

TODAY'S NEWS

Ranfurly Homes for Children

What's New @ Ranfurly

We currently have 27 residents, 16 boys and 11 girls between the ages of 11 - 18. Six of our residents are new, 3 girls and 3 boys.

Under the leadership of Mr. Roberts, the administrator, and Mrs. Burrow, the house mother, all of the children have easily transitioned into school for the 2014-15 school year.

We're proud to announce that three students were named prefects at their schools. Sasha and Branisha are prefects at Temple Christian while Richard was named perfect at C.W. Saunders.

Nathaniel recently assisted as coach at the Long Island Opti Regatta.

We welcome Ms. Danika Curtiss! She is a new social worker assigned to us from the Ministry of Social Services.

We are officially 501 (c)(3) approved!



From the President

One of my greatest joys as president of the Ranfurly Homes for Children board is to see the children of Ranfurly growing and thriving in school and socially. Every time I interact with the children, I always have the thought, "I hope that we can continue raising enough money to raise these future leaders!" You may not be aware, but it takes \$10,000. per week to run the Ranfurly Homes for Children. And while the home receives a small government stipend, 80% of our funding comes from the donations of corporations and individuals like you! As a board, we are keenly aware of how necessary fundraising is to help our children have a bright future. After all, Ranfurly provides housing, food, clothing, an excellent education, counselling and extracurricular activities for our residents so that they can have the best chance of at a bright future. That's why you'll notice that we have been more dedicated to





Walking our way to success!

On Saturday November 8th, all of the Ranfurly residents were up at the crack of dawn. The grounds of the home buzzed with excitement as volunteers, board members and members of the community gathered ready to run, jog and walk for Ranfurly. The first annual "Love That Child" Walkathon was a success with nearly 200 participants raising \$4,000. to benefit the home. After the walkathon, all the participants gathered back at Ranfurly for delicious soups donated by Events by Alexandra. The event would not have been possible without the support of the following businesses: Commonwealth Bank (title sponsor), Bahamas Petroleum, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Dasani, PowerAde, Summit Insurance, Bahamas Wholesale Agencies and installers4less. Thank you for your support!



fundraising than ever. Our annual raffle in October was a success. And in November we partner with Rotary Club of East Nassau to launch our first annual "Love That Child" Walkathon. Both of these events were designed to bring the community together to support Ranfurly while raising needed funds. I would like to personally thank each of the Ranfurly Association members, supporters and volunteers for the amazing difference that you make for our children. I encourage you to keep up your association membership and consider making a special donation to Ranfurly this holiday season. At Ranfurly, we're raising future leaders and we need your help!

Sincerely,
Alexandra Maillis-Lynch

Hooray for the 2014 Grand Raffle!

Excitement was in the air on Saturday, October 4, 2014. It was time for Ranfurly's annual Grand Raffle! Under the leadership of board member Mrs. LaToya Polacek, the event was an amazing success once again. The event raised over \$110,000. As always, all proceeds go to the care of the children and upkeep of the home. Ranfurly would like to thank every business, individual, board member and volunteer who made this great day possible.



Alumni Corner

A Look Back with L. Sydney Saunders

As a 20 year practicing Certified Public Accountant, who has travelled extensively, I am indeed indebted to my upbringing as a ward of the Ranfurly Homes For Children. My journey at the homes began in 1956 upon the death of my mother when my sister was six months old and I was not yet two years old. We were fostered at the homes because of our family's dire economic straits. My father did his best but was faced with the difficulty of taking care of an infant and a toddler, and Ranfurly became our best option. My life skills were developed by under the tutelage of my British adopted father at the home, Fred Stubbs, and his caring compassionate wife. The couple engaged my curiosity in the study of sciences, mathematics, geometry and geography. My domestic skills were polished washing pots late at night and mopping the humongous kitchen floor as punishment for not eating black eyed peas or sardines. Growing up at the home, I was privileged to meet scores of local and international movie stars, royalty from Europe, and a number of Bahamian dignitaries. I had the honor to attend numerous special functions and events. I felt at that time that I was living a charmed and engaging life. I was visited by my family from time to time, but life was full of childish activity as I enjoyed the company, companionship and camaraderie of the other 40 or so children of the homes.

As I grew, I began to have a sense that something was missing. Even though my sister was constantly near, I still felt a sense of loneliness, a sense of emptiness – a desire to be a part of my own family – even a family I didn't know very well. Outside of the home, the taunts from children were insulting. For a long time I lived with the self-inflicted stigma of being an abandoned and unwanted child forced to live in a walled-off community with other marginalized rejects of Bahamian society.

I left the Ranfurly Homes shortly after my 13th birthday and spent that summer with two adopted families. Both families only wanted a son and not my sister. Since we were inseparable, my sister and I ended up with our paternal grandmother and her large brood of family members. I had to leave school before I was 14 years old to work in downtown Nassau stores to earn a living. I attended night school and after a number of BJs, landed a clerical position at the Ministry of Education and Culture when I was 19 years old. I applied myself to my work in the Personnel Department and continued night school. I eventually earned several GCE's and Pitman's certificates. I qualified for a government scholarship and matriculated to Elmira College in New York. I spent the next four years enjoying life and finally graduated with a degree in accounting. I spent the next several years developing my accounting and auditing skills while employed with the Bahamas Government at the Auditor's General's Department, then at the accounting firm KPMG in Nassau and Philadelphia and finally at McDermott Investment, a local financial investment company in Nassau.



After a brief stint with the Securities Commission of The Bahamas, I embarked upon my dream of setting up my own professional accounting firm. By then, I'd joined numerous civic and professional organizations and even became the branch chairman of a political party. I have been married for 33 years and have an adult son and daughter and a beautiful little grandson. After not visiting Ranfurly for a number of years, I recently built up the courage to go back during its annual fundraising event. It soon began to dawn on me how fortunate and privileged I had been to have spent my childhood years at the Ranfurly Homes for Children. So a few years ago, I decided to give back to the home by providing the talents acquired along my life journey by auditing Ranfurly's books. During the auditing engagement, I had a chance to visit the home. There I met the current administrator L. Alexander Roberts who graciously gave me a tour of the grounds. It was an awe-inspiring moment for me as I walked around the familiar rooms and grounds I had pranced, paraded and played in about fifty years ago. I felt like an oversized human in the narrow corridors, small dormitories, quaint kitchen and the tastefully decorated living and dining room areas which were like huge palace rooms to me when I was a resident. It was truly a homecoming that day!

I have now committed myself to do more for the home. I intend to give back to the young boys and girls of the home by providing math tutoring. I hope to be a continuing part of the effort to ensure that Ranfurly remains relevant. The best of me might be yet to come!

Support Ranfurly!

Interested in donating or volunteering? Call us at 242-393-3115 or visit www.ranfurlyhome.org

You can also follow us on Facebook!

DECEMBER 24, 2014
NOON EST **ESPN**

The inaugural Popeyes Bahamas Bowl will kick off December 24, 2014 @ the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. Hope to see you there!

