

# Year In Review

## *Fellow Grenadians and Friends,*

Once again we come together to celebrate another year of Grenada's Independence. This year makes the 34th Anniversary of our country's Independence and the 20th Anniversary of the Grenada Cultural and Civic Association of South Florida. Last year we donated an oximetry machine to the Pediatric Ward of the General Hospital in Grenada.

In March, our Association brought to the attention of the South Florida community the plight of "Baby Kassiha" a Grenadian child with a rear disorder called Lymphangiomas. Our Association was able to raise over \$3,000.00 with the help of the South Florida community to donate towards her operation. We assisted financially to Nicholas Coard to represent Grenada in Jamaica in an International Swimming Tournament.

Our Association has developed a relationship with Father Ward and Holy Family Church and is in the process of setting up a steel band program to teach kids the art of Steel band music in our community. We also donated \$250.00 to Holy Family to assist a village in Jamaica which was destroyed during the last Hurricane season. Also donated toys for tots to send to needy children in Jamaica. In Keeping with our Theme for this year's event : "Building Bridges within Our Community" our Association has made a financial contribution to "Community Access Services Inc. of Broward for \$1,000.00 to continue their community work to help less fortunate with living conditions in event of fire, loss of job, sickness, immigration status etc. These are some of the things we have done for 2007 and will be continuing to do more in 2008.

*Article by Michael Hood-Julien*

# Kassiha Gone But Not Forgotten



Baby "Kassiha" was brought to the attention of the Association last March with a rear disorder called lymphangiomas. This was diagnosed in Grenada and she needed surgery to correct this rare disorder. I personally contacted Dr. Kester Nedd from Jackson Memorial to bring her to Miami. Our Honorary Counsel General, Mr. Richard Nixon contacted Doctors at Orlando Hospital to make this a reality. She eventually was accepted at Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia through the efforts of a Grenadian family, Pastor Thompson & his wife Joy. Kassiha and her mom Jeanette Francis arrived in the United States in May, 2007. She went through a series of tests which determined that she had to have a major operation. The cost for the operation was \$120,000.00 but the Doctor did the operation for \$80,000.00. Our Association started a fundraiser to help with and was able to raise over \$3,000.00 which was donated to her operation. Many Grenadian organizations held fundraisers, along with the Philadelphia community to make the operation a reality. Kassiha was operated on on October 25th, 2007. The operation was successful and she returned to Grenada with her mother. Unfortunately, Kassiha passed away in Grenada on December 3th, 2007 from multiple infections which she developed on her return. I want to thank all of you who contributed financially towards her surgery. She touched our hearts and soul and we just want to remember her. Baby "Kassiha" you are gone, but not forgotten. May your soul rest in peace.