

'IF I COULD HELP SOMEBODY AS I PASS ALONG THEN MY LIVING SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN'

That's the chorus echoes by Sister Barbara Lee of the Faith Cathedral Deliverance Centre on Thursday February 11 at the handing over of a brush cutter to the Salvation Army Francis Ham Residence for the Elderly by Factories Corporation of Jamaica Limited, FCJ.

The Salvation Army home for retired officers and the elderly, which is highly dependent on volunteers and donations has been experiencing difficulties with the upkeep of the property since the onset of the Covid19 pandemic which has drained the coffers of residence. It is estimated that the annual cost to maintain the grounds of the property is approximately \$150,000.

To maintain the upkeep of the Francis Ham Residence, The Salvation Army contacted Factories Corporation of Jamaica Limited seeking assistance for the donation of a brush cutter.



"The commitment is not just for the provision of the brush cutter, I want to make a more extended commitment to the centre. I'm saying over the next three years, I want us to sign to a partnership for us to provide our expert services in the beautification of this centre," said the FCJ Managing Director.



In response FCJ has not only donated the brush cutter but has gone a step further to formalising a partnership which would provide continuous support to the Salvation Army Francis Ham Residence for the Elderly over the next three years to maintain the property.

Managing Director Dr Donald Farquharson explained that this partnership will be his first as the head of the organisation, but he explained further that within FCJ there are experts and the tools to get the job done. One of the mandates of FCJ is to impact the lives of Jamaicans through the provision of space which will boost economic growth and job creation.

"So, I'm saying that to say, as you (The Salvation Army) who acknowledge your role as a charity provider, even though our mandate is to support economic growth and job creation for us it connects right back to the people," said Dr. Farquharson.

Dr. Farquharson explained that while FCJ is not a charitable organisation, as is the Salvation Army, FCJ aims to impact the lives of Jamaicans. He gave the example of the construction of the Morant Bay Urban Centre in St Thomas, which will allow residents of the parish to stay within their communities and build the parish instead of migrating to other parishes in search of employment. The Urban Centre would also allow businesses requiring a state-of-the-art environment to flourish, would be able to do so.

He believes that the partnership should be

more wholistic in assisting in making the quality of life for the residence better. He has therefore called on every company in Jamaica, especially public sector companies to do something specifically for the young and the old.



