

REPORT 2016



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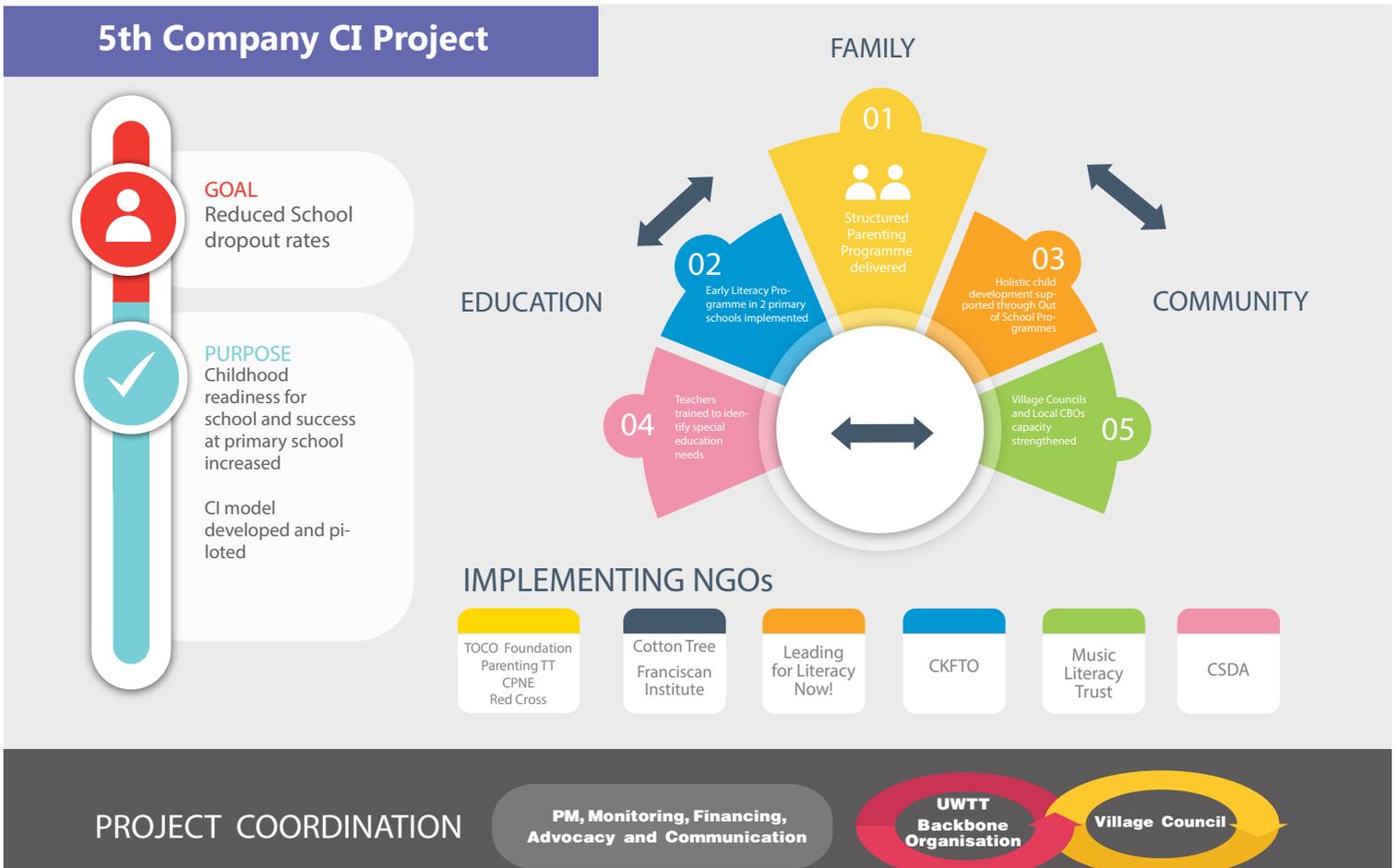
Fifth Company Village Community Impact

United Way Trinidad and Tobago embarked on a journey to create a model of collective working via the Community Impact project in the community of Fifth Company, Moruga. The project addresses one of the country's most challenging social issues, 'School Dropouts'. Following two years of community conversations and research, it was time for the tyre to hit the road in 2015 and continued work in 2016. The community impact project is a multifaceted approach to improving a common goal; improving success at the primary school level.

