

JN Resolution Project holds youth advocacy workshops

RESOLUTION X: My Generation' is the theme that has been selected for the 2013-2014 JN Foundation Resolution Project, which commenced its 10th cycle of workshops to train students about advocacy through photography, on October 9.

The workshops were conducted in five rural parishes over the last few weeks – Ocho Rios, St Ann; Montego Bay, St James; Mandeville, Manchester; Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland; and Morant Bay, St Thomas, Alicia Glasgow, project manager of the JN Foundation Resolution Project, announced.

"This year's theme, which focuses on youth identity and culture, will highlight the positive and negative perceptions of young people and how they see themselves," she explained. "These views could either be physical, social, spiritual or as intellectual beings. The theme will also explore how the rest of the society sees the youth in today's environment."

Glasgow added that student photographers from some 45 schools across rural Jamaica will participate in this year's competition, which is set to end in April 2014. She explained that the Resolution Project facilitates youth advocacy by empowering young people to voice their concerns and express their opinions through the art form of photography.

Students participated in focus group discussions on sub-themes of the competition such as the definitions of beauty and body image; sexuality; norms and reality; gender roles; and dreams, visions and aspirations.

Twelve-year-old Shannon Troy Evans was among the participants from the Dinthill Technical High School who attended the St Ann workshop. He said his cousin, who had participated in the programme two years ago, encouraged him to get involved. "From I was small, I always loved taking photos and my father would take me all over Jamaica to take photo-



Students from Iona, Aabuthnott and Dinthill Technical high schools gathered at the JN Foundation Resolution Project workshop in St Ann recently.



Students of the Iona High School, in St Mary, pose for a group photo after the Resolution Project workshop held at the St John's Anglican Church Hall in Ocho Rios, St Ann, on October 9. They will be taking photographs that advocate for change in their respective communities.

graphs. I see the JN Resolution Project as a way of formally improving my skills," said the future entrepreneur and part-time photographer.

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His teacher, Chunguloo Munroe, said she recognised Shannon's interest in photography and was so impressed that she decided to include him in this year's programme. "He came to me and insisted that he wanted to be included in the programme and,

because of his persistence, although he is young, I brought him to the workshop," Munroe explained.

Seventeen-year-old Zandre Roye, a grade-10 student of Iona High School, hopes to advocate for street children during the programme. "I don't like to see young children begging on the streets. It is not a problem in St Mary but sometimes you see one or two and, when you do, it is very impactful," he said. Roye is hoping that he can capture this undesirable practice with his lens and



Student representatives from the Spot Valley High School, Maldon High School and Cornwall College in St James make a presentation on youth perspectives at the Resolution Project workshop held at the Strand Theatre, Montego Bay, on October 10.



Kemesha Kelly (left), youth empowerment officer at the Marcus Garvey Youth Information Centre, St Ann, and Miss Jamaica Festival Queen 2012, takes a picture with her students at the JN Resolution Project Workshop. Miss Kelly, herself a youth advocate, presented at the workshop in St Ann on October 9, assisting students in talking through their perceptions of youth identity and culture under the theme 'Resolution X: My Generation'.

advocate for change in this kind of behaviour.

Initiated by Earl Jarrett, general manager of Jamaica National Building Society, the JN Resolution Project, formerly called Youth Zoom, is an annual, rural high-school photography competition. The project equips and trains approximately 200 students per year in the art of photography and advocacy. It offers a creative

avenue through which young people in rural Jamaica can express and give voice to their concerns.

Glasgow maintained, "The project challenges students to critically examine issues affecting their respective communities and facilitates the use of photography as a tool to advocate for change in situations and the lives of people, which may otherwise have gone unnoticed."