



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAMCCAR Celebrates 35th Year Milestone with Its High Impact G.R.A.C.E. Initiative and Community-Focused Programs

Rockland, NY – January 30, 2025 – The Jamaican Civic and Cultural Association of Rockland (JAMCCAR) is proud to commemorate its 35th anniversary of service to the Caribbean Diaspora in New York. As part of this milestone, JAMCCAR is thrilled to continue its impactful **GIRLS REACHING ALL CONCEPTS OF EXCELLENCE (G.R.A.C.E.)** mentorship program. Under the theme "**Passionately Progressing with Purpose,**" this initiative reflects the organization's commitment to empowering youth and fostering community growth.

The G.R.A.C.E. program, a school-based mentorship and enrichment initiative, was launched in 2023 with remarkable success at Pomona Middle School. The program focuses on guiding middle school girls in the East Ramapo Central School District, helping them unlock their full potential through mentorship, advocacy, and service. This year, JAMCCAR will extend the program to thirty (30) female students at Kakiat STEAM Academy in Spring Valley, New York, continuing its mission to help young girls become the best versions of themselves.

Co-President and Program Director Sonia Claire Tracey expressed her excitement for the continued success of the G.R.A.C.E. initiative. "The overwhelmingly positive response from students and parents has been truly inspiring. This program came at such a critical time in these girls' lives, and we are excited to continue making a difference," Tracey said.

She also commended the dedication of the G.R.A.C.E. team, including Deputy Director Nicole Gladden Mathews, Esq., and the group of strong, professional women leaders who are contributing their time and expertise. "Together, we are providing the guidance and support needed to empower the next generation of female leaders," Tracey added.

In addition to the G.R.A.C.E. program, JAMCCAR has long been a leader in youth empowerment, contributing over \$300,000 in scholarships to college-bound high school seniors through its **Annual Scholarship Awards**. The organization also sponsors the **EKKLIPSE STEEL BAND**, a group of aspiring college students, offering them artistic and community-based opportunities.

Also to mark its 35th anniversary, JAMCCAR will host a series of community-focused programs designed to celebrate its legacy and highlight the ongoing importance of its work. These programs will focus on vital issues including community health and wellness, financial literacy, mental health, and legislative advocacy. JAMCCAR's annual events, including **Juneteenth Celebration, Annual Heritage/Independence Celebration, Kay Baxter Memorial Cricket Match, Annual Thanksgiving Service and Cultural Celebration, Jamaica's 63rd Year of Independence Celebration and Membership Picnic** ... all serve to further its mission of strengthening community ties and promoting cultural awareness.

Newly appointed Co-President Patricia Chandler expressed her pride in being part of the organization said, “As a proud Jamaican, I am honored to serve on the Board of an organization that has positively impacted so many lives over the past 35 years. I look forward to continuing our mission of supporting the next generation of scholars and leaders with purpose.”

JAMCCAR’s newly elected officers for the 35th anniversary year include:

- **Co-Presidents:** Sonia Claire Tracey and Patricia Chandler
- **First Vice President – Programs:** Millicent Johnson
- **Second Vice President – Finance:** Jeff Chandler
- **Third Vice President – Membership:** Sabrina HoSang Jordan
- **Fourth Vice President – Public Relations:** Nicole Matthews
- **Treasurer:** Theodore Tracey
- **Recording Secretary:** Rev. Tiffany Sturdivant
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Annmarie Blackwood
- **Financial Secretary:** Doris Miller
- **Members At Large:** Sharon Dacres, Andrea O'Sullivan, Carol Williams, Hope Wade (Immediate Past President)

About JAMCCAR:

A non-profit community organization whose primary mission is to foster good relations and close association with Jamaicans and friends in Rockland County and its environs, with the purpose of promoting the civic, economic, and cultural aspects of the Jamaican, Caribbean and Pan-African cultures.

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