

THE LINK

A publication of ST. BENEDICT'S DAY NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S HOME INC.,
Mt. Bentick, Georgetown, St Vincent. W.I.

Volume 51 No. 1

LAST DAYS OF MINETTE

Our last LINK featured Minette celebrating her 96th birthday – with St. Benedict's children and staff paying a special visit to Minette on **August 1st 2010**, to wish her Happy Birthday.

On May 7th 2011

It was so delightful to see Minette at our fund raiser, Tea Party and Fair.



MINETTE AT ST. BENEDICT'S TEA PARTY AND FAIR, MAY 7TH 2011

Little did we know that her death was fast approaching!

Today we mourn, but celebrate with Minette her rejoicing with the Lord.

Minette passed away on June 25th 2011. She was laid to rest in Kingstown's cemetery on June 30th 2011 - The month when Catholics honor The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – so full of LOVE FOR US.



“Minette”-MAY SHE REST IN PEACE. AMEN!
MINETTE WENT HOME WITH 96 ROSES!

Amidst several wreaths, there was Minette's **bouquet of 96 roses**. This bouquet- if you can recall, was given to her by the children- preschoolers and staffs, of St. Benedict's Day Nursery when they visited her on her 90th birthday- August 2004. At 94 years, 4 more roses were added.

One more was added at 95. Then one

more, the last one- was added at 96 years, at a visit by the remaining children of the “St. Benedict's Angel Steel Pan Side.”

A significant event for St. Benedict's is the admission of a two (2) year old child – **ABANDONED BY PARENTS** – with cerebral palsy – no speech, non-ambulant. – Full of smiles and laughter! We have not had an admission of a child of that age for a long time (because of the condition of the Institution after many years of wear and tear which has left the building in a deteriorated condition)

This admission is seen as a coincident with the death of Minette. Minette lived much of her life in joyful service for the children of St. Benedict's. – abandoned, orphans, mal-nourished etc. She has also seen some of the children grown with talents gained at St. Benedict's.

Christmas 2009, Minette particularly asked for the children to play - ‘come caroling’ for her. Their ‘tip’ awaited them from her.

Today, the children are here to bid her farewell – Aneisha played on the steel pan one of Minette's favorite hymns – “Oh what could my Jesus do more”, ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪



ANEISHA, ON PAN AT MINETTE'S FUNERAL

THIS HAS ENDED AN ERA IN THE LIFE OF ST. BENEDICT'S – FROM FR. ROLAND ROBERTS, FOUNDER, R.I.P. TO MINETTE, A VOLUNTEER AND SPONSOR, R.I.P.

We continue to pray that this **FOUNDATION** and **LEGACY** they have left for the needy children of St. Benedict's, will continue to have significant meaning for you and many more donors to assist these less fortunate children of this island.

EXTRACT FROM FUNERAL MASS FOR LUCILLE MILDRED “MINETTE” COWAN

August 1st. 1914 – June 25th 2011

“MEMORIES OF MINETTE

Memories of Minette Cowan will last a lifetime, but sadly we have lost a special friend. St. Benedict's Day Nursery has lost a valued sponsor and St. Vincent and the Grenadines has lost a National Treasure.

For over twenty years, Minette shared with us her adventures as a nurse in Canada and

Alaska, her sometimes tempestuous, but always loving relationship with Walt her husband and following his death, her journey working with her great friend Fr. Roland Roberts in St. Vincent, and her love and support of St. Benedict's Day Nursery. Each year during the Christmas season, we could count on a "Request for Funding" newsletter. Who can refuse?

Rarely we have met a more genuine soul; a free spirit who spoke her mind with such sincerity and truth. She was a warm and loving friend, had a contagious sense of humor and shared with us many a tumbler of scotch.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the entire world desperately needs, but unfortunately has too few, Minette Cowans. She will be missed, and she will be long remembered."

Dr. Sheila Pennington and Ben Harrison

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Schuman & family, Diane Burbidge & the Cowan & Minette families of The United States of America and Canada express sincere appreciation to all those for their support and for sharing in the loss of Mildred, Minette' Cowan.

