

Digicel
FOUNDATION



2007 / 2008
Annual Report

Making a Difference



Table of Contents

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

About Us	3
Projects Completed In Last Financial Year	4

OPERATION AND REVIEW

Patron's Message	5
Chairperson's Message	6
Executive Director's Report	7
Board of Directors	8
Mission & Vision	9
Looking Ahead	10

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Bath Multi-Purpose Court	12
St. Jago South Staff Project	13
St. Georges Sports Club	14
Allman Town Primary	15

EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

Best Community Project	17
Glengoffe Project Winner	18
Mary's Child Staff Donation	19
National Children's Home	20
Jamaica Society for the Blind	21

EDUCATION PROJECTS

Knockalva Technical High School	23
Flower Hill Basic School	24
Hurricane Schools Donation	25
Digicel Foundation Jamaica at a Glance	26

Sister organization – Digicel Haiti Foundation.....	28
Digicel Foundation Haiti at a Glance	30
Farewell to Harry Smith and Retiring Board Members	31

AUDITOR'S REPORT AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Auditor's Report	32
Annual Financial Statements	33
Acknowledgements	35

ABOUT US



Digicel Foundation volunteers at Waldensia Labour Day project

Digicel started its journey in Jamaica seven years ago with the establishment of Digicel Jamaica. Our sole purpose is to connect people via mobile phones and add value to their lives through the medium of telecommunication services. Our core belief has always been that as we grow as a company, so too should our communities grow with us. With this in mind, the Chairman and Founder of Digicel Group, Denis O'Brien, set up the Digicel Foundation Jamaica in September 2004. The primary objective is to support and develop the communities in which our employees live and work and where we do business. We strive to ensure that communities are healthy, primarily through the support of community based activities. Our focus falls predominantly on social, cultural and educational projects. We are funded solely by yearly contributions from Digicel Jamaica and additional donations by our Patron.

The Digicel Foundation has taken steps towards building a legacy of commitment to improving the quality of life in Digicel communities across Jamaica and positioning itself as an influential source of positive community change and enrichment. It is evident that employee involvement is potentially one of the most vibrant forms of corporate outreach. With over 1,200 staff employed in Digicel Jamaica and Digicel Group, the Foundation has huge promise for assisting and giving back through time, money, expertise and leadership. A unique characteristic of the Digicel Foundation is that the Board of Directors and volunteers are made up nearly entirely of staff members who each day give of their time and effort selflessly. Partnerships are sought with Government, NGOs and other various institutions which enable us to create a bigger impact and obtain additional skills and resources which will have a lasting impact on projects. Sustainability is a fundamental component to all projects as the Foundation seeks to assist communities towards self-sufficiency within a specified period as opposed to ongoing assistance and funding. We hope that by giving assistance and funding initially, the project thereafter will flourish and grow from strength to strength.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

PROJECT	COMMUNITIES
Waldensia Primary Resource & Reading Room	Sherwood Content, Trelawny
Hope Gardens Bandstand	Kingston, St Andrew
St Jago South Community Beautification	Spanish Town, St Catherine
Bath Multi-Purpose Court	Bath, St Thomas
Savanna-La-Mar Reading & Resource Room	Savanna-La-Mar, Westmoreland
Knockalva Technical High School - Reading & Resource Room	Knockalva, Hanover
Best Community Competition	National
Whithorn Police Youth Club - Multi-Purpose Court	Whithorn, Westmoreland
Flower Hill Basic School Rebuild & Renovation	Flower Hill, St James
Jamaica Society For The Blind Donation	Kingston, St Andrew
First Hill All Age School Multi-Purpose Court	Jackson Town, Trelawny
St Georges Football Club Spectator Facilities	Buff Bay, Portland
Mary's Child Staff Monetary Donation	Kingston, St Andrew
National Children's Home Christmas Donation	Kingston, St Andrew
Hurricane Dean J\$20 million donation to affected schools	National



Robert Neish, Executive Director, with pupils of Flower Hill Basic school

PATRON'S MESSAGE



“Taking responsibility for the community where you operate has to be an instinctive and integral component of your overall business strategy.”

DENIS O'BRIEN
FOUNDER AND PATRON,
DIGICEL FOUNDATION

Welcome to the fourth annual report of the Digicel Foundation Jamaica. This report is being published as Digicel celebrates seven years in Jamaica – seven years in which we have strived to become an important and responsible member of Jamaican and Caribbean society.

Often I'm asked the question: “Why does Digicel invest so much in Corporate Social Responsibility?” “Honestly” I reply, “I don't believe in the term CSR. A company shouldn't have to devise Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. Taking responsibility for the community where you operate has to be an instinctive and integral component of your overall business strategy. It's as simple as that!”

