A SECTION OF those in attendance at the Richmond Vale Academy Christmas dinner

The Richmond Vale Academy recently held their annual Christmas cultural night with residents from the communities of Rose Hall, Spring Village, Troumaca, Rose Bank, Chateaubelair and Fitz-Hughes, who were invited for a day and night of entertainment, food and games at the Rose-Hall Community Centre.

A release from the RVA said this third annual event, with its theme “Christmas Together,” was organized by teachers and students of the RVA to engage, educate, entertain and feed the people from the surrounding areas, giving them an opportunity to share different culture, music and heritage and interact with other villagers from different communities, while having fun in the process.

The event began with games of dominoes, cards, basketball, followed by a workshop put on by teachers and students of the RVA, then the Christmas meal, with villagers being entertained by live music from the Rose Hall Drummers.

“The RVA see events like this as a way of bringing the different communities together during this festive period; it’s an opportunity for people who cannot afford a proper Christmas, to be involved still and have something to be joyous about,” said Selwyn Patterson, a teacher at RVA and head organizer of the event.

The Richmond Vale Academy is encouraging Vincentian nationals who are interested in learning about Climate Compliance Conference and fighting shoulder to shoulder with the poor, programmes conducted by the school, to contact the school for more details.

Police looking into use of forensic evidence

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“I must commend the Government because when we had the spate of killings, they really pushed their hands in and helped. We had to respond to incidents in a lot of areas and we were given eight new vehicles to utilize,” he said, adding that special mention must be made to the Rapid Response Unit, the Special Services Unit, the Drug Squad, the Criminal Investigations Department and the South Central Division.

The commissioner said for 2015, his plan is to continue forging relationships outside of the organization, especially with the media.

“If we don’t give the media what is taking place, the media will have to put things the way they perceive them. Coming from us, it’s much better,” he said.

He also emphasized that the police force has to continue training its personnel in various fields of policing in order to stay ahead of the times and help to fight crime more effectively.

Charles, who recently celebrated his first anniversary as Commissioner, said it has been challenging for him.

“My first year as Commissioner of Police has been rather challenging and one of the things I look forward to is the cooperation among officers and the relationship we have with the public,” he said.

Charles was appointed Commissioner of Police, effective November 1, 2013, but received his letter of confirmation on January 16, 2014.

He was appointed acting Commissioner on July 16, 2013, when former Commissioner Keith Miller proceeded on pre-retirement leave.

When asked what has been his biggest regret since becoming Commissioner, Charles said, “Nobody’s perfect. You make some decisions which, on hindsight, you wouldn’t make them really. Nothing to really say that I regret,” he added.

The Commissioner assured that the police will continue doing their best as an organization to protect the country’s citizens and visitors.

“We are leaving no stones unturned when it comes to securing the lives of our citizens and visitors. This is paramount,” Charles said.

Charles said he is also looking forward to the continued support of the public in 2015 and wished them a prosperous and violence free year. (KW)