



PINE CAY PROJECT SUPPORTS TCI EFFORTS TO INCREASE AND EXTEND STUDENT LEARNING

This issue of the annual Pine Cay Project newsletter focuses on two education initiatives that serve children and young adults in the Turks and Caicos Islands. For both initiatives, Pine Cay Project has provided significant funding over multiple years to increase student learning in areas that are sometimes neglected or deferred. The year-over-year continuity of Pine Cay Project support has allowed these initiatives to grow and to flourish, to the benefit of TCI students and the larger TCI community.

Junior Park Warden Program

\$12,386 for summer environmental-education programming

Pine Cay Project has supported this summer environmental-education program since 2006, in partnership with the TCI Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, an agency directed by Dr. Nicole Caesar. Since its inception, the Junior Park Warden Program has educated local students to become responsible stewards of the TCI's natural environment, by deepening their knowledge of the environmental needs and assets of the TCI and by building their understanding of the opportunities for TCI citizens to protect and enhance their spectacular natural environment.



Over the years, participants in this summer program have learned about topics such as the maritime industries that shape the country's economy, the function and scientific characteristics of ocean reefs, the threats posed by invasive animal and plant species and how to mitigate those threats, and the challenges of managing commercial and residential waste without harm to the eco-system. Every summer since 2006, students have met with experts and conducted investigations in these areas, while learning how they can pursue environmental protection and enhancement in their own careers and volunteer roles. In addition, they have learned new ways to enjoy their natural environment, through instruction in swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, paddle-boarding, and scuba-diving.



The summer 2018 program focused on climate change, including its causes, its impacts in the TCI, and how those impacts can be reduced through focused effort by concerned citizens. As led by Coordinator Amy Avenant, students' summer curriculum included:

- The history and science of climate change
- The complex relationship among climate, ecosystems, and human activity
- The roles of reefs, wetlands, and beaches in stabilizing human and other habitats
- The threats posed by climate change to biodiversity
- Steps that groups and individuals can take to reduce climate change through awareness, waste reduction, increased recycling and re-use of limited resources, and other methods



Although data from the 2018 summer program are not yet fully analyzed, 2017 program results showed a major increase in participants' understanding of

that summer's theme, which was the impact of plastic waste in TCI waters. In feedback reports, students provided written demonstration of their understanding of the problem of plastic waste in the ocean and also how they could personally take actions to reduce and eventually eliminate plastics pollution.

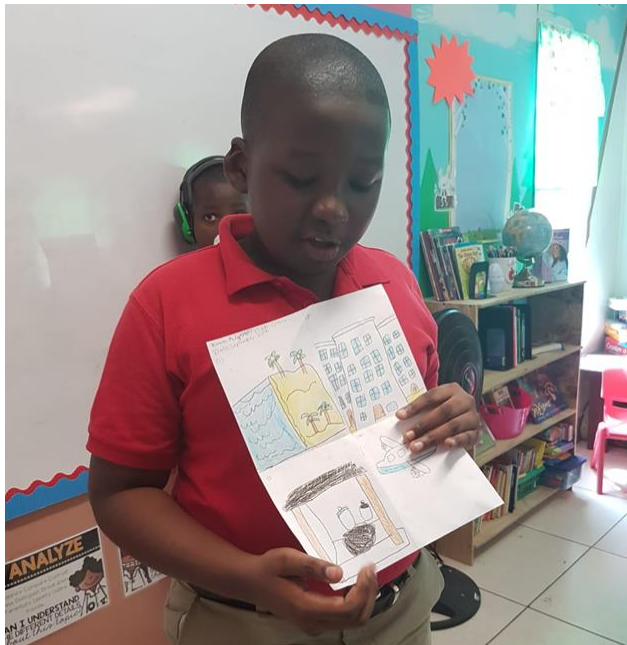
Summer Screening and Diagnosis of Children with Autism Disorders \$15,000



The Hope Foundation for Autism Awareness TCI is a nonprofit organization formed by TCI parents and others to raise awareness of autism-related disorders affecting children and young adults and also to inform parents and educators about effective methods for supporting and educating children and young adults diagnosed with these conditions. In addition, the Hope Foundation has provided free evaluations of affected children and has sponsored a model demonstration classroom that uses research-based methods to educate and support children with autism disorders.

Founded in 2013 under the leadership of Maxcia Rigby, a parent and local civic leader, the Hope Foundation has received financial support from Pine Cay Project since its inception. In its first grant to the Hope Foundation, Pine Cay Project provided partial support for a series of workshops in which parents, educators, and interested community members

learned about autism from experts who volunteered their time to explain autism and its characteristics across a spectrum of developmental disorders and to demonstrate methods for educating and supporting children and young adults with autism.



Subsequent Pine Cay Project grants have extended these informational workshops to TCI islands beyond Providenciales and have also paid the travel expenses for university-based professionals from the United States to conduct free in-person evaluations of TCI children and young adults with characteristics consistent with an autism-spectrum disorder.

Volunteer leaders and trustees of the Hope Foundation were very pleased recently to see several students from their model classroom selected for inclusion in regular school classrooms for parts of the school day, following intensive instruction in the model classroom to develop students' academic and social skills. The organization is also pleased to see the TCI Ministry of Education and Health increasingly acknowledging and acting on their responsibilities for identifying and educating children and young adults with autism. Examples of actions in this area are two recent hires by the Ministry, which will increase the public schools' capacity to serve children with autism. Much more

needs to be accomplished, however. As was the case in the United States, the Hope Foundation knows that thoughtful advocacy and demonstrations of effective methods of teaching children with autism will eventually persuade the wider TCI community to make needed services available to all TCI students with autism.



LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming months, the trustees of Pine Cay Project will continue to provide financial support to schools and other education-related organizations that need supplemental resources to improve learning opportunities for the students they serve. Pine Cay Project will continue to support its long-standing program goals, including:

- Assistance in advocating for careers in fields vital to the TCI
- Enhancement of teacher skills and knowledge
- Improvement in the curricula and materials available for use in classroom instruction

Pine Cay Project is soliciting applications to address these goals. Since the end of its most recent fiscal year, Pine Cay Project has awarded a major new grant to Long Bay High School, a new public secondary school in Providenciales. This new grant advances the goals described above.

We ask for your donation to continue the Project's work in extending important educational opportunities to all children and young adults in the TCI. Pine Cay Project is a qualified nonprofit organization under the laws of the United States (Federal ID #341703337). Donations are tax deductible in the United States.

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, donations to Pine Cay Project totaled \$147,400. Grants totaled \$27,386. Other income and

expenditures were minimal. The trustees of Pine Cay Project are making plans to use the surplus funds generated in the 2017-18 fiscal year to permit larger grants in the current year, possibly including partnerships to permit transformative grants for schools and other entities that wish to participate in large-scale educational improvement to benefit their students. Your generous support is invaluable for work at this larger scale, and we sincerely thank you.

Please mail your donation to:

**Pine Cay Project
c/o Maggie Baczkowski, Treasurer
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TRUSTEES OF PINE CAY PROJECT

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