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SPECIAL FEEDBACK REPORT



**Distribution of School Furniture and Supplies from the
Tahanto Regional Middle/High School, Boylston, MA
to St. Georges College, Kingston, Jamaica**

Distribution of School Furniture St. Georges College, Kingston, Jamaica

Cont. #MRKU036818-8, MSKU630800-1, PONU130382-0, SEAU789195-0

Overview / Background

IRN and Food For The Poor (FFP) have partnered for more than ten years to provide Jamaican school children with the equipment and supplies they need as the foundation of a productive school environment. FFP Jamaica was established in 1983, and is one of the country's main charity organizations. FFP's goal is to improve the health, economic, social and spiritual conditions of the communities they serve – to pass on as much as possible to as many as possible as efficiently as possible. Without the generosity of schools like Tahanto, this mission cannot be accomplished.

IRN was founded in 1999 as a recycling cooperative for education and healthcare institutions, and has expanded to encompass corporations and government clients as well. Since 2002, placing surplus furniture and equipment for use in needy communities has been a major focus of IRN's mission. FFP and IRN have partnered to place more than 30 million pounds of surplus – more than 2,000 tractor trailers filled with usable goods – in schools, homes, orphanages, clinics and hospitals since their partnership began.

It is against this background that FFP and IRN sincerely thank the Tahanto School Family for your contribution in January, 2013 of four shipping containers of school furniture, equipment and supplies. These items were provided to St. Georges College, a Kindergarten through 12th Grade school in Kingston, Jamaica's capital. St. Georges College was founded in 1850, and fills a critical need in providing educational opportunities to children in the needy communities it serves.

The over 1,450 students enrolled at St. Georges College, as well as administrators, academic staff and all other members of the school family have benefitted from Tahanto's generosity. Tahanto's surplus spanned the full range of items critical to a productive school environment: student desks and chairs, teacher's desks, books, filing cabinets, shelving, newspaper racks, blackboards and whiteboards.

Improving the overall learning environment for students at St. Georges College, Tahanto's generous contribution is helping to promote a more conducive and productive teaching and learning environment for teachers and students as they work together to achieve their educational goals.

Impact

When they learned that St. Georges College was selected to receive assistance in the form of furniture through Tahanto, IRN, and Food For The Poor, administrators were excited and eagerly waited for the day of its arrival. As soon as the containers arrived, St. Georges and FFP staff started to offload and place Tahanto's furniture in its new setting. Unloading and assessing the items and realizing the overall impact on St. Georges, the administration and staff immediately recognized that the value of Tahanto's furnishings and equipment far exceeded their expectations.

Top Left: Tahanto Middle/High school desks and chairs in the school lobby, staged to be loaded for shipment. Top Right and Bottom: The same chairs being unloaded at St. Georges School, Kingston, Jamaica. FFP team members Audley Davies and Winston Hinds are providing the manpower.



After the items were offloaded, the first task on the agenda was to outfit classrooms that were either empty or had only broken chairs and desks. Some classrooms were also in need of proper teacher's desks. These items were desperately needed, as pointed out by Ms. Anecia Creary, Maintenance Supervisor at St. Georges. She said, "Of all the items received from Tahanto School, I believe the desks and chairs are the most valuable, for both teachers and students. The previously used desks and chairs have deteriorated over the years and now many are in unusable conditions. As a result, some classrooms had only a few suitable desks and chairs, and some teachers had no desk at all. Without the proper tools, teaching and learning become difficult."



Before: Most classrooms had broken chairs and desks. Below: St. Georges recently completed a new wing of the school, but had no funding for furniture, so classrooms were nearly empty.



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After: Thanks to Tahanto's generosity, these classrooms have been outfitted and can now properly accommodate students. Ms. Anecia Creary, Maintenance Supervisor at St. Georges College, introduces students to the new furnishings in one of the classrooms that was outfitted with "new" Tahanto desks and chairs for students and teachers.



Below (left photo): FFP team members Gary Morrison (left) and Jeffery Baker help to arrange chairs in one classroom that had desks but hardly any chairs for students. **(Right photo)** Students enter the classroom for the first time it has chairs enough to actually function as a classroom.





