

Social Enterprises Financing Independent Living

Speaker: Kerry-Jo Lyn

Organization: Digicel Foundation

Country: Jamaica

A business approach to sustainable community living

"To build an ICT-enabled sustainable community to support independent living for persons with Special Needs."

Samantha Chantrelle
CEO | Digicel Jamaica Foundation

Background:

- Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) is an international organization with 12 residential centers throughout Jamaica catering to 400 abandoned and disabled children & adults.
- MSC employs close to 400 local workers, including Special Needs individuals, offering job, training and economic viability.

The Project:

- Digicel Jamaica Foundation has invested US\$247k to assist in creating self-sufficiency for residents, by encouraging their development through proper nutrition, housing, education and skills training and job creation.
- All MSC locations benefit from income created through social enterprises - fish farming, egg and chicken farming, growing vegetables and arts and craft.



Social Enterprise: Poultry House & Tilapia (Fish) Ponds: nutrition, food security & self-sufficiency



Sustainable Living: Cottages for Special Needs residents Art therapy used for expression as well as income generation



Skills Training: ICT-enabled community centre; job creation & therapy

