



First Quarter at a Glance April, 2008

In an effort to implement organizational structure, establish guidelines, create community awareness, and to acquire seed money for the organization, Transforming America Through Interaction ("TATI"), Inc. held its official launching of the organization, the "TATI Dream Fête" at the home of Cary and Tanya Ragbeer in Southwest Ranches on Saturday, January 18, 2008. This event was a huge success, with just over 200 supporters in attendance.

The event was truly inspiring, and included such distinguished guests as Hon. C.P. Ricardo Allicock, Consul General of Jamaica, and Mrs. Susan Allicock, Mr. Kirk Francois, Deputy Consul General of Trinidad & Tobago, and Mrs. Stacy Francois, Mr. Winston Barnes, Commissioner of the City of Miramar and radio personality for WAVS 1170AM Radio, Atty. Marlon Hill, Representative



of the Jamaican Diaspora for the Southeastern United States, Mr. Aster Knight, Commissioner of Southwest Ranches (who assisted TATI Inc.'s President, Tanya Ragbeer in welcoming the guests to their town), Mr. Babacar M'Bow of the Broward County Libraries Division, Professor Carole Davis, of Florida International University, Mr. Albert Lettman, President of the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Andrew Azebokhai, President of G C A Cultural Coalition, among many others.



The candid and entertaining Suzan McDowell was the MC for the evening. She kept the momentum going for the night's program of casual elegance. Kanika Palmer serenaded the attendees with a wonderful and emotionally enlightening



rendition of Amazing Grace, a special tribute to Tatiana Renée McIntosh (daughter of Tanya Ragbeer), a second year UF student from the community who passed away in an auto accident last March. Tatiana ("Tati") is the inspiration for this organization. Consul General Allicock spoke of his remembrance of Tatiana and her inspiration to the Caribbean community, Atty. Marlon Hill remembered the spirit of the young lady and reminded those present to also give remembrance to the Rev. Dr.



Martin Luther King whose birthday was being celebrated worldwide. Board Member Gilda Swasey explained the goals and objectives of the organization and Mrs. Myriam Campo-

Goldman of Harmony Development Center (a partnering organization to TATI, Inc.) spoke of Harmony and its success in rehabilitating children who are provided alternatives to custody for those who commit non-violent acts.



Everyone was treated to a fabulous meal of pumpkin soup, a choice of either curried chicken, or fricassee chicken with rice and peas and a salad, compliments of caterer Ann-Marie Cuthbert of Splendid Gatherings; TATI, Inc. t-shirts were on sale for \$10 each (t-shirts still available for purchase call **954-802-4291**; kids sizes also available), there were for raffle (gift certificates to Bahama Breeze, two dozen free specialty logo-imprinted t-shirts compliments of Florida Screen Apparel, free tune-up compliments of High-Tech Auto; there





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was a silent auction featuring artwork of famous Bahama Breeze artist Bruce Smith, Jamaican artist Colin Smith, and a special treat of the first-time showing of the works of Tanya Ragbeer and her daughters, Natassjia and Katrina. Also for auction was a free pet checkup compliments of Weston Animal Hospital, and a ceramic bowl and platter compliments of Euro Style. The grand prize for the evening was a complimentary 4-day, 3-night stay at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, compliments of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association ("JHTA"). Winner of this fabulous gate prize was Ms. Cheryl Williams.



WINNER!

"As a long-standing friend of the Williams' family, I knew Tatiana from her infant days, and over the years watched her develop into a beautiful, gracious and accomplished young lady. She excelled not only academically, but she was an avid social worker and a role model for young people in her community.

"I am very pleased to give my support to 'TATI' in its efforts to mentor and assist in the development of young people, to enable them to take their place in society as worthwhile and productive citizens.

"I believe that the formation of this organization is a fitting tribute to Tatiana's life and work," says Mrs. Camille Needham, Executive Director of the JHTA.

This event proved quite successful financially for TATI Inc., as it grossed over \$8,000 and has cemented many bonds both in the corporate sector as well as within the local communities. The **TATI Dream Fête** will most certainly be an annual outdoor event going forward.

What's Next?

Since its launch in January, the Board of Directors of TATI, Inc. have been working hard to establish themselves as a viable non-profit organization; they

have implemented and posted guidelines for two (2) **Financial Hardship Scholarships** to be awarded annually to deserving College students; have created and implemented their governing procedures and documentation; have begun procedures to file for their 501(c)3 tax-exempt status; have created the "**Caribbean and American Kids Club**" for ages 5-13. The club introduces parliamentary procedures, and creates strong, long-lasting friendships, which will increase cultural and diversity awareness, and enhance family bonds and community relationships.

Upcoming Activities:

TATI, Inc. has launched the 2008 campaign for the Institute of Caribbean Studies' **Caribbean American Heritage Month Youth Essay Competition** that will be awarding cash prizes to lucky 11th or 12th grade high school students from Miami-Dade and Broward Counties on June 1st at the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and the G C A Cultural Coalition's annual **UNIFEST** Caribbean Festival held at Vincent Torres Park in Lauderdale Lakes, the first calendar event for the month of June which is National Caribbean American Heritage Month.