We welcome changes to the Digicel Foundation Jamaica in 2008. The appointment of Lisa Lewis as our new Chairperson is already bringing new ideas and a fresh approach to how best we can make a real difference to people's lives. I wish her every success in the leadership and guidance she will show in the upcoming years. At the same time special recognition must go to former Chairman Harry Smith, who has steered the Digicel Foundation from its inception four years ago to the effective organization it is today. His contribution is the foundation upon which we will build on in the years to come. A change of leadership allows us the chance to refocus on our goals and potential for the years ahead.

Just as in Haiti, where the Digicel Foundation Haiti has been singularly responsible for building 20 basic schools across the country in twelve months, our prime focus for Jamaica going forward will be on the important areas of early childhood education as well as projects that encourage community empowerment.

Wherever Digicel operates, whether it is here in the Caribbean, Central America or the Pacific, we want communities to benefit from our presence – not least in accessing first class mobile communication services that can help individuals and communities improve the quality of their lives. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Board members, past and present, and the staff members of the Digicel Foundation Jamaica, in particular Executive Director Major General Robert Neish, for the wonderful achievements documented in this report.

Recognition is also due to the hundreds of our Digicel Jamaica and Digicel Group staff who regularly roll up their sleeves to help out on Foundation workdays, selflessly volunteering their time and skills to support communities. They truly epitomize that CSR for Digicel is not a concept but a way of life, and that at Digicel we will always ‘walk the talk’.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denis O'Brien
Founder and Patron, Digicel Foundation

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



“The Digicel Foundation will take further steps in empowering these communities from which we draw our own strength”

LISA LEWIS
CHAIRPERSON,
DIGICEL FOUNDATION JAMAICA

As the newly appointed Chairperson of the Digicel Foundation, I'd first of all like to say a big thank you to my predecessor, Harry Smith, who has in the past four years dedicated himself completely to shaping the Foundation to what it is today.

I am truly honoured and proud to now carry the baton from Harry. Having worked with Digicel since we first launched in Jamaica in 2001, I have witnessed first hand how warmly we have been welcomed and accepted by the people of Jamaica. My own personal goal is that through my leadership, the Digicel Foundation will take further steps in empowering these communities from which we draw our own strength.

Since inception the Digicel Foundation has contributed more than J\$500 million (approx. US\$7 million) to various social, educational as well as hurricane recovery projects in Jamaica and in doing so, has helped improve the lives and opportunities for many Jamaicans. This report alone details how close to J\$71 million (approx. US\$1 million) was allocated during the 2007/2008 financial year to twelve community projects around the country.

A key area that I want to focus on in the year ahead is helping to increase the level of literacy and numeracy amongst our children. It is every child's right to be taught such basic skills and if neglected now will affect future generations of Jamaicans in terms of their education and employment opportunities.

It is also my vision that the Digicel Foundation will be a shining example of how public sector companies and NGOs can work effectively together driving sustainable change in the many communities in need throughout Jamaica. Working together I believe we can make a greater more sustainable difference.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has worked so hard with the Digicel Foundation particularly our Executive Director Major General Bob Neish and his team. We are unique in that the Digicel Foundation is almost entirely staffed by Digicel employees, who not only make up the Board of Directors choosing the projects we undertake, but also the hundreds more staff members who work alongside the communities in completing the projects – all in their own time.

I look forward to working with you all as we contribute to building a bigger, better Jamaica.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Lewis', written over a light grey background.

Lisa Lewis
Digicel Foundation Chairperson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



“This variety of projects emphasizes our commitment to meet the genuine needs of communities all over Jamaica.”

**MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT NEISH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DIGICEL FOUNDATION JAMAICA**

In this our fourth year, the Digicel Foundation is entering a new phase of its development. We have now successfully graduated from our start up stage and clearly established our objectives and impact. The founding Board Members, led by our first Chairman, Harry Smith made a remarkable beginning and set a very high standard of excellence among Foundations in Jamaica.

Our challenge now is to “kick it up a notch” by building on that firm base, thinking strategically and meeting the real challenges faced by communities across the island. We can do this by developing partnerships, identifying measurable standards for our projects and keeping the focus on sustainability as we hand them over to communities. This focus will reinforce the start established in the last four years and set us on a path of continued genuine support for those in need.

We have expanded our support for education this year but also completed some other worthy projects such as staff project at St. Georges Football Club, the Jamaica Society for the Blind, repairs to 10 schools damaged after Hurricane Dean and over 30 prizes at the National and Parish levels in the first awards of the BEST Community Competition. This variety of projects emphasizes our commitment to meet the genuine needs of communities all over Jamaica.

