



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN OFFERS SUPPORT FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER HOME AND MOMS FOR LITERACY

Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 13, 2023. A home for young cancer patients, as well as an ongoing literacy programme received support from CIBC FirstCaribbean as it continues to focus on communities in need through its charitable arm, The FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation. The two non-governmental organisations, Promise House TT and Moms for Literacy were each presented \$5,000 to assist with their ongoing projects.

“Donations from the ComTrust are year-long activities,” explained Anthony Seeraj, Managing Director of CIBC FirstCaribbean’s Trinidad Operating Company. “In keeping with our Corporate Social Responsibility, we ensure that we offer support in areas of Youth and Education, Health and Wellness, Community and the Environment throughout the year. And these two recipients, Promise House TT and Moms for Literacy fall in two of those categories, at least.”

At present, Promise House TT is in the finishing stages of building a home-away-from-home facility for pediatric cancer patients at Villa Assumpta, Santa Cruz. Children with cancer, especially those who reside far from the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, will be closer to the hospital during the length of their treatment.

“Often when families reside far distances from the hospital - for example, Moruga, Toco, La Brea or even Tobago - they struggle to find transportation to follow through with appointments. The home-away-from-home facility will decrease lengthy travel times before and after chemotherapy and radiation treatment, which can be quite grueling. More important, for some children it will increase their chances of attending clinic sessions,” said Cherise Stauble, who serves as Secretary at Promise House TT.

“We are indeed extremely grateful for this generous donation from CIBC FirstCaribbean. It comes at a critical time, as we prepare to finish and furnish the home. These funds will go a long way to making the home a safe and comfortable space for the young people who seek our services.”

The home-away-from-home will include activities such as play and art therapy, tutoring services, and other services that might contribute to the overall well-being of these young cancer patients.

The donation to Moms for Literacy was part of the bank’s International Women’s Day observances in Trinidad. The NGO began its outreach programme in 1991, developed by a group of dedicated mothers working in east Trinidad to promote literacy. They sourced reading material and went around offices and schools encouraging parents to be sure that their children read.

Unique to this group is the monthly Literacy Party held in different parts of T&T and hosted in homes or offices of individuals who invite friends and relatives to discuss how to achieve high levels of literacy in their respective communities. With the credo “Teaching Children to Read with Pleasure not Pressure,” Moms for Literacy is just as focused on building self-esteem and confidence.

“Moms is of the belief that literacy and numeracy are critical elements in the process of learning, and that we have the capability to support parents, teachers and children to improve their reading, writing and comprehension skills. We are committed to the improvement of Literacy Skills among children in Trinidad and Tobago. Moms work with a policy ‘no one must be denied the opportunity to learn to read because they cannot pay,’” said Corretta Francis, office manager at Moms for Literacy.

“With support from CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank we can continue to facilitate our literacy programmes for Primary and Secondary school children throughout the country.”

The ComTrust Foundation was established as a registered charity back in 2002 and over the years has committed over USD\$30 million in support of projects and activities in communities across the bank’s business footprint in the English and Dutch Caribbean. The bank uplifts and empowers people in communities where it has a presence.

Ends



Cherise Stauble of Promise House TT accepts the ComTrust donation from Anthony Seeraj, Managing Director, Trinidad Operating Company, CIBC FirstCaribbean at a handing-over ceremony held recently at the bank.



Corretta Francis of Moms for Literacy accepts the ComTrust donation from Anthony Seeraj, Managing Director, Trinidad Operating Company, CIBC FirstCaribbean at a handing-over ceremony held recently at the bank.

About CIBC FirstCaribbean

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail and Business Banking and Wealth Management segments. We are located in thirteen (13) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,700 employees in 54 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world and CIBC FirstCaribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a member of the CIBC Group. CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution with 11 million personal banking and business clients. Through our three major business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC offers a full range of products and services through its comprehensive electronic banking network, branches and offices across Canada with offices in the United States and around the world.

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