

## **Scotiabank Staff Raise Funds for Worthy Causes**

**BELIZE CITY, May 2006** - Scotiabank is extremely involved when it comes to giving back to the community in which they work and live. In support of the official Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women on November 25<sup>th</sup>, Scotiabank Belize presented a donation of BZ\$24,000 to Haven House, a shelter for abused women and children.

In commemoration of International Women's Day, March 8th, Scotiabank donated \$5,000 to the Y.W.C.A.'s Helping Early Leavers Programme (H.E.L.P.), whose main focus is to assist those girls and women who were not able to complete their high-school education due to financial and/or personal constraints.

Most recently, the staff of the Albert Street Branch decided to become personally involved. On Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, a Walkathon was held at the Marion Jones Sports Center. Those participating received pledges/sponsorship from family and friends according to how many laps they planned to walk. A group of twenty individuals began slightly after 6am, and after a few hours, BZ\$5,756.50 was raised.

Two worthy causes were selected, and on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, \$3,000 was donated to the Rotary's Gift of Life Program, which provide children with life-threatening heart conditions with the means to travel to receive their treatment. According to Yvette Burke, National Coordinator, the money received will be enough to sponsor one deserving child in their program.

The Belize Emergency Response Team (B.E.R.T.) was also presented with a cheque of \$1,000, to assist them in acquiring much-needed equipment.

Across the country, each of our nine branches are actively involved in the communities in which they live and work. Down South in Placencia, Scotiabank has raised funds to assist a local school, while Scotiabank Dangriga continuously visits and spends time with the children at the Scotiabank Pediatric Ward at the Southern Regional Hospital. Out West, Scotiabank San Ignacio Branch donated 100 food baskets to deserving families over the Christmas Season, and our Belmopan Branch arranged for Santa and Mrs. Claus to come in from the North Pole to deliver gifts to 80 children from the Belmopan Community Preschool. Up North, Scotiabank Orange Walk Branch hosts regularly scheduled counseling sessions for children, discussing topics such as the Value of Money, How to be a Leader, Crime Prevention, etc. Scotiabank Corozal is preparing to refurbish the Children's Ward at the Corozal Hospital. In the city, Scotiabank Belama has given 10 nebulizers to asthmatic children from KMHM whose families need the financial assistance, and Scotiabank Belize City recently donated a refrigerator and a stove to the Trinity Methodist School, as well as presenting several families in the community with food baskets over the Christmas holidays. And the staff of our newest branch, San Pedro, are actively raising funds and determining out how best to benefit their community.

Wherever there is a Scotiabank Branch, a lasting impression is left in the community, and Scotiabank pledges to continue making a difference.