

The Governor-General's
Programme for Excellence (GGPE)
2020 Annual Report



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ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ

03

Patron of The GGPE

The Governor-General's Programme for Excellence (GGPE) remains unrelenting in its mandate to diffuse the vision of excellence and commitment to nation building. The Programme has continued its journey of promoting service to country, embracing strong family values and promoting education as an avenue to a better Jamaican society, while recognizing individuals for outstanding service in these areas.

This year has proven to be one with numerous challenges, and the importance of taking the necessary precautions to preserve lives and stay safe cannot be over-emphasized. It has been a year where many of the Programme's activities have either been postponed or cancelled. However, I am pleased that despite the challenges created by COVID-19, we have been able to retool and redefine 'normal' maximizing on the gains of the virtual world.

Thirty-five (35) Jamaicans have been identified for 2020 Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA). I commend our fourteen (14) Custodes who form the backbone of the GGAA. They, through the years, have been my eyes and ears in the parishes, unearthing candidates to be proffered for the Awards.

The I Believe Initiative (IBI) continues its focus on its objective of engaging, empowering and inspiring Jamaicans. Throughout the year, our 'I Believe' Ambassadors proudly continued to display their talents and support to the upliftment of Jamaica's social well-being.

We thank all stakeholders and sponsors for making the year 2020 a success. Let us embrace the challenges as we move forward while keeping the positives of the past year in perspective.

Message from Mr. Abraham Simmonds

National Coordinator of the GGPE

Despite a tumultuous 2020, The Governor-General's Programme for Excellence (GGPE) continues to further its mandate of 'using what's right with Jamaica to fix what's wrong with Jamaica'. Amid the challenges, restrictions and an iterated calendar of events presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, activities of the GGPE remains undiminished in its impact and inclusivity. I am pleased that we have been able to retool and create opportunities that combat existing challenges.

Through the various undertakings of the I Believe Initiative (IBI) and the recognition platforms of The Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA), persons were empowered to reach new heights and to inspire others to do the same - which is how we build a nation. In 2020, over 37 new IBI Ambassadors were deployed in service across the country; actively engaged in helping to build capacity in families, through education, youth development activities and programmes.

I am buoyed by the support and commitment of our Custodes and Sponsors, which has allowed us to disburse over \$6 million to thirteen (13) students attending colleges and universities, with full and part-time scholarships and book grants through our flagship Summer of Service (SOS) Scholarship. As we usher in 2021, with all its limitless possibilities, we remain resolute in our mandate and focused on the vision for a better Jamaica!



The GGPE Advisory Board

The Advisory Board for the Governor-General's Programme for Excellence (GGPE) provides advice for the management of the Programme. Meeting annually, the Board gives strategic direction, guides quality improvement, and assesses the Programme's overall effectiveness.



His Excellency The Most Honourable
Sir Patrick Allen ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ

Chairman of the Advisory Board



Ambassador the Hon.
Burchell Whiteman, OJ
Special Advisor to the
Governor-General



The Hon. Earl Jarrett, OJ,
CD, JP, CStJ
CEO, Jamaica National
Group



Mr. Christopher Barnes
Managing Director, Gleaner (Media)
Company Limited



Mr. Courtney Campbell, JP
President & CEO,
Victoria Mutual Group



Mr. Stephen Price, JP
Country Manager,
FLOW and C&W Business Jamaica



Mr. Christopher Levy
President & C.E.O.
Jamaica Broilers Group



The Hon. Steadman Fuller, CD, JP
Custos Rotulorum
- Parish of Kingston



The Hon. Norma Walters, CD, JP
Custos Rotulorum
- Parish of St. Ann



The Very Reverend Canon
the Hon. Hartley Perrin, CD, JP
Custos Rotulorum - Parish of
Westmoreland



Dr. the Hon. Michael Fennell, OJ
Chairman, Independence Park
Limited



Mr. Derrick Cotterell
Managing Director,
Derrimon Trading
Limited



Ms. Minna Israel
Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor
University of the West Indies

The GGPE Management Committee & Secretariat

The GGPE Management Committee meets quarterly to review and ensure the Programme's activities are in line with the objectives and strategy determined by the Advisory Board. The Management Committee provides a forum for consultation, discussion, exchange of information, and advice in decision-making related to Programme's routine functions, practices, and processes.

