behave myself." (man, 23)
- "It helped me develop as a person especially socially." (woman, 22)
- "I got help with my homework, took part in various workshops and activities that helped me develop personally and in my career." (man, 21)
- "Jong Bonaire helped me a lot so that now I have respect for other people." (woman, 24)
- "Discipline. That's what they taught me." (man, 20)
- "Jong Bonaire helped find my hidden talents." (woman, 20)
- "They taught me respect." (man 17)
- "If I had not come to Jong Bonaire I could have walked the

streets after school and done God knows what." (woman, 20)

- "It helped me socialize more with other people and also taught me to be more responsible." (man , 22)



- "Thanks to Jong Bonaire I had a place where I could learn and do my homework." (woman, 26)

- "I got a lot of motivation and good encouragement." (woman, 18)

- "I learned to work well in groups." (woman, 26)

A team of former members helped organize the three-day celebration and Youth Conference, which ended with our 9th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire. Over 330 people made the swim this time.

During the special Youth Conference, titled 'Your Voice Has Power,' the young people discussed such topics as: teen

pregnancy, education on Bonaire, how to use free time and the problem of 'Loverboy.' Loverboy is a situation, imported to the islands from Europe, where young girls are tempted to have sex with older men who offer expensive gifts. The teens discussed the four problems and then proposed possible solutions or steps toward management.

Ennia helped Jong Bonaire promote the celebration by providing a radio commercial and air time. The commercial was written and performed by former Jong Bonaire members Nillson Morillo and Zuli Marchena.

## RSC donates Computer Lab

With the help of the Dutch Ministry for Youth and Family, Jong Bonaire has completely upgraded its computer lab at the youth center. Regional Service Center (RSC) kwartiermaaker Marga Drewes helped the center make the application for the project and was on hand for the grand opening event.

“On behalf of the Ministry and the RSC it gives us great pleasure to contribute toward Bonaire’s future,” said Drewes at the opening of the computer lab. “Fast computers that work well are important for our young people to learn and better prepare for their future.”

“This is just the first of many investments the Ministry plans to help improve the services available to families and youth of Bonaire,” Drewes said during the opening of the renovated facility.

With the grant from the RSC Jong Bonaire was able to install 26 new computers along with an upgraded server for the system. Electricity for the equipment was also upgraded along with new erko and a new roof for the computer lab. The computer lab is one of the most popular activities at Jong Bonaire and now the facility can better meet the needs of our members but also other groups in the community who need to rent such a facility for training.



With support from the Dutch Ministry for Youth and Family, the computer lab was totally upgraded. Computers are one of the most popular activities at the center.

## Ban Midi Nos Forsa

In early December a new sports competition was started at the center, with the teens competing against and with adult staff members of Douane, the Regional Service Center, the prison guards and SASO department of social services.

There were competitions in ping pong, dominoes and futsal and afterward the government workers shared a meal with the teens so they could get to know each other better. Later in the year there will be more competitions in kayaking, swimming and beach volleyball. Below the Jong Bonaire futsal team competes with the team from the Regional Service Center (RSC).



Dutch Minister for Youth and Family André Rouvoet and Bonaire's Lieutenant Governor Glenn Thodé visit Jong Bonaire in February.

## Minister for Youth and Family Visits Center

In February Dutch Minister André Rouvoet, who holds the cabinet position for Youth and the Family in Holland, visited Jong Bonaire with several members of his staff. The meeting was very productive and has led to a good relationship for future work together.

Once the island has a closer link with Holland, Jong Bonaire will fall into this portfolio. From this early meeting we were able to secure the subsidy to upgrade the computer room and there are hopes for other improvements in the future.

## Culture Preservation Project

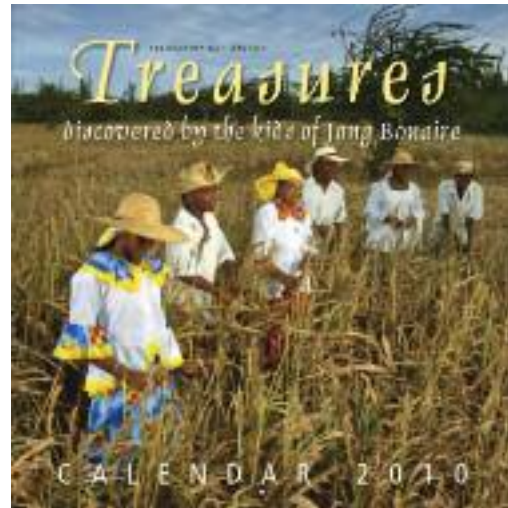
All during the month of March the teens of Jong Bonaire participated in a series of 16 Culture Workshops ranging from cactus fence building to making musical instruments. A number of the island's elders (grandinan) who are the culture experts, led the workshops at Magazina di Rei, Tras di Montana, Jong Bonaire and other locations.

The Month of Culture was designed to teach the young people about the various cultural activities and island heritage so that they can continue passing the learning on in the future. After the workshops, each teen prepared a project for a Culture Exposition and the teens that created the top 12 projects were selected to appear on the 2010 Jong Bonaire Calendar.

