

Seneca College

Social Service Worker

Community Practice

Jamaica Project



What will be covered today:

What is the project

How it got started

How it got to where it is today

Questions asked

Lessons learned

Remaining questions

Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

HISTORY:

Beach Day 2004



Beach Day 2004



Beach Day 2004



Common Belief #1

**Good intentions
and a kind heart
are all you need**

Some of the best lessons we ever learn we learn from our mistakes and failures.—The error of the past is the wisdom and success of the future.

- Tryon Edwards



Ursuline Convent

Mona Commons

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Image NASA

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18°00'17.34" N 76°44'28.95" W

Eye alt 295.25 km

Ursuline Convent



Mona Commons

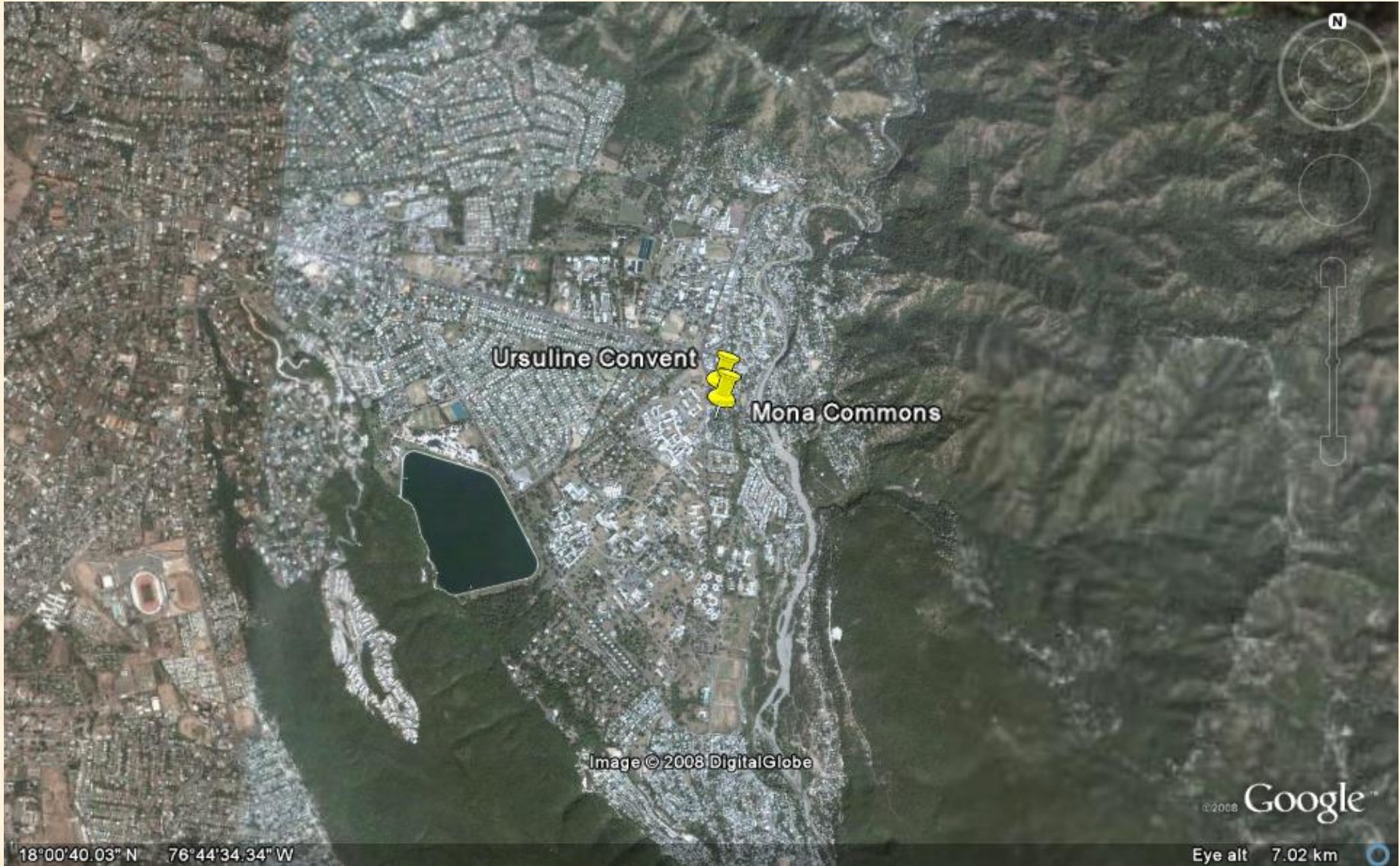
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18°00'17.44" N 76°44'28.95" W

