

News Release

CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN FURNISHES FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, September 19, 2018 – Support for the Family Support Network (FSN) continues with a donation of office furniture from CIBC FirstCaribbean.

The bank, which is in the process of refurbishing its offices in Road Town, liaised with Ms. Sasha Stoutt, Director of the FSN to establish the charitable organisations administrative needs and set aside the furniture accordingly.

The donation of a conference table and chairs, reception chairs, and 2 sets of administrative desks and executive privacy desks and office chairs will enable the current full-time team of 3 to work more effectively once the furniture is installed in new premises.

“Our current temporary space is very tight and we are in the process of identifying a new location that we can operate out of properly,” said Ms. Stoutt. “All our existing furniture was trashed by Hurricane Irma and we are working at fold out tables amidst clothes, the pantry and volunteers. The office furniture we’ve received from CIBC FirstCaribbean is in great condition and will create a more conducive work environment for the staff and volunteers. We are also excited to be able to provide our clients with privacy during consultations.”

The donation of the office furniture is the latest support that the bank has given to the FSN. Over the past 11 months, CIBC FirstCaribbean has made a gift of \$8000, provided pallets of hurricane relief supplies, and in May, staff organized an internal food drive for the pantry.

“The team at CIBC FirstCaribbean wholeheartedly believes in the invaluable community service provided by the FSN and never hesitates to endorse in-house initiatives or to reach out to the organization with bigger ticket items,” said Mrs. Lena Stoutt-Frett Support Officer, Human Resources, CIBC FirstCaribbean.”

It is rewarding to know that we can help make a difference with our efforts,” she added.

In 2016 FSN’s new clients totaled 244 and the food pantry alone fed 2,631 people. New clients in 2017 totaled 418 with the ages ranging from 18 to 97.

In the months after the 2017 hurricanes, the total number of persons in households fed from September to December was 1,064. For the year 2017 the total number of persons in households fed was 3,852. According to FSN reports, figures for 2018 surpass that number already.

The work undertaken by the FSN goes beyond the provision of basic food and clothing and includes counselling, mediation, finding temporary accommodation and jobs.

“Our clients come from Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Anegada as well as Tortola. Apart from the support with food and shelter, we tend to be the first stop for people

caught in domestic abuse situations. We spend the majority of our time trying to help people put their lives back together,” said Ms Stoutt. “We need all the help we can get in order to respond to these requests and encourage everyone to continue to keep the FSN in mind when it comes to volunteering, making a one-off donation or pledging longer term support. We also invite businesses to consider assisting us with the monthly overheads such as rent, utilities and in-kind donations such as reams of paper, printer cartridges, note pads etc.”

Beneficiaries and donors can collect or drop off items at the FSN’s current location in the O’Neal Building (below Harney’s) on Main Street from 10:00am – 4:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The FSN can be contacted on (284) 499-0986/0999 or (284) 542-2085.

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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 seventeen (17) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services that fit our customers' lives through approximately 3,000 employees in 68 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with over US\$12 billion in assets and market capitalization of US \$2 billion. We also have an office in Hong Kong. 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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