



CAFCI NEWS

JULY 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.

YOU Do Make A Difference!

CAFCI's 33rd STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND Awards Ceremony

"Do I really make a difference?"... "Do my contributions really matter?" ... With so many competing demands on our time, support and finances, we have all probably asked ourselves those questions as we consider how we can make a positive impact in challenging times. Members of Caribbean-American for Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) don't have to wonder anymore because the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

As Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." The powerful and far-reaching impact of CAFCI's generosity and commitment to investing in the education of the youth in our community was palpable on Saturday, June 13, 2026, as CAFCI celebrated the educational achievements of 18 outstanding Palm Beach County high school seniors at its 33rd Annual Student Assistance Fund Award Ceremony held at the Portuguese American Cultural Society of Palm Beach County.



2026 STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS



Rachel Ferguson

The students received Student Assistance Fund awards for educational excellence in the amounts of \$1,500 (named awards) or \$1,000.00 (CAFCI Awards). In keeping with the theme of the event, "Empowering Youth & Investing in our Future," CAFCI members and supporters can be justifiably proud that the organization has donated over \$297,500 to 273 Palm Beach County high school seniors since the inception of the Student Assistance Fund initiative.

The afternoon began with a light buffet, catered by Golden Krust, giving the guests an opportunity to mingle and converse before the ceremony officially began. Rachel Ferguson opened

the ceremony with her lovely rendition of the National Anthem and set the stage for the rest of the ceremony. The student awardees focused intently as the Village of Royal Palm Beach Mayor Jeff Hmara and School Board District 6 member

2026 STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS

Amanayea Abraham Award

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ
University of Central Florida

Bodden & Bennett Law Group Award

ANIYA BARRETT
Palm Beach State College

CAFCI Awards

ERIEAL BECKFORD
Florida A&M University

ALLYSON BODDEN
Alabama State University

KYRA SCOTT
Palm Beach State College

CHRISTINA VALUNTAS
Ave Maria University

CAFCI Junior Citizen Award &

Josephine Dunn Award

KATELYN WILKS
Florida A&M University

Michelle and Robert Diffenderfer Award

GIANNA GARCIA
Tuskegee University

Gloria Edwards Award

LONDYN GREGORY
University of Florida

Rosita Edwards Family Awards

NEVAEH MOSSOP
Southeastern University

JORDAN REID

Florida Memorial University

Ferrin Student Leadership Award

In honor of Hyacinth Wilson

FRAHIMA ADRIEN
University of North Florida

FPL Awards

SPENCER AHYEE
University of South Florida

BRIANNA MEJIAS

University of South Florida

Audrey C. Martin Award

CARLIE ANTOINE
Massachusetts Institute of technology

Wayne and Erika Richards Civic Award

ANISSA MILLS
Spelman College

Jess & Victoria Santamaria Award

JOSEPH FLOREAL, JR.
University of Central Florida

Genieve White Family Scholarship

DRUANN CLARKE
University of South Florida

Marcia Andrews shared words of inspiration and congratulations with them – acknowledging the challenges that they have overcome whilst still maintaining an impressive record of academic excellence and community service.



Dr. Elvis Epps, Mayor Jeff Hmara, CAFCI President, Dennis Wright

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the videotaped messages of congratulations coupled with valuable advice given to the awardees from past student award recipients whose continued academic progress is a tribute to the investment and commitment that CAFCI has made to education and the young people of our community.



Carlie Antoine on violin playing Melodie from Souvenir d'un lieu cher by Tchaikovsky

Guests and student awardees were then treated to a stirring violin performance by one of the awardees, the very talented graduate of Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, Carlie Antoine who played Melodie from Souvenir d'un lieu cher by Tchaikovsky.

Dr. Elvis Epps, U.S. Navy veteran, author, and motivational speaker delivered a very inspiring and rousing keynote address. He urged the students to believe in themselves and in their own



Keynote Speaker - Dr. Elvis Epps

resilience, understanding that circumstances and challenges do not define them and can become opportunities for personal and professional growth. Dr. Epps engaged the students using a combination of humor and encouragement as he prompted them to express, boldly and with conviction, confidence in their ability to achieve their goals and aspirations.