Eye alt 72.93 km





Ursuline Convent



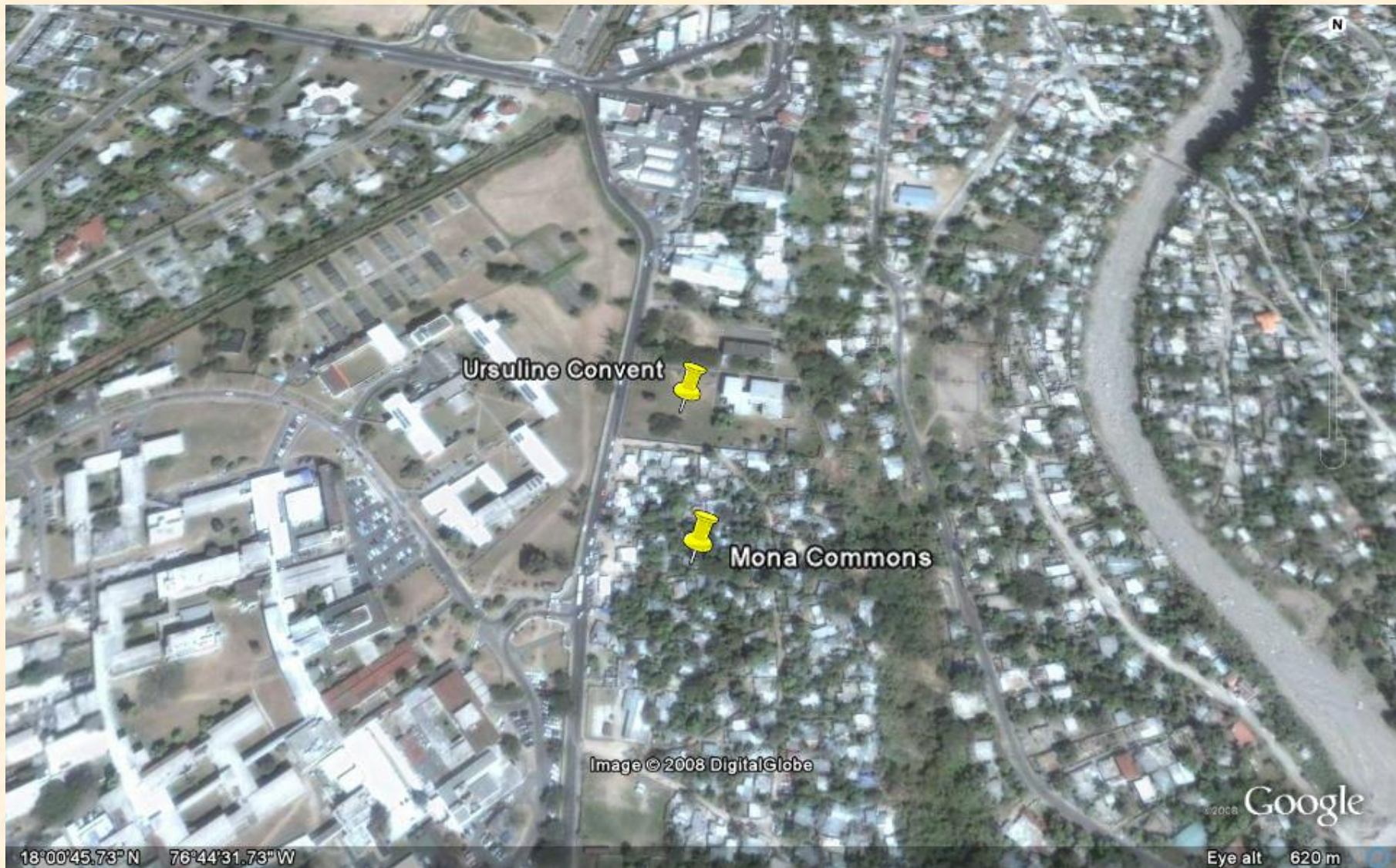
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18°00'40.03" N 76°44'34.34" W

