



For Immediate Release -

Enthusiastic Return for Walk for The Cure

Grand Bahama, Bahamas, 24 October 2022 - Hugs and laughter recently rippled through a crowd of eager participants dressed in lilac t-shirts in the 6:00 a.m. pre-dawn darkness as Grand Bahama natives and residents prepared to walk, run, skip or jog toward CIBC FirstCaribbean's Walk for the Cure (WFTC) finish line.

Proceeds from the much-missed, much-appreciated annual fundraiser will go to cancer care organisations throughout The Bahamas, including three on Grand Bahama.

Quarindo Davis, CIBC FirstCaribbean's East Mall Branch Senior Branch Manager said, "We were so pleased to welcome Walk for the Cure back after a long hiatus. It has been a tough few years for Grand Bahama, and it felt great to be able to come together again after Hurricane Dorian and the pandemic to celebrate life, remember those we lost and support the fight against cancer.

"We thank the community for their support of this fundraising activity and look forward to the event getting bigger and better each year."

Nikeia Watson, Mammogram Access Program's (MAP) President, underscored that, "Community support for causes like WFTC is extremely important. It is a demonstration that "The Village" is still viable. It is our declaration that we are still our brothers' keeper. The funds raised in initiatives like WFTC are a consolidated effort by the community to a particular cause.

"These initiatives are even more important now as we all carry the burden of inflation. Early detection is still the most powerful tool we have in the fight against breast cancer, so it is imperative that we provide avenues to ensure that early detection is achievable for all."

MAP was conceived after Hurricane Dorian and birthed during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase the screening rates within the Northern Bahamas. To date, MAP has served over one hundred women solely because of donations. Its overall goal is to screen 2000 women in a calendar year. This will reset the screening rate to pre-Francis and Jeanne levels. Once this benchmark is accomplished, MAP intends to increase the rate by 10% over the preceding five years.

Ms. Watson added, "Over the last twenty years, the screening rates in this region have declined significantly. I started this organization because as a healthcare professional- a mammographer- I felt that more focus was needed in this area. Mammogram Access Program envisions a Bahamas that is not listed among the top ten countries for high breast cancer mortality, and we are going to accomplish this through patient education and engagement and through service. Awareness alone will not accomplish this objective.

MAP is one of the organizations that CIBC FirstCaribbean proudly supports as it not only seeks to spread awareness but continues to support the fight against cancer.

Walk for the Cure was held simultaneously on New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Eleuthera and throughout the region that CIBC First Caribbean, serves. Monies from the walk and associated events are used primarily to assist with the purchase and maintenance of equipment used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients. They are also used to aid, care and counsel patients and their families as well as to raise awareness, and stress the importance of early detection, through education campaigns across the region.

Nikia Christie, CIBC FirstCaribbean’s Marketing Manager said the bank is delighted to be in its eleventh year of the Walk for the Cure initiative.

“Before the pandemic, the event was growing each year, which meant our contribution to the fight against cancer increased each year. Our first walk saw a couple hundred participants, and in 2019 we had nearly 1,000 persons register across New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Eleuthera. Unfortunately, the pandemic meant we couldn’t gather together and walk, but we still managed to raise funds through other creative initiatives in 2019 and 2020. To date, we’ve raised more than half a million dollars in The Bahamas alone for the cause.”



Enthusiastic Walk for the Cure participants warm up.



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A group of CIBC FirstCaribbean employees supporting Walk for the Cure 2022.



Good times among colleagues at Walk for the Cure.



Grand Bahama natives and residents were excited to paint the island lilac for a good cause.



Walk for the Cure participants mingle at the much-missed, much-anticipated event.

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 fifteen (15) countries around the Caribbean, providing the banking services through approximately 2,800 employees in sixty-four branches and offices. We are one of the



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largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1.3 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. 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 eleven 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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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@cibcfib.com

Bahamas Media contact: Telephone: (242) 557-5570; Email: serena@serenawilliams-pr.com
And Ashley Albury, Telephone: (242) 436 1242; Email: ashley@serenawilliams-pr.com