



Future Agenda

Mighty In Character - #MIC

The Melbourne and Michael Folkes Foundation

The future agenda for [The Melbourne and Michael Folkes Foundation](#) is focused on those smallest amongst us, the children, and how we as adults and a society can improve their future with promise, hope, opportunity, and the actual tools to make it all happen.

As a child growing up with neglect and hunger, Michael Folkes is determined to provide that which he so desperately wanted: food, a proper diet with nutritional direction and sustenance. Without food, education is immensely difficult, as Michael can literally attest.

First off is the **Auditorium Initiative**, in the works for the Mount Waddy Primary School in Friendship, Jamaica, where Michael attended school, and where the schoolchildren need a multi-purpose auditorium facility. The Foundation plans to build this auditorium to offer physical education classes, and to improve the overall health, fitness and well-being of the student body, staff and local community. The auditorium will be used for PE classes, graduation ceremonies, cultural activities, school assemblies and many other educational and community purposes.

Next up is the **Sustenance Farming Initiative**, which will continue and develop the tradition of farming taught to Michael by his grandfather, Melbourne. Involving local people and students, the initiative will initially focus on colleges, hotels and restaurants, with an international export model planned for the future. Proceeds from Sustenance Farming will support the Foundation's long-term educational and humanitarian goals, creating a self-sustained environment.

And what's a school without books?

The Educational Assistance Program, sponsored by the **Foundation** and organized by Miss Inez Hawthorne, Mount Waddy Principal, will provide assistance with tuition fees, books, computers, printers, paper, pens, pencils and everything else necessary to properly equip a classroom. The Foundation will help students from elementary through secondary education, removing the dreaded financial barrier to educational achievement that stymied Michael's experience.

Finally, to care for the body as well as the mind, the Foundation will organize the **Medical Care Initiative** through Health Fairs, featuring industry professionals from the United States to meet the wellness needs of the students and local community. This initiative will proceed in multiple phases, linking with the Auditorium Initiative; establishing a venue for the Health Fairs while providing information and health care. Over the long run, the Health Fairs can serve as a business model, to encourage students to study and perhaps become Health Care professionals.

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