

# Annual REPORT

Financial Year: April 2021 - March 2022



**Verdun & Marina**  
*Spaces of Hope & Healing*

*An official publication of Verdun and Marina.*

*Copyright © 2023 by Verdun and Marina*

*Company Registration No - 12928 | Charity Registered Number - 372*



## **Our Vision**

*Guiding addicted persons and their families to  
heal and lead positive lives.*

## **Our Mission**

*To be the leading, internationally accredited  
institution in the Caribbean providing  
addiction treatment.*



## **Our Values**

*Value and treat every person with dignity and respect*

*Committed to the 12-step fellowship*

*Always be considerate and encouraging*

*Open to new ideas*

*Integrity & Openness*

*Teamwork*

*Service Excellence*

*Company Registration No. 12928*

*Charity Registration Number – 372*

*Registered Office: Verdun House, Pool, St. John, Barbados*

## Our Lead Team



**WILLIAMS, Peter**  
*(Chairman)*



**CHASE, Dr. Ronald**



**DRAKES, R. Omari**



**HUTTON, Hayden**



**INCE, Shena-Ann**



**MARK, Timmi**



**NICHOLLS, Dr. Toni**



**RAMSAY, Maria**



**SAMBRANO, Christopher**



**TULLY, Pauline**



**SAUL, Raphael**



**TRIELOFF-DEANE, Dr. Barbara**

## Executive Team



**WILLIAMS, Peter**



**CARRINGTON, Marietta**



**GOTIP, Allison**



**BOOS, Peter N.**



**BARROW, Norman**



**MILLINGTON-DRAKE, Tristan**

## Advisory Council

**Verdun and Marina,  
providing hope  
and healing and  
demonstrating  
resilience!**

# A Message from the Editor & CEO



**Marietta Carrington**  
CEO

Our new look and rebranded Annual Report have returned after a period of two years. 2021 and 2022 were brutal! In early 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 pandemic. In April of 2021, the eruption of St. Vincent's La Soufriere volcano deposited large quantities of ash on Barbados forcing the closure of all ports of entry, damaging crops and disrupting operations across the island.

A few months later in July, Hurricane Elsa, the first hurricane to hit us directly in 65 years, made landfall, causing damage to property and agriculture across the island. Verdun and Marina were not spared. We like so many other organizations operating in the Third Sector and NGO space faced unprecedented challenges.

Isolation is a huge trigger for individuals with mental health and addiction challenges so when the pandemic forced many of our clients indoors and into isolation – we knew that we were going to be in for a rough ride, and it was indeed.

It felt as if the “lights” of the world were suddenly and without warning turned off and everything went dark. Thanks to the resilience and dedication of our team members, we were able to provide hope and healing to individuals in numbers that were unprecedented. There are so many companies, organisations and individuals that assisted in ways that were remarkable and some of these are acknowledged in our Gratitude Report.

This annual report is a scaled back, modified version from previous years. Why? Because we've learnt that information is more easily digestible in smaller portions. In this regard, we will publish information in segments. You might have noticed that our Renew Magazine is now delivered quarterly instead of a chock full of information in one serving.

*It felt as if the “lights” of the world were suddenly and without warning turned off and everything went dark.*

Thanks to the staff, benefactors, volunteers, and community partners, we can report that we have weathered the storms and have come out on the other side stronger and ready to provide spaces of hope and healing!

We trust that you will find the information written on these pages informative.



**1,750**  
people helped

**120**

clients admitted to  
residential treatment

**8**

outpatients helped  
during April 2021 to  
March 2022

**95%**

clients transferred to  
Second Stage

# Executive Summary

## A Snapshot!

- ◇ Thanks to our benefactors, volunteers and staff, Verdun and Marina House can report a successful year of providing *Hope and Healing* to our many clients with **substance abuse disorders and other mental challenges**.
- ◇ The **COVID-19 pandemic** brought many of these vulnerable women and men to their knees, given their higher susceptibility to infection, compounded by their financial burdens and various domestic trauma.
- ◇ We **HELPED** over **1,750 men, women and families**. This number includes residential, telehealth, crisis/help hotline and wellness clinics. No one was denied help because of personal circumstances.
- ◇ 120 clients were admitted to residential treatment (96 Male / 24 Female) and an additional 8 outpatients during the period April 2021 to March 2022. It is also heartening that 95% of the clients have transferred to the Second Stage Programme for this reporting period.
- ◇ Verdun and Marina partnered with several entities including the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) to build awareness regarding mental health and addiction.

**No one was denied help because of personal circumstances.**



## DELIVERING CRITICAL CLINICAL CARE

- ◇ Our 24-hour, 7 days a week crisis hotline (1-246-243-0038) assisted 1,350 persons, averaging 4 persons per day.
- ◇ Telehealth: 302 calls fielded by the admission team, online, Executive Team and Director of Clinical Services
- ◇ Total Residential Admissions (120 persons). The previous 2020-21 was 110.
- ◇ Wellness Clinic formalised serving 15 clients
- ◇ Supported 5 Caribbean/OECS countries with limited access to mental health services, in addition to US and UK citizens:
  - Dominica / Grenada / Guyana / Jamaica/ St. Lucia
  - USA / one person out of the UK
- ◇ Maintained a COVID-19 free therapeutic environment - without a major outbreak - for two years from the start of the pandemic in 2020 until late 2021.