The uplifting climax of the event was the award presentation where award sponsors took pictures with the students, shared what motivated them to initiate the award, and the students expressed their gratitude to CAFCI and the sponsors.

The evening concluded on an exhilarating note as Samara Lewis captivated the audience with her phenomenal voice, giving a magnificent musical tribute to the awardees. Robin Ferguson, on behalf of the Student Assistance Fund Committee, shared eloquent final words of inspiration to the students and heartfelt thanks to the committee members, the guest speaker, the sponsors and donors, and each of the performers.



Samara Lewis

Your help, your donations, your support **DO** matter and you **DO** make a difference that is much appreciated! CAFCI members continue to fulfill the mission and vision of the organization as they tirelessly strive to have a positive impact in the community. In the words of inspirational writer, William Arthur Ward, "**Do more than belong: Participate. Do more than care: Act. Do more than believe: Practice.**"

By Leonie Escoffery

Please go to the CAFCI website (cafcipbc.org under the student assistance tab) to view the video, the awards ceremony program and the 2026 Thank You Flyer.



Student Assistance Fund Committee: Marva Wilks, Doreen Baker, Robin Ferguson, Michelle Miller, Keynote Speaker - Dr. Elvis Epps, Nadine White-Boyd, Junette Powell, Norma Smith-Hill, Leonie Escoffery
Not pictured: Lavern Blackwood

Click on the link below for ceremony pictures

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SQyp3TK78JN1W77hAximGq3vMRBiemG4?usp=sharing> courtesy of David Muir Photography aka DAVIDiPhoto.

A recording of the awards ceremony as well as the 2026 Congratulations Video will be posted on CAFCI's website (cafcipbc.org – Student Assistance).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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

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Paul Baker
Carolyn Hmara
Caren Muir

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

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Alliance Genieve White
Annual Friendship Ball Dennis Wright
Budget Radcliffe Brown
Bylaws Barbara Walker
Cultural Jannette Sharpe-Paul
Finance.....Genieve White
Grants.....Jannette Sharpe-Paul &
.....Micaela Ferguson
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

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Community Involvement
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Suite #134
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.790.4002
cafc@bellsouth.net
www.cafcipbc.org
www.facebook.com/cafcipbc

General Membership Meeting
2nd Saturday of month
Board Meeting
4th Thursday of month

See back page for calendar of events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CAFCI Members and Friends,

I hope you and your families are enjoying a wonderful summer.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND AWARDS CEREMONY – June was another proud month for our organization as we hosted our 33rd Annual Student Assistance Fund Scholarship Awards Ceremony on June 13, 2026. This event continues to demonstrate CAFCI's unwavering commitment to education and our investment in the future of our Caribbean-American youth.

It was truly inspiring to recognize so many outstanding students whose academic achievements, leadership, volunteerism and commitment to community service exemplify the values that CAFCI has promoted for more than three decades.

On behalf of the board of directors and the entire membership, I extend heartfelt congratulations to every scholarship recipient. We are confident that each of these young men and women will continue to excel in higher education and become future leaders in our communities.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our generous sponsors, donors and families who made this year's scholarship program possible. Your continued support allows us to provide meaningful financial assistance and create opportunities that change lives. Thank you for believing in our students and investing in their futures.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Student Assistance Fund Committee for their tireless work and unwavering dedication in making this year's Scholarship Awards Program another outstanding success. Special appreciation goes to our Co-Chairs, Junette Powell and Nadine White-Boyd, Esq., Treasurer Leonie Escoffery, and committee members: Doreen Baker, Lavern Blackwood, Robin Ferguson, Michelle Miller, Norma Smith-Hill and Marva Wilks. Your countless hours of planning, reviewing applications, coordinating with donors, organizing the awards ceremony, and ensuring every detail was carried out with excellence are deeply appreciated. Your commitment continues to make the Student Assistance Fund one of CAFCI's most impactful and cherished community service programs.

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL – As we move into the second half of the year, our attention now turns to our next major fundraiser—the Annual Friendship Ball in September. This event provides essential funding for our general operations and community outreach programs. I encourage every member to support the Ball by purchasing tickets, securing sponsorships, placing advertisements in our souvenir journal, and inviting family, friends, and colleagues to attend. Together we can make this year's Friendship Ball another tremendous success.

