

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

HELP FOR SPECIAL ED CENTRES SCHOOL FEEDING AND LEARNING PROGRAMS FROM CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN

Castries, January 31, 2022; The Vieux Fort Special Education School (VFSES) and the Soufriere Special Education Centre (SSEC) were among the recipients of CIBC FirstCaribbean’s community support for January.

In support of the ‘no child left behind’ philosophy, the bank made contributions in the amount of XCD 1500.00 to each school, to enable restocking for the school feeding programme, as well as to ensure the availability of learning materials for many of the Centre’s students.

Accepting the cheque on behalf of the VFSES, Principal Mrs. Melka Daniel highlighted the fact that many families are grappling with the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and are faced with challenges such as inadequate amounts of food and school supplies. The school is a service-oriented centre that caters to the needs of children with disabilities/special needs in the areas of spiritual, physical, social and emotional development to facilitate their full inclusion into society.

District Education Officer -Mrs. Joel Charlemagne and school Principal Ms. Claret Regis were on hand to accept on behalf of SSEC. According to Ms. Regis, most of those students are from homes where the parent is most likely suffering from a disability and the family is also in the low socio-economic bracket.

“We are very grateful for the support of the corporate sector. Rest assured that this food will go a long way in meeting the students’ daily dietary needs, especially those who may come in on mornings having not received breakfast from home”. The Centre caters to 45 students with diverse needs, needs such as down syndrome, autism, mental retardation, physical handicapped, extremely slow learners and cerebral palsy.

Over the last quarter, in addition to the usual holiday giving, CIBC FirstCaribbean, has donated approximately XCD 15,000 to primary, secondary, adult learning and special education schools and centres. According to Country Manager Nigel Olliverre, “Education is always a priority for the bank. But in the context of COVID-19, we are keenly aware of the gaps of need arising from the pandemic’s impacts, and our aim is to ensure as much as we can, that all our children have access to the classroom and to the basic dietary requirements to be able to learn.”

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About CIBC FirstCaribbean

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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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