

## Scotiabank Belize Youth Education Program

After reviewing the most recent situational analysis published by UNICEF, Belize's Managing Director, Pat Andrews, and his Management Team were disheartened by the country's low primary school completion rate. From it, the idea for the Scotiabank Belize Youth Education Program took root.

As part of the Bank's commitment to youth and education, and made possible through seed capital (CAD\$100,000) that was granted with the help of Pat Minicucci, SVP English Caribbean, Scotiabank Belize officially announced on January 15, 2007 the names of 64 primary school students who would be receiving education grants to cover the cost of tuition and books for an entire school year. In addition to these grants, mentorship and two annual feeding programs will also be developed to ensure that children are being given the proper guidance and nutrition to promote productive learning.

A preliminary five-year plan has been established, yet the true success and longevity of the program will rely on the committed efforts of the staff and their fund-raising drives that will contribute towards the sustainability of the Youth Education Program.

This great initiative has already touched the hearts of the Scotiabank Belize staff. The principal allocation of funds made it possible to award 50 grants, countrywide for the first year.



However, when going through the many application forms received, staff members took it upon themselves to raise and add more money to the pot, eventually funding an additional 14 grants!

Scotiabank Belize is determined to make an everlasting impact on the lives of these children and to give hope to those who never thought attaining, and completing, a proper education was in their future.