



# Spotlight on Members

## Erene Anthony



### Volunteer *par excellence*

Let me tell you about an amazing lady who at the age of eight was picking orchids in her native Antigua to decorate her church for the Harvest Cantata. At fifteen years this hardworking volunteer was a Sunday school teacher, at 19, an organist and then the director of the Youth and Senior choirs of her home church (Grace Bay Moravian) in the West Indies. Volunteerism and the willingness to give back was part of Erene Anthony's make-up, even as a child. So, naturally, today you will find Erene actively contributing within her milieu: be it as Chair of the Board and Joint Presbytery of the Union United Church, as a member of the Executive of the Montreal Presbytery, as an active member of the United Church of Canada or as a member of the Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Association. As you know, Erene also directs her energies for the benefit of QPARSE members as she helps to organize the yearly program of activities.

Erene is always selflessly giving of her time and it gives me great pleasure to shine a spotlight on her as an outstanding member of QPARSE. Her friends and colleagues are not the only ones who have noticed her commitment, for in 1999 Erene received the Jackie Robinson Award from the Montreal Black Business Persons and Professionals organization. Then, in 2009, her efforts were recognized by the Prime Minister of Antigua and she was given the Outstanding Citizenship Award for Community work done outside Antigua. Just this year Erene was cited as the *CJAD Hero of the Month*. All were awards she richly deserved! When she is not volunteering, Erene is a financial security advisor and mutual fund representative for Primerica Financial Services. If you are wondering where she gets the time and energy to do all that I could not agree with you more!

Erene and I were principals at the EMSB at the same time in our careers and we became friends. It was Erene who suggested that I join the QPARSE Board. Although I did not know then of her penchant for volunteerism I knew she had a deep attachment to children with special needs. At the time, in 1993, Erene was principal of the McKay Center, and then, in 1995, she became principal of John Grant High School. I have always admired her as a lady of intellect, composure and an oh so stately presence.

As for Erene's background, she placed high value on education and obtained a B.A. in sociology and anthropology. That was quickly followed by a B.Ed. and thereafter a Masters in Education. Erene, the mathematics and English teacher from Royal Arthur Elementary School and Verdun High School, always had a special place in her heart for education and all her children.

She may have had numerous children at school but her greatest pride and joy is her son Joel. You may know Joel as the center for the NBA Miami Heat basketball team who has recently been drafted to Boston.

Erene says: "Joel played basketball in Grade 6 at Wilder Penfield School, where he received his first All Star Trophy. However, my schedule never enabled me to see him at play there. By the time Joel reached high school I was able to watch all of his after-school games. Little did I know that these extra-curricular games at Selwyn House would be the start of Joel's great passion for the sport of basketball. Who would have thought that Joel's beginnings in Grade 7 at Selwyn House would have led him to where he is today!"

Joel's rise to stardom has been nothing short of meteoric. Erene has raised a fine son and he too is now involved in volunteerism. Erene, my friend, keep flaming!

CJAD Heroes

Joel Anthony

Marzia Michielli