I also encourage everyone to attend our upcoming General Membership Meeting on July 11. Your participation, ideas and volunteerism continue to strengthen our organization and help us fulfill our mission of serving the Caribbean-American community throughout Palm Beach County.

Thank you for your continued dedication to CAFCI and for making a positive difference in our community. Together, we will continue to empower our youth, strengthen our partnerships, and build an even brighter future.

Warm regards,



Dennis B. Wright

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Welcome New Members:

Michelle Keller
Dominique McDonald

GET WELL TO

Aubin Robinson • Shauna Simms • Yvonne Wright

CONDOLENCES TO

Loraine Cargill and Alliseen Kelly-Rambeau
on the loss of their aunt, Jesinta Williams

Hazel Hamilton
on the loss of her sister, Kathleen Austin

Audrey Sherrill on the loss of her sister,
Annie Stephenson

Joyce Smith on the loss of her husband, Allan Smith
Genieve White, Nadine White-Boyd, Thalia Lauren
on the loss of their aunt, Fay Simpson



July 16 - 31

Lascelles Harris	16
Debbian Livingstone	16
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Larry Buck	04
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PLEASE LET US KNOW...

GET WELL, COMFORT & CONDOLENCES

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

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

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.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

HEALTH AWARENESS

Saturday, July 11, 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)

The General Membership Meeting will feature "Health and Wellness Through the Years" presentation by Jannette Sharpe-Paul, RN (Retired); Student Assistance Fund award presentation to Frahima Adrien who was unable to attend the awards ceremony; and updates about our upcoming Annual Friendship Ball. Members who are present (physically and virtually) and whose dues are current will also vote to amend the bylaws.

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

- Visit website: www.cafciabc.org; Select "Enter Zoom Meeting"
- Click on link or copy and paste link in your browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85318987422?pwd=d1ILNER0a2JuNIhtYUZIvKZzYmRSdz09>
- 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

CAFCI'S ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

LEGACY IN MOTION

Celebrating 37 years of Excellence

STRENGTH IN SERVICE

Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Hilton Palm Beach PBI ~ Majestic Ballroom

150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach

It's that time of year! Time for the signature event that you can't afford to miss: CAFCI's Annual Friendship Ball to be held at the Hilton Palm Beach PBI. The Ball Committee is working diligently to put everything in place to curate an unforgettable evening. More information about the Ball and ways to support are on pages 11-14 in this issue of the newsletter; on CAFCI's webpage and Facebook page. Please be sure to save the date and get your tickets early.

SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION • HONOR THE LEGACY PROMOTE YOUR BRAND

The Ball Journal Committee is asking all members and friends to assist with the solicitation of sponsorship, ads and support for the Journal. If you know anyone who would like to sponsor or place an advertisement, please request a packet or submit the name and contact information and we will send a request to them. You may also place a Member Message in the Ball Journal; If you would like to submit a Member Message, please complete and submit the form or contact Jennifer Powell-Pittman at 561.729.5747 or jenpowrn2@gmail.com or Alvin Nembhard at 561.670.8113 or nalvin@bellsouth.net.

Forms detailing Ball support opportunities (sponsorship, advertising and member message) are included in the newsletter and are available on CAFCI's website. For more information, please contact Genieve White via text at 561.876.4161 or gen_white@msn.com; or cafcibellsouth.net.

For more details, see pages 11-14 of this issue of the newsletter or visit CAFCIPBC.org.

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 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).*

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.*

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.

ISLAND SPICE FOOD MARKET AND INTERNATIONAL GROCERY

11328 Okeechobee Blvd,

Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

561.268.2122

Sun: 11 am – 5 pm; Mon: 11 am – 7 pm

Tue thru Sat: 10 am – 7 pm

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 or thaliaec@gmail.com

Member Spotlight



**Have You Met
DOMINIQUE MCDONALD?**



HAITI

DOMINIQUE MCDONALD learned early that caring for others can be both an act of love and a lifeline. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, she was three when her family immigrated to the United States, sponsored by her surgeon uncle. Dominique, her parents, and her two brothers first settled in Kansas City, Missouri—a life vastly different from that in Haiti.