In closing I wish to add my own words of welcome to the new members of the Board, who have already identified specific benchmarks for the future. This new Board has started with a renewed vision and passion to make a significant difference in the area of Early Childhood Education and I believe this will lead to real benefits for our children. I would also like to place on record my appreciation for the support of our Patron, Board members, (past and present), Foundation staff members Eleen Rankine and Andrew Robinson as well as all those volunteers who helped keep the Foundation going through the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Neish', written over a light grey circular stamp.

Robert Neish
Executive Director Digicel Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Denis O'Brien
Patron



Lisa Lewis
Chairperson



Major General Robert Neish
Executive Director



Rushen Buchanan
Secretary



Heather Asphall
Board Member



Pamela Bunting
Board Member



Malene Carr
Board Member



G. Neil Foreman
Board Member



Olive Grant-Williams
Board Member



Elaine Hayden
Board Member



Lawrence Hickey
Board Member



Johanna E Jacobs
Board Member



Jabari Longshaw
Board Member



Stacey Mitchell-Fraser
Board Member



Maria Mulcahy
Board Member



Yvonne Wilks
Board Member

OUR MISSION AND VISION

The Digicel Foundation is a non-profit organization that distributes and utilizes funds on a charitable basis for the sole purpose of building communities and community spirit in Jamaica. Our vision is to strive to ensure that communities are healthy – primarily through the support of community based and driven activities which should embrace social, cultural and particularly educational objectives.

We dedicate our resources to areas where we can make the biggest difference and truly empower people and search for ways to improve and make a difference in people's lives.



Joy Clark, 2007 Board Member, shares a laugh with Flower Hill Basic School pupils



Eleen Rankine, Digicel Foundation Administrator, embraces a pupil from Bailey's Basic School

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to the year ahead we welcome the many challenges that lie in store for us at the Digicel Foundation as well as the many new opportunities that will be presented to us through various projects and partnerships. We will continue to seek ways to help empower more individuals and achieve measurable success in their daily lives. Social investment will continue to be part of our core focus through projects related to the upliftment of communities and individuals. We will also continue our work on educational projects in the area of construction of schools and resource centres and investment in the youth of Jamaica.



Children of Farm Heights community at the opening of Multi-Purpose Court

Through the Digicel Foundation, we hope to continue making a meaningful contribution to projects around the island of Jamaica that achieve sustainability and long term success. We also plan to actively seek out more projects, as well as still receiving applications submitted for consideration by us. By doing this we hope to impact the lives of many more people who might not otherwise have submitted an application for consideration or know of our work. We also hope to recruit more staff members as volunteers and encourage their families, friends and children to get involved in the work that we undertake on a daily basis.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

“Think about what you have to give, not in terms of dollars because I believe that your life is about service. It’s about what you came to give to the world, to your children, to your family.”

OPRAH WINFREY, FOUNDER OF HARPO PRODUCTIONS AND FOUNDER OF THE OPRAH WINFREY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, SOUTH AFRICA

BATH MULTI-PURPOSE COURT

October 2007 saw the unveiling of a new and improved multi-purpose sports court totaling J\$1.5 million (approx. US\$21,500) to the Concerned Citizens Association of Bath. Situated in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, the Digicel Foundation heard the plight of the community at large and renovated an existing sports court that had fallen into disrepair and was badly damaged. The renovation entailed minor construction work, installation of new hoops and nets, fencing the perimeter of the court and marking out court boundaries.

The multi-purpose court doubles as a basketball, netball and volleyball court by many local schools, youth groups and other community members. The neighboring communities of Airy Castle, Hayfield, Johnson Mountain and Sunny Hill all use the court for community sports days and club and league matches. Speaking on behalf of the Citizens Association, President Dudley Roberts said that the initiative by the Digicel Foundation would strengthen the work of the community in fostering unity and excellence in various developmental fields. "This will reinforce the notion of working together to build a better life for all in the community."



Official opening of Bath Multi-Purpose Court, St. Thomas



Robert Neish hands over sports equipment to Dudley Roberts, President of Bath Citizens Association

ST. JAGO SOUTH STAFF PROJECT

St. Jago South, a gated community situated just outside Kingston in St. Catherine, was the recipient of Digicel Foundation funding which sought to build a community park for all the local residents to enjoy. Donovan Betancourt, a long standing Digicel employee and St. Jago South resident put forward the proposal which was accepted and work began on the J\$1.15 million project (approx. US\$16,500) in September 2007. A staff work day was held to add finishing touches to the project, which included painting of a gazebo, installation of a six seater swing, laying of new grass and planting of flowers and trees.



