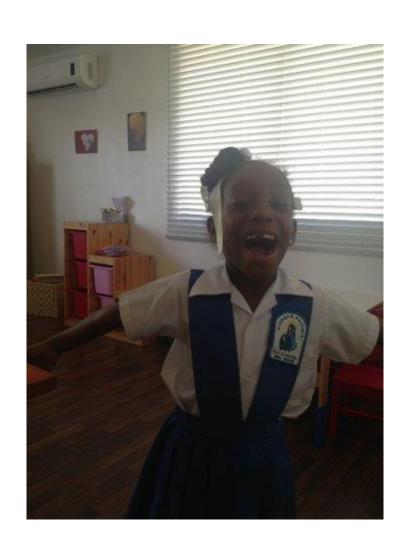
# Forging International Bonds, Clinically

A Service Learning Initiative in St. Lucia, West Indies

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### Miss St. Lucia!



### Vocabulary Building...

- CSLP Caribbean Service Learning Project
- SLP Speech-Language Pathologist (U.S. term)
- SLT Speech Language Therapist (U.K. term)
- CDGC Child Development and Guidance Centre

#### **CSLP Vision**

To create a lasting and mutually beneficial service learning experience between the people of the Caribbean region of all abilities and students of speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

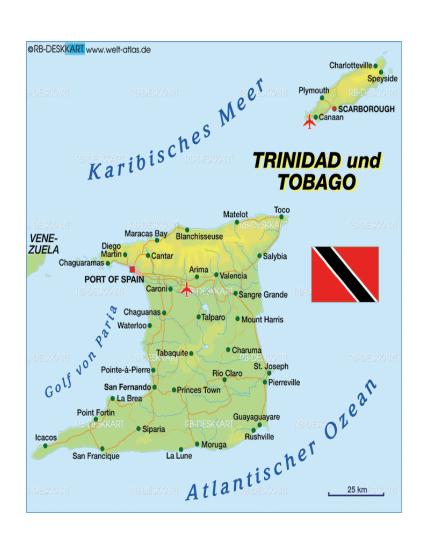
#### **CSLP Mission**

To create lasting therapeutic connections between students and faculty of speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy with the Caribbean communities in which they are immersed through service learning experiences.

# Definition of Service Learning Furco, 1996

- Equally benefits provider and recipient of the service.
- Equal focus on the service being provided and the learning outcomes set.
- Provided within an academic context.
- Promotes critical thinking / problem-solving.
- Reflection debriefing meetings, 6-word memoirs
- Reciprocity
- Sense of social responsibility.

#### Trinidad and Tobago versus St. Lucia





#### SLP services in St. Lucia

- First service provided in 1997, by a British SLT out of the Dunnottar School, for 2 years.
- After 1999, SLT services offered at summer camp which lasted 3 weeks.
- Currently, SLTs are recruited, mainly from the UK to work at CDGC.
- Serve on 3 month volunteer contracts
- Week of Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 167 on treatment of some kind; 60+ pending initial evaluation

# Why St. Lucia?

- Good review from U.S. State Department!
- Child Development and Guidance Centre
- No SLPs on island
- Large need!!!
- Well-tracked Special Education System
- Special Schools that are welcoming!

#### CSLP January 2015

- January 12<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Pre-service meeting via Skype Dec. 2014
- The University of the West Indies (St. Augustine) and Mercy College (New York)
- 6 students 4 (Mercy); 2 (UWI-STA)
- 4 faculty members 2 (Mercy); 2 (UWI-STA)
- 4 days of experiences

# The CSLP Posse!





#### St. Lucia Itinerary

- Three days was spent at the two school special needs schools located in the capital, Castries:
  - ➤ 1. Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre
  - > 2. Dunnottar School
- One day was spent at a joint presentation with the special needs schools located in the southern part of the island:
  - Vieux Fort and Soufriere Special Education Centre

#### Dunnottar

 An NGO that is run by the St. Lucia Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (SLADD).

School began in 1973; Vocational Centre opened

in 1981.



# Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre

- Began, with 45 students, as a school for the hearing impaired.
- Currently educates over 100 students with varying abilities and diagnoses.



### Composition of the Schools

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Down Syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy
- ADHD
- Cleft palate repair
- Hearing Impaired
- Vision Impaired
- Learning disabilities

# Special Needs School in the Capital

# Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre

- Days 1 and 2- observation
- Day 3- Inclusion and demonstrating how to elicit language in everyday lessons

#### **Dunnottar**

- Day 1- Observation
- Days 2 and 3- Inclusion and demonstrations

# Special Needs School Visit Soufreire / Vieux Fort

#### Teacher training/ workshop discussing:

- Eliciting language
- Articulation disorders
- Behaviors affecting language
- Alternative communication
- Feeding
- Individual child goals
- Literacy

# Visit to Soufriere/Vieux Fort



#### **CSLP 2016**

- Compile and Report data from 2015
- 3 days at Vieux Fort and Soufriere; 1 day teacher training in Castries
- Mercy College, UWI-STA , +1
- Student/faculty ratio 1:2
- Pre- and Post-Questionnaire about service learning.

#### 6-word Memoirs...

- "You bored? So is the child!"
- "Instead, catch them being good."
- "Teach me about you. I'll learn."
- "Do not remove who they know."
- "Lo-tech solutions for serious minded teachers."
- "Just now means wait a minute!"

### Acknowledgements

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  - The Lady Gordon Opportunity Centre
  - Soufriere Special School
  - Vieux Fort Special School