



# CAFCI NEWS

January 2026

## Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc.

Our mission is to enhance, maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community consistent with the culture and traditions of our diverse ancestral heritage.

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
in Florida, Inc.

& THE VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH

Presents the 24th Annual

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

# Celebration

**FREE** Admission

"MENTORING THE DREAM"

*The King Center*

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

MONDAY

JANUARY 19, 2026

Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am

Program begins at 10 am

ROYAL PALM BEACH CULTURAL CENTER

151 Civic Center Way  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

Join us to Celebrate and Honor the  
Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**DR. L. OLIVER ROBINSON**

Retired Superintendent of Schools  
Leadership Coach

### ACTIVITIES

J.R. Apollon/Spirit and Soul Band,  
CAFCI Mentors and More.

For more information visit [www.CAFCIPBC.org](http://www.CAFCIPBC.org)

Contact: Jannette Sharpe-Paul at 561.229.5733 | Paul Baker at 561.385.0737



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

President ..... Dennis Wright  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President ..... Marva Wilks  
Treasurer ..... Yvonne Elliott  
Recording Secretary ..... Doreen Baker  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Norma Smith-Hill

### DIRECTORS

Paul Baker  
Carolyn Hmara  
Caren Muir

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Thalia Lauren, Co-Chair  
Junette Powell, Co-Chair  
Shirley Morrison  
Max Smith  
Barbara Walker

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alliance ..... Genieve White  
Annual Friendship Ball ..... Dennis Wright  
Budget ..... Radcliffe Brown  
Bylaws ..... Barbara Walker  
Cultural ..... Jannette Sharpe-Paul  
Finance ..... Genieve White  
Grants ..... Shirley Morrison  
Historian/Protocol ..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis  
Home Of Our Own ..... Radcliffe Brown  
Membership ..... Micaela Ferguson  
Newsletter ..... Junette Powell  
..... & Thalia Lauren  
Parliamentarian ..... Nadine White-Boyd  
Picnic ..... Yvonne Wright  
Program ..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis  
Relay for Life ..... Nova Brown  
Student Assistance Fund ..... Junette Powell  
..... & Nadine White-Boyd  
Sunshine ..... Paul Baker  
Toys for Tots ..... Lauriston Simms  
Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund .....  
..... Genieve White  
Website ..... Radcliffe Brown  
Youth ..... Rhonda Ferrin-Davis

### CONTACT US

Caribbean-American For  
Community Involvement

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard  
Suite #134

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

561.790.4002

cafc@bellsouth.net

[www.cafcipbc.org](http://www.cafcipbc.org)

[www.facebook.com/cafciabc](http://www.facebook.com/cafciabc)

General Membership Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month

Board Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month

See back page for calendar of events.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome the start of a new year, I extend warm greetings and best wishes to all CAFCI members, supporters and friends. January is a time for renewal, reflection and recommitment to the mission and values that continue to guide Caribbean-American for Community Involvement—community service, cultural appreciation and meaningful engagement.

I would like to thank all members who participated in our annual board elections and governance process. Your involvement helps ensure that CAFCI remains strong, responsive, and well-positioned for the year ahead. I am pleased to continue serving alongside a dedicated and experienced leadership team.

Our Executive Board members have agreed to serve an additional term through 2027, providing continuity and stability as we move forward. The Executive Board includes **Dennis Wright, President; Rhonda Ferrin-Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Marva Wilks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Yvonne Elliott, Treasurer; Doreen Baker, Recording Secretary;** and **Norma Smith-Hill, Corresponding Secretary.** In addition, **Paul Baker** and **Carolyn Hmara** will continue to serve as Directors during the 2026–2027 term. Welcome to our newest board member **Caren Muir**, serving as a director. Special thanks to outgoing board member **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Genieve White** for her many years of dedication and service.

I also extend special thanks to **Lauriston Simms and his team** for another successful year of collecting and distributing toys through our **Toys for Tots Program**. Their dedication brought joy to many families, and we are proud that toys were delivered to children in **Belle Glade**. Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community.

It was a pleasure to serve with our **New Year's Eve Gala Committee—Cindy Beckles, Charmaine Henry, Jennifer Powell-Pitman, Audrey Smith and Hildreth Stoddart-Brown—**thank you for organizing a wonderful celebration. The New Year's Eve Dance was a great success, featuring good music, delicious food, and an atmosphere filled with **positive vibes**. Thank you for your teamwork and dedication in making the event so enjoyable.