St. Jago South residents

At the handing over ceremony, Digicel Rising Stars 4th place winner, Lenya

“This is more than just a park. It represents a space where children can be entertained and nurtured.”

General Robert Neish, Executive Director of Digicel Foundation

Wilks and 3rd place winner, Inga Stewart treated the community to an energetic performance of selected songs.

Thanks to this project, both adults and children alike can enjoy the improved and beautified surroundings and come together as families and neighbors in this communal space.



Putting finishing touches to the newly constructed gazebo in St. Jago South community

ST. GEORGES SPORTS CLUB



St. Georges Football Club, Portland

Located in the quiet coastal parish of Portland, the St. Georges Sports Club in the Buff Bay community received a much needed face-lift to their football field and facilities thanks to assistance from the Digicel Foundation. As a team from the National Premier Football League, St. Georges was unable to host Premier League matches due to the lack of seating and spectator facilities which is stipulated by the Jamaica Football Federation. This would result in the team having to travel to neighbouring parishes to play at suitable football fields which was an additional cost for both players and spectators.

Through a J\$5 million (approx. US\$71,500) donation from the Digicel Foundation, St. Georges was able to realize their dream of building additional facilities. A total of ten spectator stands were erected around the football pitch and the grounds were enclosed by a high standing fence. Thanks to this staff project spearheaded by staff member, Everton King, Lynch Park football field is now able to host around 1,500 spectators. This has meant increased support from the community and enables the Premier League Team to play home matches and feel a sense of pride for their new facilities while on the pitch. The improved facilities will also benefit other local community football teams and Da Costa Cup teams who use the grounds for matches and football practice.

At the official opening ceremony hosted in March 2008, two friendly football matches were played between the community, Digicel and media teams with footballs, bags, bibs and other items being distributed to all teams. Lynch Park football field is the only outdoor sports facility in the parish of Portland.



Football team at play on the completed field

ALLMAN TOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

For the over 500 students of Allman Town Primary School, they are now able to enjoy a new tuck shop and refurbished canteen thanks to the Digicel Foundation. The J\$1 million (approx. US\$14,300) project was completed in four weeks due to the help of 23 volunteers from the International Circle K Club. The Circle K Club is the junior arm of Kiwanis Club who volunteer their time and effort towards charity projects. The Pacific Northwest District volunteers forfeited their spring break and along with Digicel Foundation staff, teachers, students and community members, worked throughout the Easter holiday weekend to complete the project.

The project involved construction of a new canteen, renovation and overhaul of the existing tuck shop, painting of certain parts of the primary school and painting of a large mural. Prior to this project, students would eat lunch at their desks or outside in the school courtyard or standing up in passages. Additionally, 3 students from CARIMAC, the Mass Communications Department at University of West Indies, gave etiquette and table manners lessons to all students, parents and other community members of Downtown Kingston.

Principal of the primary school, Ms Beryl Jacobs expressed her gratitude for the project by saying, "the project had been in the pipeline for sometime and I thought it may never be realized, so I am very grateful to Digicel Foundation and the Circle K International volunteers. We are very blessed and privileged to have had their assistance."



Pacific Northwest Circle K volunteers



Allman Town students learn how to set a table



Circle K volunteers, community members and students hard at work mixing cement



Circle K Volunteer with Allman Town pupil



EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS

“Power can be taken, but not given. The process of the taking is empowerment in itself”

Gloria Steinam

BEST COMMUNITY COMPETITION

The BEST (Better Environments for Social Transformation) Community competition and programme is an annual event aimed at the sustainable development of communities and Jamaica. It encourages community self help activities in a variety of areas and seeks to establish partnerships between communities and those who have technical, professional, spiritual, educational and financial capabilities. The objective is to assist communities to better themselves spiritually, economically and socially and to work together to improve their social and physical infrastructure and to protect and restore the natural and built environment. The programme was launched on the 30th November, 2006, by His Excellency the Most Honorable Professor Sir Kenneth Hall, Governor General of Jamaica, who acts as the competition's Patron.

The eight categories in which a community will be evaluated are the built environment, natural environment, socio-economic, hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness, education, health and waste management, heritage and culture and youth development. The programme is based on a similar model from Ireland, called Tidy Towns.

The main sponsors of the competition in 2007 were private and public sector individuals and organizations, various funding institutions, NGOs, educational and religious institutions and professional associations. Digicel, is the largest sponsor of the programme and has donated J\$10 million (approx. US\$143,000) which will be given in prize money, trophies and plaques. A commitment was given from the Digicel Foundation for ongoing support for five years.