United Way Trinidad and Tobago, acting as a convener, project manager/co-ordinator for this project, invited a number of partners, including the Fifth Company Village Council, to create a strategy to address School Dropouts and invest in the implementation of the strategy.

The multi-pronged community level interventions is comprised of five (5) components as described below.

1. Parenting programmes.
2. Promoting early literacy.
3. Teacher training which will enable teachers to detect indicators of developmental gaps; Student testing which will assess students that exhibit indicators of developmental gaps; and Follow Up Services/Therapy which will provide students, where required, with the necessary support and therapeutic services. Collectively these elements will tackle undetected disabilities.
4. Out-of-School programmes to assist struggling students who require additional academic assistance and facilitate musical and sporting holistic development of children.
5. Capacity building of the Village Council to ensure programme sustainability even after UWTT's exit of the community.



Out of School Time sporting activities: The Caribbean Sports and Development Agency's Jump Rope for Health.

"...the Jump Rope Programme has taken off; the students have learned many skills since. They even have me jumping. Students jump rope during recess and any breaks they get; both boys and girls. Students are always asking for the jump ropes." Mr Curtis Matthews, Principal of the Fifth Company St. Gregory's Anglican School.

In November 2016, CSDA trained over 30 teachers in the Fifth Company Baptist and St. Gregory's Anglican School in their Jump Rope for Health Programme. What the children saw as just fun, is one component of a larger collaborative effort to help them become more successful in primary school.

Participation in a structured sporting activity or music programme helps students improve their work-study habits, homework completion rates, and school rates. It also helps students to build self-esteem, improve relationships with peers and adults. In turn, increased student engagement and performance in school can contribute to the student's overall educational attainment.



Teacher training and children practising new skills.



Caribbean Kids and Family Therapy Organization (CKFTO) teacher training

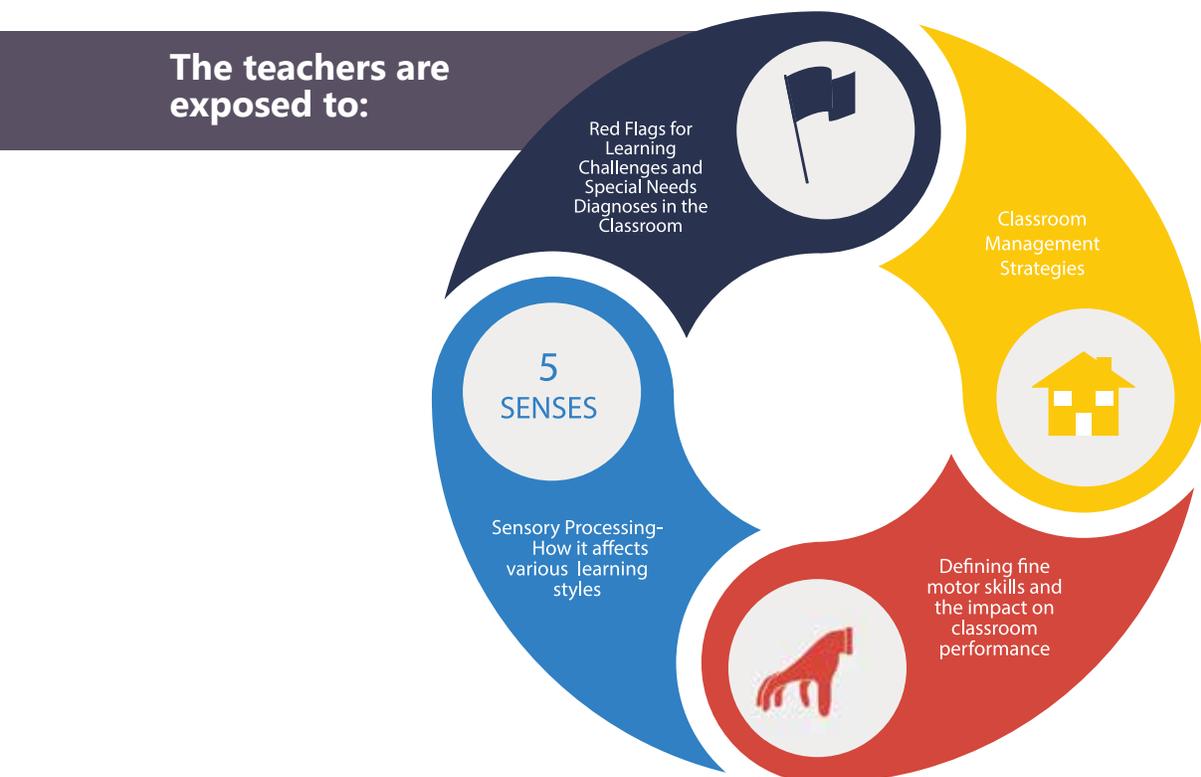
The principals of the two primary schools in Fifth Company, Fifth Company Baptist Primary School and Fifth Company Anglican (St. Gregory's) Primary School, in partnership with United Way Trinidad and Tobago (UWTT), hosted the 1st professional development workshop for teachers on identifying social and diverse learning needs in the classroom. This workshop was facilitated by the Caribbean Kids and Family Therapy Organization (CKFTO).