As we move into 2026, CAFCI will continue to focus on expanding community outreach, strengthening cultural and educational programming, and building meaningful partnerships throughout Palm Beach County. We remain committed to supporting relief and recovery efforts across the Caribbean and stand in solidarity with those affected by recent natural disasters.

This new year brings opportunities for growth, collaboration, and continued impact. I encourage all members to stay engaged, volunteer when possible, and share ideas as we plan our activities and initiatives. Together, we can build on our accomplishments and make a positive difference in the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. I wish you and your families a healthy, prosperous, and inspiring New Year.



Dennis Wright

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page#</b>
MLK Day Celebration	1, 4
President's Message	2
Board, Committees & Contact	2
Member Acknowledgements	3
Upcoming CAFCI Events	4
- Membership Meeting	
Member Spotlight	5
Our Children Are Our Future	6 - 11
- Student Assistance Fund	
- CAFCI Scout Troop 111	
Toys for Tots Fundraiser	12
Hurricane Relief Efforts	13, 14
Month of Celebrations & Awareness	14
CAFCI Values Statement	14
Ways to Support CAFCI	15
- Membership	
- Home Of Our Own	
Calendar of Events	16

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
**Dr. Rudolph and Mrs. Viktoriia Tinker**



**January 16 - 31**

Herbert Chambers	16
Marcia Hayden	18
Kareem Ali	19
Loraine Cargill	21
Karen Morris-Clarke	25
Hilary Varlack	30

**February 1 - 15**

Valerie Dorsey	01
V. Alvin Nembhard	02
Brandon Boyd	04
Yvonne Lawrence	04
Yvonne Richardson	06
Patrick McLaughlin	08
Yvonne Wright	08
Sandra A. Gordon	13
Radcliffe Brown	14

*If you are a CAFCI member and notice that your birthday or the birthday of another member has not been acknowledged, please send an email to CAFCI (cafcibellsouth.net) and we will update the birthday list. We apologize for any oversight.*

**GET WELL TO:**

Yvonne Elliott  
 Genieve White

**CONDOLENCES TO:**

Shirley and Mark Morrison  
 on the loss of her sister, Ilene Dacosta

Marcia and Wayne Thomas on the loss of his  
 brother, Glen Thomas and cousin, Kyle Thomas

**Please Let Us Know...**

*We want our members to know that we, the Board and Sunshine Committee, are always here to support you. Please contact (or ask someone else to contact) one of our Sunshine Committee members if:*

- you are ill or know of any CAFCI member who is ill or
- you have or know of a close family member of a CAFCI member who is ill or
- you have, or know of a CAFCI member who has, lost a family member.

*Remember, if we are not notified, we cannot share it in the Newsletter or offer our support.*

Paul Baker, Chair .....561.784.0067  
 Samuel Baxter .....561.358.3737  
 Elet Cyris.....561.791.9087

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 7 pm

In-Person & Via Zoom  
10287 Okeechobee Boulevard  
Level-X Fitness Center - Suite A-5  
Royal Palm Beach

(corner of Okeechobee Blvd. and State Road 7 / US 441)

Join CAFCI for the General Membership meeting which will be focused on the swearing in of Board Members by the **Honorable Maxine Cheesman** as well as the upcoming MLK Day Celebration on Monday January 19th.

If you are unable to attend in person, join us via Zoom:

- Visit website: [www.cafcipc.org](http://www.cafcipc.org)  
Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=dllLNEROa2JuNIhtYUZIVkZzYmRSdzO9>
- [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) Select "Join A Meeting" Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705
- Call-In: +1 646 558 8656  
Meeting ID: 853 1898 7422 | Password: 478705

## *Congratulations ...* At a dedication

ceremony on November 14, 2025, the Village of Royal Palm and the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners officially renamed a portion of Crestwood Blvd - south of Okeechobee Boulevard to north of Sparrow - Verdenia C. Baker Boulevard. The street was renamed honoring retired County Administrator and Royal Palm Beach resident Verdenia C. Baker. Ms. Baker held the position of county administrator for nearly ten years after more than thirty years of service in multiple county positions, including fifteen years as assistant county administrator. Ms. Baker is the second person to hold the position and the first woman and Black person to do so. On December 10, a group of friends and supporters hosted a luncheon at Waterway Café to honor Ms. Baker. Five CAFCI members (Rhonda Ferrin-Davis, Elet Cyris, Jannette Sharpe-Paul, Sheena Bouchè and Barbara Walker) were in attendance.



