



**Jeff Sousa** has lived in Warwick, Bermuda, for most of his life. His family has deep roots there, going back well over a century.

Jeff is a successful entrepreneur. He received his secondary-level education at Warwick Academy and then took part in the apprenticeship programme at the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries. He is the founder of Sousa's Landscape Management Co. Ltd., which was started in Warwick West. Another of his companies, Sousa's Gardens, is located on the border of the constituency.

It was such an honor for me and my family to donate to NALP (formerly PLANET). I became involved in Horticulture at a very young age; initially doing an apprenticeship scheme from 16-18 and then entered the working world.

At 20 I became Head Gardener at a local hotel and at 22, went into business with two partners. At age 24, I made the bold move and went on my own and Sousa's grew quickly. By the time I was 28 it was one of Bermuda's largest and most recognized companies, but I knew there was more to horticulture than what I was seeing on my lovely small island. So in 1988, I ventured off to my first conference in Orlando, Florida. The industry was much smaller than the multi-billion-dollar industry we see today.

Much of the growth we have experienced here in Bermuda with our Company over the years, we owe to knowledge we learned at attending these yearly conferences. I attended the conferences for 20 consecutive years from that initial one in 1988. Each year thereafter, I took numerous team members with me to experience first-hand, the wonders PLANET had to offer.

I have always been a man who is keen on giving back. Today my adult children and key managers are heavily involved in the daily operations of our companies, Sousa's Gardens, which can be found on Facebook under that name, and Sousa's Landscape Management Co Ltd. [www.slm.bm](http://www.slm.bm). This has allowed me to pursue a life of public service. Two years ago I was elected a Government Member of Parliament [www.oba.bm](http://www.oba.bm) and I also am the Chairman of the National Training Board.

I miss my times at the conferences with all the awesome people and great learning opportunities. I must venture back in the future. In the meantime, I encourage you to get involved more and never forget to give back!!!

Jeff Sousa JP,MP  
Founder/President