Theme of the culture program and for the 2010 Calendar was: Treasures of Bonaire. The treasures are threefold: Bonaire's cultural heritage, the grandinan (elders) who help to preserve the culture and, of course, the young people who will carry the traditions forward and help preserve the culture.

A set of six cultural worksheets were developed from the projects so that the learning can be preserved and taught in schools and other organizations. In this way the Jong Bonaire Culture Preservation Program will benefit young people and the island for years to come. Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds helped support the worksheet project.

Photographers and designers Bart Landheer and Jacqueline Bremmers created another memorable calendar, which was sold on Bonaire and Curacao, in Holland and via the internet as a fundraising project. Other sponsors for the culture project were Bonaire Rotary and SNAYDP.



## JB Wins Island Futsal Championship - Twice

In February Jong Bonaire Futsal team (indoor soccer) won the island scholastic championship and in November year they beat Curacao for the Antilles championship title. As a result the team will travel to Aruba in April 2010 to compete in the inter island scholastic competition.

There were six teams competing on Bonaire and Jong Bonaire fielded four of them. Several fundraising activities will be held in 2010 so that all four teams can travel to Aruba for the big competition and cheer our team on to victory.

Several teams from the center train regularly and are also coached on good sportsmanship and teamwork.



The Jong Bonaire championship futsal team (indoor soccer) is coached by youth leader Ruvelio Josephia, left, and Rudsel St. Jago right.

## Spinashi pa Famianan



## Spinach for Families

With extra funding from AMFO, Jong Bonaire started a test project to help strengthen families. Any teen member or their family can work with our 'family coach' to help prevent or solve problems of communication, social skills, aggression or behavior. The coach is a trained psychologist from Holland.

The psychologist meets with the teens and parents individually and together, as necessary. After a three to five month intervention, he then writes a summary evaluation on each situation. The participants, both teens and parents, will also evaluate the process and measure the intervention in each of the areas that were identified as needing work.

If the program proves to be as successful, Jong Bonaire would like to expand the service and perhaps offer it to all teens and their families, not just members of Jong Bonaire. Or it may be that this becomes a service of a different organization in the future when the island's status with the Netherlands changes.



The committee that organized the three-day anniversary celebration was made up of Jong Bonaire 'graduates' Left to right: Ruvelio Josephia (Youth Leader), Reagan Nicolaas, Juliandro Soree, Julie Wanga, Nilson Morillo, Jonathan Clarinda, Echo Chirino with Manager Bilha Thomas. Bilha has returned as manager after Jona Chirino resigned to enter politics. Not shown: Zuli Marchena.



**Above:** Senaida Janga (L), our longest-serving Youth Leader with William Obando (C) one of our early members who is now a massage therapist working on the island. David Romo (R) is a former Youth Leader who now teaches elementary school in Rincon.

**Below:** is one of the workshops during the Youth Conference where members and former members let their voices be heard.



Magic Ed Janga, a local entrepreneur, was one of the first members of Jong Bonaire. He now volunteers, teaching his magical skills to the current members who performed during the 10-year celebration.





**Above:** Rollerhockey continues to be a popular activity with several competitions held in 2009, one of them against former members.



**Right:** teens check out who the Hoben di Siman (Youth of the Week) are.

**Below:** More that 330 people joined the 9th Annal Swim to Klein Bonaire this year. The Jong Bonaire fundraising event is the start of Regatta Week each year.



**Left:** Help with homework is an important part of the afternoon. Teachers and youth leaders are on hand during the required hour of study.

**Below:** For those without homework, there are brain games and puzzles for them to work on so they don't disturb the others.



## More Parent Activities

In addition to the new Spinach for Families program, Jong Bonaire continues to have regular meetings and workshops for parents. During the 2008-2009 school year, over 85% of parents attended at least one parent workshop and 70% attended two or more of the evening sessions. Some are pictured right and below.

The staff also sends out a parent update newsletter each half year called the Triangle so that parents can read about the youth activities and also be reminded of the trainings they participated in.

In May of 2009 the center hosted families for a fun-packed day for Dia di Famia (Family Day). Parents and teens worked together and competed with each other in activities aimed at improving communication and interaction.

Parents were also asked to fill in a research questionnaire during Family Day to determine their satisfaction with the center and its activities. Over 95% of the parents said that the center is teaching their child well and 100% of the parents felt that the center is important for the community and their families.

Parents also had an opportunity to tell the center what topics they would like to have for workshops and other ideas that would make Jong Bonaire even stronger.



## Prevention Projects for the Teenagers

During each year the center hosts a number of prevention programs and workshop for the teens. In 2009 these included an AIDS prevention workshop before Karnaval, led by Vivian de Lanooy who heads the Aids prevention program for the Health Department.

There was also a panel discussion on domestic violence as well as a multi-week course on sexuality and body changes.

Starting in September the Interkambio program began working with a drug prevention program and another self-esteem program called "The Way to Happiness" that reinforces a set of basic values.

In October, 48 male members of Jong Bonaire participated in a Leadership Conference for boys and later that month 90 of the members took part in the parade during Children's Rights Day (Drecha di Mucha).

## 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 (US\$ 15.00) 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:

Donate via the Internet using a credit card or PayPal. Just visit our Dictionary website and click one of the donation buttons (no need 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 :"



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