The GGPE Secretariat is tasked with the responsibility of managing the administrative functions of the Programme through the coordination of activities and the communication of information to various stakeholders. The Secretariat is also responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reporting to the Management Committee and the Advisory Board. The Secretariat is staffed with a National Coordinator, a Project Officer and an Executive Secretary.



Major Dwayne Hill
Committee Chairman



The Hon. Marcia Bennett, CD, JP
Custos Rotulorum for the
Parish of St. Thomas



The Hon. Errol Johnson, CD,
BHM, JP
Custos Rotulorum for the
Parish of St. Mary



Dr. Janet Dyer, JP
Managing Director,
Heart Trust / NTA



Mrs. Antoinette Davis
Chairperson,
IBI-National Coordinating Committee



Mr. Dwayne Gutzmer
Chief Executive Officer,
Institute of Economics & Law



Mrs. Cordell Williams-Graham
President & CEO,
Transformational Life Solutions



Mr. Glenford Smith
Author



Mr. Abraham Simmonds,
GGPE National Coordinator



Mr. Alex Sterling
GGPE Project Officer



Ms. Sonja Simms, JP
GGPE National Coordinator
(Past Member)



Mr. Andwayne Davis
GGPE Project Officer
(Past Member)



2020 at a Glance

Faced with a global pandemic, IBI-Ambassadors rose to the challenge of delivering essential gears and services, while employing creative approaches for virtual peer mentorship and support. The GGPE Secretariat was motivated by the resilience of these Ambassadors and acted on the guidance of the Management Committee and Advisory Board to reframe our activities for yet another productive year.

The year started off with the GGPE's participation in the third annual UK-Jamaica Fair. IBI-Ambassadors came out in their numbers to support the ushering of patrons to the GGPE's walk-in display booth and were instrumental in helping to share information about the Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA) and the 'I Believe' Initiative – the primary branches of the GGPE.

Earlier this year the Executive Members of the IBI National Coordinating Committee (NCC) were elected. They are charged with helping to manage the sharing of information among the growing network of IBI Ambassadors and to help scope, track and report on the progress of interventions at the parish level. The NCC was pivotal in drafting the first ever Quick Reference Guide for IBI Ambassadors. This pocket-handbook guides the recruitment and operations of IBI Ambassadors spread across the island.

The year 2020 tested the many assumptions about: access to key services, technology and information. In an era that is challenged by fake news and false information, it was especially difficult to channel the truth about COVID-19 and provide remote and routine support.

The Secretariat, with the support of IBI Ambassadors, helped to share COVID-19 safety measures and tailor the 2020 activities to respond to new and emerging needs. In one example the Summer of Service (SOS) scholarship required participants to leverage technology and other resources to deliver their projects as one part of the requirements of the scholarship. A total of 13 scholarships were awarded this year to new and current recipients. The GGPE also created and distributed IBI-branded face masks in an effort to promote safety among its constituents.

Applications for the 2020 Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA) were received and managed through an electronic application system. Over 300 applications were received, and 35 persons will receive this prestigious award in February 2021 by way of a virtual ceremony that includes an Address from His Excellency The Governor-General.

2020 At a Glance (cont'd)

His Excellency The Governor-General (centre) greets former National Coordinator Ms. Sonja Simms (left) and newly named Coordinator, Mr. Abraham Simmonds (right).

The annual Youth Consultative Conference (YCC) was not held in 2020, but a webinar series, led by IBI Ambassadors was a noteworthy substitute. The sessions focused on project design and implementation and were delivered across five days to over 150 IBI Ambassadors.

In a year filled with turmoil and fear, there was certainly a lot to celebrate. The GGPE is proud to note that 2016 GGAA Awardee, Mr. Fitzroy Wickham, is the 2021 Rhodes Scholar for Jamaica. The Programme also celebrated Ms. Simone Dwyer, who completed her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology at the University of Technology as the recipient of the Sir Patrick and Lady Allen 40th Anniversary Scholarship in 2016.