At UNIFEST, TATI Inc. will be participating in the cultural activities, and will be providing volunteer hours for interested youths on a first-come, first-served basis. TATI Inc. plans to have a booth at UNIFEST to provide information on, and to create awareness of the organization. There will be many more volunteer opportunities within the organization as it progresses.

Next, on Sunday, June 29th TATI Inc. will be celebrating **National Caribbean American Heritage Month Family Day** with a fun family picnic! This event promises to include such activities as the three-legged race, lime-and-spoon, six-a-side soccer, sack races, obstacle courses, etc. This event began about two years ago by Tanya





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Ragbeer with the support of such community partners as Andy Ansola (Broward Caribbean Carnival), Ann-Marie Cuthbert (TATI Inc. Board Member/Caterer), Gary Harris of Trilogy Productions, and was under the patronage of the CARICOM Consular Corps of Miami, and Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness of the City of Lauderdale. This year, the picnic will be held at the Ofprey Pavilion, John U. Lloyd State Park, Dania Beach, 10:00am – 3:00pm. Stay tuned for further information about Caribbean American Heritage Family Day 2008.

The summer will also bring specific programs geared towards mentoring the young, as well as providing volunteer hours for students of all ages, as well as providing adults with opportunities to be involved in the programs, goals and objectives of TATI Inc. which includes opportunities to give back. The Board of Directors of TATI Inc. will be actively seeking volunteers of all ages as well as youths who may be interested in such programs and activities.

Focus on Jamaica

Every year, TATI Inc plans to focus on a Caribbean country, to collect and distribute much needed items for the needy. It is the goal of the organization to include the children of TATI Inc as much as possible, to provide an awareness of poverty in the region, and to include these children in any efforts to combat the deprivation of major necessities being experienced by the region.

This year, in June, TATI Inc. will be focusing on Richmond Park Primary School, and will collect much needed school supplies for donation to the children of the school which is located in Mocho, Clarendon. These children are deprived of standard supplies such as composition books, paper, rulers, pencils, crayons, etc., as well as clothing, book bags, etc., and the school is in dire need of items from chalk, blackboard erasers, pens, markers, etc., to larger items such as computers.

Also in June, TATI Inc. will be distributing over 60 formal dresses to young ladies who would otherwise not have been able to afford such luxury items for their graduation dance. This memorable event is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of these girls, and some of those who would not have been able to

participate, will now be given an opportunity. These dresses were donated by Ms. Angela Baker-Brown of Tatiana's Bridal in Coconut Creek, FL.



Left to right: Natassja Ragbeer (Tanya Ragbeer's daughter), Toni Deane (daughter of Majella Deane, Board Member), Tanya Ragbeer, Shari Samuels (Friend and UF schoolmate of Ragbeer's daughter Tatiana), Kristi Gonzalez (Cypress Bay High schoolmate of Ragbeer's daughter Tatiana), Angela Baker-Brown (Tatiana's Bridal), and Tatiana White (Angela's daughter for whom the store is named).

Caribbean & American Kids Club

The Kids of TATI, Inc. have formed the “**Caribbean and American Kids Club**” for ages 5-13, who are learning parliamentary procedures, coordinating group activities, planning events, participating in community and intercultural activities, and community service projects. This Club meets at minimum once per month, and is reaching out to the children in the community with plans to grow in numbers. To contact the Caribbean and American Kids Club, email them at:

CAKC_Rocks@taticaribbean.com.

Stay tuned for the launch of “**TATI'S BRIGHT FACES**” Youth Leadership Development Program coming this fall!

Future Plans

- TATI's Bright Faces
- T-shirt and Poster Competition
- Partnership in Pageantry
- TATI's Friends and Family Carnival Costume Band
- Annual Banquet
- Community Family-related Forums and Seminars



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Thanks

Special thanks to our volunteers for the evening: Kadian Simpson, Sherii Kidd, Stephen Robinson, Phillip and Diana Ragbeer, Francisco Barahona, Dana Douglas, Tanika Savery, Serena Cooper, Dawn Williams, Michelle Bezzam, Linda Creary, Albert Lettman, Andrew Azebeokhai.

The Board of Directors would also like to thank the Community at large for the tremendous show of support, and for the donations that continue to come in to the organization. These funds will help TATI Inc. achieve its goals of uniting, educating and mentoring youth. By merging cultures, we will instill strong moral values, personal identities and healthy communities. By bridging social, cultural and generational gaps, we will develop Caribbean American pride and a solid foundation for a brighter tomorrow.

Contact Us

For further information, or to find out how to become involved in TATI Inc, visit our website at www.taticaribbean.com, or email us at info@taticaribbean.com

TATI, Inc.
in loving memory of
Tatiana Renée McIntosh
 (Oct.22,1987 – Mar. 18, 2007)

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- LOGAN SCOTT**



*Left to right: Kevin Burke-Green, Ann-Marie Cuthbert, Gilda Swasey, Andy Ansola (Broward Carnival), Tanya Ragbeer, Ruby Limere, Cary Ragbeer, Marti Lindo, Majella Deane.
 Missing from the photo: Logan Scott*

ADVISORY BOARD:

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- ANDREW GREENIDGE**



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Photos compliments of
Special Occasion Photography

Snapshots from TATI Dream Fête '08





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See you at
TATI
Dream Fete
2009!