



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hope In Action: Bethel United Church and CIBC Caribbean Support the Homeless

Kingston, Jamaica – December 17, 2024: Bethel United Church, in collaboration with CIBC Caribbean, has renewed its commitment to serving Kingston's homeless population through the Hospitality and Opportunities for Personal Empowerment (HOPE) Centre.

The church hosted a Bazaar on December 14, welcoming over 80 homeless individuals, who were treated to hot meals and provided with vital support services to uplift their spirits and address their immediate needs.

The HOPE Centre, operated in partnership with the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC), delivers daily hot meals, care packages, clothing, and access to bathrooms and shower facilities. The initiative, which costs approximately \$15 to \$20 million annually, also features a thrift store to help sustain its operations. This project embodies Bethel United Church's enduring mission to care for society's most vulnerable.

CIBC Caribbean contributed J\$400,000 to the initiative, reaffirming its dedication to addressing social challenges through meaningful partnerships.

Managing Director Nigel Holness said, "At CIBC Caribbean, we are proud to support initiatives like the HOPE Centre that provide essential services to those who need them most. Together, we can create a stronger, more inclusive community, offering hope and care to those who face the greatest challenges."

In receiving the cheque, Ms. Frances Morrison of Bethel United Church highlighted the importance of outreach to the homeless. "The HOPE Centre is more than just a programme it's a sanctuary for those in need, offering them dignity, support, and a sense of belonging. This partnership proves the incredible impact of collective compassion and action."

The Bazaar was a day of connection, nourishment, and encouragement, serving as a reminder of the critical role public-private collaborations play in alleviating homelessness and fostering community resilience.

Bethel United Church and its partners remain steadfast in serving the underserved. Events like this not only provide immediate assistance but also demonstrate the power of unity and compassion in transforming lives.

Ends



Nigel Holness (right), Managing Director, CIBC Caribbean presents the bank's cheque for \$400,000 to Frances Morrison of Bethel United Church at their Knutsford Boulevard Headquarters on December 13, 2024. The funds will support the church's Hospitality and Opportunities for Personal Empowerment (HOPE) Centre for the homeless and vulnerable population of Kingston & St. Andrew.

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Media contact:

Machel Erskine, PR Consultant, Tel: 876 999-6588 Email, merskinepr@gmail.com

Renee Whitehorne, Marketing Manager, CIBC Caribbean, Jamaica Head Office.

Telephone: +1(876) 935-4901 and Email: renee.whitehorne@cibcfib.com

Debra King, Director of Corporate Communications, CIBC Caribbean, Barbados Head Office

Email: debra.king@cibcfib.com