Sheena Bouchè, Barbara Walker, Jannette Sharpe-Paul, Verdenia Baker, Rhonda Ferrin-Davis, Elet Cyris, Claudette Thompson, Michelle Bonny

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

*Mentoring the Dream*

*Where Do We Go from Here?*

January 19, 2026 at 8:30 am

Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center  
151 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach

The Cultural Committee and the Village of Royal Palm Beach are in the process of planning the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Day Celebration program on **Monday, January 19, 2026** at the Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center. The celebrations will begin at 8:30 am with a complimentary continental breakfast followed by the program at 10 am. This year's theme is "*Mentoring the Dream – Where Do We Go from Here?*" Look out for additional information on CAFCI's website ([www.cafcipc.org](http://www.cafcipc.org)).



## LET'S DO BUSINESS

When we support a small business in our community or share a recommendation about that business' services and excellence, we help that business to grow; and in helping that business to grow, we help our community to grow. We show by virtue of our dollars and our support, that a business is reputable, valuable, and worthy of patronage.

*Let's Support Businesses in Our Community.*

**COASTAL**  
IMPACT WINDOWS & DOORS

HURRICANES DON'T STAND A CHANCE  
Hurricane Grade Protection Energy Efficient, Noise Reduction & Insurance Savings

**ALLAN SMITH**  
Referral Manager  
561-662-5636

If you would like to recommend a business to be featured in the "Let's Do Business" section in our Newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Committee so that we can share it with our members.

- [junettep56@gmail.com](mailto:junettep56@gmail.com) or [thaliaec@gmail.com](mailto:thaliaec@gmail.com)

# Member Spotlight



## Have You Met Mariama Williams?

Jamaica. W.I.



### From the Sugarcane Fields to the Global Stage: A Life that Is a Marvel

Mariama Williams grew up in Hartland District, a quiet rural community in St. Catherine, Jamaica. For generations, her family worked the sugarcane fields. Yet Mariama built a career as a global economist, with a focus on international trade and finance.

That career has seen her traversing the globe, living in Switzerland for 15 years, Brussels for 5, and in numerous other countries for 3–6-month sprints. She has journeyed to most nations in the European Union and Asia, Southern Africa, South America, and the Caribbean, and has worked with the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

When Mariama looks at the distance she has traveled, it's remarkable. She notes, "As a young girl I was getting up at 5 in morning, to walk a mile to the main road to take a bus or taxi to Spanish Town. From there I took a bus to Cross Roads in Kingston to be at school by 7:30 am.

"For someone who grew up in the cane fields of Jamaica to be doing what I do now is a marvel."

Mariama attended St. Stevens College (a local high school) in Kingston for two years before migrating to New York in the early 70s. There she attended William Howard Taft H.S. Located in an inner-city community in the South Bronx she says it was a stark contrast to Jamaica, but she was fortunate to have teachers who saw her potential.

One teacher in particular, Mr. Weinstein, created special opportunities for her that included sending her to extracurricular programs at a high school in New Rochelle, a much wealthier community. There she participated in programs like Model UN and Model Congress.

These opportunities placed Mariama in classrooms where she was often the only person of color. "Coming from Jamaica, I didn't know about racism. There was nothing that told me I couldn't do anything I put my mind to. I was traveling from the South Bronx to be in classrooms with these rich White kids. Suddenly, I was the only Black person in the room. Those experiences opened my eyes to the

world. I got this idea that there was much more in the world and that there were all sorts of incredible things I could aim to be."

After high school Mariama attended New York University where she earned degrees in economics, history, and political science, later completing a master's and Ph.D. in economics at The New School for Social Research.

Those programs exposed her to economics' luminaries as she began volunteering with international women's groups, the IMF, and the World Bank. One opportunity led to another, and without planning, global economics and international relations became a way of life.

Mariama has worked with the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the South Centre in Geneva, a UN General Assembly intergovernmental think tank.

One of her proudest memories with the South Centre: "We brought ministers from India and Pakistan, Iraq, into one room—even when their countries were fighting. To see them working together, developing agreements. It was extraordinary."

Most recently, Mamima helped secure recognition for Afro-descendant communities in global climate negotiations. Race and racism have been missing from the climate conversation, though developing nations experience the brunt of climate change's impact. For example, Africa contributes only 5% of global emissions but suffers 90% of the impact.

In addition to her economics consultancy, in the last several years Mariama earned a master's degree in yoga therapy and now teaches brain longevity and mindfulness.

She travels frequently to give presentations, and volunteers with several international women's groups.