The Digicel Foundation is not only a sponsor and facilitator of the competition, but a member of the Steering Committee which is involved with the planning and implementation of the programme. The invaluable support we provide to the programme comes from our unwavering commitment to build sustainable communities through the utilization of resources in the development of cultural, educational and empowerment opportunities.

786 communities from around Jamaica have been identified as being eligible to compete in the competition under the various categories. Prizes are awarded at both a National and Parish level. The first prize at a National level is J\$2 million (approx US\$29,000) and J\$500,000 (approx US\$7,200) at a Parish level.



Prime Minister Bruce Golding talks with David Hall of Digicel and Maxine Whittingham Osborne of Red Stripe at prize giving ceremony of Best Community Competition

GLENGOFFE – WINNER BEST COMMUNITY COMPETITION



Roosevelt Lawrence of Glengoffe Citizen's Association, receiving winner's trophy from David Hall, CEO Digicel Northern Caribbean

Nestled in the hilly terrain of St Catherine is the 2007 National Winner of the BEST Community Competition Glengoffe. Having won J\$2 million (approx. US\$28,570), a crystal bowl trophy and certificate, Glengoffe comes close to that of having fully developed and improved their community for the betterment of all residents. Glengoffe also won J\$500,000 (approx. US\$7,140) for each of the three categories of Best Improved Agricultural Practices, Best Community Spirit and Self Reliance and Best Cultural and Heritage Programme.

The success of this determined community comes after years of hard work and community volunteerism. It was in 1998 that a group of residents began to address a number of challenges they faced on a day to day basis. Their first priority was installing fixed line telephone lines, after which came the formation of Glengoffe Community Development Committee (CDC). The 30 member committee comprises representatives from schools, the police force, churches and youth clubs. Glengoffe is also known for the creation of Jamaica's famous 'Jippy Jappa' which is made from a special palm tree that is indigenous to that community.

The result of community-school partnerships has seen the establishment of an agricultural project at the Glengoffe High School in collaboration with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA). Since winning the competition, the community has started a beautification project. By planting trees and flowers, painting walls and buildings and cleaning up the streets, has helped to ensure that as one approaches the community of Glengoffe, you can feel the love, dedication and positive attitude the residents have put into their much loved town.



Jacqueline daCosta in her 'jippy jappa' hat and Robert Neish both of the Steering Committee hands of winning cheque to Roosevelt Lawrence- President of the Glengoffe Community Development Committee (CDC)

MARY'S CHILD CHRISTMAS STAFF DONATION

Since opening its doors in 1992, Mary's Child has provided a safe haven and refuge to many underage expectant mothers and babies. As part of the Mustard Seed Community, whose projects provide support to housing, economic and community projects around Jamaica and beyond, Mary's Child is an organization that provides home schooling, counselling, life skills and a much needed stable home environment to abused girls between the ages of 9 and 18 years old. These underage girls typically come from homes where they are abused, abandoned, neglected and lack the guidance of a parental figure.



Pupils of the Little Angels Learning Centre

A Digicel staff project was initiated in December 2007 which included assistance and fundraising efforts of all Digicel staff and Digicel Foundation members. More than US\$10,000 was raised for the purchase of basic foodstuffs, sanitary and personal items as well as baby clothes and clothes for the expectant mothers. Digicel school bags were given to each resident filled with lanyards, cricket and football memorabilia and other items. Food items were also donated so that the residents of Mary's Child could enjoy a Christmas party and partake in the festivities of the season. Digicel Group matched dollar for dollar all contributions donated by staff members.

Located in the inner city limits of Downtown Kingston, Mary's Child advocates education for all girls and each resident is encouraged to attend school or else participate in home schooling classes which will ensure a brighter future for the girls and their babies. Mary's Child also has a basic school located on the premises, Little Angles Learning Centre, which provides schooling for 12 children under the age of six, from other Mustard Seed Community projects and who are HIV positive. Skills such as needlework and sewing, cooking classes, guidance classes and an IT resource centre teach the resident girls how to contribute to being a productive member of society once they leave Mary's Child.

The money donated will be used to upgrade and refurbish the home economics centre which teaches the residents how to cook and prepare healthy and nutritious meals for themselves and their babies. This was a truly remarkable project in many different ways and shows that with team work, great results can be achieved.



Hand over of cheque to Mary's Child



Johanna Jacobs, Digicel Foundation Board member, hands over supplies to Winsome Smith, Administrator of Mary's Child

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS GIFT STAFF DONATION

The Jamaica National Children's Home is an orphanage that provides a loving home for over 100 abandoned and orphaned children. Close to 40 of these children live in the Tegwyn Unit which is for severely mentally and physically disabled children. The home was started in 1972 by the National Children's Home, UK and funded by them until 1999, and they are now fully dependant on the Jamaican government, individuals and public and private organizations for funding.

