EMU Gives Back
Team EMU
Community Group

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Community Group

Bluefields Peoples' Community Association
Working Together For a Better Future

HELP US PROTECT THE COASTLINE & ECOSYSTEM
NO LITTERING

WWW.bluefieldsjamaica.org.jm / WWW.bluefieldsbay.org.jm
Bluefields Bay Fisher Friendly Society (BBFFS) 2012 Survey

Fish Sanctuary created in 2009 as a cooperative effort by BBFFS to:

- Replenish the fish population within the local bay area.
- Ensure that current and future generations of fishers can “Enjoy the fruits of the sea.” –as quoted by a fisher in the survey
Our group’s project represented the first opportunity local fishers had to express their feelings to the BBFFS about the impact of the fish sanctuary on their livelihood.
Have you observed improvements in the catch within the past six months?

- Yes: 67%
- Mixed: 30%
- No: 3%
Survey Results

- Strongly Agree: 56%
- Agree: 37%
- Neutral: 5%
- Other: 2%

Total responses: 62 surveys
Community feedback on how to improve the sanctuary:

- Open the sanctuary once every six months.
- Give the fishers who aren’t members the incentive to join.
- Have more BBFFS meetings.
- Put out more markers.
- Eliminate dynamite.
- Stronger penalties for rule violations.
- At least two trained wardens in handling firearms.
- Educate more fishers about the BBFFS.
- Post rules and regulations for public view
- Community schools should be taught about the importance of the BBFFS and the Fishing Sanctuary to inform future generations
We shared the results of our research at the Bluefield Bay Fisher Friendly Society, attended by community members and our classmates.

A copy of our presentation was sent to the Jamaican Government by BBFFS.
“I definitely began to see the similarities way more than the differences between the U.S. and Jamaica on this trip....

If people can begin to relate to the Jamaican people then I feel they will be more open to listening to the struggles their country is facing.”
Our giving included EMU backpacks ...

- Thanks to a grant from EMU Women in Philanthropy, we were able to give over 20 backpacks and school supplies to children and youth in Bluefields. They went like hotcakes!
“... a young girl wrote “I “heart” white people” on the bus with her finger in the dust on the window.

This awareness of my whiteness constantly is certainly unique...I wish there were more places to have this experience because white people rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to experience not being the majority for long – or many of us avoid these opportunities. . . “
“The element of uncertainty and awareness of your difference is important (to me) to have any chance at understanding what people of color experience every day (in U.S.).”
“I have never been in the minority. I have traveled to a lot of other countries, but never one in which I was so clearly the minority ...”
“I was so comfortable and felt so safe and welcomed in Jamaica that coming back really opened my eyes to this. For eight days I felt like I was accepted regardless of my skin color that was so different.

The first time I walked on campus after those eight days, I missed that feeling.”
And when in Jamaica......
During our time in Jamaica, the community of Belmont honored the life and legacy of local hero Peter Tosh at his memorial site.

Get out and explore your community!!!
Support local businesses and markets!!!!

...and you just might find yourself in a roadside game of dominoes!!!
“I watched people playing dominoes all week long. You could hear the slap of the tiles and see the focus in their eyes...For some reason I was nervous to play... afraid I wouldn’t know what to do and it would ruin the game...
Wednesday – YS FALLS
“Another thing that made me realize the true value of life was the importance of even having running water and being subject to bathe and to do laundry daily in an open river ... Witnessing these things made me realize how much a person truly needs to survive. Many things in our American culture seem like necessities and they are not.”
Understand the legacy of colonialism and slavery as it will help you put the current political and economic plight of this nation into context.
“This was my first time on a plantation, and I know that I didn’t have to travel all the way to Jamaica to visit one! ... but it was shocking to me because my time spent in Jamaica was so calming and I felt so at peace, but when I stepped foot on the plantation I could almost feel suffering and it made me a little sad.”
And it’s just good manners to invite your new friends to your home for food and fun!

Drum Circle and dominoes at our community party
On the last night I mustered my courage to sit down
...and as the sun set on our seven days of service, we were reminded of just how much this experience changed our lives
...and forever bonded a group of students
“I’m certain that international service work is the path that I will continue down... I know that I am meant to serve others. Serving others is a gratifying experience for me and to serve through another culture is an incredible experience.”
Jamaica Post-trip seminar, March 2012
“what I’ve been experiencing is being frustrated. I feel as if when I tell people about the trip they do not truly understand what it was all about. I wish I could make them understand but there is simply nothing to compare it to.”
“The beauty of the island, the Jamaican people, and the work we did there seems to be beyond what words can actually explain to others. It is the moment I realized that people will get it, but never really get the full meaning behind it.”
So until next time, we’re forever grateful.

EMU-Jamaica Social Work Students, 2012
“I’m still sorting out my feelings about the trip, but when people ask I do say “life changing” to sum it up.