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NEWS RELEASE

Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation expands Haemodialysis Unit at the Cornwall Regional Hospital

April 4, 2008/St. James: The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation opened an expanded Hameodialysis Unit at the Cornwall Regional Hospital today.

The new unit valued at \$11.7 million will enable the hospital to accommodate a total of 32 new patients. The Unit now holds six (6) new machines which were donated at a cost of \$10.8 million dollars, while the new structure was expanded at a cost of \$900,000. The new equipment comes at a time when the hospital is noting a sharp increase in the number of persons suffering from Renal Failure. “Chronic Kidney Disease is the silent approaching tsunami of Jamaican health care. There are 900 new patients per year with end stage renal failure,” explains Dr. Curtis Yeates, Head of the Scotiabank Hameodialysis Unit at the Cornwall Regional Hospital.

The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation has been supporting Renal Care at the Cornwall Regional Hospital for the past ten years. The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation Haemodialysis Centre was established at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in 1998 at a cost of \$19.3 million. In 2005, the SJF purchased two new dialysis machines and other related equipment at a cost \$5.5 million. Two years after in 2007 the Foundation provided a further six (6) new machines costing \$10.8 million. Each year the Unit receives \$8 million from the Foundation to maintain the vital equipment. In total the unit has received approximately 106 million in support from the Foundation.

Executive Director of the Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation, Joylene Griffiths Irving noted that the Foundation was indeed happy to be able to assist the hospital in increasing their capacity to care for persons suffering from Renal Failure, “When we established the Unit in 1998 there were two patients. Today, with the expansion of the unit, moving the number of dialysis machines from 12 to 18, one hundred and twenty-six patients will now have access to weekly dialysis care. This is our way of bringing hope and inspiration to our fellow citizens.”

There are 454 patients in Jamaica on kidney replacement treatment (dialysis and transplantation). Each patient needs approximately twelve hours of dialysis treatment each week. Hypertension and diabetes are the most common cause of chronic kidney disease in Jamaica. Dr. Yeates explains “the epidemic proportions of diabetes (300,000 cases in Jamaica) and the increasing rate of hypertension are the triggers of this approaching tsunami.” This highlights the need for Jamaicans to take more preventative action through healthy lifestyle practices.

The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation has also been assisting in organ transplant, which is the only real solution to chronic kidney disease. In October 2006 Marcia Campbell a primary school teacher impacted by chronic renal failure, and beneficiary of the Scotiabank’s expanded assistance to the Kingston Public Hospital was able to do a kidney transplant. The Kingston Public Hospital has benefited from an upgraded renal unit valued at 20 million and total maintenance assistance valuing 12 million.

Since its inception in 1999, The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation has contributed over \$250 million to the development of the Health Sector.

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