The National Children's Home was a previous recipient of Digicel Foundation funding in 2006 for an amount of J\$500,000 (approx. US\$7,100). A joint project between the Digicel Foundation and Inner Wheel Club of Kingston saw the renovation and refurbishment of the bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen and living room of the Matalon Boy's section – one of the four dormitories that house the older boys of the home. Additionally the library was renovated and reading books, textbooks and other learning aids were donated by the Digicel Foundation.

For the second year running the Digicel staff and Digicel Foundation members brought Christmas presents and food items so that each child could have a more enjoyable Christmas and festive season. Each child received a Christmas gift of their choice, bought and selected by a member of staff, as well as a Digicel school backpack filled with goodies. To see the joy and excitement on each child's face was priceless and it is great to know that the staff of Digicel and Digicel Foundation contributed towards this.



Jennifer Berny of Digicel Foundation hands out Christmas presents



Tegwyn Unit residents enjoy the festivities



Christmas came early for the children of the National Children's home



Digicel Foundation volunteers with Tegwyn Unit Children

JAMAICA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

Thanks to a donation from the Digicel Foundation, the Jamaica Society for the Blind can effectively live up to their mission of helping the blind adjust to their condition and help them lead more productive lives by teaching them vital skills. The Foundation handed over a range of items including walking canes, talking calculators, dictaphones, mobile phones and a Braille typewriter with a value of over J\$600,000. (approx. US\$8,600)

The Jamaica Society for the Blind travels into rural areas around the island to teach blind people how to read Braille, walk with white canes and a host of other daily tasks that sighted people take for granted. In 2007 the Foundation donated a brand new 8 seater mini bus which has enabled the staff to reach visually impaired persons in different parishes, something they could not do before due to lack of funds and transport.

Executive Director of Jamaica Society for the Blind, Virginia Woods commented, “Digicel Foundation have been wonderful to us. The donation of the bus will be used for educational and mobility purposes. We are happy that they approved this project which cost over J\$3 million (approx. US\$43,000).”



Jamaica Society for the Blind volunteers demonstrate how to walk with a white cane



Digicel Foundation donation of a mini bus in 2007



Eleen Rankine of Digicel Foundation learns how to use a Braille machine



Digicel Foundation official handover to the Jamaica Society for the Blind



EDUCATION PROJECTS

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”

John Dewey

KNOCKALVA TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

For the many students of Knockalva Technical High School and the residents of Hanover, reading skills and literacy have been a serious issue for some time, causing the literacy rate to decline. The main problem inhibiting change was the absence of a well equipped reading and resource room in the community which the Digicel Foundation stepped in to provide much needed funding for. Recognizing the need for such resources, the Digicel Foundation pledged over J\$2 million (approx. US\$29,000) to help the Knockalva Technical High School reconstruct and refurbish a new state of the art reading and resource room.

Over 1000 pupils attend the school and more than that number will benefit from the new reading room facilities. Members of the greater Hanover community will also be able to attend computer, reading and literacy courses at the Knockalva School after hours which will go a long way to uplifting the community.

Five computers and printers, classroom furniture, learning aids and other items were donated to the resource room, which was renamed, The Yvonne Gallant Resource Room. Education Officer for the parish, Mr W Murray recognized the Digicel Foundation as a nation builder and said the Ministry was thankful for the partnership with the Foundation, which is helping to equip Jamaican High Schools with IT equipment and giving them the necessary tools to improve pupil pass rates and skills.



Students hard at work in the newly refurbished reading and resource room



Knockalva High School students

FLOWER HILL BASIC SCHOOL

January 11th 2008 is a day to be remembered by the residents of St. James parish. Thanks to a J\$9 million (approx. US\$129,000) donation from the Digicel Foundation the Flower Hill Basic School was able to be officially reopened to the more than 50 pupils who attend the basic school from the surrounding communities.



Digicel Foundation volunteers at the Flower Hill workday

Founded in the 1960's, Flower Hill Basic School was housed in the basement of a local church and provided a less than suitable learning environment for the children. No windows, poor ventilation and overcrowding were daily obstacles that teachers and pupils faced. A Netherlands' based volunteer organization, World Servants had started to undertake renovations and reconstruction of the school at a new location, however after encountering numerous obstacles over the years; the Digicel Foundation stepped in to undertake the construction and completion of the project.