She credits her mother for her achievements: "I come from rural Jamaica, and I've worked in places I never imagined as a child. My mother was part of the wave of Jamaican women who migrated to work as domestic helpers, later becoming a certified nursing assistant and eventually earning a degree in nursing. She sent money home, brought me and my sisters up, and gave us opportunities she never had."

"That's the testimony of Jamaican women—our ancestors who went to Panama, came back with the money they had earned, bought land, and built a foundation. That foundation is responsible for my success."

By Max Smith, Newsletter Committee Member

*Member Spotlight is an opportunity to share your story. If you would like to share your story or recommend someone, please email us at:*

- [junettep56@gmail.com](mailto:junettep56@gmail.com) or  
- [thaliaec@gmail.com](mailto:thaliaec@gmail.com).

*We look forward to shining the spotlight on you.*

## OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE

**CAFCI and the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee would be honored to recognize the accomplishments of its members and/or their relatives. Please share your good news with us and we will publish it as space permits.**

### **Student Assistance Fund** **EMPOWERING YOUTH & INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE**

The 2026 Student Assistance Scholarship Application period has opened. The application window will close on **Friday, February 27, 2026**. Please share the link or QR Code with your friends and relatives so they can share with their families. The 2026 application may be accessed in the following ways:

- Via the CAFCI Website: <https://www.cafcipc.org/studentassistanceprogram>
- Via the Application Site: <https://form.jotform.com/251476528213053>



- Via QR Code

#### **ONGOING DONATION:**

Support **SAF GOLDEN KRUST "DINING TO DONATE"**: Patronize Golden Krust through February 14<sup>th</sup> and 10% of your purchase (excluding seafood and oxtail meals) will be donated to CAFCI's SAF. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Coupon can be duplicated. To obtain coupon and share coupon, go to [https://www.cafcipc.org/files/ugd/8ea0b3\\_d6dcab6f456d4f759784d4195e9bdc99.pdf](https://www.cafcipc.org/files/ugd/8ea0b3_d6dcab6f456d4f759784d4195e9bdc99.pdf).

To donate directly to the Student Assistance Fund and/or sponsor an award recipient, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895; Junette Powell at 561.346.2353; or visit CAFCI's website at <https://www.cafcipc.org/donation-center> and select the Student Assistance option. See enclosed letter for details to **Name your very own Student Assistance Fund Award**. A donation of any amount will help CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund Committee reach its fundraising goal. Please also share the fundraiser link to help spread the word with family, friends and social media contacts.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 3 pm**

**STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND**

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Join us to Congratulate the  
2026 SAF Award Recipients**

**You will have an opportunity to meet the award recipients, as well as view a video presentation by the current and past recipients.**

**Portuguese American Cultural Center  
13265 Okeechobee Blvd., Loxahatchee, FL**

### **Message from Past Recipient**

*December 26, 2025*

*Good morning CAFCI,*

*I did have a great holiday season! I hope everyone at CAFCI had a great time during the holidays as well. I am doing well and fall semester has been a great start. It was pretty busy but I was able to get through it. I did mention that I wasn't going to Palm Beach Atlantic. I am attending Valencia College for my prerequisites and then transferring over to a university to finish out graphic design. I finished out finals and passed all my classes for the fall semester! Thank you for checking up on me. I apologize for not keeping up on the updates. School has been pretty hectic for me. Have a great rest of your week!*

*Deja Patterson  
2025 SAF Award Recipient*



Caribbean-American For Community Involvement (CAFCI) in Florida, Inc.

# STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND



## WHO WE ARE

CAFCI was founded by a group of residents in an effort to enhance, maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community, consistent with the culture and tradition of our ancestral origins. The organization was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the provisions of Chapter 617 of Florida Statutes on August 13, 1999.

CAFCI is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to volunteerism and social activities, with special emphasis on our youths and senior citizens. Our annual affairs continue to serve and help the social, educational and health needs of the community.

## OUR MISSION

CAFCI's mission is to maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community, consistent with the culture and tradition of our diverse ancestral heritage.



## STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND AWARD PROGRAM

Each year we offer deserving local high school graduates the opportunity to apply for a monetary "Student Assistance Award" from our organization.

Past student awards ranged from \$500 - \$1,500 per student.



## AWARD CEREMONY

Each year in the month of May or June, CAFCI holds an award ceremony for students, their families, and members and friends of CAFCI.

We invite community leaders, Student Assistance Fund Committee members (past and present), past award recipients, the general public and friends of CAFCI to attend and participate in the event.



## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Students applying must have at least a cumulative 2.7 GPA and demonstrate continuous academic success in their high school tenure to be eligible.
- Applicants must show that they have participated in school and community activities.
- Applicants must show interest in the Caribbean community.
- The monetary assistance is awarded to students who are going on to a college, university, or other accredited institution of higher learning.
- If selected, the student must provide proof of acceptance from the school before receiving the award.

For more details and to apply visit [cafcipbc.org/student-assistance](http://cafcipbc.org/student-assistance).

## How YOU Can Help Our Students

1. Make check or money order payable to:  
C.A.F.C.I. (Note for Student Assistance Fund)
2. Donate by going to CAFCI's website [www.cafcipbc.org](http://www.cafcipbc.org) and click on Donate to Student Assistance Fund.

No contribution is too small. On behalf of the students, their families and CAFCI, Thank You Very Much.

## CONTACT US

Caribbean-American for Community Involvement (CAFCI) In Florida, Inc.  
675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Suite 134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
561.790.4002 ~ [cafc@bellsouth.net](mailto:cafc@bellsouth.net) ~ [www.cafcipbc.org](http://www.cafcipbc.org) ~ Search: CAFCI



*Caribbean-American For Community Involvement, in Florida, Inc.*

A 501(c)(3) Organization – (EIN #65-0965408)

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Suite #134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

www.cafcipc.org • E-mail: [cafcipc@bellsouth.net](mailto:cafcipc@bellsouth.net) • Phone: 561.790.4002

Follow us on Facebook

Dear Prospective Student Assistance Fund Donor:

Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) continues its more than 35 years of service to the community. CAFCI, a 501(c)(3) organization, functions due to 100% of dedicated volunteers and is committed to advancing our youths' higher education. For the past 33 years, CAFCI has raised funds to assist well deserving college-bound high school students in our communities to achieve their educational goals. Your financial donation and dedication to CAFCI will help to open college doors to students. With your financial support, CAFCI will be able to award between \$500 to \$1,500 to each deserving student.

Many ambitious students are denied access to a college education due to financial constraints. As you can imagine, many high school students may hold the key to a cure for a disease but may never have the opportunity to maximize their potential. Many have innovative ideas for probable solutions to social problems, yet may never have a chance to expand on them. Others are discouraged simply because the first step to higher education may seem financially impossible.

CAFCI's Student Assistance Fund Committee is requesting your financial help. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of our youth as your donation will not only provide hope for more students but will also help to ease their financial burden. We look forward to receiving your life-changing contribution to help with assisting students as they embark on one of their lifelong endeavors to begin college. We will publicly acknowledge you on our *List of Donors*. **You may make your donation online by going to [www.cafcipc.org/donation-center](http://www.cafcipc.org/donation-center) and select Student Assistance or by mailing your donation by April 30, 2026, to:**

CAFCI  
Attn: Student Assistance Fund  
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite 134  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

For more information about our organization and past recipients, please visit our website at [www.cafcipc.org/studentassistanceprogram](http://www.cafcipc.org/studentassistanceprogram). Thank you in advance for your donation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 561.790.4002.

Respectfully,

*Leonie Escoffery*

Leonie Escoffery  
Treasurer, Student Asst. Committee

*Junette Powell*

Junette Powell  
Co-Chair, Student Asst. Committee

*Dennis Wright*

Dennis Wright  
President, CAFCI



*Caribbean American For Community Involvement, in Florida, Inc.*

A 501(c)(3) Organization – (EIN #65-096408)

650 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Suite 134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
www.cafcipbc.org • E-mail: [cafcibellsouth.net](mailto:cafcibellsouth.net) • Phone: 561-790-4002

December 12, 2025

Re: Name a Student Assistance Award with CAFCI

Dear Friends of CAFCI,

Caribbean American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) is pleased to invite community leaders, families, businesses, and supporters to **name your very own Student Assistance Award** through the CAFCI Student Assistance Fund (SAF). Named award sponsors join a distinguished group investing in the future of deserving students and are recognized at the annual CAFCI Student Assistance Award Ceremony.

For **36 years**, CAFCI has served the Palm Beach County community through volunteer-led programs, including our Student Assistance Award Program, which provides financial support of **\$500 to \$1,500** to deserving, college-bound high school seniors. Your named award helps remove financial barriers and affirms a student's potential.

A **Named Student Assistance Award** is a meaningful way to invest directly in a student's future while honoring a loved one or legacy, celebrating a profession or business, or supporting a personal cause that is important to you.

