



For Immediate Release
Kingston, Jamaica
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Scotiabank Funds Creative Anti-Violence Counseling -For Students and Inner-city Residents

Over 500 students from the Tivoli Gardens and Kingston Technical High Schools, along with 220 inner-city residents from six inner-city communities across Kingston have been sponsored by Scotiabank to view the compelling anti-violence drama CURFEW – performed by Ashe Performing Arts Ensemble.

The students who have been exposed to repeat incidences of violence are being pulled together over a one-week period to view the play as a form of ‘creative counseling’ using drama therapy. The drama ‘Curfew’ addresses current issues affecting inner-city communities such as crime, violence, peer pressure, poor parenting and unemployment. It also offers practical methods of addressing these ills in a self-introspective and inspiring way.

Scotiabank has funded the cost of exposing the students to the performance and follow up counseling sessions given increasing reports of violence in these schools and the residential communities. The project is aiming at providing a creative avenue for the students to see the effect of violence on young adults and the impact on their communities.

Students from the Tivoli Comprehensive High viewed the dramatic performance last Wednesday, while students of the Kingston Technical High will view the performance this weekend, Friday, June 8, 2007.

The largest group of persons to view the play has been identified with the support of Rise Life Management, formerly Addiction Alert. Over 220 residents, who are between the ages 15 – 25 years old, from six inner-city communities across Kingston and St. Andrew, will see the play this Sunday, June 10. They are all a part of project SYMBA, a Crime and Violence prevention programme operated by Rise. The programme regularly provides guidance and counseling, life skills and leadership training and remedial education these for adolescents and young adults.

The parents and guardians of the adolescents have also been invited to view the play and benefit from follow up seminars and workshops which will reinforce the key messages of the play.

Scotiabank and RISE Life Management believe that, through seeing this production, participants, many of the adolescent who operate as agents of change in their communities, will be encouraged to play a more integral role in addressing the issue of crime and violence in their communities.

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