The school was relocated from the basement of the church to a central location in the community, the perimeter of the school was fenced to ensure the safety and security of all pupils and three classrooms were built to guarantee enough space for current and future pupils. Classroom items such as desks, chairs, and learning aids were installed to help create an optimum learning environment for the young learners that they may blossom in their studies.

The school principal, Ms Naomi Robinson said at the completion of the project "I'm overwhelmed with joy that the Digicel Foundation has come through for us because we have been waiting so long for this. I really am grateful for all that the Foundation is doing, not just for us here in Flower Hill, but for people across the island."



Newly completed Flower Hill Basic School, St. James

"I applaud the Digicel Foundation for its proactive stance in the area of education and school construction which helps to provide a solid educational base for the citizens of Jamaica, which is an important step towards changing the character and fortunes of any community."

Honourable Dr. Horace Chung, Member of Parliament

HURRICANE DEAN DONATION

Hurricane Dean swept across Jamaica on Sunday 19th August 2007 as a Category 4 hurricane, leaving much destruction in its wake. The parishes of St Thomas, St Catherine and Manchester were particularly hard hit, and severe damage was caused to many buildings, houses and schools. The Digicel Foundation stepped in and pledged J\$20 million (approx. US\$286,000) to help with the relief efforts to repair damaged and badly affected schools.

The cheque was handed over at an official ceremony at the Ministry of Education National Heroes Circle Office in November 2007 by David Hall, Chief Executive Officer of Digicel Northern Caribbean who said, "We are pleased to make this donation towards repairs to schools damaged by Hurricane Dean. We pledge to continue our working relationship with the Ministry of Education to help ensure that our children get the best opportunity to learn and succeed in life."

The Ministry of Education has allocated J\$500 million (approx. US\$7.1 million) to cover repairs to affected schools, which are expected to be completed within one year. Damage to the most badly affected schools totalled approximately J\$22 million. (approx. US\$315,000) The J\$20 million donation will go towards repairing the schools of Old England Primary, New Broughton Primary, Planter's Hall Primary, Ebenezer Primary, York Street Primary, Broadleaf All-Age, Victoria All-Age, Bethabara Primary & Junior High, Mount Moreland Primary & Junior High and Robert Lightbourne High.

"Education is the surest route to ensure the success of a people and indeed the progress of a nation."

General Robert Neish, Executive Director of Digicel Foundation



Eleen Rankine hands over a cheque to Daniel Monteith, Principal of Bethabara Primary and Junior High School



Recipients of Digicel Foundation hurricane Dean Aid

DIGICEL JAMAICA FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE

19

Primary and High Schools
Built/Renovated

7

Basic Schools
Built/Renovated

8

Children's Playgrounds Built

220

J\$220 Million (Approx. US\$3.14 Million)
Donated to Hurricane Relief Efforts

7

Over US\$7 Million Given to Date

9

Resource Centres Built

5

Multi-Purpose Courts Built

66

Projects Completed to Date



**DIGICEL
HAITI FOUNDATION**

SISTER ORGANIZATION - DIGICEL FOUNDATION HAITI



The Digicel Foundation Haiti was established in March 2007, just 10 months after the launch of Digicel Haiti. The primary reason behind starting the non-profit organization was to help build strong, sustainable communities and foster economic growth in Haiti. The primary focus of the Foundation is education, in particular early childhood education.

Digicel Foundation Haiti is not funded from the Digicel Foundation Jamaica. Denis O' Brien, Digicel Group Founder and Chairman and Digicel Foundation Haiti Patron, promised to build 20 primary schools in Haiti, two in each district around the island, within a timeframe of one year - a huge task according to any standards! The first school to be completed was the Ecole Mixte Lageho, a primary school in the hurricane ravaged rural community to Mazeau. Digicel staff and community members worked together to complete this project in a record time of 12 weeks. The new school features six furnished classrooms, a library, kitchen and canteen as well as school supplies and books for 250 students donated by the Digicel Foundation Haiti.



Excited Haitian students in their newly equipped school

The welcome that the Digicel Foundation has received in Haiti has been phenomenal. Government, NGOs and aid agencies have given invaluable support and advice and community members from across Haiti have banded together to offer labour and other resources to ensure that these schools were completed and were able to offer a brighter future to the many pupils they will benefit. During the construction of the Durissy Petit Goave in the West Department, community involvement was encouraging and inspiring to witness – each day seeing men, women and children all pitching in to carry building materials in pots and pans to the top of the mountain where the school is situated.



Digicel Haiti Foundation volunteers at a work day

More than 7,000 pupils are able to benefit from newly built schools equipped with supplies and books donated by The Digicel Foundation Haiti. Over 200 teachers have also been trained and hot meals are supplied to most school children through a school feeding scheme supported by Food for the Poor.