**Award Details:**

- **Donation Amount:** \$1,000 minimum per named award
- **Your Chosen Name:** Award presented in the name you choose
- **Frequency:** One-time or annual
- **Criteria Preference (Optional):** You may indicate a preference such as career interest, academic achievement, or community service. The SAF Committee will consider these preferences whenever possible during the selection process.

**How to Name an Award**

1. Complete the CAFCI SAF Named Award Sponsorship Form and email it to [cafcibellsouth.net](mailto:cafcibellsouth.net)
2. Submit payment using one of the following methods:
  - Online: Visit [www.cafcipbc.org](http://www.cafcipbc.org) and donate under the *Student Assistance* section
  - By Mail to: CAFCI  
Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411, ATTN: SAF

CAFCI is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions may be tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Your named award contribution is more than a gift. It is an opportunity to place your name, values, and legacy behind a student's success.

For questions or assistance, contact: Junette Powell at 561-346-2353 /[junettep56@gmail.com](mailto:junettep56@gmail.com), or [cafcibellsouth.net](mailto:cafcibellsouth.net).

Thank you for your continued support of CAFCI and for considering this opportunity to make a lasting impact.

Sincerely,

*Junette Powell*

Junette Powell  
Co-Chair, SAF Committee

*Leonie Escoffery*

Leonie Escoffery  
Treasurer, SAF Committee

*Dennis Wright*

Dennis Wright  
CAFCI President



**CAFCI Named Award Sponsorship Form**

Thank you for your interest in sponsoring a named award with Caribbean American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI). **Please complete the form below to help us process your generous contribution.**

1. **Full Name of Sponsor/Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Organization/Business Name (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Primary Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Name of the Award (e.g., The John Doe Community Leadership Award):**  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Donation Amount:**
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> \$1,000 (1 Named Award)  | <input type="radio"/> \$3,000 (2 Named Awards) |
| <input type="radio"/> \$4,000 (4 Named Awards) | <input type="radio"/> Other: _____             |

8. **Frequency of Sponsorship:**
- One-time                       Annual

9. **Preferred Student Criteria (optional):**
- Career Interest (e.g., Law, Engineering, Education): \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Service Focus \_\_\_\_\_
- Academic Achievement \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Would you like to present the award at the next ceremony?**
- Yes     No

11. **Any additional notes or preferences?**
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info:** Junette Powell, CAFCI SAF Committee Co-chair at 561-346-2353 / junettep56@gmail.com or www.cafcipc.org

# CAFCI SCOUTS ✦ TROOP 111

Greetings CAFCI,

December was an amazing month for Troop 111 - filled with excitement, Winter Camp and reverence throughout all of our scouts. As we entered the season of Christmas, we extend a jolly thank you to everyone who has continued to support our troop throughout the year.

Troop 111 started off the month with its yearly Chopped event. Our scouts prepared and cooked a full three-course meal as part of a contest while participating in mini games. In the end, everyone had a blast and the Shaman Patrol ended up winning!



Hosanna James

This year Troop 111 headed to Camp La-no-che once again for Winter Camp. Our scouts also participated in the Polar Bear Plunge in which they slid down a tube into freezing 50-degree water.



Hosanna James, Judah James, Keil Grieser, Kirill Montoya, Hani Almasoodi

Overall, we had an incredible month and would like to once again thank everyone for their continued involvement and support!



Allen Arthur



Zulema Grieser, Stephen Peterson



Hani Almasoodi, Landon Girard, Christopher Clarke, Keil Grieser

SCOUT LAW | "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

SCOUT OATH | "On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."



To apply for membership in BSA Troop 111 or to volunteer for scouting, visit: <https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-085taa0111>

Yours in Scouting,  
Kirill Montoya  
Senior Patrol Leader, Troop 111





## *Caribbean American For Community Involvement, in Florida, Inc.*

A 501(c)(3) Organization – (EIN #65-096408)

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Box 134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
www.cafci.org • E-mail: [cafci@bellsouth.net](mailto:cafci@bellsouth.net) • Phone: 561.790.4002

January 1, 2026

Dear Members, Supporters, Donors, and Community Partners,

On behalf of the Caribbean-American For Community Involvement, Inc. (CAFCI), we extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone who generously donated toys in support of our "Toys for Tots" effort.

Because of your kindness and compassion, this initiative reached children in two very meaningful ways. A portion of the donated toys was packed and shipped in CAFCI's 40-foot shipping container to Jamaica, where they are now bringing comfort and joy to children and families impacted by recent hurricanes. Your generosity helped remind these children that they are not forgotten during a time of great need.

