



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

TWO CHARITIES RECEIVE \$110,000 IN CHRISTMAS CHEER

Bridgetown, Barbados, December 13, 2021- Two well-known charitable organisations, Jabez House and the Salvation Army, are benefitting from \$110,000 partly because COVID-19 has again prevented CIBC FirstCaribbean from hosting its annual Christmas Staff Party. Jabez House got \$60,000 and the Salvation Army, \$50,000 during a presentation at the bank's Warrens Great House, yesterday (Monday, December 13).

Donna Wellington, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Managing Director, Barbados Operating Company said, 'one of the good things ... that came out of COVID' was that the bank was now able to use the funds from its staff Christmas party to help those in the society who were in need.

Commenting on the choice of Jabez House, Wellington said she was very impressed when she first saw the work of its founder Shamelle Rice. "That so young a person would undertake the work that she has decided to do. It can be no easy task to take in people that some parts of society have rejected, and work with them, teaching skills which allow them to provide for their family, rebuilding self-esteem along the way, all the work of your organisation. Truly a noble calling."

Wellington presented a very surprised Rice with the \$60,000 cheque. Rice had expected to receive \$10,000 from the bank's community donation pool but \$50,000 was added from the money that was initially earmarked for the bank's staff party.

Rice explained that she set up Jabez House as a means of giving back to the community. The philanthropist, who grew up in extreme poverty, traced her life story from a one-room space shared with her mother and two brothers to reaching university. Rice spoke about the impact on her life of a benefactor, who sponsored her education from secondary to tertiary education, as well as primary school teachers who helped her along the way. She said she was intent on paying that kindness forward.

Jabez House provides for vulnerable women particularly sex workers, giving them a second chance for a better life. Since its start in 2012, it has reached over 500 women, resulting in many women leaving the trade to follow a career in retail, cosmetology, hairdressing among other things. Rice described CIBC FirstCaribbean as one of Jabez House's most generous donors, adding that in 2015 when the charity lost everything in a fire, the bank stepped forward and helped in its rebuilding.

The Salvation Army painted a similar story about its relationship with the bank. Divisional Business Manager, Ms. Sherma Evelyn said the Army hoped to raise \$700,000 from its Red Kettle Appeal this year and had already collected \$324,775. She said the bank's \$50,000 was a good boost towards reaching the target.

Evelyn highlighted the Army's charitable work which includes its hot meals programme that has provided 32,180 meals from January to November, this year including over 10,000 under its Meals of Wheel programme, which targets vulnerable people including those with disabilities. The Army also helps fire

victims, distributes monthly food hampers and hosts an annual Back-to-School programme. The Army official thanked the bank, describing it as a long-standing partner in the Army's charity work.

This work, Wellington said was "legendary" noting that "especially in these times, when we hear that people who used to give to the Army are now dependent on it, we start to comprehend the magnitude of their mission."

She said, "The recent stories in the media of the theft of the red kettles fill some with anger to think that someone would steal from an organisation that does so much good, for people in need."

"I trust that this cheque for BDS \$50,000 will go a long way in helping to supply some of the needs of the Centre and those people who you and your team work so hard to help all over Barbados," she added.

-ENDS-



A very surprised Shamelle Rice (left) accepting a cheque for \$60,000 for her charity Jabez House from Donna Wellington, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Managing Director, Barbados Operating Company.



Major Greenidge accepting the cheque for \$50 000 for the Salvation Army from Donna Wellington, CIBC FirstCaribbean's Managing Director, Barbados Operating Company.

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.

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