

## **Peace Learning Center and Rotary make a difference in Jamaican Schools**

Indianapolis-based Peace Learning Center recently returned from Jamaica where a five member team helped schools and learned of the impressive results regarding Peace Learning Center's Peace Education program in Jamaican schools, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Indianapolis. The program has the potential to impact not only the school system, but the country of Jamaica as a whole.

In partnership with Indianapolis and Savanna la Mar Jamaica Rotaries and the Jamaican Ministry of Education, Peace Learning Center's program is building the capacity of teachers, principals and guidance counselors to implement meaningful conflict resolution and peace education programs in their schools and communities.

During the visit, Peace Learning Center hosted a conference for more than 50 people representing 21 schools, along with conducting site visits and workshops for all teachers and school staff at three schools. They also met with the Ministry of Education and Rotary partners to review the program's accomplishments and to plan for the future.

The program has accomplished the following over the last eighteen months:

195 Jamaican teachers, guidance counselors, and principals have participated in conferences and educational workshops

All school staff at Cokes View and Ferris Primary Schools engaged in more than fifty hours of conflict resolution and peace education activities implementing programs in their schools.

Ferris Primary School Principal Paulette Hibbert reports that in past years, "there were many incidents of fighting and discipline -- but this year since September we've had zero discipline reports. This is because of our peace program."

1,200 student workbooks, posters, and other educational materials have been distributed.

The preliminary report from the Center for Urban and Multicultural Education (CUME) at IUPUI documented the findings of Peace Learning Center's Jamaican Peace Education Program. As the report noted, "The emphasis on active, relevant learning experiences seems to be seen not only as powerful in terms of teaching and learning, but also in its potential for an impact in Jamaican society." As one teacher commented, "It's not just limited to schools. We can use it in our communities and in other places to really get this country to be more peaceful. It has really worked."

## **Peace Learning Center and Rotary make a difference in Jamaican Schools—continued...**

We are honored to be asked by Rotary and the Jamaican Ministry of Education to share our services with schools in Jamaica," said Tim Nation, cofounder and executive director of Peace Learning Center. "While 90% of our work is in Indianapolis, it is a great opportunity to reach out and show how our community and country are proactively teaching people safe and helpful ways to deal with conflicts and differences while improving learning environments."

Celebrating 12 years of service as Indianapolis' only non-profit solely dedicated to teaching peace education to our community, Peace Learning Center programs are now in operation in six communities in the United States and five countries worldwide.