The remaining toys were delivered locally to Belle Glade, where members of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) met and escorted CAFCI and Grace Episcopal Church volunteers into a highly underserved area. Together, we were able to safely distribute toys directly to children and families who needed them most, spreading hope and smiles throughout the community.

This effort would not have been possible without the overwhelming support of our donors, volunteers, faith partners, and law enforcement partners. Your willingness to give, serve, and stand with CAFCI demonstrates the true power of community and compassion in action.

Thank you for helping us make a lasting impact—both locally and internationally. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and partnership.

With sincere appreciation,

*Dennis Wright*

Dennis Wright, President

*Lauriston Simms*

Lauriston Simms, Project Coordinator





*Caribbean American For Community Involvement, in Florida, Inc.*

A 501(c)(3) Organization – (EIN #65-096408)

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Box 134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
www.cafcipc.org • E-mail: cafcipc@bellsouth.net • Phone: 561.790.4002

January 1, 2026

Dear CAFCI Members, Community Businesses, Monetary Donors, and Supporters,

On behalf of CAFCI, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your tremendous generosity, dedication, and support. Because of your collective efforts, we were able to successfully pack and ship a 40-foot shipping container filled with food, survival supplies, clothing, furniture, tools, and other essential items, which was shipped on December 31st.

This achievement was truly a community effort. From individuals who donated items and financial support, to businesses that contributed resources, services, and to volunteers who gave countless hours collecting, sorting, and packing—every contribution played a vital role. Your compassion and willingness to step up made it possible to deliver hope and tangible assistance to those in need.

The impact of this shipment will be felt far beyond our local community. Because of your generosity, families facing hardship will receive critical support and encouragement during a very difficult time. This is a powerful testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a shared purpose.

Thank you for believing in the mission of CAFCI and for standing with us in service to others. We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership, generosity, and commitment to making a difference.

With sincere appreciation,

*Dennis Wright*

Dennis Wright, President

*Lauriston Simms*

Lauriston Simms, Project Coordinator



Photography by Denise Fleischman, The Town-Crier

# JANUARY... A Month of Celebrations & Awareness

## NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH



National Mentoring Month is celebrated every January to highlight the vital role of mentors in empowering individuals, especially youth, by raising awareness, recruiting new mentors, and promoting quality mentoring relationships to foster personal growth, career success, and community development. Launched by MENTOR (National Mentoring Partnership) in 2002, the month-long observance involves events, storytelling, and advocacy to "close the mentoring gap" and encourage everyone to support meaningful connections.

Are you ready for National Mentoring Month? Visit <https://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month/>

**Golden Krust®**  
CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT

# DINING TO DONATE

Dine or shop at Golden Krust, present this coupon and **10%** of your bill will be donated to **Caribbean-American For Community Involvement STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND**

**Valid: December 19, 2025 through February 14, 2026**  
**\*6901 Okeechobee Blvd, #B2, West Palm Beach, FL 33401**  
**GOLDENKRUST.COM**

\*Valid ONLY at the location mentioned above. Must present this coupon for the organization to receive credit. Excludes seafood and oxtail meals.

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
In Florida, Inc.

## HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF

**CAFCIPBC.ORG**  
Monetary Donations Accepted  
Donate via Zelle

Note: Hurricane Melissa Donation

**CAFCI@BELLSOUTH.NET**  
**THANK YOU**

## CAFCI VALUES STATEMENT

*Caribbean-American for Community Involvement acknowledges and honors the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and pledges itself to creating and maintaining an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences. We believe in giving a voice to all people and respecting all people regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background. We support the participation in and promotion of events that lead to respect and mutual understanding among the various cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in our community. We believe in promoting honesty and integrity by being transparent in all our dealings, having fun and fellowship with each other while volunteering and caring for the young and elderly and helping those in need.*

*DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views and opinions of CAFCI's members and/or the Newsletter Committee members.*

*CAFCI MEMBERS... If you would like to share the accomplishments of a close relative (e.g., child, grandchild, niece and/or nephew) with your CAFCI Family in the "Our Children Are Our Future" section of the NEWS, please provide the information to Paul Baker (email: [ujama4@aol.com](mailto:ujama4@aol.com) or phone 561.784.0067). If there is any other information you would like included in the NEWS, please submit the information to Junette Powell ([junettep56@gmail.com](mailto:junettep56@gmail.com)).*

*IMPORTANT: Include "CAFCI NEWS" in the subject line when sending e-mails. Inclusion of articles submitted will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Committee and based on space availability.*

## WAYS TO SUPPORT CAFCI . . . WE NEED YOU!!!

CAFCl website: <https://www.cafcipbc.org/donation-center>

Please share with your friends and family.

