



For Immediate Release

Kingston, Jamaica

December 11, 2008

Scotiabank Donates 'Life Saving' Cardiac Equipment to UHWI

Scotiabank today donated an intra-aortic balloon pump valued at \$4.9 million to the University Hospital of the West Indies'. The Hospital was without this vital piece of cardiac emergency equipment for one year. This greatly compromised the cardiovascular care it was able to offer.

The urgency of the situation resulted in Scotiabank committing to support the Hospital's efforts in procuring a new Machine. The Bank launched an internal fundraising drive to raise funds to procure this machine.

The Bank's over 2000 members of staff rallied forces to assist the hospital and presented their 'gift of life' on December 11 in a brief ceremony at the hospital. Between December 5, 2007– July 31, 2007 the staff members volunteers 360 man hours to raise \$2.5 million to help in procuring the machine. The Bank donated the difference in value to purchase the balloon pump for the Hospital.

Speaking at the event, Debbie Clue, Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility said that "we all feel a sense of personal responsibility, recognizing that we are our brother's keepers. This machine will help to keep many persons alive and keep many families together as they fight to overcome illness."

She shared with the gathering of staff that she was happy to see the project come to life and was confident that it will be a gift that keeps giving as it continues to save the lives of many Jamaicans.

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* The **Intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP)** is a mechanical device that is used to decrease myocardial oxygen demand while at the same time increasing cardiac output. By increasing cardiac output it also increases coronary blood flow and therefore myocardial oxygen delivery. It consists of a cylindrical balloon that sits in the aorta and counterpulsates. That is, it actively deflates in systole increasing forward blood flow by reducing afterload, and actively inflates in diastole increasing blood flow to the coronary arteries. The balloon is inflated during diastole by a computer controlled, ECG linked mechanism. This controls the flow of helium from a cylinder into and out of the balloon. Helium is used because its low viscosity allows it to travel quickly through the long connecting tubes.

Intraaortic balloon counterpulsation is used in situations when the heart's own cardiac output is insufficient to meet the oxygenation demands of the body. These situations could include cardiogenic shock, severe septic shock, post cardiac surgery and numerous other situations.