In Kansas City, the family hid from tornadoes in storm shelters, experienced snow and extreme cold, saw few other Haitians, and adjusted to a much slower pace. A few years later, at the recommendation of another uncle who believed New York offered more opportunity and familiarity, the family moved to Crown Heights, Brooklyn. There, Dominique found a diverse community of Haitians, Jamaicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Italians, and people of virtually every other background. The odors of familiar food drifting through hallways, men playing dominoes on the sidewalk, and children jumping rope brought a sense of home and comfort as the family worked toward its American dream.

Moving through such different communities made Dominique adaptable, curious, and open-minded. “It gave me a big-world picture,” she reflects, “and ignited a curiosity to learn more about other people.”

For Dominique, her parents modeled resilience and service. Her mother, a talented seamstress, also cleaned houses, and became a secretary while her father worked two jobs; the two always focused on providing for their children and owning a home. In time, the family purchased a house in Cambria Heights, Queens—an achievement that taught Dominique the importance of persistence and working hard for her dreams.

Dominique attended Andrew Jackson High School in Queens and later Hunter College in Manhattan. She met her husband in Florida and later earned a bachelor's degree in public administration at Barry University.

Though Dominique had planned to become a nurse, a gravely ill aunt redirected her after seeing how emotional she became during visits. “My aunt was extremely ill, and I would break down and cry every time I saw her,” Dominique recalls. “Ultimately, she said, ‘This field is not for you. You won’t be able to handle all those sick patients.’”

Dominique listened, but determined to work in healthcare, she transitioned to public administration. In hindsight, it seems her path that had been forewritten.

Dominique’s younger sister had been born with a hole in her heart, and as a child she had often acted as a translator and healthcare navigator between her parents and the doctors providing her sister’s treatment.

Those experiences taught Dominique how difficult navigating the healthcare system can be without language access, guidance, or support. Working in healthcare administration gave her the opportunity to guide and help families manage healthcare decisions more successfully by providing them with the proper resources and support.

Over the next several decades, Dominique built a career in healthcare administration leadership, working in hospitals, physician offices, and senior living communities. She spent over 20 years working in hospice, becoming a vice president in her agency, and helping families understand that hospice care is not giving up.

In Caribbean households, she has seen how fear and misunderstanding can keep families from accepting help. “People think that if someone is placed on hospice you are putting them on morphine and hastening their death,” she explains. Nothing, she says, could be further from the truth. “Hospice is not about giving up or letting go of a family member; it is about providing quality end-of-life care with dignity and compassion, while giving families needed resources and emotional support.”

Two years ago, Dominique joined MorseLife Health System, a non-profit continuing care retirement community with a full spectrum of senior living and healthcare services. She was recently promoted to Vice President of Sales and Business Development after growing the business by 161 percent, among other improvements. For her, working with seniors is a calling rooted in service to individuals who are at their most vulnerable.

Dominique’s passion extends to working with youth and providing them with the opportunities needed to thrive. Dominique served for three years on the board of the American Association of Caregiving Youth (AACY), which supports student caregivers—children and teens frequently absent from school or unable to participate in extracurricular activities because they care for sick or elderly relatives.

She remembers an 11-year-old girl whose father had a debilitating cancer and whose mother worked nights. Each morning, the child had to get her two younger siblings ready and off to school, then change her father’s dressing, before heading to school herself. AACY provides such children with wraparound services aimed at helping them become successful in school and at life. Ninety-five percent of students in the program graduate high school successfully.

For Dominique, serving seniors and youth has been the dominating force in her life. “When you are passionate about something, you flourish,” she says. “My passion for service is what has always led me, not money, not anything else but the opportunity to serve and help make a difference in lives that need me.”

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 or
- 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**

Each year the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Committee offers deserving Palm Beach County high school seniors the opportunity to apply for a monetary "Student Assistance Award" from CAFCI. A donation of any amount helps CAFCI's SAF Committee reach its yearly fundraising goal.

