



JAMCCAR
*Jamaican
Civic & Cultural
Association of Rockland*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JAMCCAR TO AWARD UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS DURING UPCOMING GALA:
TWELVE EXCEPTIONAL ROCKLAND STUDENTS SELECTED**

(*SPRING VALLEY, NY---July 6, 2011*) As the Jamaican Civic and Cultural Association of Rockland, Inc. (JAMCCAR) celebrates its 21st Anniversary on Saturday, August 6, 2011, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the nearby beautiful Hilton Woodcliff Lake Hotel, 200 Tice Blvd., Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, it will present an unprecedented twelve (12) scholarship awards to some of Rockland County's exceptional college-bound high school graduates. The scholarship awards presentation is among the highlights of *Twenty-One: How Sweet It Is!*, a gala event that will commemorate JAMCCAR's 21st anniversary and Jamaica's 49th year of independence. The spectacular black tie event, replete with a sumptuous dinner, entertainment by the renowned JAMCCAR *Ekklipse Steel Band*, and dancing to music by *Soul Tone Disco With DJ Prentice*, will be held under the Patronage of the Honorable Geneive Brown Metzger, Consul General of Jamaica in New York. The dynamic and charismatic Christopher Dobson from the Jamaica Tourist Board will be the Master of Ceremony.

All are invited to attend JAMCCAR's *Twenty-One: How Sweet It Is!* and have a good time for a good cause to help acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the outstanding scholarship recipients. Tickets to this gala fundraising event must be purchased in advance of August 6th. The public is invited to call 845-425-7327 or 845-222-5973 for tickets and more information.

The twelve scholarship recipients are college-bound, graduating Rockland County high school students with superior records of academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular, and community service accomplishments. This year's JAMCCAR scholarship winners include **Esoshani Barton** and **Shana Henry** who have been integral parts of JAMCCAR's acclaimed *Ekklipse Steel Band*, and **Davine Holness**, an active participant in JAMCCAR's folk, drama and poetry presentations, **Matthew Brown**, **Rachel Friday**, **Shanice Garwood**, **Jaenique Hurlock**, **Raquel Paul**, **Brittney Reid**, **Jamila Samuel**, **Jordan Taylor** and **Christopher Turner**. Notably, *Brittney Reid ranked 4th*, *Shanice Garwood ranked 5th* and *Davine Holness ranked 6th* in their Ramapo High School graduating class of 311 students. JAMCCAR will also present a monetary award to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Purpose Center to support the Center's summer camp for youth.

M O R E

A raffle, and display and sale of Jamaican art with artists Paul Blackwood and Courtney Morgan, are activities that will also be a part of JAMCCAR's *Twenty-One: How Sweet It Is!* gala event. Tickets to the gala are \$140.00 per person and \$1,300.00 for a table of 10 guests and are available by calling 845-425-7327 or 845-222-5973.

JAMCCAR's President Millicent Johnson-James, said, "We are urging everyone to support this event. Proceeds will help us continue our: scholarship awards for graduating high school seniors; acclaimed youth steel band; youth cultural group, outreach programs, community forums, and other valuable programs and services to the community. This year is extra special as we celebrate JAMCCAR at *Twenty-One: How Sweet it is!*"

Reflecting on JAMCCAR's 21 years of service, Sonia Tracey-McCallum, Gala Chair, and a Founding Member and Past President of JAMCCAR said, "We are proud of the cultural and educational investments that we have made in our youth and the community over the years. We hope everyone will attend the Gala and all the other wonderful events. We encourage our out of town guests to take advantage of the special overnight rate of \$109 – available for a limited time - which we have arranged at the Hilton."

JAMCCAR's *Twenty-One: How Sweet It Is!* is the centerpiece of several activities marking JAMCCAR's annual **Heritage Week** celebration. Other **Heritage Week 2011** events include:

- **The Annual Kay Baxter Memorial Cricket Match** at Memorial Park off Route 45 in Spring Valley on **Saturday, July 30th at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Thanksgiving Service with Cultural Expression**, followed by a **free community reception with tasting of Jamaican food** on **Sunday, July 31st at 4:00 p.m.** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 26 S. Madison Ave, Spring Valley, New York.
- **Cultural Quiz Bowl and Awards for Youth Art/Essay/Poetry** on **Wednesday, August 3rd, 7:00 p.m.** at JAMCCAR's headquarters, 147 North Main Street, Spring Valley
- **Family Sports Day & Picnic on Saturday, August 13th**, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Camp Scuffy, 200 Cherry Lane, Tallman, New York.

As JAMCCAR celebrates **Heritage Week** under the theme of *Twenty-One: How Sweet It Is!*, the organization acknowledges and thanks the broad-based supportive network of Jamaicans, Jamericans, friends, collaborative and/or cooperative relations with associates in the African Diaspora, arts, business, culture, education, faith, government, and media sectors of the community.

JAMCCAR, Inc. is a non-profit, community organization with a mission of fostering good relations with Jamaican-Americans and friends in the metropolitan area, with the purpose of promoting the civic, economic, and cultural aspects of the Jamaican, Caribbean, and Pan-African cultures.

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