



News Release

Kingston Jamaica

May 5, 2009

Scotiabank Volunteers Read in Hospitals and Children Homes –in Read Across Jamaica Day 2009

Over 1,000 children from 21 hospitals and group homes across Jamaica were paid a surprise visit from over 400 Scotiabankers who took a break from their regular duties to spend time reading with them as part of “Read Across Jamaica Day” 2009. The children were treated to a session of fun-filled activities hosted by Scotiabank executives and senior managers who spent time reading stories, playing and talking with them in the various entities.

The Marigold Children’s Home which houses children 0-7 years old, many who have been abandoned since birth was the national ‘Reading Day’ project for the Bank. There, the Bank’s team of volunteers brought cheer to the children as they hugged, shared jokes and played with toys that the volunteers brought as gifts.

A large team from Scotia Insurance also visited Bustamante Children Hospital, and read with children who were unable to leave their beds time in each ward. Joylene Griffiths Irving, Director of Public, Corporate and Government Affairs explained the Bank’s rationale for supporting Reading Day. “Scotiabank is engaged in several developmental activities for children and we were happy to throw our support behind national reading day because we firmly believe that reading is an important activity which helps to develop children awareness, knowledge and creativity, allowing them to become more intelligent adults.”

The volunteer corps will also be going into school later the same week to teach children about the 'smart way to use money' as part Jamaica's Teacher's Day activities.

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