The GGPE welcomed IBI-Ambassador and 2013 Summer of Service Scholarship recipient, Mr. Abraham Simmonds as its new National

Coordinator. Mr. Simmonds succeeds Ms. Sonja Simms who resumed her substantive role as Press Secretary at King's House. Project Officer, Mr. Andwayne Davis, also transitioned the Programme and now serves as the Records and Special Library Manager at King's House.

The experiences, successes and lessons of the past year will become the baseline for an even more productive year in 2021. The GGPE is grateful for the unwavering support of its sponsors and stakeholders.

Certainly, there is much more work to do. The Programme is preparing for a period of growth that is built on strategic partnerships and a strengthened network of IBI Ambassadors committed to building Jamaica, starting with our families, youth and education.

Major Highlights of 2020



35 Jamaicans selected for the 2020 GGAA



37 'I Believe' Ambassadors installed



13 scholarships & grants awarded



5000+ benefit from IBI Supported COVID-19 Projects

NCC Executives Elected

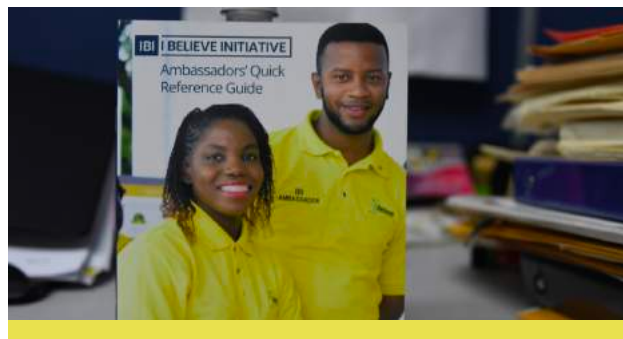
January, 2020

At the end of 2019, two hundred and seventy (270) persons had been installed as IBI Ambassadors. This figure continued to grow, solidifying the need for a framework that would provide the IBI Ambassadors with their own coordinating structure. This structure was formed in 2018 and is called the National Coordinating Committee (NCC). This ambassador-led body is not to be confused with the GGPE's Management Committee that gives strategic direction, guides quality improvement, and assesses the GGPE's overall performance.

At their inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM), IBI Ambassadors gathered to exchange ideas, lessons and plans and to elect the new Executive Body for the National Coordinating Committee. The elected executives serve a two-year tenure, and the election is conducted at the IBI-AGM. Mrs. Antoinette Davis was elected the new Chairperson and is supported by Vice-chairpersons: Ms. Leneka Rhoden, Mr. Glendon Martin and Mr. Jerome Murdock.

A Parish Lead has been elected for each parish and they will play a pivotal role in helping to channel information and rally participation. All IBI Ambassadors are de facto members of the NCC and are encouraged to work closely with their Parish Leads.

IBI Ambassadors receive Quick Reference Guide



As part of the broad-framework of equipping IBI Ambassadors for national service, the IBI Handbook has been published online and in print. The purpose of this reference manual is to assist IBI-Ambassadors in fully understanding their roles and how they can collaborate to achieve the mandate of the IBI.

GGPE Partners with the UN for Virtual Youth Dialogue

In recognition of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN75), the Governor-General Programme for Excellence (GGPE) partnered with the Office of United Nations Resident Coordinator on the *UN75 Virtual Youth Dialogue* which engaged over 240 young people online. The UN also partnered with social media giant – Facebook, to promote the UN75 campaign, as well as engage a cross-section of thought-leaders on some of the critical challenges facing Jamaica in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IBI Ambassadors Mr. Shamir Saddler and Mr. Sujae Boswell were panelists at the Virtual Youth Dialogue where they presented on 'Education & Innovation- Ensuring inclusivity in the era of COVID-19'.

A group of people, including IBI Ambassadors and GGPE National Coordinator, posing with their arms raised at the UK-Jamaica Fair. The image shows a man in a yellow polo shirt with 'IBI AMBASSADOR' on it, a woman in a yellow shirt, and two men in khaki uniforms with black berets. They are all smiling and pointing upwards. The background shows a fair with tents and trees.

