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- Branch Community Projects -

Library Facelift for Chaguanas RC

The Chaguanas RC Primary School unveiled its new library in June, thanks to the efforts of the staff at Branch Support Services, who adopted the school's library as its Branch Community Project.

The Journey:

How it all began:

- A staff member recommended uplifting the school's library as a potential project.
- The team met with the Principal and conducted a site visit to view the library which was in dire need of repair and material.

The Project Phases:

- **Physical Refurbishment** - A crew of staff volunteered in December to clear, clean, repaint and repair the library.
- **Outfitting Phase 1** - The school teamed up with NALIS to review what books were needed.
- **Outfitting Phase 2** - The staff at BSS purchased the recommended titles as well as wall charts, fans, a White board and stationery for cataloguing.
- **Capacity Expansion** - BSS donated 30 folding chairs to expand the capacity of the existing library to accommodate more students.
- **Literacy Boost** - A further donation of 67 book awards was made to the graduating SEA class.

The End Result:

- A refurbished library with expanded capacity and new material for the students of Chaguanas RC Primary.



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Horses Helping Humans host 1st Family Day

The July/August vacation kicked off with a day of fun for the children and families of the Horses Helping Humans community. The first ever 'Rainbow Family Fun Fair' was sponsored by RBL and held at the Movietowne Play Park at Invaders Bay. The children were treated to snacks, games, pony rides, a petting zoo and face painting.



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Facts About Horses Helping Humans (HHH)

- HHH is a locally registered NGO, founded in 2012
- HHH provides Hippotherapy, or Therapeutic Horseback Riding, to children with autism and other special needs.

What is Hippotherapy?

Hippotherapy and Animal Assisted Therapy can be very effective in improving the communications skills of children with autism and special needs, and can provide many other benefits, including improved core muscle strength, balance, and coordination, and improved social skill development in all children. Equine Assisted Therapy has also been proven to reduce stress and anxiety and depression in both children and adults. (Source: hhhtrinidad.weebly.com)



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A House for Mr. Manrakhan

Members of RBL's leadership team rolled up their sleeves on July 23 to participate in the third Habitat for Humanity Leadership Build. The team dedicated their Saturday to complete the home of Mr. Manrakhan, who lives with his family in Cashew Gardens. RBL continues its support of Habitat for Humanity as part of its five-year partnership. Over 26 builds and repairs have been completed to date.



Habitat for Humanity in Numbers:

1976

Habitat for Humanity International was established

4,000,000

the number of volunteers worldwide who have helped build with HFH since its inception

1997

Habitat for Humanity TT was established by Clive Pantin under the FEEL programme

6,000

the number of persons Habitat for Humanity TT has served in T&T with housing solutions and training since 1997



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A Treat for Tabaquite

Members of the Tabaquite community enjoyed a treat in July with a free open-air concert featuring the Love Movement and Tabaquite R.C. Church Music Ministry choirs. Hundreds converged on the Tabaquite Recreational Grounds to partake in the evening's entertainment, which featured the musical talents of many youngsters from the community.



The Love Movement Senior Choir and Youth Outreach Programme is much more than just a choir, in the same way, that Republic Bank is much more than a bank. They stand as promises. Promises that we are committed to doing what we can to generate a positive and sustainable foundation in our country.

Christopher Aird,
 Manager's Assistant, GMC,
 Republic Bank

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NGO Focus

2 Cents Movement

Developing Socially Responsible Youth



Every issue, we'll highlight a non-profit organisation that we proudly support through our Power to Make a Difference Programme. Get to know our partners, who inspire us with their drive and commitment to bring about change!

The Inspiration

Prior to forming the 2 Cents Movement, the group led a debate club to engage young people in conversation around social issues. Their vision has always been to develop socially responsible youth by tackling the problem of youth apathy on important issues.



The Power of The Spoken Word

While there was some success with the debate club, the group found its appeal among young people limited. In search of a more innovative way to inspire youth to be socially conscious, they began looking at incorporating different performing arts – music, drama and spoken word – and integrating youth-centred digital media into their programmes. The 2 Cents Movement was then launched in January 2012.



DID YOU KNOW?

RBL was the first corporate entity to provide financial support to 2CM. The group's YouTube series, 'My 2 Cents', was gaining traction among young people for its ability to tackle important issues using Spoken Word and its success was enough for the Bank to take notice and offer a grant to produce more hard-hitting videos.



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The Topics

Over the last four years, 2CM has formalised its programmes, adopting a structured approach to bringing subjects to life, and communicating them in a way that resonates with the target audience. Preparing for a workshop or performance involves a number of in depth planning sessions and consultations with behavioural therapists and other subject matter experts. Topics chosen are relevant to young people and range from goal setting to financial literacy and emotional and physical well-being.



One of our greatest challenges right now are the growing pains that come with moving from a small non-profit to a larger organisation.

As we seek to develop a formalised, scalable model for our work and carry it beyond T&T, the demand for expertise grows.

Keeping up with that can be quite challenging but we are up to the task.



Jean-Claude Cournand
Founder of 2 Cents Movement



The Vision

While 2CM is focussed on bringing about real change in T&T by developing engaged, socially responsible youth, they're not afraid to dream big. 2CM wants to take their model to the world and are currently working to develop a sustainable, scalable model of their programmes that will allow them to take their messages and their vision to youth beyond T&T.

