

MY EXPERIENCE AS A SOUTH FLORIDA CONNECTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

By: Euzel Parkes

THE GOOD SAMARITAN – SOUTH FLORIDA CONNECTS!

Thank you South Florida Connects! I wasn't left behind; I am really happy to know that I am one of the first recipients of your SFC Scholarship Award. Sometimes I thought I would give up and give in, but this scholarship was so meaningful to my life that I actually forget about my negative thoughts. Now I see my dreams coming into reality.

Yes, I was willing to take the opportunities given to me and I have utilized the abilities I have which now fills my life with unforgettable life experiences. Mrs. Thomas-Brown, this scholarship has not only benefitted me financially to have sat nine (9) Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) subjects, but also emotionally. By receiving this award, my fears and stress were gone. At my age learning should be fun. I have spent too much time thinking and worrying about these hard times, but as you know they too shall pass.

Many nights my pillow soaked with tears knowing that I have no financial help behind me. How was I going to sit these nine (9) CXCs? Would I become nothing in life? Sooner or later, I worried not since God had my life planned, Mrs. Thomas-Brown. Sometimes you must face the storm to see the sunshine. God wanted to see how much I depended on him. I had faith that he would deliver me.

On that day which I received the award; September 26, 2012 I was too elated to express my feelings. It was one of the best things that have

ever happened in my life. Mrs. Debbie I was able to be at school each day having some lunch, being able to buy materials which I would definitely need to make my school life more comfortable. I was able to sit my nine (9) CXC's: Mathematics, **English Language - distinction**, English Literature, Integrated Science, Social Studies, **Agricultural Science - distinction**, Caribbean History, Information Technology and **Human and Social Biology - distinction**. I had nothing to worry about than to be focused and study for my CXC Examination. When the results were out I failed none. I had passed all nine (9); three (3) distinctions and six (6) credits.

What a great God! I am truly proud of my accomplishment and I will never ever let anyone or anything negative prevent me from moving forward. The SFC Scholarship Award was what I really needed. Mrs. Debbie, you know that I needed help and God provided a way for me through you. My high school years have been successful because of the SFC Scholarship Award.

Thank you South Florida Connects! I don't know how to express how grateful I am to you for what you have done in my life. As I now focus on sixth (6th) form, you have taught me that things will ultimately get better, even as they get worse. I know sometimes the paths we take are long and hard, but I will remember that those are the ones that will lead to the most memorable views.

I pray that God will continue to strengthen you as you continue to shape many young lives as you have done for me. I don't have to always win, but you have shown me how to be a winner. Continue to

fight the good fight. Continue to be a nation builder and most of all continue to be God's instrument of purpose. Once again I owe it all to you, thank you!

Much thanks and gratitude,
Euzel Valdiman Parkes.



DEVONA'S SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS REPORT

My heart was filled with joy from knowing that my life wouldn't be the same, upon receiving the South Florida Connects, Inc. Self-Actualization & Academic Scholarship. As a teenager at Green Island High School, I had problems that no one knew about. I doubt that anyone could tell that I had so many problems because of the way I presented myself and kept my grades up. My dreams and aspirations were all I owned and so, I tried my best to make them come true.

As a result of my exceptional abilities, I learned to own and control my destiny. Being a recipient of this scholarship, gave me a beam of light in my life. It helped to push me more to realize that, "I am the controller of my destiny. It's up to me what comes to pass and if I keep my thoughts positive and strong, my dreams will come true". The SFC

Scholarship provided me with a lot of help to keep me on track and pointed me in the direction of my goals.

The SFC scholarship experience helped me to believe in myself more and enabled me to visualize my way beyond the detours, standstills and precipices. It offered me the opportunity that made me a better person today. It also helped to develop my self-esteem and confidence, and assisted me greatly in working more consistently towards achieving my goals.

These opportunities that the SFC Scholarship offered provided the foundation for me to pass my C.S.E.C. Exams. I was successful in seven (7) subjects (**English, Social Studies, Integrated Science, Human and Social Biology, Theatre Arts, Home Economics and Caribbean History**) and I am now looking forward to furthering my education.

This experience was one of the best. The scholarship presentation brought tears to my eyes and joy to my soul. I want to thank you for this opportunity that totally changed my life. As a result of this experience, I would like to be able to do the same in the future, by offering my help to others who have the ability but lack the necessary financial resources. May God bless and continue to empower this organization to do greatness.

Miss Devona Ellis,
Green Island High School Graduate &
SFC 2012 Self-Actualization & Academic Award Scholarship Recipient.