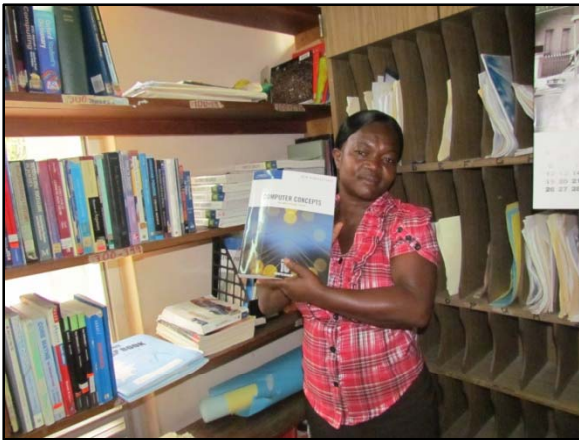
Before: Teachers' desks were often in worse shape than students'. This broken antique is ready to be dumped, thanks to a replacement from Tahanto.



After: FFP staffers Gary Morrison and Jeffery Baker unload and install a Tahanto teacher desk at St. Georges College. The desk will see years of reuse at St. Georges.

Ms. Creary explained that without the generosity of schools like Tahanto and their partnership with FFP, St. Georges would have placed a request for furnishings with Jamaica's Ministry of Education. "Due to the large demand from hundreds of schools in the island, the Ministry is unable to efficiently assist everyone on a timely basis. This means that we would have to find the funds to purchase furniture and supplies." By providing these much needed resources, Tahanto has helped St. Georges save tens of thousands of dollars in purchases, savings that can be applied to other high priority aspects of school operation.

The school's library has also benefitted tremendously. Every day students are using the hundreds of books and the newspaper/magazine racks received from Tahanto. Ms. Andrea Smith, Librarian, said, "The computer and physics books have been used most by students so far. They have been very helpful to students especially for assignments in the related fields. Also, we are now able to clearly display newspaper and magazine articles in a more organized manner thanks to the racks. . Our library is now more presentable and much better equipped."



Ms. Sandra Bowen, Library Assistant, displays a few of the computer, physics and other educational books that have been placed in the St. Georges College library. These books filled large holes in the library's resources, providing up to date learning opportunities for St. Georges students.



Something as simple as a newspaper and magazine rack makes a huge difference at a school like St. Georges, giving students much easier access to current news and periodicals. Other "simple" pieces like blackboards and white boards also addressed serious gaps in St. Georges stock of basic school furnishings and supplies.

“We are really appreciative and grateful for all the items received,” said Ms. Creary. “They mean a lot to us as we were desperately in need and you have rendered your valuable assistance. It was one of our future plans to have the new school wing furnished. This is now a reality as we have been able to outfit the classrooms from Tahanto’s contribution. Thanks to Tahanto we no longer have to contend with a shortage of chairs and desks and that is so important. Once again I express thanks on behalf of our entire school family for helping to upgrade our school.”



At Left: Filing cabinets from Tahanto fill out the load on one of four shipping containers packed by the school. **At Right:** The filing cabinets get a new life. Instead of discarding surplus that it could not use again, Tahanto generously provided more than a thousand much needed items to Jamaican students.

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Two pianos were among the surplus items that Tahanto provided to St. Georges College. Food For The Poor has found that music is one of the best alternatives for students to the temptations of gangs and street life in countries like Jamaica, so these instruments are a particularly valuable addition to St. Georges' resources.



Packing at Tahanto, Unpacking at St. Georges College. It is hard for American students to understand the difference that basic items like school desks and chairs can make in the lives of students in a country like Jamaica. They can be the difference between getting an education, and just trying to get through the day.

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Thank You Letter



Office of the Principal
St. George's College
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April 15, 2013

Tahanto School Community
Co. Odean Dorah, Donor Relations Officer
Food For The Poor
P.O. Box 557 Elferslie Pen, Spanish Town
St. Catherine, Jamaica

Dear Members of the Tahanto School Community,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution of furniture to St. George's College.

Financial constraints facing Jamaican schools often hamper our ability to access the resources needed for affective teaching and learning. To this end, your donation was very much appreciated by our teachers and students.

Thank you once again for your contribution to the education of Jamaican youth and may God bless you.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.

Kind Regards,
St. George's College

Margaret Campbell (Mrs.)
Principal

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