- Mail check payable to CAFCI, Attention: SAF (write "SAF" on your check on the notes line to make sure it is posted to the SAF program), 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd, Suite #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411.
- Donate online at <https://www.cafcipc.org/donation-center>. Select the Student Assistance option.

For more information, please contact Nadine White-Boyd at 561.351.6895 or Junette Powell at 561.346.2353. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CAFCI'S HEALTH MONTH MEETING SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 @ 7 PM

**"HEALTH
AND
WELLNESS
THROUGH THE YEARS"**

GUEST SPEAKER
Jannette Sharpe-Paul, RN
(Retired)

**10287 Okeechobee Boulevard – Level-X Fitness Center – Suite A-5, Royal Palm Beach
(corner of Okeechobee Blvd. and State Road 7 (US441))**



STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND



Empowering Youth & Investing in Our Future

CAFCI extends heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors whose financial contributions make the 2026 Student Assistance Fund (SAF) possible. Your support empowers students to pursue their educational goals and achieve their dreams. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a difference in their lives and within our community.

(List complete as of the date of printing)

AWARD SPONSORS

**Bodden & Bennett Law Group, Carlos Bodden, Esq.
Robert Diffenderfer, Esq. & Michelle Diffenderfer, Esq.
Wendy and Yvonne Edwards
Rosita Edwards Family
Vivian and Adrienne Ferrin Memorial Scholarship Fund
NextEra Energy | Florida Power & Light Company
Escoffery Family and Martin Family
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Jess and Victoria Santamaria
Katherine Savarese
Truist Financial Corporation
Genieve White Family**

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Sara Hughes
Evita LaTouche
Lillian McGann
Michelle Miller
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**Caren Muir
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Jennifer Powell-Pittman
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Mariama Williams
Sophia Williams
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STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

**Nadine White-Boyd, Esq., Co-Chair • Junette Powell, Co-Chair • Leonie Escoffery, Treasurer
Doreen Baker • Lavern Blackwood • Robin Ferguson • Michelle Miller • Norma Smith-Hill • Marva Wilks**

CAFCI SCOUTS ♦ TROOP 111

Greetings CAFCI Members!

This month was another successful one for Troop 111, filled with accomplishment, service, and teamwork. Throughout the month, our scouts had the opportunity to attend camp, celebrate their achievements, and work together to improve our troop. We are proud of everything our scouts have accomplished and are excited to share some of this month's highlights.

We started the Summer Camp planning with a trailer clean-up day. Scouts worked side by side to organize equipment, clean the trailer, and make sure everything was ready for future campouts and activities. The teamwork and effort shown by everyone made the project a great success and demonstrated the importance of taking care of our troop's resources.



Hosanna James, Judah James



Roman Mahne, Landon Girard,
Lucas Schnick Baker, Hani Almasoodi



Alyvia Wasson, Hani Almasoodi



Allen Arthur, Hani Almasoodi

One of the biggest moments this month was recognizing the scouts who attended TK Summer Camp as part of a provisional troop. Their hard work, positive attitudes, and dedication throughout camp earned them well-deserved awards. We are proud of each scout for representing Troop 111 with honor and making the most of this unique experience. In addition, several of our scouts attended summer camp in a Tampa Council where they continued to challenge themselves, build new skills, and create lasting memories. They represented Troop 111 with pride and returned with valuable experiences that will help strengthen both themselves and our troop.



FRONT: Mr. Wasson, Mrs. Wasson, Mrs. Cabrera, Mrs. Kelly, Ms. Kelly,
BACK: Mr. Girard, Scoutmaster Kelly, Mr. Arthur, Mr. Almasoudi

Our post summer camp celebration was attended by the Provisional Camp Leaders, Ms. Dawn and Kondor as well as several scouts from other Troops who also attended. A special tribute was shared with the Provo leaders whose planning and leadership had a positive impact on our Scouts. Everyone enjoyed fellowship, a video and refreshments including the scout favorite; Arnold Palmer.

Overall, this was an outstanding month for Troop 111. Special thanks to CAFCI member and Charter Representative, Mrs. Rhonda Davis who gifted scouts with a lovely summer camp lunch bag filled with "Cracker Barrel To Go". We would like to thank CAFCI, adult leaders, volunteers, and parents for their continued support and efforts. Your hard work and commitment make every event and activity possible, and we look forward to another successful month ahead.



