



Tucked away in downtown Kingston, on one of its most historic streets, is a two story building that offers a safe, nurturing environment for inner city youth and young adults. A place that offers acceptance, hope, and opportunity. *We are... RISE Life Management Services.*

## What makes us RISE?

Our Vision of a Jamaican society where young people and other vulnerable populations are empowered to make healthy lifestyle choices in a supportive and rehabilitative environment.

### Our Mission

To provide educational, vocational and health-related services for at-risk populations including those suffering from addictive disorders, in order to facilitate healthy, fulfilling and productive lifestyle choices. This is how we “change lives for the better”.

## Our Story

In October 1989, Addiction Alert Organization (AAO) opened Jamaica’s only outpatient treatment centre for addictive disorders. Over a fifteen year period the Organization expanded its services into inner city Kingston where the needs of vulnerable at-risk youth became quite clear. RISE Life’s direction and focus was reviewed to include other interventions that could address some of the issues in these populations. A more inclusive name was therefore needed and so in 2005, the organization became RISE *Life Management Services*, RISE being an acronym for “*Reaching Individuals through Skills and Education*”.

## A Foundation for Development

Over the period 2005 – 2012, RISE impacted in excess of 127,000 students, parents, guidance counselors, company employees and community members through its educational, health-related and life skills training.

### Our programmes and activities include:

- The provision of educational, vocational, health-related, employability, entrepreneurial & life management skills – all at the community level.
- The prevention and treatment of addictive disorders including gambling.
- **Summer Camps** - RISE has over 15 years experience in planning and coordinating highly interactive and engaging Summer and Christmas Camps for children and young people both locally and internationally.

*“RISE Life is one of the country's best managed NGOs by far. Because of its excellent project management and administrative skills, as well as contacts, it has survived very well. It also has a strong reputation for providing excellent services to at-risk youth”*

Diagnostic Report, page 27 of 31, CVSS – NGO Institutional Strengthening Project, April 2004, Peter Wright

## Who can access these services?

We have a wide cross section of clients who access our services on a daily basis - individuals and families seeking recovery from addictive disorders including gambling, students, guidance counselors and teachers island-wide, at-risk inner city youth between the ages of 8-24 years, parents and other community members.

## Our Funding

In 1994 an Endowment Fund was established, where the principal cannot be invaded, while the monthly interest is utilized for administrative expenses. RISE Life’s main funding comes from grants, which is augmented by donations from companies and foundations and fee for service activities.

## Our Team

RISE Life Management Services’ Board Members include: Gregory McClure - President of Dunlop Corbin Communications, Marjorie Henriques – past Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Narda Graham – Attorney-at-Law, Grace Silvera – Marketing & Communications Executive and Peter John Thwaites – retired businessman. These directors join the experienced team of Ms. Sonita Morin Abrahams – Executive Director, Mrs. Jan Lopez – Financial Administrator, Debbie Pinto – Office Manager, Richard Henry – Counselling Services Manager and Shawn McGregor - Programme Manager.

## Recognition/Awards

- RISE was recognized for its comprehensive and innovative services for at-risk youth by receiving the Prime Ministers Award in 2009.
- Three RISE Youth Staff were appointed Youth Ambassadors to CARICOM between the period 2001 and 2005.
- Four time winner of the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS) Summer Games
- Two RISE participants awarded International Princess Diana Award for community service - 2012
- Two RISE youth awarded Prime Minister Youth Awards for Leadership and Entrepreneurship - 2013.