The GGPE Participates in the UK-Jamaica Fair

February, 2020

The third annual staging of the UK-Jamaica Fair was held on the West Lawns of King's House on Saturday, February 29, 2020. There, the Governor-General's Programme for Excellence (GGPE) was on full display showcasing the impact and reach of the GGPE and promoting the many opportunities to engage with the Programme.

Aided by an army of I Believe Initiative (IBI) Ambassadors, the GGPE booth was an informational tool that provided visitors with

a first-hand experience of the Programme's array of civic initiatives. GGPE National Coordinator, Ms. Sonja Simms, hailed the day as "a success" and acknowledged the active involvement of IBI Ambassadors while giving a nod to sponsors of the Programme.

The day culminated with prizes and giveaways of branded items along with sponsored gift baskets. The UK-Jamaica Fair represents the British High Commission's annual flagship event to foster partnership between Jamaica and the United Kingdom. Held under the theme "Creativity is Great," the fair highlighted the synergistic and historical foreign relations between both countries.

IBI Ambassadors Supported to Tackle COVID-19

March – December 2020

During times of hardship and uncertainty, it is important that we come together in love and support to strengthen our bond as a people and 'serve with humble pride'. As we adjust to life and work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, IBI Ambassadors have been on the frontlines of the response in a multitude of ways; focusing their efforts on serving their community. Their response showcase the diversity and compassion of the Ambassadors who have leapt into action to help their communities stay safe and healthy.

IBI Ambassadors, Chad Morgan, Donnette Wright, Nickoyon Brown and Anthony Stephenson have been doing their part to support the elderly within the Maxfield Park community. The team of Ambassadors procured and delivered packages containing food items and sanitary material valued at over \$30,000. Similarly, Dr. Romario Simpson and fellow IBI Ambassadors in St. Andrew launched a Hand Hygiene Initiative under the theme "Save Lives-Clean Your Hands". Since the launch over five thousand (5000) individuals have benefitted from the donation at institutions such as Meadowbrook High School, The Queen's School, St. Barnabas Early Childhood Development Centre, The Wortley Home for Girls, Mt. Fletcher Primary School, First Baptist Church, and The Salvation Army School for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

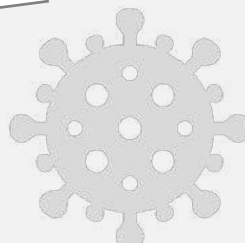
IBI Ambassador Sheldon Millington, J.P issued 15 computer tablets to students in his community to assist with remote learning.



IBI Ambassadors Leneka Rhoden (left) and Dr. Romario Simpson were joined by Ms. Sonja Simms and Dr. the Hon. Patricia Dunwell (right), Custos Rotulorum of St. Andrew at the handing over of hand sanitization machines.



IBI Ambassador Chad Morgan prepares to distribute care packages in his community to the elderly.





IBI-branded masks made and distributed

Did you get your IBI-branded mask? In an effort to promote safety, IBI-branded face masks were manufactured, distributed and in some instances sold. The masks were created using international guidelines and were available in various colors and styles.



IBI Ambassador Sheldon Millington, J.P. donating tablets to students in his community.

Volunteers at the Stars of Hope Community Outreach doing their part at the 'Show Some Love Treat' which provides support for for community members and shut-ins who are in need.

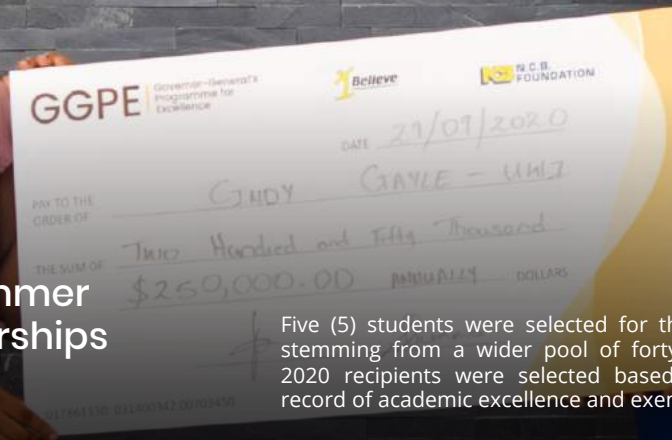
NCB

FINANCIAL GROUP LIMITED

13 students receive Summer of Service (SOS) Scholarships

August 2020

The requirements for 2020 iteration of the Summer of Service (SOS) scholarship were temporarily adjusted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The various restrictions meant that participants would not be able to volunteer in traditional ways. Participants were encouraged to think creatively about projects that could be implemented virtually under the supervision of IBI Ambassadors and the GGPE Secretariat.



