



SAVINGS CHALLENGE '08/'09 CLOSING CEREMONY

The JPOL Savings Challenge Competition Closing Ceremony was even more exciting than its opening. Many gathered on July 3rd 2009 at our head office at 122 Harbour Street, Kingston, in anticipation of seeing our winners, namely: ***The participants and their families; JPOL Credit Union Coaches; staff; volunteers; representatives from our major sponsor (MASA); associate sponsor - CUNA Mutual; along with representatives from the media, members and well wishers.***

Of the six families who accepted the challenge only four survived, never the less all had a wonderful learning experience which promises to shape their lives now and in the future. The participants were exposed to a plethora of budgeting skills and tips, which they made full use of, to achieve their short term goals and set the ground work for the long term ones.

During the competition some participants achieved goals of owning a house, real estate, and motor vehicles, others reduced debt, and debt repayment through consolidation and still others threw in a little extra to subsidize spending and increase income by starting back-yard gardening. As was expected all these goals were realized in the face of extreme challenges for some participants, which included serious health issues, unexpected pregnancy and the usual everyday challenges of living during a recession.

In the end ***Mr. Robert Webster and his family*** came out the ***first prize winners*** after they consolidated their debts and arranged their affairs so that they could ***purchase a home***. This accomplishment came in spite of challenges such as caring for his father who suffered a heart attack and needed additional financial assistance. Mr. Webster relied fully on the advice of his coaches and could be seen almost on a weekly basis at his credit union. ***He was awarded One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), along with other consolation prizes to include an all expense paid weekend for the family at the luxurious Iberostar Hotel in Rose Hall, Montego Bay.***

Mrs. Stacy Holness and her family which increased before the end of the competition came in as the ***second place winner***. She showed the resilience of a true 'challenger', by not allowing this great change in her circumstances to side track her goals, rather it seemed to have increased her determination and in the end she was able to ***purchase a plot of land*** on which she is expected to start building her home soon.

Mr. Dalbert Watkis' family added the fun to the challenge as they never took themselves too seriously, whilst working towards their goals and always wore a smile on their faces. They managed to reduce their debt significantly. They are still facing challenges in this area, however they are now more prepared than before to take on and overcome them and we are sure they will continue to do so joyfully.

Even though these families came out on top everyone who participated was indeed a winner as just being in the competition was a challenge in and of itself. So we reiterate our thanks to all for their participation namely; ***Robert Webster, Stacy Holness, Dalbert Watkis, Blossom Edwards, Derrick Hunter , Dwayne Smart and their families***, without whom ***Savings Challenge '08-'09*** would not have been a success.



***Will you be a part of our next season:
'Savings Challenge Competition 2010'?***