

The Spanish Town Seventh Day Adventist Skills Training Centre

MISSION STATEMENT

To empower participants through goal- oriented activities and skill training in a Christ-centred environment, assisting them with the development of a positive attitude toward self and work; providing assessment and certification aimed at world class standard as required by HEART Trust NTA & the NCTVE T.

OBJECTIVES

We aim to:

1. Bridge the socio-economic gap in our society through knowledge and skills in conjunction with H.E. A.R.T. Trust
2. Foster nation building through education and training, thus empowering people to acquire new jobs resulting in increased productivity and income
3. Help promote the right attitude which will enable trainees to become successful entrepreneurs.

4. Mould individuals who will help other people excel.
5. Provide an ideal environment for learning in order to stimulate excellence and performance akin to professional standards

Introduction

The Spanish Town SDA Skills Training Center was established in October 1999, when members of the Spanish Town Seventh-day Adventist Church took the initiative to commence an out-reach program to offer training to members of the community. A feasibility study was done and proposal made to the **HEART Trust NTA**. This government agency offered joint funding to offset some of the cost for skills training and a partnership was formed.

The Centre is managed by civic-minded professionals from the community.

Courses Offered

The program caters to persons of all ages, school drop-outs, the disabled and school leavers. Presently, we accommodate twenty-five participants - 7 males and 18 females. These students will complete their training at the end of March 2009. Also there are 5 females attending evening class in Food Preparation.

The main course offered is **Commercial Food Preparation**. Included in the curriculum is **Mathematics, English, Spanish, Entrepreneurship, Data Operation and Team Jamaica or Tourism Product**. Additionally, participants receive three weeks working experience in restaurants, fast food establishments, school canteens and other food-related entities. A

National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica (NVQJ) certificate is awarded to every candidate who successfully completes the programme.

The Centre has trained approximately three hundred and twenty (320) persons since it started. Of these, more than eighty five percent are employed in the hospitality industry or are operating their own business.

Achievements

The work of the Centre positively impacts the community. Many persons have found a sense of direction and are now highly motivated and able to provide economically for themselves and make positive contributions to society.

Through income generation projects we encourage our students to think like entrepreneurs. Students bake buns and assorted pastries and market the products themselves. The start-up operating cost is returned to the centre. Through this venture, many students have gone on to start their own businesses.

Some of our top achievers are employed with organizations namely: Hilton Hotel, Island Grill, Restaurants of Jamaica and Juicy Patties, to name a few. Others have successfully pursued the level 2 in Commercial Food Preparation at the HEART Runaway Hotel and other institutions.

Future Development

There is scope for further development to this well sought after programme, and in our five-year plan, we are looking at the possibility of extension by achieving the Level 2 status and

accreditation by the Accredited Training Organization (ATO) as well as creating an over-seas link to assist our graduates in acquiring employment.

Recently, **House Keeping** was offered on a trial basis, however the demand is now greater than we can accommodate. **Floral Arrangement** will be added in the near future.

The Skills Training Centre is also targeting individuals who are working in the food and/or hospitality industries without certification. A pre-entry level programme for persons who do not qualify for the diagnostic test to enter the Level 1 programme is also to be offered.