



News Release

October 16, 2008

Scotiabank Volunteers Hand Over Multi-Million Dollar Park & Gardens to – Bustamante Children Hospital

The Scotiabank Jamaica through its cadre of volunteers handed over a new garden and park to the Bustamante Children Hospital on Friday, October 17. The park and gardens which spans a 16,640 area was designed constructed and landscaped at a cost of \$3,000,000. Work began on the project on Labour Day, May 23 and was spearheaded by external designers and landscapers along with a large contingent of Scotiabank volunteers.

The construction of the Park has been a major project of the Scotia volunteers, with strong representation from the staff members linked to the Scotia Jamaica Life Insurance subsidiary. Joylene Griffiths Irving, Director of Public Corporate and Government spoke about the commitment displayed by the volunteers. “The Scotiabank Volunteers have been very excited about the project and eagerly began the large job on Labour Day. They have been going to the park on a weekly basis to plant flowers, prune, paint murals and help to construct arbors. We are proud of the work they have done fits perfectly into our strategic direction of working with youngsters to improve their quality of life through health and education.”

The park was initially built in 1997 by a team of volunteers led by international entertainer Shaggy who undertook a small landscaping activity. After a joint treat at the hospital last Christmas, the Scotiabank volunteers began discussions on how to improve the space by designing a larger, more impactful park for parents and children alike to enjoy on their visit to the Hospital.

Several donors have contributed significantly to the project giving large donations in kind – including plants, fertilizer, heavy duty equipment, designing and landscaping services, benches, soil, gravel, paint and several other items. The persons are all recognized on a sign to be unveiled at the event.

The Park is now a beautiful space for kids, parents and hospital staff to walk, rest, relax. It is a refreshing oasis that has been created with beautiful plants, water features and seating areas for a relaxing and rejuvenating experience.

The Volunteers have been very active throughout the year and have worked on several other activities giving a total of over 4,000 hours in volunteer activities across the island. Other significant projects are:

- Read Across Jamaica Day
- Teachers Day
- International Coastal Clean Up Day
- Labour Day – At Bustamante and other health facilities across the island
- Intra – Aortic Balloon Pump - University Hospital – raised \$2.5 m and over did 3600 hours of volunteer work.
- Fundraising Initiatives for the Mustard Seed Communities
- Speak Up Speak Out HIV AIDS Debating Competition
- Bustamante Children Hospital – Christmas Treat & Reading Day
- Cricket

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