

PAVE CENTRE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



THANK YOU FOR SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER!

This holiday season, we were deeply touched by the incredible generosity shown during our Gift of Hope Drive. Thanks to your thoughtful contributions, our students received stockings filled with essential and meaningful items, filling their hearts with joy during our holiday fellowship and movie night. The stockings were more than just practical gifts—they were a reminder that our students are supported by a community that cares deeply for them.

As they opened their gifts, we saw the genuine joy and gratitude in their faces, creating a truly special moment for all. Your kindness and generosity helped make this celebration one that will be remembered for years to come. We are beyond grateful for your efforts in brightening the holidays for our students and making them feel truly valued.

This year's celebration was further enhanced by a moving worship message led by Gaston Williams, our dedicated driver at PAVE Centre, who shared a message of hope and community. We were also honored to have two of our Board of Directors in attendance—Audra Handal, Evan Rees, Richard Thompson—whose presence added even more warmth to the occasion.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Your generosity continues to make a lasting impact on our students, and we are grateful for the care and compassion you've shown.

Best & Brightest of the Month



Rajan Saunders

Rajan Saunders, an 18-year-old Industrial Security student, dreams of joining the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) to serve and protect his community.

In five years, Rajan sees himself working hard to build a peaceful and honest life. Over the past three months, PAVE has taught him the value of personal growth and respecting others, no matter their position in life. With his determination and drive, Rajan is a true example of PAVE's mission in action. We can't wait to see him achieve his dreams!



Sashay Wright

Meet Sashay Wright, an 18-year-old Restaurant Server student with a goal of becoming a Cruise Ship Restaurant Server. In five years, Sashay envisions herself building a successful career in the Food and Beverage Industry while improving the quality of life for her family and herself. Over the past three months, PAVE has equipped her with practical skills and a deeper understanding of her field, boosting her confidence and career prospects. With her determination and focus, Sashay is on track to achieve her dreams and make a lasting impact in her industry!



Raneak Anderson

Raneak Anderson, a 20-year-old Industrial Security student, is determined to build a career as a Security Officer and aspires to become a Private Bodyguard within the next five years. PAVE has significantly impacted Raneak's life, equipping him with the skills, confidence, and motivation to pursue his goals. Through PAVE, he has gained a renewed sense of purpose and is excited about building a brighter future. Raneak's dedication and ambition are inspiring, and we look forward to seeing him succeed in his chosen path!



Jimel McKenzie

Jimel McKenzie, a 19-year-old Restaurant Server student, is passionate about honing his skills in restaurant service and mixology. In five years, Jimel envisions himself running several businesses while remaining active in the hospitality industry. Over the past three months, PAVE has helped him grow by improving his social skills and deepening his knowledge of the Food and Beverage industry. Jimel's drive and ambition make him a standout student, and we are excited to see him thrive in the years ahead!

CLASS UPDATES



Hands-On Learning

Our Restaurant Server students are currently immersed in their Mixology course, led by the accomplished Mr. Clive Ruddock, owner of two successful restaurants in Atlanta: APT 4B Atlanta Restaurant and Bar and Jouvert Caribbean Kitchen Atlanta. Known for his expertise in hospitality and authentic Caribbean cuisine, Clive is guiding students in mastering the art of mixing colors—an essential skill for crafting visually stunning beverages. This hands-on practice is helping students develop a strong sense of aesthetics in drink-making while building a solid foundation in bartending.

Additionally, our students recently had the incredible opportunity to visit the Sea Bell Resort in Hope Bay, Jamaica. This field trip allowed them to observe professional hospitality operations firsthand and gain valuable insights into the workings of a successful resort. The experience was both inspiring and educational, sparking greater enthusiasm for their future careers in hospitality and showcasing the diverse possibilities within the industry.



Industrial Security Students Advance Skills with Practical Training

Our Industrial Security students are receiving invaluable hands-on training that is essential for preparing them for the challenges they will face in the security field. Under the expert guidance of Mr. Comrie, they are developing crucial skills such as martial arts, handcuff techniques, and baton handling.