Different learning styles, if not managed, can lead to developmental issues in children. The Community Impact Project in Fifth Company, Moruga was designed to improve success at the primary school level and reduce school dropout through a multi-pronged Collective Working

model; incorporating parents, primary schools, and the village council of Fifth Company in addition to funding partners and implementing NGOs.

Mr Andre Bramble, the Fifth Company Baptist Primary School principal, and Mr Curtis Matthew, the St. Gregory's Anglican Primary School principal, with support from the Ministry of Education, acknowledged the need for this improved capacity in their schools. Mr Bramble and Mr Matthew partnered with UWTT and the Caribbean Kids and Family Therapy Organization to launch this first teacher development workshop titled, "Identifying different learning styles" on 24th November 2016. CKFTO provided 31 teachers and 2 principals with the knowledge and techniques to identify indicators of developmental issues in young children and provide practical classroom accommodation.

CKFTO's work on the Community Impact project will continue in 2017 with a parent sensitization workshop, continued the introduction of practical



methods for improving self-regulation of children with different learning styles, supporting the teachers on implementing the strategies in the classroom, and providing a small intervention group camp.

This component of the Community Impact project will also be complimented in 2017 by the third project component: holistic child development supported by structured out of school time programmes. Participation in high-quality out-of-school time programmes helps to improve student work-study habits, homework completion rates, and school grades.

1 - Teachers learning about learning disabilities and tools that can aid students in the classroom.



2 - CKFTO Teacher Training

3 - Mr. Andre Bramble, principal of the Fifth Company Baptist School, doing an exercise during CKFTO's teacher training on various learning styles and learning disabilities.



4 - Principal of Fifth Co Baptist and Anglican Teacher Training



5 - 1st CKFTO Teacher Training



Meeting with Village Council's Planning Committee and Capacity Building

United Way Trinidad and Tobago works closely with the Planning Committee of the Village Council in Fifth Company Moruga so they are involved each step of the way.

UWTT has partnered with Baptist Church in 2015 on the renovation of a space that was started as a training centre more than 10 years ago to be used as the Project Office for the Community and by the Community.



Meeting with Village Council's Planning Committee United Way Trinidad and Tobago works closely with the Planning Committee of the Village Council in Fifth Company Moruga so they are involved each step of the way.



Proposed site for community space renovation



Fifth Company Baptist School participation in Leading for Literacy Now with the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO

As part of promoting early literacy, the Fifth Company Baptist School and Fifth Company Anglican School has committed to participating in UNESCO's 'Leading for Literacy' training. Leading for literacy is a 5-year early literacy programme and principal leadership training for primary schools implemented by the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS). Funding and in-kind support is provided by Republic Bank Limited.

The (academic) year-long programme focuses on building leadership capacity in principals, and training Infants 1 and 2 class teachers and parents in new, innovate, age appropriate methods of building literacy skills in young children. The Fifth Company Baptist School successfully completed the Leading for Literacy training in 2016 with the Fifth Company Anglican School registered to complete the programme in 2017.



A parent reading to infant classes at the Fifth Company Baptist School.

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