Respectfully,
Hani Almasoodi
Senior Patrol Leader



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>

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

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

Please share with your friends and family.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO CAFCI???

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

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

OR

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



For C.A.F.C.I.

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.

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 cafcipbc@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 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
CAFCI's Home Of Our Own

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

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
in Florida, Inc.



CAFCI
Annual

Friendship Ball

LEGACY IN MOTION

CELEBRATING

37

YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

STRENGTH IN SERVICE

Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community.



SATURDAY,

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

7 PM - 1 AM



HILTON PALM BEACH PBI

Majestic Ballroom

150 Australian Ave.

West Palm Beach

DOOR PRIZES | RAFFLE

Semi-Formal Attire

**Live Entertainment featuring
DJ MANSTA & MORE**



\$125 | Advance Ticket Sales Only | Cash Bar



To purchase tickets or for more information

Dennis Wright 561.653.1586 | Audrey Smith 561.601.8856

Alvin Nembhard 561.670.8113

CAFCI • 561.790.4002 • cafcibell@bellsouth.net • CAFCIPBC.org

SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION • HONOR THE LEGACY • PROMOTE YOUR BRAND

Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities Available. Contact us at CAFCI@bellsouth.net



CAFCI
Annual

Friendship Ball

Dear Friend,

The Caribbean-American For Community Involvement in Florida, Inc. (CAFCI) proudly invites you to support our Annual Friendship Ball, taking place on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 7pm at the Hilton Palm Beach PBI.

This year's theme, "LEGACY IN MOTION, Celebrating 37 Years of Excellence | STRENGTH IN SERVICE, Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community," reflects CAFCI's enduring commitment to empowering individuals, strengthening families, and enriching our community through service and outreach.

The Friendship Ball is one of Palm Beach County's premier cultural and community events, attracting distinguished guests, business leaders, civic organizations, and supporters throughout South Florida and beyond. Proceeds from this event directly benefit CAFCI's vital community outreach initiatives, including:

- The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
- Cultural Diversity Day
- Students Assistance Fund, Scout Troop 111, Pack 111 and youth-focused programs
- Community service initiatives that positively impact families throughout our region

We respectfully invite you to partner with us by becoming a Sponsor and/or placing an advertisement in our Annual Friendship Ball Journal. The Journal not only highlights the impactful work CAFCI continues to provide, but also offers valuable visibility and recognition for our sponsors and advertisers through event promotion, website exposure, and distribution during the Ball.

Sponsorship opportunities and advertising forms are available online at: www.cafcipc.org/annual-friendship-ball. Forms are also enclosed for your convenience.

We would also be honored by your presence at the Friendship Ball. Tickets are available for \$125 each and may be purchased through our website. Donations are also greatly appreciated and help us continue our mission of service and community empowerment.

For additional information or if you have any questions, please contact:

- Genieve White, Journal Committee Chair
561.876.4161; gen_white@msn.com
- Dennis Wright, President
561.653.1586; denban22@aol.com

Your generosity and support help make our programs and outreach efforts possible. We kindly ask for your response by August 14, 2026, to ensure inclusion in the Friendship Ball Journal.

Thank you for helping us continue a legacy of service, excellence, and community impact. We look forward to celebrating with you at this special event.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wright
CAFCI President

Genieve White
Journal Committee Chair

FRIENDSHIP BALL COMMITTEE

DENNIS WRIGHT, CHAIR

PAUL BAKER

CYNTHIA BECKLES

BARRINGTON BERRY

RADCLIFFE BROWN

YVONNE ELLIOTT

AUDREY CAMPBELL

THALIA LAUREN

CAREN MUIR

ALVIN NEMBARD

JENNIFER
POWELL-PITTMAN

JUNETTE POWELL

HILDRETH
STODDART-BROWN

WAYNE THOMAS

BARBARA WALKER

GENIEVE WHITE

CAFCI MISSION

*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.
CAFCI • 561.790.4002 • CAFCI@BELLSOUTH.NET • CAFCIPBC.ORG
675 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard • Suite #134 • Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411



