

# The Vieux Fort Children's Society

The Vieux Fort Children's Society is a charity formed in 2008 by a multi disciplinary group of people for the provision of a place of safety as well as programmes and services for children in need, in a loving, caring and supportive manner. The Society also aims to provide services for families to assist them in maintaining a healthy family environment for children. The Society's priority is to build a home in the Vieux Fort area for children who are unable to remain in their current home because they are deemed to be at risk, in need and or have suffered significant harm through child abuse, parental neglect, or abandonment.

The founders of the society are independent citizens comprised of professionals and concerned people all of whom have recognized a desperate need for intervention on behalf of the children from Vieux Fort and surrounding areas.

In 2010, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor General of Saint Lucia agreed to be our Patron and this is greatly appreciated by the Society.

The Society is a non-Governmental, non-profit making organisation, all proceeds are used for the benefit of the children and community in which we serve. We are not affiliated with or beholden to any Government body but will comply with the National Laws and Regulations governing Non Government Organisations and providers of Child Care Services in St Lucia. The Society has been recognised and certificated by the Division of Human Services and Family Affairs in their effort to safeguard children and provide a safe home for children at risk. The Society accepts assistance from organisations that wish to donate their services and are operating within the legal framework of the Government of Saint Lucia.

We have been granted 2.5 acres of land by Crown Lands at Aupicon, just outside Vieux Fort for the construction of the home and the Lease is in the process of being transferred to the Society. A plan of the proposed home has been drawn and has been submitted to Planning Department for approval which we are expecting at any time.

Our funding comes mainly in the form of donations from businesses, individuals and international organisations and charities. Many of our members have contacts within St Lucia and also in Canada, the US and the UK. These overseas charities are aware of our project. The Society also has a charity shop and holds weekly flea markets in Vieux Fort as well as bi-monthly flea markets in Laborie. Last June we held our "Official Launch" event which raised approximately \$5,500 and the Sunset Jazz event which was held at Government House last year raised \$10,000. This year we are holding a Dinner and Dance Gala Event in November which we hope will raise even more much needed funds for the completion of the home.