

For Immediate Release:

Kingston Jamaica,
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Scotiabank Reaches Out to Help Young *Scoliosis* Patient

Scotiabank announced on Thursday, August 24, that it will be assisting twelve year old, Nichola Noble, a pre-teen suffering from Scoliosis, a debilitating disease that affects the spinal cord. Nichola has been hoping to have surgery on her spinal cord to correct the problem but without avail, as her family is unable to fund the \$468, 000 bill quoted to them by the Kingston Public Hospital.

Since June 1, the surgery has been postponed on three occasions, which prompted her mother Patricia Noble to bring the family's plight to national attention on Wednesday August 23. She made an impassioned plea for assistance in the media to have her daughter's operation done, as it has placed her in a lot of pain since diagnosis in December 2005.

Scoliosis is a condition that affects the spines of many children, teenagers and adults. The human spine features many natural curvatures, which help our bodies to move and be flexible. However, persons affected by the disease, will see abnormal side-to-side curves in their spine, which causes severe changes in appearance and pain. Doctors have noted that Nichola is expected to move along a successful recovery path once they have given her an orthopedic implant, and attend to the problem before further damage is done.

Nichola has big dreams. She is described as a bright, intelligent and promising young girl, and an active member of the Aleppo Seventh Day Adventist Church in St. Mary. She was recently successful in her GSAT exams and hopes to start her high school experience on a firm footing at St. Mary High School when the school year begins.

Scotiabank will be assisting Nichola through the Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation, its corporate philanthropic arm, which has been responding to the needs of Jamaicans for over ten years. The Foundation provides financial assistance in the areas of health and education and has contributed approximately 377 million dollars since inception.

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