



**News Release**

**Kingston, Jamaica**

**April 22, 2009**

## **Scotiabank Donates Bus to Mustard Seed**

- Replaces Stolen Bus which caused 3 deaths at the home

Scotiabank has donated a brand new Nissan Caravan to the Mustard Seed Communities valued at \$1.9 million to replace the home's stolen Toyota Hiace bus. Scotiabank handed over the new bus on Wednesday afternoon at Mustard Seed's head office at Mahoe Drive in Kingston. The new bus will be used to transport children to and from the home to their medical appointments, school, church services, as well as to pick up regular donations made to the home. The bus will assist the home in preparing for disaster by relocating the children in times of emergencies to safer alternate homes.

Last August in Hurricane Gustav, three kids died as a result of trauma associated with the hurricane passing and flooding which occurred at the home. The administrators of the home were unable to remove the children from Sophie's Place in Gordon Town when water flooded the facility and caused a building to collapse.

Scotiabank's senior vice president of Marketing and Products Heather Goldson said that "Scotiabank was indeed distressed when we learnt of the demise of the stolen bus and the ensuing tragedy that resulted last year. We recognize the great work that Mustard Seed does and we were happy to give them our commitment to purchase a new bus. We know this bus will be of great help in caring for the kids that reside at the home and making their administration much more efficient."

Anthony Brodber administrator of Sophie's Place was thrilled with the donation of the bus and said that "The Mustard Seed family is extremely thankful to Scotiabank for this wonderful gift of a bus to transport our children. This is a very special day for us and we are happy that Scotiabank could have made this possible."

Last month, Scotiabank also donated 15 bunk beds, along with bed linen, pillows and clothing items to the Mustard Seed when their Martha's Place location was destroyed by fire recently.

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