CAFCI Annual Friendship Ball

LEGACY IN MOTION, Celebrating 37 Years of Excellence
STRENGTH IN SERVICE, Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

2026 SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT

GOLD SPONSOR • \$5,000

Six (6) Event Tickets

Gold Sponsor Receive

Recognition on CAFCI's website for one year with direct link to sponsor's website, plus;

SILVER SPONSOR • \$2,500

Four (4) Event Tickets

Silver Sponsor Receive

Opportunity to distribute branded merchandise, plus;

BRONZE SPONSOR • \$1,250

Two (2) Event Tickets

Bronze Sponsor Receive

Full page color sponsorship ad in Ball Journal, Recognition in video presentation at the Ball, Introduction at event, Ball Journal recognizing sponsorship on CAFCI's website for one year, Recognition in all public relations distributed & Social Media Highlights

TABLE SPONSOR • \$1,500

- Ten (10) Event Tickets (*Tickets may be used for your guests or donated to organization*)
- Recognition at table and in Ball Journal as Table Sponsor.

ADVERTISING SUPPORT

Camera Ready Ad. Additional charges apply for ad design or editing.

- Outside Back Cover (8½"x11") • \$750
- Inside Front Cover (8½"x11") • \$750
- Inside Back Cover (8½"x11") • \$700
- Full Page (8½"x11") • \$600
- Half Page (8½"x5½") • \$325
- Quarter Page (4¼"x5½") • \$180
- Business Card (3¼"x2") • \$85

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY SELECTED: _____

SUBMIT FULL COLOR AD ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 14TH TO CAFCI@BELLSOUTH.NET.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY|STATE|ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Pay Online: www.cafcipc.org/annual-friendship-ball

Zelle: cafcipbc@bellsouth.net (*Include in the memo the purpose of payment*)

Mail Check: CAFCI

Journal Committee, 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

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LEGACY IN MOTION, Celebrating 37 Years of Excellence
STRENGTH IN SERVICE, Honoring Those Who Uplift Our Community

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

2026 MEMBER MESSAGE

*Be a part of CAFCI's history by placing your
personalized MESSAGE in the 2026 Friendship Ball Journal.*

☐ **MESSAGE \$30**
(text only – max. 20 words)

☐ **BUSINESS CARD SIZE MESSAGE \$85**
(text and image - 2" x 3 ¼")

Examples of personalized message:

- We salute and congratulate CAFCI on their commitment to the community
- Congratulations on Graduation, Newborn, Engagement, etc.
- In loving memory of
- Birthday greetings to

MESSAGE:

**Submit message and image (if applicable) to cafcibellsouth.net.
Include "CAFCI 2026 BALL Message" in the Subject line.**

MESSAGE DUE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 14, 2026.

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY|STATE|ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Pay Online: www.cafcibellsouth.net/annual-friendship-ball
Zelle: cafcibellsouth.net (Include in the memo the purpose of payment)
Mail Check: **CAFCI**
Journal Committee, 675 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., #134, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

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JULY... A Month of Celebrations & Awareness

VOTE... It's Your Right! It's Your Responsibility!

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

- **Election Day:** Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 7 am - 7 pm
- **Deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation:** Monday, July 20, 2026
- **Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you:** Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 5 pm
- **Early Voting:** Saturday, August 8, through Sunday, August 16, from 7 am - 7 pm
- **Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot:** Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 7 pm to our Main Office or at 5 pm to a Branch Office or Secure Ballot Intake Station

2026 GENERAL ELECTION

- **Election Day:** Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 7 am - 7 pm
- **Deadline to register to vote:** Monday, October 5, 2026
- **Deadline to request that a Vote-by-Mail ballot be mailed to you:** Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5 pm
- **Early Voting:** Monday, October 19, through Sunday, November 1, 7 am - 7 pm
- **Deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot:** Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 7 pm to our Main Office or at 5 pm to a Branch Office or Secure Ballot Intake Station

Source: <https://www.voteplambeach.gov/191/Election-Dates-Deadlines>

INTERNATIONAL SELF-CARE DAY July 24, 2026

Celebrated on July 24 (*chosen symbolically because self-care can be practiced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*). A self-care day is an intentional pause to recharge your mental, emotional, and physical well-being. It involves stepping away from routine pressures to prioritize rest, joyful movement, or personal nourishment. The focus is simply on activities that help you reset.