Minette was laid to rest on June 30th 2011 in Kingstown, St. Vincent, W. I.

Her Funeral Mass was said by Archbishop Robert Rivas, O.P. Apostolic Administrator of St. Vincent and Grenadines, W. I.

M I R A C L E S DO HAPPEN!!!

Amidst our struggle – seeking funds here and there, in order to make life a little more comfortable for the less fortunate children under our care by re-construction of their Home -We were blessed with a **grand donation** which has given us a "BIG JUMP"

into finishing the main building of this first phase of our Home.

These funds were given by The Ronald and Luise Casson Foundation, St. Vincent, W.I.

A section of the building will bear the name of this very generous donor. –"THE RONALD AND LUISE FOUNDATION SPECIAL CARE UNIT"

Work continues in full force. To arrive at the end. I wish to receive the 'keys' to the building by August 17th 2011- (two years after the commencement of this project) but it is very tight for this to take place that soon from now- but God is good! God is so good!!

AREAS OF COMPLETION
(lighting, plumbing, flooring, painting etc.)



There are other areas to be constructed to consider the Home to be FULLY FUNCTIONAL

These areas are as follows:

1. Erection of a wall and fence – for the security of the children (and the property):
Estimated Cost: U.S. \$55 120.00
(E.C. \$147 169.00)

(The galvanized fence which you may see in a picture is owned by the contractor for security of the building site. This will be removed on completion of the building, thus leaving us with no security fence unless we can raise enough funds to erect this wall and fence prior to the commencement of the use of the building- or soon after transfer of the children to their New Home.)

We have however, make the erection of this wall and fence a priority, **for which we humbly seek your kind assistance.**

A FUND RAISER FORM FORTHIS PURPOSE IS INSERTED ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS LINK FOR YOUR KIND ASSISTANCE.

Thanks in advance for your kind and generous contribution. God bless you abundantly.

2. External Work: Estimated Cost: R.S. \$55 120.00 (E.C. \$147 169.00)

3. Covering of Ramp: Estimated Cost: U.S. \$60 300.00, (E.C. \$161 000.00)

We have managed to construct the ramp without covering but would like to have the ramp covered so that it can be used freely especially in inclement weather, both in the day as well as the night.

4. Laundry/Storage:

Estimated Cost U.S. \$110 675.00,
(E.C. \$295 500.00)

- A. Laundry: There is no laundry facility for immediate functioning of the home Clothes for washing will have to be carried back and forth from the day nursery (old site) to the Home (new site), with the hope of the construction of a laundry on the new site.
- B. Storage: This is so vital for an Institution (such as ours). There is no area for this important aspect of the Home. We have included an area with the laundry for this purpose.

Other assistance needed for the New Home:

- Furnishing
- Sustainability (Strengthening of Sponsorship)

OTHER OUTSTANDING ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

We were very fortunate to receive assistance from The Mustique Charitable Trust, of St. Vincent, W. I., after the passage of Hurricane Tomas in October 2010.

- *No more buckets to catch water pouring down from the roof of the day nursery building
- *No more pouring water into the toilet tanks to flush the toilets
- *No more walls needing painting for a long time.

FUND RAISER TOWARDS THE
ERECTION OF A WALL and FENCE

**ST. BENEDICT'S DAY NURSERY AND
CHILDREN'S HOME INC.**

Funds Raiser towards the erection of wall and
fence- cost US \$392,941.23 (EC\$ 147169.00).

\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

(The above is just a guide for your kind contribution- You may
wish to go beyond
\$ _____)

Thank you so much for your kind contribution
for the children's sake.

Your kind contribution is always appreciated

Thanks to The Mustique Charitable Trust for
their kind assistance in repairing the day
nursery building. With the day nursery now in
a better position of repair, we will make
arrangement to hopefully re-opening the day
nursery in September 2011.