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCl???

MEMBERSHIP DUES (Single - \$80 • Couple - \$140)

Submit your membership dues online at:  
<https://www.cafcipbc.org/membership-dues>

OR

Submit check payable to: CAFCl  
Mail to CAFCl, Attention: Membership  
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

## A For C.A.F.C.I.

### BUSINESS



Our current objective is to have the community funding organization provide us with a Letter of Interest or credit so that when another opportunity comes our way we have a funding source to supplement our available funds.

Last month we made an appeal for someone with the necessary knowledge, experience and skill to assist us with the planning, set up and operation of a business to provide income to assist in paying off a mortgage.

Other options under consideration include the possibility of purchasing a large commercial building and subletting some of its spaces. To that end, we are also looking for someone with property-management experience to assist us in determining the feasibility of this option.

If you are able to step in and assist, or know of anyone who can, please contact Radcliffe “Woody” Brown at 561-790-4002 or 561-791-3344 and leave a message. You can also send an email to [cafci@bellsouth.net](mailto:cafci@bellsouth.net).

*Participation in the **Home of Our Own** project is available through the Buy-A-Brick program. Visit the web page at [www.cafcipbc.org](http://www.cafcipbc.org) and click on the “Home of Our Own” tab or call Radcliffe “Woody” Brown at 561.791.3344 for more information. We have made it easier to take part in the program by facilitating monthly payments to buy a brick. Monthly payments of \$50 for a \$1,000 brick and \$150 for a \$3,000 brick are available.*



Scan QR Code to Support  
CAFCl's Home Of Our Own

Submitted by Radcliffe “Woody” Brown, CAFCl *Home Of Our Own* Chair

## Mark Your Calendar CAFCI's 2026 Events

Dates are subject to change. Please check the current issue of the NEWS and the website.

Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am

### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

Royal Palm Beach Cultural Center, 151 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach, FL

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm

### STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND AWARDS CEREMONY

Portuguese American Cultural Center, 13265 Okeechobee Blvd., Loxahatchee, FL

## Around Town

- **Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 to 6 pm** | THE HUNGRY BLACK MAN MEDIA, in partnership with THE CENTER FOR BLACK INNOVATION and THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, presents their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual **SOUL BEACH FOOD FESTIVAL** uniting the best of South Florida and the nation's soulful culinary scene, from traditional Soul Food and smoky barbecue to Caribbean favorites, vegan innovations, and bold Hispanic flavors. Celebrate 2026 Black History Month at Lummus Park, 600 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach. For more information and to reserve your free ticket, visit <https://www.soulbeachfoodfestival.com/> If you are interested in being a vendor, please fill out the registration here and someone from our team will get back with you: <https://forms.gle/envyEGb6uDDtB71n6>
- **Saturday, February 7, 2026, 4 to 9 pm** | ISLAND SPACE CARIBBEAN MUSEUM presents the Annual **REGGAE GENEALOGY** at Volunteer Park Community Center, 12050 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation, FL. Experience the evolution of Jamaican music in film, television, and pop culture. For more information, Visit [reggaegenealogy.org](http://reggaegenealogy.org).
- **Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 am – 10 pm, Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11 am – 7 pm** | Come out to the **JUPITER SEAFOOD FESTIVAL** at Carlin Park, 400 S. Hwy A1A, Jupiter, FL featuring seafood, music, and other entertainment. Performers include Maddie & Tae on February 21st and HAVOC 305 on February 22nd. For information and tickets, click on the attached link: Event Tickets Center is the Place to Buy Tickets for Any Event, Show, or Game.
- Visit the **CULTURAL COUNCIL FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY** at <https://www.palmbeachculture.com/events> for upcoming activities.
- Events in **WELLINGTON**, go to <https://aroundwellington.com/>
- Events in **WEST PALM BEACH**, go to <https://downtownwpb.com/explore/calendar/>

**CAFCI**

675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard  
Suite #134  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

**On behalf of CAFCI Board and the Newsletter Committee,  
Happy New Year and all the best for 2026!**

**PRINTING OF CAFCI'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY**

***POSTNET***

**{ Design  
Print  
Shipping  
Etc. }**

PostNet Palm Beach  
4550 Lantana Rd., Ste A3  
Greenacres, FL 33463

PostNet.com/FL182  
FL182@PostNet.com  
561.815.1712