

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AT BTC AND UPTON GARDENS CENTRE GET A BOOST FROM CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN

Castries, January 11, 2022; The acquisition of new equipment by the Upton Gardens Girls Centre and Boys Training Centre (BTC) will assist the institutions in expanding the skills training options available to their students at the start of the new year. The two institutions provide a safe space for vulnerable and at-risk teens and young adults, and provide remedial support in areas such as mentoring, counselling and skills training.

With the support of CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank, the clothing and textile programme at The Upton Garden Girls Centre is now equipped with a number of new sewing machines while the BTC is now in possession of new welding equipment.

One of the aims of the centers is to graduate young adults who are self-sufficient. In accepting the bank's contribution to this effort, Upton Gardens Girls Centre director Jacqueline Massiah-Simeon said that "The machines will go a long way in enhancing their sewing skills and creating opportunities to become entrepreneurs upon completion of the programme". BTC Director Wang Sonson noted the singular role of skills acquisition in "becoming more marketable when reintegrated into the community."

CIBC FirstCaribbean also made a XCD1500.00 contribution to the Dunnator School to purchase books and supplies for the school's library. The books were required to develop the habits of reading among the students and also to improve their motor skills. Dunnator Schools caters to clients ranging in age from 5-25 with special needs associated with varying disabilities.

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About CIBC FirstCaribbean

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