SISTER ORGANIZATION - DIGICEL FOUNDATION HAITI continued



DIGICEL HAITI FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE

1 US\$1 million spent on construction of schools around Haiti

6,400 Built new and improved schools for over 6,400 Haitian children

150 Teachers employed at 20 Digicel Foundation Haiti schools

3,684 Meals served daily in Digicel constructed schools with plans to increase this figure in the upcoming year

5 Partner closely with 5 international organizations that provide food, valuable knowledge and skills

3,000 Benches for students

120 Teachers' desks

120 Teachers' chairs

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

It is with great sadness that we bid Harry Smith, former Chairman of the Digicel Foundation, a fond farewell. From its inception in 2004 up until December 2007, Harry held the position of Chairman of the Foundation. His excellent leadership, guidance and compassion helped shape our organization to be what it is today. Harry will be missed by all staff and volunteers and we wish him much success in his future endeavors.

Thanks and appreciation go out to the five retiring Board Members for their hard work and dedication to the Foundation over the years.



Tracy Ann Thelwell, Thangela McDermott, Sheryl Gooden, Dianne Daley and Joy Clark, retired as of 31 March 2008.

AUDITOR'S REPORT



To the Members of
Digicel Jamaica Foundation Limited

Auditors' Report

The accompanying summarised financial statements have been derived from the financial statements of Digicel Jamaica Foundation Limited for the year ended 31 March 2008. These summarised financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether these summarised financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements from which they were derived.

We have audited the financial statements of Digicel Jamaica Foundation Limited for the year ended 31 March 2008, from which these summarised financial statements were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In our report dated 11 July 2008 we expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements from which the summarised financial statements were derived.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarised financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements from which they are derived.

For a better understanding of the Foundation's financial position and the results of its operations for the period and of the scope of our audit, the summarised financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the summarised financial statements were derived and our audit report thereon.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Price Waterhouse Coopers".

Chartered Accountants

11 July 2008
Kingston, Jamaica

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Digicel Jamaica Foundation Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Year ended 31 March 2008

(expressed in United States dollars unless otherwise indicated)

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Income		
Grants from Digicel (Jamaica) Limited	1,414	1,218
Donations received	23	-
	<u>1,437</u>	<u>1,218</u>
Expenditure		
Projects and donations	(1,408)	(1,262)
Administrative expenses	(164)	(174)
	<u>(1,572)</u>	<u>(1,436)</u>
Operating Deficit	(135)	(218)
Foreign exchange gain	7	5
Finance income	11	11
Net Deficit for the Year	<u>(117)</u>	<u>(202)</u>

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Digicel Jamaica Foundation Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)


Balance Sheet

31 March 2008

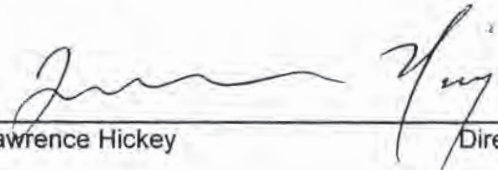
(expressed in United States dollars unless otherwise indicated)

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
NET ASSETS EMPLOYED		
Current Assets		
Prepayments	65	55
Due from Digicel (Jamaica) Limited	422	-
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>659</u>	<u>749</u>
	1,146	804
Current Liabilities		
Donations payable	968	645
Accounts payable and accrued charges	<u>208</u>	<u>68</u>
	1,176	713
	<u>(30)</u>	<u>91</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Equity		
Foreign exchange translation reserve	(29)	(25)
Accumulated (deficit)/surplus	<u>(1)</u>	<u>116</u>
	<u>(30)</u>	<u>91</u>

Approved for issue by the Board of Directors on 11 July 2008 and signed on its behalf by:



Lisa Lewis Chairman



Lawrence Hickey Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Digicel Foundation values the partnership and contribution of all the community groups, private & public sector entities and NGO's during the 2007/2008 year. Sincere thanks and gratitude goes to the following:

- Burrowes & Wallace Quantity Surveyors and Building Economists
- Circle K International Volunteers
- Facey Commodity Company Limited
- Food For The Poor
- Jamaica Social Investment Fund
- Nestlé Jamaica Limited
- Pepsi-Cola Jamaica Bottling Company Limited
- Sherwin Williams (WI) Limited
- Sports Development Foundation
- The CHASE Fund
- Our loyal and dedicated Digicel staff and Foundation volunteers and members

CONTACTS

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Visit our website

to see application form

www.digicelfoundation.org

