



20 Years in Review

HOW TIME FLIES

GRENADA CULTURAL & CIVIC ASSOCIATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY 1988 TO 2008

It surely does not seem like 20 years; a few of us came together through the initiation of Michael Hood Julien to form a Grenadian Association. Our first meeting was at John and Bulah's home. The excitement was contagious. The main objective was to bring together the Grenadian community in south Florida, promote Grenada and to help in as many areas as we can through education, health, and culture.

Our first dinner dance was a learning experience. If you were there you would remember. We were truly novices at it then, quite lacking in the savvy of today. I don't think we gave a head count to the caterers. If we did, it was about fifty percent less than who showed up, so half the people who showed up and paid the \$20.00 we charged then, did not eat. The caterer who was from another island was amazed how understanding everyone was. Of course "is Grenada we come from". It was a great success.

The group was zealous to fulfill its mission. Our first undertaking was supporting C.O.A.R.S International, a medical group in Jacksonville, in association with Dr. Beverly Nelson in Grenada. We finance transportation containers of medical supplies from Jacksonville to Miami, on its way to Grenada. Tek Marine, owned by a Grenadian, shipped those containers for free.

If you were around long enough, you will remember Grenada Day at Monsignors Pace High School, when we staged a cultural extravaganza. It was about 15 years ago. I think Kenneth is still tired from that one. It was a huge success. It was so nice we could not do it twice.

One thing you can't deny, is that the group worked hard and was proud to showcase Grenada at many cultural activities. The highlight of many of our Dinner/Dance was watching our kids perform. Looking back at the pictures,

their smiles tell how proud they were. We squeeze our every inch of dance from them until motherhood steeped in.

We have helped many Grenadian families in different circumstances. We shipped other medical supplies to Grenada. We donated cook books to budding chefs in the hotel industries. We supported the cultural groups in Grenada by bringing them to perform at our Dinner/Dance. We continue to give three book scholarships each year to students. We sponsor our annual picnic on Fourth of July weekend, the place to be where you might meet your lost friend or relatives.

Every first Friday of each month we host "Kids Night Out" for our kids, teens and young adults in an effort in bringing the young Grenadian community together. We have joined forces with Community Access, a non profit organization in Ft Lauderdale in providing valuable service to the Caribbean, other local and elderly community. They make available services from federal agencies that they may be eligible for. If you have a question on any matter, in any area, Community Access will assist you in obtaining the correct information. They will assist in getting your Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, and services. Community Access is headed by Sonia Duncan Marryshow.

As we celebrate our twentieth anniversary, we salute the visionaries, the hard workers, the supporters. It could not have survived the winds of times without you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Article by: Elizabeth Allick