

Draft Press Release

Josan Sutherland - Achieving her Dreams Despite Cancer

Kingston, October 4, 2018 - Josan Sutherland is not shy about her journey with cancer. Neither is she daunted by it. She is beautiful inside and out, upbeat, cheerful and without fear.

Josan was only 11 years old, a grade 7 student when she injured her ankle and after a series of tests, was diagnosed with bone cancer. Surprisingly, the full weight of her diagnosis was lost on Josan. Her main questions then were, “why am I not in school?” When will I be back in school? She was taken to Florida for treatment and it was then that she was faced with the decision of either having the bone removed from her leg or amputation.

Josan says removing her leg sounded simpler so she chose that option. She received a below the knee amputation and returned home to Jamaica and in her own words, “That’s when it became difficult” and she began to understand what cancer really meant. She felt truly sick and had to be hospitalized for up to 5 days between chemotherapy treatments. However, she soldiered through, got her prosthesis, learnt to walk and headed back to school.

When she arrived at school, wearing a wig and prosthesis, her class mates who had not seen her during her illness were especially kind, and helpful. This special treatment did not last long though, because, after seeing Josan’s spirit of resilience they soon accepted that she was the same girl. Josan successfully completed her studies and received several awards for academic excellence. She moved onto the University of the West Indies and embarked on a Bachelor of Science degree in Physiotherapy.

She was in her third year at University when she was again diagnosed with cancer; this time breast cancer. She had double bilateral mastectomies, took it in stride, did reconstructive surgery, chemotherapy and returned to University.

Today, she is a graduate with honors and is on internship at one of Jamaica’s premier hospitals. She shares her story to motivate others, giving talks whenever requested. She has high hopes for the future with plans to focus on oncology rehabilitation, so that she can bridge the gap which she has identified in her field. She was honoured by the American Cancer Society as an International Hero of Hope for Jamaica, with a view of motivating others to practice early detection and screening in the fight against cancer.

Josan at 26 says she is “thankful to be able to celebrate a full head of hair and say I am cancer free”.

She was the featured speaker at the CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank’s “Walk For The Cure” on Sunday, September 30, 2018, which saw participants including bank employees, relatives and friends, customers and sponsors walking 10 laps at Emancipation Park. Sums raised from registration fees, sponsor contributions and fundraising events hosted by bank employees, benefit programmes of the Jamaica Cancer Society. The bank hosts similar events in the 16 other Caribbean countries in which it has operations - all for the benefit of local cancer organizations.

###

Captions



Josan Sutherland, the featured speaker at the CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank “Walk For The Cure” on Sunday, September 30, 2018.



(l-r) Nigel Holness, Managing Director, CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank; two-time cancer survivor, Josan Sutherland and Yulit Gordon, Executive Director, Jamaica Cancer Society at Walk For The Cure on Sunday, September 30, 2018, at Emancipation Park, Kingston.

Ends

About CIBC FirstCaribbean

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank is a relationship bank offering a full range of market-leading financial services through our Corporate and Investment Banking, Retail, Business & International 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 3000 employees, in 80 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally-listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with over US\$11 billion in assets and market capitalization of US \$1.8 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.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit www.cibcfcb.com, Facebook: CIBCFIB, Twitter: CIBC_FCIB, LinkedIn: CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank, Instagram: CIBCFirstCaribbean, YouTube: CIBC FirstCaribbean

Media contact:

Debra King, Director of Corporate Communications, CIBC FirstCaribbean, Barbados Head Office; telephone: 246 367 2248; fax: 246 421 7148 and email: debra.king@cibcfcb.com.

Media Contact:

Nigel Holness, Managing Director, CIBC FirstCaribbean, Kingston, Jamaica; Tel: (876) 935-4902

Marcia Erskine, Tel: (876) 960-03170, Email: merskine@cwjamaica.com