



## PINE CAY PROJECT AWARDS NEW GRANTS AND ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

The trustees of Pine Cay Project are happy to share important news about our work in the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2019. Most importantly, we awarded grants to create new educational opportunities in 11 schools and youth-serving organizations in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This newsletter shares information on each of these grants. Second, Pine Cay Project went live with its first website, which you are invited to visit at <https://pinecayproject.org>. The primary audience for the new website is educators, parents, and civic leaders of the TCI. Donors and others may also be interested in visiting the new site to learn about the history of Pine Cay Project, our grantmaking priorities and procedures, the application form that grant applicants complete to be considered for a grant, options for donating to Pine Cay Project, and other information. Development of the new site was made possible through the generosity of a Project trustee and did not entail the use of any donated funds.

### Marjorie Basden High School \$15,000 for musical instruments \$3,100 for a printer/copier machine

This high school on South Caicos received two grants in fiscal 2019. The first grant allowed the Music Department to acquire musical instruments, sheet music, and other resources to develop students' musical abilities and their enthusiasm for musical performance. As a result, the school's musical ensembles (including marching band, junkanoo band, jazz band, and orchestra) now perform often for the school and for the larger South Caicos community, according to Principal Rodney Cox and Music Director Johannes Hamilton. The school's second grant provided funds to purchase a combination printer and copier, which can be used to reproduce instructional materials, student portfolios, administrative records, and informational materials for parents and the South Caicos community.



### Long Bay High School \$15,000 for instructional materials in reading, math, and science

This large high school in Provo received Pine Cay Project funds to improve its science, math, and special-education labs. With the grant, the school's faculty acquired new instructional materials and equipment to reinforce the skills and content taught in classrooms. The grant also provided funds for

teachers to improve their teaching skills, according to Principal Deanne Whisky-John.

### **Raymond Gardiner High School PTA** **\$15,000 to repair and refurbish the school's playing field**

The Parent Teacher Association of the high school on North Caicos is leading an initiative to upgrade and improve the school's playing fields and bleachers. Pine Cay Project's contribution to this effort was funds to grade, level, and compact the playing field, so that it provides a better, safer surface for sports. This has been a significant undertaking for the school and PTA given the poor condition of the playing field, according to PTA President Lewis Walkin.

### **Junior Park Warden Program** **\$12,825 for a summer environmental studies program**

The summer 2019 program, operated by the TCI Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources, focused on the problem of plastic waste in the ocean, its impact on the ocean and coastal areas of the TCI, and the relationship between plastic waste and climate trends. Students learned about this topic from experts who described the issues surrounding the problem of plastic waste and also from field experiences on water and land. Under the leadership of DECR Environmental Outreach Coordinator Amy Avenant, the program encouraged students to pursue advanced training and careers in ocean and coastal protection and to become volunteer activists for environmental protection in the TCI.



### **Provo Christian School** **\$11,500 to enhance the school library**

This grant is being used to increase the school's book collection and to improve its library space. According to Principal Sophia McPherson, the enhanced library will support students in developing literacy skills and content knowledge, increasing their reading enjoyment, and broadening their understanding of the world. Students are already using new non-fiction and reference books in research. In addition, with multiple copies of selected books, groups of students are reading together and learning how to discuss their reactions to what they're reading.



### **Precious Treasures International School** **\$8,030 to purchase desktop computers**

Under this grant, Precious Treasures International School in Provo is building its capacity to integrate computer-assisted learning into its overall curriculum, according to Principal Yvonne Hutchinson. With 11 new desktop computers from Pine Cay Project, the school has increased opportunities for students to use and master computer-based methods for online research, word processing, communications, and other tasks.

### **Community Christian Academy** **\$8,000 for outdoor play equipment**

Principal Gail Caesar applied for this grant to increase her school's resources for healthy play. In particular, the new equipment is expected to help build students' motor skills, their social interaction skills, and their imagination.

### **Clement Howell High School** **\$8,000 for musical instruments**

This Provo high school requested funds to upgrade the instruments used by students in the school orchestra and to engage more students in music-making. Principal Kadean Cunningham anticipates that the improved and expanded school orchestra will generate new opportunities to perform at school and in the larger Provo community.

### **Mills Institute** **\$5,842 for a Reading Oasis**



This school requested funds for building materials and books to create a comfortable, inviting spot for

students and staff to read for pleasure outside the school building. The resulting structure is a magnet for students to curl up on brightly colored cushions to read and lose themselves in books of their choice, according to Principal Debbie-Lee Mills. In the Reading Oasis, students also read to each other, discuss and act out stories, and recommend books to classmates.

### **Cutting Edge Homework Center** **\$3,310 for instructional materials to build students' academic skills after school**

This grant enabled a homework center to acquire learning materials that will support students in practicing and improving their skills in reading, mathematics, creative writing, and penmanship. With grant funds, the center purchased educational games, workbooks, and books for students to read for pleasure.

### **Hope Foundation for Autism Awareness** **\$2,000 for a school aide to support children with autism**

This local civic organization received a grant to help support an instructional aide who works one on one with several students diagnosed with autism.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

The trustees of Pine Cay Project are continuing to provide financial support to schools and other organizations that need supplemental resources to improve learning opportunities for TCI students. In particular, Pine Cay Project is working to advance its long-standing program goals, including: the education of students for successful careers in fields vital to the TCI, the enhancement of teacher skills and knowledge, and improvement in the curricula and materials used in classroom instruction. Pine Cay Project solicits applications to address these and related goals.

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, Pine Cay Project grants totaled \$107,607. Donations to Pine Cay Project totaled \$84,475. Funds available from prior years permitted Pine Cay Project to fully fund all 2019 grants at the time of grant award. Except for year-end accounting, all labor on behalf of Pine Cay Project was donated. Once again, your generous support was invaluable, and we sincerely thank you. We would like to extend special thanks to the first-time donors who provided gifts to Pine Cay Project in memory of the late Polly Bitzer Selman.

We ask for your donation to continue the Project's work in extending educational opportunities to all children and young adults in the TCI. Pine Cay Project is a qualified nonprofit organization under the laws of the United States (Federal ID #341703337). Donations are tax deductible for United States taxpayers to the extent permitted by law.

**Please mail your donation to:**

**Pine Cay Project**

**P.O. Box 437**

**Chicago, IL 60611**

Or go to <https://pinecayproject.org/donate-now/>  
to make a secure donation online.

**Thank You!**



**TRUSTEES OF PINE CAY PROJECT**

**Maggie Baczkowski, David Bowen, Marie Yvonne Landel, Carlton Mills,  
Elizabeth Pickman, Joanna Prentice, and Jay Saunders**

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