



THE ATLANTA JAMAICAN ASSOCIATION, INC. (AJA) SERVING THE COMMUNITY IN 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC CAN'T STOP AJA'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Since 1995, the Atlanta Jamaican Association, Inc. (AJA) has been assisting deserving graduating high school students in Jamaica and metro Atlanta with scholarship awards toward their first year of college expenses. At the beginning of 2020, the AJA Education Committee, chaired by Althea Fatuga, excitedly began preparing for another round of scholarships. Committee members were eagerly promoting the program to metro-Atlanta and Jamaican high schools, AJA members, friends of AJA and other organizations. Plans were well underway for the annual Independence Ball and Scholarship Awards, the primary fundraiser for the scholarship program.

And then . . . “Wham!! We were hit with the Covid-19 pandemic,” recalled chair Fatuga, “resulting in cancellation of the Ball. The members of the Education Committee knew that it would be challenging for the organization to fund this year’s awards but continued the process in faith. We reached out to the Board and membership and received approval for a total of \$10,000 for 10 awards – eight for students in Jamaica and two for students in metro Atlanta .”

Meet Our 2020 Scholarship Award Recipients



The Education Committee selected eight students from Jamaica: Michael Bailey (Marquette University, Wisconsin), Abigail Edwards (University of the West Indies), Daeshaun Gouldbourne (University of the West Indies), Anashay Jackson (University of the West Indies), Safia Mendez (St. Leo University, FL), Mikayla Miles (University of the West Indies), Abigail Monroe (University of the West Indies), and Denver Smith (Northern Caribbean University) and two students from Atlanta: Brandon Shakespeare (Augusta University) and Hannah-Kay Williams (Georgia State University).

All recipients bore stellar academic records, held significant leadership roles in their schools, and were dedicated to serving their communities. We are proud of our young people entering their first semester in

college and wish them all the best. We are also proud of the parents, guardians and teachers who have guided them to this level of success.

With the continued support of our corporate sponsors, donors, members, and friends of AJA who support AJA's fundraising initiatives, the AJA's scholarship program will provide much needed financial assistance to students in the coming generations. Please consider the AJA's scholarship program this year when making decisions about your charitable contributions.

Bios on this year's winners, information on the application process and criteria, and how to make a donation are available on the home page of our website at www.atlantajamaicanassociation.org.

A Virtual Independence and Scholarship Awards Celebration

Thanks to the creativity, passion and determination of a committee headed by Evette Taylor-Reynolds, AJA had a virtual celebration of Jamaica's 58th year of Independence and presentation of the scholarship awards on August 8, with members and friends in attendance. We extend thanks to our special guest performers who joined us virtually from Jamaica: Roy Rayon, 4-time Festival Song winner, and violinist Michael Wilson; MCs Mr. Andrew Lawrence and Dr. Chris Parker; DJ Meely for music and Zoom administration; **sponsors *GB Roofing Inc., Tower Isles and L&M Machining*** for helping to underwrite our expenses, and patrons who made donations to our scholarship fund.

Please Save the Date of Saturday, August 14, 2021 for what we hope will be our best in-person Independence Ball and Scholarship Awards.

For additional information or questions, please contact Dr. Clover Hall, Chair, Public Relations Committee. The Atlanta Jamaican Association, Inc. (AJA) at pr@atlantajamaicanassociation.org.