The martial arts training not only improves their physical fitness and agility but also builds mental focus, discipline, and the ability to react quickly and confidently in stressful situations. The handcuff techniques being taught ensure that students understand how to safely restrain individuals while adhering to security protocols. Additionally, the baton handling training equips students with the tools needed for crowd control and self-defense, teaching them how to maintain control in potentially dangerous scenarios. This comprehensive, practical training is designed to boost students' confidence and ensure they are fully prepared to handle the demands of the security industry. By mastering these skills, our Industrial Security students are gaining the expertise necessary to navigate real-world security challenges and excel in their careers.

Graduates Apprenticing at Norse Hill & Entrepreneurship Workshops

We are excited to share updates on our students gaining valuable real-world experiences as they advance in their fields. Our graduates are apprenticing at Norse Hill, contributing to a groundbreaking Tea House project featuring Jamaica's first sensory deprivation tank. Under the guidance of woodwork designer Sebastian Skeete McLeod, they are developing woodworking and design skills while gaining rare, hands-on experience.

In addition, Al Merritt, Chairman and Co-Founder of PAVE Centre, and Chris Berry, both successful entrepreneurs in their respective fields, recently sat in on one of our Entrepreneurship classes. They shared valuable insights on overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities, equipping students with essential tools to succeed in business. These initiatives highlight how PAVE empowers students with opportunities for growth and mentorship. We are proud of their achievements and excited for their future!



BUILDING AWARENESS, STRENGTHENING TEAMS



To close the year on a high note, PAVE staff participated in an enriching cognitive awareness training session led by Anisa Wilson from Life Skills Education Ltd. The session focused on enhancing thought processes, decision-making, and stress management, equipping staff with practical strategies to foster collaboration and support students more effectively. This training not only strengthened the team's skills but also reinforced PAVE's mission of empowering at-risk youth, setting a strong foundation for continued success in the coming year.

2024 Recap

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible growth, impact, and unwavering dedication that have defined this year. We are proud to announce that 317 students have graduated from PAVE Centre, with another cohort set to graduate in February 2025. Each student's success is a testament to the hard work and determination that have shaped their journeys.

This year's Light the Way Gala in September was a highlight, raising over \$100,000 to support our programs and presenting the Humanitarian Award to Gulu Chanrai, whose generosity has been essential to PAVE's success. We also celebrated the success of the PAVE Love & Oysters Event in February, where Chef Antony, Cora, and the team from Willa Bay Oysterville Sea Farms, along with Debbie & Duncan Stewart, helped raise crucial funds for our mission.

In February, PAVE Centre was honored to receive the Prime Minister's National Youth Award for Excellence in Youth Development, recognizing our impact on youth in Jamaica. Additionally, our Fish Fry in July raised funds for local road repairs in Port Antonio, further demonstrating the power of community collaboration.

This year also marked an exciting expansion of our educational offerings. In 2024 our class offerings included Industrial Security, Art, Interior Decorating, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality, Kitchen Cook, Restaurant Server, Front Desk Representative, Guest Room Attendant, Lifeguard, and Security. In addition to these core programs, we introduced valuable workshops in Mixology, Ceramics, Finance, Life Skills, and more, empowering our students with both the technical and personal skills they need to excel in their careers and lives.

None of these achievements would be possible without the unwavering support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and community members. Your commitment and generosity continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of our students, helping to shape a brighter future for at-risk youth in Jamaica.

Looking forward to 2025, we are excited to continue building on this momentum. We will graduate more students, bringing our total number of graduates to 317, and host the second annual Love & Oysters Event at the home of Gulu and Veena Chanrai in Kingston. We will also begin hosting Fellowship & Movie Nights twice a month, creating new opportunities for community connection and engagement.

Thank you once again for your incredible support. We look forward to another year of growth, impact, and shared success in 2025.