**1,350**  
persons assisted  
through crisis  
hotline

*Averaging 4 persons per day*



**302**  
Telehealth calls  
fielded



**5**  
Caribbean/OECS  
countries supported

*Dominica / Grenada / Guyana /  
Jamaica/ St. Lucia, in addition to US/  
UK citizens*

## RESTORING CLIENTS TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

- ◇ Of the 42 clients in our one-year Continuing Care Programme (non-residential), we worked with 38 (90%) of them to transition from dependence on Government's social services to full time employment.
- ◇ We worked with employers to get clients reinstated to their substantive positions after completion of residential treatment.
- ◇ 24 men and women who were certified as part of our CVQ Solar Photovoltaic installation and maintenance training were employed as part of the post volcanic clean-up of solar installations across the island.
- ◇ It is important to note the positive impact of employment not only on the clients, but on their families. The 42 clients in the Continuing Care Programme are parents to 30 children, including 18 minors.





## OUR MICROBUSINESSES

PROVIDING THERAPEUTIC  
& FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ◇ Trained clients on farming skills in our animal/poultry and vegetable farms.
- ◇ Re-established our poultry business after the negative impact of the ash fall, hurricane and pandemic.
- ◇ Secured 4 major corporate clients for our poultry (supermarket and restaurant).
- ◇ Re-established vegetable farms subsequent to devastation from the ash fall, hurricane and related flooding.

Our vegetable farms were adversely impacted by the ashfall, unusual heavy rain falls and monkey infestation – destroying many of our food crops.



Above: Chicken farm, eggs



# 4

## Major corporate clients secured

*Supermarket and restaurant clients for our poultry*

---

# REASONS TO CELEBRATE

## THE MARINA FAMILY & THERAPY CENTRE

We expanded our ability to directly support families and communities with the launch of The Marina Family/Therapy Centre. On November 25, 2021, we opened our spanking new **Family & Therapy Centre at Marina House** located in New Castle in rural St. John, with sweeping land views and breathtaking sea views. The serene space, that is child and family friendly, was gifted by the Maria Holder Memorial Trust. The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by Chairman of The Trust, Mr. Christopher Holder; senior officers of The Trust, Peter Williams, Chairman of Verdun and Marina; Peter Boos, Founding Director and immediate Past Chairman, as well as senior executives of Verdun and Marina.





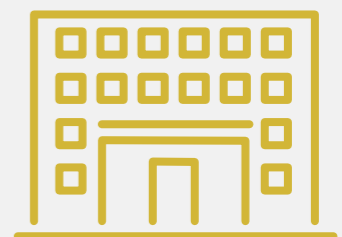
2

Clinical team  
members  
deployed



367

Students served



4


Secondary  
schools helped

We expanded these services in response to the upsurge in addiction and mental health cases as they reached crisis levels – significantly impacting our youth and young adults.

- ◇ Deployed two clinical team members to work with the teachers and guidance counsellors and the youth to help manage the upsurge in suicide rates among our youth.
- ◇ Delivered mental health and wellness programme to approximately 367 students from 4 secondary schools who were experiencing challenges with online learning and isolation.



Above: Marsha Clarke of Youth Equipped to Achieve (YEA) with Teen Boys!



# Teen Intervene

## HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION

TEEN INTERVENE &  
CONFIDENT ME

# STAYING IN TOUCH WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

- ◇ Reached 12,000 listeners by partnering with the **National Council on Substance Abuse** (NCSA) to deliver two workshops via local radio stations.
- ◇ Directly supported client families where no adult was employed as part of the national “*Community give-back food hamper*” programme.
- ◇ Helped clients under *The Maria Holder Memorial Trust COVID-Relief programme* organised through the Barbados Salvation Army.
- ◇ Partnered with **PAREDOS** (Parent Education for Development in Barbados) –to facilitate a 4-part national radio series on “Adverse Childhood Experiences: What they are

and How does it impact substance use in children”.

- ◇ “Parenting in Recovery and Why Seek Early Help” - 8,000 listeners reached. We witnessed a bump in our crisis hotline numbers following this presentation.
- ◇ Partnered with the **NCSA** for two national webinars on topics covering adverse childhood experiences and parentification. 59 participants – targets were educators and parents.
- ◇ Facilitated a two-part series on a national radio show on Children in

Addiction – A Parent’s Guide (4,000 recorded listenership).

- ◇ Presented to 52 members of the Lions Club with participants from Barbados and Jamaica on Mental Wellness and Addiction to help their members assist their families.



## RESEARCHING RECOVERY

### Our Trauma Study

Dr. Jerine Griffith presented “**Researching Recovery**” at the Caribbean Public Health Agency’s annual conference hosted by the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations. The trauma study was presented virtually. This was an historic event for the SAF and our region as there is currently no addiction or mental health institution in our region conducting such research.