- The Power to Succeed -



Young Stars Shine at Republic Cup

The 2016 Republic Bank RightStart National Youth Football League (Republic Cup) ran from May 28 to August 6 with hundreds of young, aspiring footballers vying for top honours. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the tournament which is sanctioned by the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association as the official National Under 15 League. After 6 weeks of intense competition and tremendous displays of talent, discipline and teamwork, Ste. Madeline Strikers (Under 12), San Juan Jabloteh (Under 14) and St. Ann's Rangers F.C. (Under 16) emerged as the league champions.



Why we support Youth in Sports?

The practice of sport brings out the best in us. It fosters healthy development, strategic thinking, discipline and perseverance. Inculcating these qualities in our young people is an investment in the future, and for this reason, youth sporting programmes hold a special place in The Power To Make a Difference Programme.

- The Power to Learn -



Young Writers Graduate from 2nd Writing Workshop

Building on the success of the first Dev Cropper Foundation Creative Writer's Workshop last year, RBL committed to sponsor this year's instalment, which took place from July 24 to July 31. 17 teen writers graduated from this year's programme, which took the format of an in-residence retreat at the Toco Foundation Centre. The programme is held in conjunction with the Ministry of Art and Multiculturalism and The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; and is coordinated by Dr. Merle Hodge and Professor Funso Aiyejina, both formerly of the University of the West Indies' Department of Liberal Arts.

Creativity is a magic wand that works two ways. When you set it in action and seek to create something, it does not just bring into existence that object or work, it also raises in your heart a dream, a hope, and a will to achieve that creation.

Jyoti Arori – Writer

- The Power to Learn -



Boosting Literacy with the YMCA

RBL and the YMCA teamed up for the third consecutive year to host a five day programme around International Children's Book Day. The programme benefits over 60 children from the Morvant/Laventille, Belmont and St. James communities and featured a Spelling Bee, Family Reading night, Reading around the Nations and Children Read Aloud.



- The Power to Learn -

Another Successful Baal Vikaas Vihaar Concludes

The 31st Annual Baal Vikaas Vihaar came to a successful close on the weekend of June 11, with hundreds of primary school students competing in the final round. This year's festival marked eight years of RBL's sponsorship and saw over 5,000 children participating in the preliminary rounds.

Participants in the Baal Vikaas Vihaar compete in the following categories:

- Ramayan Test Piece
- Gita Slokas
- Folk Songs
- Bhajan Singing
- Dance
- Local Classical Singing
- Instrumental
- Chowtaal Singing



This year's winners:

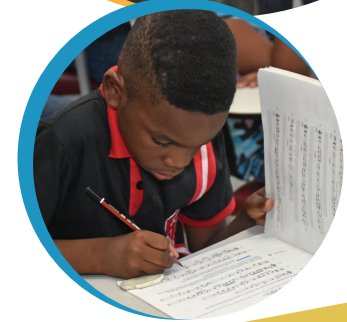
RANK	GROUP A	GROUP B
1st	Freeport Hindu School	Reform Hindu School
2nd	Munro Road Hindu School	Ramai Trace Hindu School
3rd	Debe Hindu School	Palmyra Hindu School
4th	Caroni Hindu School	San Francique Hindu School



- The Power to Learn -

147 Graduate from 2016 Pan Minors Programme

Over 140 young pannists from Trinidad and Tobago graduated from the 2016 Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme, which marked its 31st anniversary this year. The programme continues to be one of the leading youth steelpan literacy initiatives in the country and is open to all schools that feature steelpan as part of their music programme.



Pan Minors at a Glance:

RBL has been supporting the youth steelband movement for over **21** years.

The Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme was launched in **1995** and is a collaboration between RBL and the UWI Department of Creative and Festival Arts.

The programme comprises **30** hours of formal music training over a 3-week period (15 hours of practical training and 15 hours of music reading and writing).

Support for Tobago Heritage Festival

Our support for the Tobago Heritage Festival continued in 2016 with sponsorship of the popular Les Coteaux Folk Tales and Superstitions "Bring Back De Ole Time Days – Cut & Contive". This year marks the festival's 31st anniversary.



FACTS

- Tobago changed hands 33 times; the most in the history of any Caribbean Island
- The Alma Plantation House was one of the great Houses of Les Coteaux.

- The Power to Learn -



Did You Know...
Tassa Taal features both a senior and junior competition, ensuring that the future of tassa drumming is in good hands. Three junior bands competed this year, with five time champion Shiva Boys Hindu College winning the top prize.

Central Rhythms Top Tassa Taal 2016

The Annual Tassa Taal Competition ended on a high note in May with Central Rhythms Tassa Drummers walking away with the 2016 title. The drummers were immediate crowd favourites at the finals, which were held in Penal, when they made their stage entrance accompanied by whipmen and members of the KhanNayak Academy of Dance. Their creative fusion of steelpan and tassa was enough to give them the judges' nod of approval.



Spoken Word for The Environment

Following the first successful year of partnership with Culture House, RBL teamed up with the NGO once again to mark World Environment Day as part of Project AWARE (A Wonderful And Rare Earth). The event, entitled "The Inner Self: Spoken Word for the Environment", was held at The University Inn and Conference Centre in St. Augustine on World Environment Day, June 5. It featured the talents of well-known local poets and spoken word artistes including Arielle John (Two Cents Movement), Osei Jackson, Marge Blackman, Richard 'Solman' Solis, and Baba Ayinde.



Marge Blackman, gospel singer, performs for the audience.



Soulful meditation: Richard 'Solman' Solis, is in soulful meditation.

The event took a different and unique approach to environmental awareness by inviting attendees to reflect on the mental and emotional pollution within themselves, which is often mirrored by our attitudes toward the external environment.