Five (5) students were selected for the 2020 SOS scholarships, stemming from a wider pool of forty-four (44) applicants. The 2020 recipients were selected based on their verifiable track record of academic excellence and exemplary voluntary service.

Having assessed the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resultant increase in the need for financial assistance to tertiary students, the GGPE extended additional support to eight (8) students who received scholarships in 2019. These students, who were recipients of one-year scholarships and book grants, were selected to receive continued support for the 2020/2021 academic year.



Ms. Suzanne Stanley (left) GraceKennedy representative presents a cheque to SOS recipient Mr. Kawaine Anderson (right).

The IBI Celebrates 2020 SOS Graduates

Three (3) students will this year receive their undergraduate degrees as a result of scholarships awarded through the IBI Summer of Service (SOS) Programme. These students are:

- **Miss Mona-Ray Cole**
Bachelor of Science degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management - Caribbean Maritime University
- **Mr. Kareem Coley**
Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work
Moneague College
- **Miss Syfronia Barrett**
Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration
Moneague College

Through the generous support of our kind sponsors, the total value of our giving this year is approximately six (6) million dollars. The GGPE is truly grateful for the partnerships with local universities and colleges, corporate and other committed sponsors who have chosen to join us on this journey, playing their part in support of education.

These partners include:

- First Regional Cooperative Credit Union (FRCCU)
- Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- Mr. Mark Gonzales (Mail Pac)
- Consular Corps of Jamaica
- GraceKennedy Limited
- Kingston Bookshop
- NCB Foundation



The Honourable Steadman Fuller, Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of Kingston and CEO of Kingston Bookshop (right) presents Mr. Randy Grieves with a tuition grant (left).



IBI Ambassadors lead webinar series on project management

October 2020

A webinar series dubbed, “Ready. Set. Go!” was planned and delivered by IBI Ambassadors with experience in various areas of project design and management. The series was designed to further build the capacity of IBI Ambassadors to tackle various issues within their communities. The webinars were aired over a period of two weeks with over 150 participants. Twitter was abuzz as participants shared their experiences after each session.



What an amazing series!
Salient information, magnificent
Presenters.

I am absolutely appreciative of the
opportunity to participate in this Webinar.
#IBIWebinar

Kyle Nunes | @kylejn19

This has been such an enriching
experience! So grateful to have
participated in the #IBIWebinar

Wade Edwards-Green | @w_edwardsgreen



The participants benefited from a wide range of sessions that were delivered by experts such as tech guru, Mr. Ricardo Gowdie, and project specialist, Mrs. Cordell Williams-Graham.

The sessions were designed with exciting and interactive activities and participants were not short of opportunities to challenge and engage the presenters.

All the sessions were recorded and shared on the GGPE website with interactive materials and resources for future audiences. The GGPE hopes to conduct several of these webinars in 2021 and will build on the lessons and experiences of this pilot.

IBI-DIA Lab 'Think Tank' Competition Launched

The I Believe Initiative (IBI) has partnered with the Urban Lab for Youth Innovation (DIA) a project implemented by the Institute of Law & Economics (ILE) to launch a small grant competition to IBI Ambassadors leading projects in the areas of youth and education. One project will win a grant of \$100,000 towards a project under the theme "Civic Participation in Youth Empowerment and Education".

The competition is geared towards highlighting how Ambassadors intend on working to make a difference in the civic life and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference.

The competition was launched on the last day of the webinar series and winners will be decided on January 31, 2021.