The Government of St. Vincent and the
Grenadine has also assisted us with the
covering of a section of the Infant Hospital
building and other minor repairs to other
buildings on the compound, of which we are
able to use more comfortably. We say thanks
to the Government of St. Vincent and the
Grenadines, W.I

During this after- hurricane –period, we have
also received assistance in cash and kind from
the following donors:

- CARITAS, St Vincent
- Brown's Hardware Ltd.
- East Caribbean Metal
- Rotary Club of St. Vincent
- Bequia Mission, Canada
- Corea Hazells Inc.
- Ms Mary Bolf, a member of CHUM, U.S.A.
via Ms Mary Schmitcz

(Our dream is still to re-build the day nursery
–Remember: We already have the plans
passed by the Government. While we await
funds – there might be a 'God Father' to assist
us with this project – “You never know”).

We will welcome any assistance to strengthen
our Sponsorship Programme for the
management of the day nursery at this time.
We will also need some assistance to furnish
the day nursery with furniture, educational
toys and other apparatus etc.

CAN YOU HELP WHEN YOU CAN?

MAIN FUND RAISER- Help needed!

We have been helping ourselves for many
years with a main fund raiser, Tea Party and
Fair – with kind contribution from many
sources and kind donors, both local and
overseas, e.g. Bequia Mission, Canada.
This year our resources for gifts have been
very much depleted and now we remain with
nothing for preparation for this event for 2012
– we collect items from one year to another.

The following WISH LIST is a guide for you,
may be your family, friends, co-workers – will
be willing to consider us with some kind
donations. May be you can slip in an item or
two in your shopping basket for this purpose.
(Some of the gift items listed can be used for
booths for children and adults)

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR WHAT EVER
YOU CAN ASSIST US WITH.
GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY!

**ADULTS – (Cost of the game: CAN. \$0.88;
U.S.A. \$0.75 – E.C. \$2.00
Mainly small items – for the cost
(Larger items can be offered at a higher cost)**

- Kitchen/Pantry Towels
- Tooth Brushes
- Teddy Bears
- Bath Soap
- File Pages
- Costume Jewellery
- Plastic Cups and Glasses
- Flower Pots – mini
- Kitchen Utensils/apparatus –small
- Shampoo, cream rinse; body lotion, perfume- small bottles-
- Soap Dishes
- Wash Cloth
- Hot Pads
- sachets
- Face Towels
- Combs
- Key Rings
- Note Books
- Safety Pins
- Nail Polish
- Ornaments
- Torches (Flash lights)

Any other items as seen fit

**CHILDREN- (Cost of the game: CAN\$0.44; U.S.A. \$0.37-
E.C. \$1.00**

- Sun Glasses
- Cars
- Crayons
- Pens plain or 'fancy'
- Drawing Books
- Balloons
- Teddy Bears
- Colored Markers – Washable
- Neck Accessories
- Small Note Pads
- Tattoo type stickers
- Small Craft Items, e.g. eyes, nose
- Safety pins – colored
- Exercise Books
- Hand Accessories, including silly bands/ Silicone Rubber band/ Bracelets
- Plastic cups and glasses- some with children's patterns
- Whistles
- Trucks
- Pencil Crayons
- Coloring Books
- Erasers
- Tooth Brushes
- Combs
- Watches (Dumb/Toy)
- Handkerchief
- Balls – mini
- Light Picture Frame
- Creative Stationery
- White Board Markers
- Poster Paints

**NOTE: The following were taken from the internet, under
the heading: Small Party Toys:**

- Tote Bag assortment
- Mega Deluxe toy assortment
- Motivational roll Stickers
- Smile bean bag toss game
- Neon Paddle balls
- Inflatable min- beach balls assortment
- Inflatable mini- soccer puffer balls assortment
- Inflatable mini-baseball game
- Glider Planes
- Blow Outs with fringe
- Juggling ball set
- Hedge balls

Any other items as seen fit

THANK YOU.. GOD BLESS YOU

T O G O D B E T H E G L O R Y ! !

**TO YOU, OUR KIND AND GENEROUS
DONORS –**

**GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS BE
WITH YOU**

Sr. Amadeus Nicholas O. Carm., (who has joined us last
September 2011), Staff, Children and Sr. Nyra Anne
Pajotte O. Carm., Administrator

Link; Prepared by Shirlisa Charles, Secretary

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St. Benedict's Day Nursery and
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