CHOOSE YOUR SELF-CARE STYLE

Select activities based on what your mind and body need most today.

Mental & Emotional Reset

- **Brain dump:** Write freely in a journal for 10 minutes to offload heavy thoughts.
- **Digital detox:** Disconnect from social media and email for at least four hours.
- **Radical boundaries:** Practice saying "no" to a request that drains your remaining energy.
- **Creative flow:** Color in a book, play an instrument, or try a new recipe.

Physical & Sensory Renewal

- **Everything shower:** Take a long, warm bath or an intentional, multi-step shower.
- **Device-free walk:** Spend 20 to 30 minutes walking outside without headphones.
- **Sensory calming:** Dim your household lighting and diffuse soothing essential oils.

- **Nourishing food:** Prepare a balanced meal from scratch and eat it completely screen-free.

Environmental & Social Comfort

- **Micro-clutter clean:** Spend 15 minutes organizing one drawer or changing your bed sheets.
- **Low-stakes connection:** Call or meet a close friend who leaves you feeling heard.
- **Passive rest:** Lie down to look at the sky or watch funny animal videos mindfully.

*National Self-Care Day (US): Observed annually on April 5th.
Global Self-Care Month: Runs annually from June 24th to July 24th.*

Source: [self care day - Google Search](#)

NATIONAL PARENT'S DAY July 26, 2026

National Parents' Day falls on the fourth Sunday in July to honor and celebrate the dedication of parents and parental figures across the United States.

HOW TO OBSERVE AND CELEBRATE:

Spend Quality Time: Plan a special family dinner, a local outing, or a gathering to show your appreciation.

Nominate for Awards: You can nominate outstanding figures for the "Parents of the Year" award through official platforms like Parents' Day.

Find Local Events: Check community calendars for nearby gatherings, such as award ceremonies and family festivals, which are often held in local municipal libraries and city centers.

Source: [parents day 2026 - Google Search](#)



HURRICANE SEASON 2026 During A Hurricane ...

Atlantic Hurricane Season | Jun 1 – Nov. 30

Stay Informed

- ✓ Pay attention to emergency information and alerts.
- ✓ If you live in a mandatory evacuation zone and local officials tell you to evacuate, do so immediately.

Dealing with the Weather

- ✓ Determine how best to protect yourself from high winds and flooding.
- ✓ Take refuge in a designated storm shelter or an interior room for high winds.
- ✓ Go to the highest level of the building if you are trapped by flooding. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.
- ✓ Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

For a detailed guide to prepare Before, During and After a Hurricane, visit <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

Mark Your Calendar CAFCI's 2026 Events

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

Saturday, July 11 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Health Awareness
Saturday, August 8 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Membership Appreciation
Saturday, September 12 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Scout Night & VAFMSF

Saturday, September 26 CAFCI ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP BALL

Hilton Palm Beach PBI - Majestic Ballroom
150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL

Support The Celebration • Honor The Legacy • Promote Your Brand
Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities Available. Contact us at CAFCI@bellsouth.net

Saturday, October 10 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Business Awareness
Saturday, November 14 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ International Games Night
Saturday, December 12 at 7 pm; Hybrid | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ~ Toys for Tots & Holiday Potluck

SAVE THE DATE Thursday, December 31 CAFCI NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Mark Your Calendar AROUND TOWN

- July 18 and July 19, 10 am – 5 pm | FLORIDA FRUIT FESTIVAL at South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Boulevard, West Palm Beach. For more information, click on the link: <https://www.southfloridafair.com/location/shiner-law-group-expo-west?ev=3332>
- Friday, August 7 at 6:30 pm | UNITED SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB presents JAMAICA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION at Grace Episcopal Church, 3600 N Australian Ave., West Palm Beach. Admission: FREE
- 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/>
- Events in PALM BEACH COUNTY, go to <https://www.thepalmbeaches.com/events>

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