

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



CHARITIES FEELING EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS-DRIVEN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN.

Nassau, Bahamas, 30 April 2020- As unemployment takes a toll on some families in the Bahamas, the feeding programs run by two charities have seen an increased demand for help while they struggle with dwindling donations amid the coronavirus-driven economic downturn.

The Salvation Army Bahamas and Great Commission Ministries both made the disclosure recently as they received much-needed funds to support their community initiatives from CIBC FirstCaribbean through its charitable arm the FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation-

The monetary contributions made by CIBC FirstCaribbean went toward purchasing pallets of groceries, as well as vouchers for essential medication and personal items. The Salvation Army Bahamas and Great Commission Ministries, who have both worked to provide for the less fortunate for numerous years, will distribute these goods to the hundreds that seek their help on a weekly basis.

Melanese Coakley, Community Relations and Development Associate at Salvation Army Bahamas, described the bank's ongoing support as a beacon of "hope and help". She noted that during these uncertain times, the bank's assistance helps the most vulnerable in our society impacted by COVID-19.

Minalee Hanchell, Executive Director of Great Commission Ministries, echoed Ms. Coakley's comments.

"We are so grateful for the groceries to assist us with our distribution to many needy families," she said.

Both non-profit organizations noted the donations were exceptionally timely as they assist the unemployed and fight against hunger in The Bahamas.

"With so many families struggling with food insecurity today, the roles of these organizations have never been more crucial. CIBC FirstCaribbean is always ready to assist local charities in times of need, and we've stepped up our community support during these unprecedented times," said Nikia Christie, CIBC FirstCaribbean Marketing Manager for The Bahamas and TCI

The bank continues their efforts of COVID-19 relief through special offerings for eligible clients and the donation of necessities to many sectors of society.

Ends



L-R: Major Clarence Ingram, Bahamas Divisional Commander and Gina Daniels, Salvation Army Office Assistant



Vouchers for medical and personal items were prepared and distributed using CIBC FirstCaribbean's substantial donation.



Loads of groceries were purchased with CIBC FirstCaribbean's donation to Great Commission Ministries.

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 sixteen (16) 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\$11 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.

For more information about CIBC FirstCaribbean, visit www.cibcfib.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

Media contact:

Nikia Christie, Marketing Manager, CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank, Turks and Caicos Islands
Telephone: 242 302 6063; Email: nikia.christie@cibcfcb.com

Media contact:

Serena Williams, Serena Williams Media and Public Relations
Telephone: 242 327 7760; Email: serena@serenawilliams-pr.com