

PRESS RELEASE

SCOTIABANK PARTNERS WITH 4H INTERNATIONAL TO EDUCATE KIDS

The Rio Claro Branch of Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Limited has joined forces with the Nariva/Mayaro Unit of 4H International in an effort to encourage positive behaviour among young people in the area. The 4H International Club is based on a worldwide youth programme for persons between the ages of 7-25 years and focuses on imparting lifelong skills to its members in the areas of craft, gardening, farming, food and nutrition. Skills sets are developed through the promotion of educational, economic, social and recreational activities which are designed to assist young people in becoming better citizens.

The staff members of Scotiabank's Rio Claro Branch have been investing their time and effort over the last 8 months, assisting over 10 participating primary schools in the area, by educating them in the basics of growing seedlings and food crop production using traditional grow box methods and the more developed hydroponics method of growing plants using mineral nutrients, without soil. This initiative has benefited the children through hands on experience in agricultural practices.

In explaining the Branch's outreach efforts, Darren Katwaroo, Branch Manager at Scotiabank Rio Claro stated, "This initiative, which is aligned with the Scotiabank Bright Future Program[®], has benefited hundreds of children directly through hands on experience in agricultural practices. In addition, many families have been assisted indirectly from the garden produce grown by teachers, students and parents of the affiliated schools."

Earlier this month, staff members of the Branch hosted a "Take Your Kids to Work" Day, on which seventeen students from the top participating schools in the area were given the opportunity to see their parent, friend, relative or volunteer host in various roles and responsibilities within Scotiabank, enabling them to better understand the world of work. The objectives of this exercise were to directly link classroom and work experiences, to encourage children to stay in school and to invest in the workforce of tomorrow. Katwaroo added that the effort was "aimed at supporting continuous learning in the pursuance of career opportunities and fostering understanding and co-operation between the Bank and the educational institutions in the community to achieve shared goals." At the end of the day, the students were taken on a tour at Harry's WaterPark where they were exposed to animals and plants indigenous to Trinidad and Tobago.

Key components of the Scotiabank Bright Future Program[®] are the volunteerism of the Bank's staff to provide community service on an ongoing basis, as well as conduct fund-raising on behalf of schools and non-governmental organizations focused on the well-being of children.

Scotiabank is committed to supporting the communities in which we live and work, both in Canada and abroad. Recognized as a leader internationally and among Canadian corporations for its charitable donations and philanthropic activities, in 2008 the Bank provided about \$43 million globally in sponsorships and donations to a variety of projects and initiatives, primarily in the areas of healthcare, education, social services and arts and culture. Scotiabank's Bright Future Program® is on the world wide web at www.scotiabankbrightfuture.com.



From left: Learning the rules of Banking, participating children at Take Your Kids to Work Day, with staff members Deosaran Ramsumair and Gaitrie Persad at Scotiabank's Rio Claro Branch.

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