



News Release:
Kingston Jamaica
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Scotiabank raise funds for Scoliosis Care through the Arts

The Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation has formed a partnership with locally renowned Jamaican artists to raise funds for its Scoliosis Care programme during the Bank's annual Celebration of Art exhibition.

The event which was held on December 5, at the Devonshire in Kingston featured a silent auction which invited viewers to bid on art pieces; with the proceeds going towards the financing surgery for needy youngsters in the programme.

The show featured work from six acclaimed artists including painter, Barrington Watson, jeweller Garth Sanguinetti, sculptor Donito Davis, Phillip Supersad, Leonia Mckoy, and Alison Sinclair who were all ceramists.

The acclaimed artists all donated and/or discounted items from their collection to assist the Foundation in making the surgery possible for the students.

Scoliosis is an "s" shaped curvature of the spine often seen in adolescents. It causes pain and can result in respiratory complications. Adolescent Scoliosis is most common in Jamaica, affecting those between the ages of 10 to 16 years. If treated, the condition can be corrected before adulthood.

The goal of the Foundation's Scoliosis Care programme assists poor children under the age of 18 who are suffering with Scoliosis to meet the cost of surgery and to bring attention to this debilitating disease. At the launch of the programme in May 2008 a sum of seven million five hundred thousand dollars (J\$7.5 m) was committed by the Foundation over the next five years.

Since launching its Scoliosis Care programme in May of 2008 the Bank has provided surgeries for four young ladies who are enrolled in high schools across the island.

However, a vast need stills exists as scoliosis surgery is very expensive and long. There is currently a list of 90 children waiting for surgery. Scotiabank is looking to expand its Scoliosis Care project and assist the other students who are in dire need.

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