**12,000**  
listeners reached  
*in partnership with the NCSA*



**8,000**  
listeners reached  
*in partnership with PAREDOS*



# A NEW LOOK



*Organisations if they are to survive and thrive must out of necessity be reviewing their relevance and how they are perceived by the communities they serve. Our rebranding exercise for our customer-facing brand identity changed from “The Substance Abuse Foundation – A Place of Healing from Addiction” to “Verdun and Marina – Spaces of Hope and Healing”.*



# **Verdun & Marina**

*Spaces of Hope & Healing*



# Teen Intervene



# Wellness Clinic



# Volunteer

*Above & Bottom Right: Our services and programmes reflect our new branded system (selection shown)*

This rebrand positions us for renewed relevance and growth. Our core services remain intact while allowing us to provide a range of complementary mental health and wellness services to individuals, families and communities grappling with the disease of addiction, without the limiting stigma sometimes associated with packaging of substance abuse.

In December of 2021, after consultation and in-depth work with marketing and branding professionals, our Board of Directors deliberated on the new logo and tagline and voted to approve our rebrand.

Our new logo and custom-branded icons showcase our purpose and communicate our services and relevance.



Clinical Services



Educational Services



Vegetable Farm



Verdun Patisserie



Animal Farm



Lawn & Garden Maintenance





# 2021 & 2022 WERE CHALLENGING YEARS

## The Storms We Weathered!

- ◇ The **COVID-19 Pandemic** severely impacted our operations. Our main referral agency, the Psychiatric Hospital, had several major COVID-19 outbreaks and in response discontinued all non-essential visits and admissions, treating only the very severe psychiatric cases.
- ◇ Our prison (Dodds) and the judicial system, which are also referring agencies, suffered multiple outbreaks and suspended the referral process.
- ◇ Health care system as a support resource experienced undue pressure from the upsurge in mental health cases.
- ◇ The *eruption of St. Vincent's La Soufriere volcano* in April 2021 deposited large quantities of ash on Barbados forcing the closure of all ports of entry, damaging crops and disrupting operations across the island.
- ◇ **Hurricane Elsa** - the first hurricane to hit Barbados in 65 years (July 2, 2021) - caused damage to property and agriculture across the island. Rural parts of the country, including St. John, where Verdun and Marina are located, were without electricity, water and internet for several days.

We are survivors!

# TREATMENT WORKS & RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

Treatment for individuals Beyond  
Barbados Borders (B3)

## Experiencing the Team at Verdun & Marina

June is an alcoholic (*from  
Dominica*). I first got to know  
her when her disabled child was  
about a year old. The doctor had  
said the child would die and gave  
her the option of abandoning her.

June fought for her child, taking her  
to Martinique and seeing her through  
numerous surgeries. Today she is still  
helping her with homework as (Jane

– not her real name), now seventeen is at  
grammar school preparing for Caribbean  
Examination Council's (CXC).

June has had a decades long inherited  
struggle with alcohol. Some years ago,  
whilst working with us, she actually had  
several years sober and caught up with  
her education, proving to be a voracious  
reader. However, on losing a friend in  
an accident she relapsed and rapidly her  
physical strength waned. She was put on  
dialysis but did not embrace sobriety!

When she saw another friend pass away in  
spite of dialysis she lost faith in the medical  
system and turned to alcohol for comfort.

## June amazingly survived

At this stage we were introduced to Marina  
House and were visited in Dominica by  
Marietta who told us about a scholarship  
scheme for women with children. Very  
shortly afterwards Dominica was blasted  
out of the water by Hurricane Maria and  
there was a two-year gap whilst we all  
put our roofs back on. June amazingly

survived and agreed to go into rehab. In  
September 2019, her daughter and her  
partner received considerable support  
from the Dominica Association of Persons  
with Disabilities (DAPD) Inc. and Lifeline  
and the three months clearly made a huge  
difference.

Unfortunately, her results showed she  
needed dialysis again and she has agreed  
to comply with medical advice. She wants  
to be alive and enjoy her life one day at  
a time. We join with her, her daughters  
and partner to thank Marina House, the  
funders, the staff, and the other residents,  
for sending June June back to us, better  
prepared to invest in life and relationships  
and to take care of herself.

*Tina Alexander is a British Psychiatric Social  
Worker and Trained Counselor and has been  
living in Dominica since 1994. There, she  
leads Lifeline Ministries, Inc.*

*The SAF was notified of June's passing on  
March 28, 2022, having remained sober ever  
since her stay at Marina House. (Three years  
sober, one day at a time).*

# Verdun & Marina

*Verdun & Marina are projects of The Substance Abuse Foundation.*

**Company Registration no. – 12928**

**Charity Registration Number – 372**

**Registered Office: Verdun House, Pool, St. John, Barbados**

You can reach us at:-

Telephone Helpline: **246-243-0043**

PBX: **246-433-3488**

**f** [www.facebook.com/verdunhouse](http://www.facebook.com/verdunhouse)

**f** [www.facebook.com/marinahouse](http://www.facebook.com/marinahouse)

**@** [www.instagram.com/saf.inc/](http://www.instagram.com/saf.inc/)

**t** [www.twitter.com/theSAF246](http://www.twitter.com/theSAF246)