The I Believe Initiative is an extension of The Governor-General's hand. I am super excited to have contributed to and shared in colleagues presentations, all in pursuit of using what is right about Jamaica to fix what is wrong. #IBIWebinar

Tishauna Mullings | @Nexsteeptish



IBI welcomed 37 newly inducted Ambassadors

December, 2020

Thirty-seven (37) youth and community champions were inducted as 'I Believe' Initiative (IBI) Ambassadors. The Governor-General's Programme for Excellence (GGPE) hosted the 2020 IBI Ambassadors' Induction Ceremony, under the theme 'Engaging, Empowering & Inspiring Jamaicans'. The virtual ceremony was also used to showcase how the Programme uses its activities to

engage and empower IBI Ambassadors to take on the mantle of IBI to use what's right with Jamaica to fix what's wrong with Jamaica, and by so doing, inspire other Jamaicans to do the same. The newly inducted IBI Ambassadors are individuals who are involved in their communities, have shown commitment and motivation to make a difference in our society.



His Excellency The Governor-General pins newly inducted IBI Ambassador, Brittany Brown who shared on the live programme.

New IBI Ambassadors charged to keep their commitment to the service of others and country

His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen welcomed the newly installed IBI Ambassadors and charged them to use their platforms to help increase the IBI's visibility and accessibility.

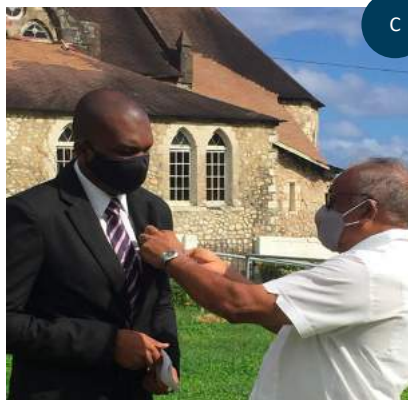
His Excellency The Governor-General also renewed the call for more activities that build healthy families which can in turn create enabling environments that prepare young people for positive participation in our society – as the family is the bedrock of our society.

Many of our IBI Ambassadors are involved in other social, community and service Initiatives and were encouraged to pull on the wider network.

Custodes instrumental in the pinning of new IBI Ambassadors across the country.

The COVID-19 restrictions meant that new IBI Ambassadors would not have been received and pinned through the annual IBI Luncheon. Parish Custodes were invited to pin IBI Ambassadors at ceremonies held at the parish level.

- A** Bishop the Honourable Conrad Pitkin, Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of St. James installs Mr. Andrew Hinds
- B** The Honourable Marcia Bennett, Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of St. Thomas photographed with newly inducted IBI Ambassadors
- C** The Honourable Errol Johnson, Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of St. Mary installs Mr. Kawaine Anderson
- D** The Honourable Dr. Patricia Dunwell, Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of St. Andrew installs Mr. Chad Rattray





2020 GGAA Candidates Announced

December, 2020

The Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA) remained a key activity on the GGPE calendar. The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic has, however, caused a significant shift in the 2020 iteration of the Awards. The GGAA application process was largely facilitated through an online system that allowed for timely collection and review of submissions. Paper-based applications were also received and will remain an option.

Over three hundred (300) applications were received this year. Parish Committees worked assiduously to review these applications and short-listed thirty-five (35) inspiring Jamaicans for the 2020 Governor-General's Achievement Awards (GGAA).

The award, which recognizes outstanding contribution to community and nation building, will be presented in a virtual ceremony to be staged in February 2021, under the theme: 'Engaging, Empowering & Inspiring Jamaicans'.

The GGAA was established in 1991 to acknowledge the meaningful contribution of community leaders and to celebrate the success of persons who model service above self and impact national life.

Recipients aged eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35) are selected on the basis of academic achievements, while persons thirty-five (35) and above must demonstrate evidence of leadership through innovative and sustainable community projects that impact family, youth and education.

The 2020 ceremony will take a virtual form and will be aired on social media and the GGPE website in February 2021. The Programme will include messages from His Excellency The Governor-General and key partners and performances.

Thank You Kind Sponsors!



Through thick and thin!



Anniversary of the Governor-
General's Programme for
Excellence

Let The Countdown Begin!

In 2021, the GGPE will mark 30 years of celebrating and inspiring excellence among the Jamaican people. Tag us on social media using the hashtag #GGPE30 to share your experience with the GGAA or IBI.



@theggpe



ggpe.org.jm

