

Peacemaker's Community Housing Redevelopment Project Spring Pass/Hampstead, St. Thomas, Jamaica

The **Peacemaker's Community Housing Redevelopment** project constructed 27 homes for families living in dire inhumane and unsanitary conditions. Also referred to as 'Spring Pass' by residents, the community is located in Hampstead, St. Thomas, Jamaica. Like many other rural communities across the island, the population comes from a very low socio-economic background. Professional employment is almost non-existent, so individuals are forced to venture far from the community to find jobs. Those who are fortunate enough to find some form of employment are domestic workers, street vendors and security guards.

Food For The Poor homes in Jamaica have two bedrooms and a common room. They are built on a cement foundation, wood-framed, and sheltered with zinc roofs. All homes include a flushable toilet and a shower unit. A 200 gallon household water tank is also installed to enable families to store a supply of water, saving a long, arduous trip each morning – generally made by the children or women – to collect enough water to meet the family's daily needs. Each family also receives a stove and solar light kit for their home (there is no central electricity).

IRN and the schools we work with are the major source of furniture for the communities FFP supports in Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean. As is often the case, the furnishings shown in these photos are combined from different schools. The desks, seating, dressers, and bed frames come from Rutgers University in New Jersey. The mattresses come from the University of Vermont.

Does reuse make a difference? You bet it does.

Altheia Dennis lives with four of her children. "In the past, the few pieces of furniture I had were infested with termites and falling to pieces.... Thank you all very much. I pray that God's richest blessings will continue to flow on you, giving you the strength to do the good work that you are doing. In fact, my thanks to you extend beyond my heart."



Forty-year-old **Mitzie Bogle** was living in an old, shaky house with her children. “Oh my God, we were living in a very horrible condition. My house leaked heavily when it rained. I had more pans and buckets placed in the house than furniture.... I had a bed that I was using for a very long time that now had a hole like a sink in it. I used cardboard and old cloths to stuff under the mattress as a means of providing some form of comfort for my back... I remember clearly the very first night my children and I moved into our new home. We slept so comfortably.”



Speaking of her daughter, Theresa, Mrs. Bogle said: “As soon as we placed the desks in the living room she just took up her books and sat around the desks. Most of her time at home is now spent around that desk studying and doing her homework.”



Bogle Household

59-Year-old **Deloris Bowen** lives with her three children. “Even the smallest task of providing food for the family is hard. At times, we have absolutely nothing to eat for days. We lived in a small room that leaked all over when it rained. I would set pots and pans to try and catch some of the water, but water came through the sides and floors. I tried using old cloths to soak up the water from our mattress.



Yes, we needed a proper roof over our heads, we needed to sleep on dry and comfortable beds at night but we didn't have such things... My children and I are so proud these days when we relax on our new beds or gather around the table. They are very comfortable and we really love them.”