



## **Background**

**Kids In Need of Direction (KIND)** is a non-profit organisation that has been providing assistance to disadvantaged children within the parameters of education, medical assistance, vocational training and emotional counselling for over twenty years. Thus far, it has been able to assist over fifteen thousand individuals, most of which are children between the ages of 5 and 17, over these years through its programs and social services delivery.

## **Program Concept**

In order for children to become healthy, well-adjusted and productive citizens, there are several areas of development that should be engaged. These include academic development, cognitive development, social development, emotional development, moral development and physical development. In 2017, over 2000 children in Trinidad & Tobago scored 30% or below in secondary school entrance exams. This is due to a failure of the education system to address the dynamic impacts of poverty and out-of-school factors on academic performance.

In order to address this gap, KIND has developed a comprehensive program, which it calls the KIND Mind Initiative (KMI), designed to support children from at-risk communities, in areas critical to their development.

The program comprises of weekly sessions and activities geared at addressing the physical, mental, material, social and emotional factors which are crucial to holistic development. Program components include:



- Regular individualised assessments and counseling for children and their families as appropriate,
- Remedial education fun by specialists educators, academic engagement with a special emphasis on reading, creative writing, mathematics and computer literacy;
- Exploratory learning through the arts and cultural engagement;
- Martial arts for physical education and behaviour modification;
- Social education, organised according to the principles of “being kind to oneself, to others and to the environment”.

Most sessions are held in classrooms at the KIND compound, #9 Eastern Main Road, Laventille, Trinidad. There are also occasional field trips that supplement particular sessions and their strategic goals.

All suitable children are enrolled in the program free of charge, and benefit from the attention of social workers, counsellors, specialist teachers and educators, as well as artists, youth leaders and other specialised people. They are also provided with stationary and all other necessary program materials.

The cost of facilitating **one (1) child** in the KMI program is **\$120 per month** or **\$1440 per year**; this fee covers materials, facilitator stipends, transport and other overhead costs directly incurred by the program. For this project, we are looking to cover the full costs of keeping thirty (3) children in the program for one full year, the cost of which is \$43,200.