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Eye alt 7.02 km



Ursuline Convent

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18°00'45.73" N 76°44'31.73" W

Eye alt 620 m

SHIFT IN FOCUS:

- Paving the way for year 2
- Finding out if there was a role for us there
- Using existing resources - Nuns
- Exploring partnerships:
 - UWI
 - Agencies
 - Community mapping
 - Identification of leadership
 - What/Who is Mona Commons

YEAR TWO:



What actually happened on first night

Link with community

Community as experts

Community leadership

Use of community's compass

Common Belief #2

**Impoverished communities
suffer from low motivation,
limited awareness, poor
education and lack of leadership
to address their challenges.**

THE PROJECT CONTINUES....

- Ongoing collaborative projects with agencies, led by their administration



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THE PROJECT CONTINUES....

- New connections – community and agencies



THE PROJECT CONTINUES....

- Mona Commons and MacKenzie communities



Common Belief #3

**To achieve success,
community practice
must leave a
tangible product.**

Fun Day



Common Belief #4

**The community's needs
naturally come first.**

THE PROJECT CONTINUES....

- Ongoing mapping and outreach
- Role evaluation
- Project evaluation
- Moving forward???

POSSIBLE

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

- Student placements
- Expanding to second venue
 - Port Antonio

OFFSHOOTS OF ORIGINAL PROJECT

- Research project
- Mentorship program
- Documentary
- Returning volunteers

REFLECTIONS

- Should we be doing this?
 - Repeatedly and increasingly asked over the years
 - Common to all SW and SSW practice
- OUR THOUGHT – Keep asking the question

If the world were merely seductive that would be easy. If it were merely challenging that would be no problem.

But I arise every morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world.

This makes it hard to plan the day.

- E.B. White







REFLECTIONS

- Who is this benefiting? - Students:
Challenges and Benefits
 - environment
 - boundaries
 - ethical dilemmas
 - self awareness
 - skill development

REFLECTIONS

- Who is this benefiting? - School:

Used as Marketing Tool

Increases program profile

Enhances graduate employability

2 other Seneca programs (Nursing, ECE)
now have similar projects in Jamaica

REFLECTIONS

- Who is this benefiting? - Community??

Process of compiling anecdotal evaluation

Formal evaluation begun in some settings

REFLECTIONS

- Issues of privilege:
 - As visitors to Jamaica
 - Within our program

REFLECTIONS

- Stereotypes:
 - Are we perpetuating them?

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- Stereotypes:
 - Are we perpetuating them?



- Stereotypes:
 - Or are we confronting them?



REFLECTIONS

- Sustainability
 - Difficult because players change
 - Overall project appears to have visibility and credibility in both specific and general community
 - Is two weeks enough?
 - Is growth in relationships enough??

From social intercourse are derived some of the highest enjoyments of life; where there is a free interchange of sentiments the mind acquires new ideas, and by a frequent exercise of its powers, the understanding gains fresh vigour.

- Joseph Addison

Questions
and, maybe,
some answers.