

Y.W.C.A. Fiona Stevenson Learn-to-Swim Programme

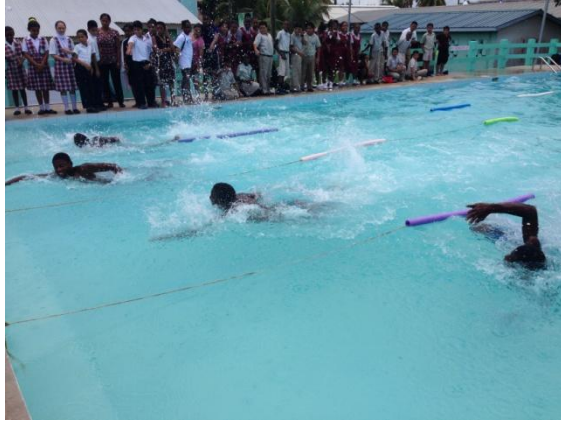
Narrative Report for 2016

Since 1996, the pool at the Young Women's Christian Association of Belize (Y.W.C.A.) has been and still continues to be the only community pool in the entire country of Belize. With the support of the Fiona Stevenson Foundation funds that began in 2007, we have been able to provide Learn-to-Swim and Lifeguard Programmes for more than 2,256 children from twenty-nine (29) primary schools and one (1) institution (Friends Boys School).

In March 2016, the successful programme attracted children and youth from nine (9) primary schools, one (1) institution (Gateway Youth Center), Dorothy Menzies Childcare Centre, Liberty Children's Home, and from low income families. This programme has received much recognition from the various schools that were invited to be a part of the programme, and from the National Sports Council, the media, and the community.

A total of two hundred twenty-five students (225) participated in the 8-week Learn-to-Swim Programme. The students were from Central Christian, Gateway Youth Center, Stella Maris, Muslim Community, Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist (S.D.A.), Ebenezer Methodist, Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic, Buttonwood Bay Nazarene, Queen Street Baptist, and Queen's Square Anglican schools. The Y.W.C.A. provided transportation for one hundred and fifty-five (155) of these children, as many of them either lived far from the Y or in areas where the incidence of crime is high.

The 2016 Fiona Stevenson Swim Meet that was held at the end of the 8-week programme was for the outstanding students from the different schools to show off their swimming skills. The principals, teachers, and students who gathered together and cheered on their school were a welcoming sight.



Males compete in long distance finals



Winners of the 9th Annual Fiona Stevenson Swim Meet

The Fiona Stevenson Fund also funded the training of twenty-one (21) young men and women, who participated in both the Lifeguard and Swimming Instructor Courses. First Aid and Leadership Skills Training were incorporated in the courses. At the end of the training the participants were certified by the Belize Red Cross. During the summer, the twenty-one (21) lifeguards/swim instructors played a key role in assisting the Y.W.C.A. in its Learn-to-Swim Summer Programme, where they taught approximately one hundred and twenty-five (125) toddlers, children, young adults, and adults how to swim. This opportunity gave the newly-trained lifeguards/swim instructors a chance to become more confident and assertive as lifeguards and to improve their teaching skills as swimming instructors. The opportunity also provided them with income, which helped them with school-related expenses.



Swim Instructor/Lifeguard trainees receive CPR training



Newly-trained swim instructors/lifeguards teach students how to swim

Among the 125 persons who attended the Y.W.C.A.'s 2016 Summer Programme, were twenty-five (25) underprivileged children from various parts of Belize City. These children were given the chance to participate free of charge in the Learn-to-Swim Programme. At the end of the 3-week summer class, many of them learned how to swim, became more confident in the water, and later received certificates at the Goldfish, Snapper, and Intermediate Levels.

In addition to the participation of the twenty-five (25) underprivileged children, fifteen (15) children from the Liberty Foundation participated in 5 sessions of the Learn-to-Swim Programme, and fifteen (15) from the Dorothy Menzies Childcare Center also had the opportunity to be a part of the two-week 2016 Summer Learn-to-Swim Programme. The children from Liberty Foundation enjoyed themselves so much, that they requested to come for the entire week. The Y.W.C.A. therefore provided transportation for five days, instead of the proposed two days.

Sadly, we did not have any Special Olympics Swim Classes because of the unavailability of the facilitators at the special needs school. The facilitators were extremely busy with school-related work that they never had the time to bring the children over and assist the Y.W.C.A. with this programme. Despite this disappointment, we believe that the 2016 Fiona Stevenson Programme was a tremendous success.

Y.W.C.A. 2016 Fiona Stevenson Learn-to-Swim Budget Report

Actual Activity	Description	Budget Request	Actual Cost
1. Swimming lessons for 225 children from ten (10) primary schools	Training: 225 x \$40/person	10,000.00	9,000.00
Transportation for 155 students (to/from)	Transportation: 155 students x 20 trips @\$2	4,000.00	6,200.00
2. Swim Meet for 250 Primary School principals, teachers, and students	Snacks: 250 x \$5/person	1,250.00	1,250.00
	Medals and Trophies	600.00	774.30
3. Extra swim lessons for 10 specially-selected Stella Maris students to train for the Special Olympics (School for children with special needs)	Training did not take place	350.00	0.00
4. Swimming lessons during the summer for 15 children from Dorothy Menzies Child Care Center	Training: 15 x \$20/person	400.00	300.00
5. Five days of swimming lessons during the summer for 15 children from Liberty Foundation Liberty is about 12miles from Belize City	Training: 15 x \$10 x 5 sessions	400.00	750.00
	Transportation: \$60 per trip x 5 trips (to/from) less discount	120.00	260.00
6. Swimming lessons during the summer for 25 disadvantaged children from the community	Training: 25 x \$20/person	400.00	500.00
7. Training for 21 Lifeguards and 21 Swim Instructors	Training: 42 x \$20/person	800.00	840.00
Total		BZ \$18,320.00	BZ \$19,874.30

NOTE: The YWCA covered the additional costs for the 2016 swim programme.

2016 Fiona Stevenson Learn-to-Swim Programme

statistics

Name of School *Special Needs School	Number of Lessons	Number of students who attended the Course	Students at the start who feared water and could not swim	Students at the start who did not fear water but could not swim	Students at the start who could swim a little	Number of students who completed the course	Non swimmers who learned to swim	Number of students at the end who can swim
Central Christian	8	25	9	11	5	25	18	23
*Stella Maris	8	15	10	5	0	15	11	11
Ephesus S.D.A	8	15	13	2	0	15	9	9
Buttonwood Bay Nazarene	8	22	9	5	8	22	11	19
Muslim Community	8	28	17	6	5	28	15	20
Gate Way Center	8	27	8	15	4	27	20	24
Ebenezer Methodist	8	15	4	7	4	15	8	12
Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic	8	29	14	8	7	29	13	20
Queen's Square Anglican	8	25	8	12	5	25	18	23
Queen Street Baptist	8	24	7	14	3	24	15	18
Total	80	225	99	85	41	225	138	179