



**RBC Royal Bank**

# **NEWS**

## **RBC CONTRIBUTES OVER \$225,000 TO VITAS HOUSE & ZIPPY'S FRIENDS**

*Port of Spain, Trinidad, December 13, 2012:* RBC continues to invest in building a sustainable national community with a recent donation of \$75,000 to Vitas House, a hospice that provides free palliative care for terminally ill cancer patients; and \$150,000 to Zippy's Friends, in support of its programme to train primary school teachers to recognise and effectively teach and manage children with mental health issues.

Zippy's Friends, is a United Kingdom based organisation that operates in schools and kindergartens in 28 countries and assists over half a million children worldwide. The programme has been implemented locally by the non-profit School Leadership Centre of Trinidad and Tobago, and so far 26 teachers and six principals have already been trained. They currently work with 523 children between the ages 5 - 7 years old in 13 schools across the country.

The Zippy's Friends course for Teachers includes modules of learning that range from: Feelings, Communication, Making and Breaking Relationships to Conflict Resolution, as well as Dealing with Change and Loss. Books, materials, puppets and posters are also provided to 1,200 children.

RBC's contribution will go toward the expansion of the Course to include 30 additional schools and training to be provided to 30 additional principals and 60 teachers through the School Leadership Centre.

Market Head, Personal Banking, RBC Royal Bank, Arvinder Bharath, said, "Our partnership with Zippy's Friends stems from the significant stigma attached to mental illness, which often discourages individuals and families from seeking help. When they do seek help, they can be overwhelmed with information from sources that may



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not be credible. Parents, caregivers, teachers, and professionals who work with children can all benefit from increased education, so they can recognise the early signs of mental illness, and help or encourage the family to seek treatment from a health professional.”

RBC’s \$75,000 contribution to Vitas House is in support of the Flamingo Room as part of the Hospice’s “Adopt-A-Room” facility. Located in St James, Vitas House hospice offers free medical and nursing care to terminally ill cancer patients, which helps to improve a patient’s quality of life during the advanced stages of the illness.

Commenting on the partnership with Vitas House, C.E.O., Caribbean Banking, RBC Suresh Sookoo, added, “We have those among us, family, friends, who are terminally ill with cancer and in desperate need of that peace of mind that becomes paramount leading up to their final days.”

“We are honoured to support the Vitas House, and its ongoing effort to provide free comforting and professional care to cancer patients and the members of their families, when they need this most,” Sookoo said.

The bank’s donation follows closely on the heels of an ongoing campaign to partner with various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the pursuit of sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago. The most recent contributions include Kids in Need of Direction (KIND), St. Anthony’s College, birdsong Academy and Heroes Foundation.

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***Vitas House Cheque Presentation - Fianna Lalla-Seenath, RBC Royal Bank Branch Manager, Maraval (centre left) presents to Dr. Jacqueline Sabga, Chairman/Medical Director of Vitas House (centre right) as Marcia Pinard, Marketing Officer, Vitas House (far right) and Lilia Mootoo, General Manager, Vitas House look on.***



***The School Leadership Centre – Market Head, Personal Banking, RBC Royal Bank, Arvinder Bharath (left) spends some quality time with Elizabeth Crouch of the School Leadership Centre, as they look over some workshop material offered by the Centre.***



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### **About RBC**

Royal Bank of Canada (RY on TSX and NYSE) and its subsidiaries operate under the master brand name RBC. We are Canada's largest bank as measured by assets and market capitalization, and are among the largest banks in the world, based on market capitalization. We are one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies, and provide personal and commercial banking, wealth management services, insurance, corporate and investment banking and investor services on a global basis. We employ approximately 80,000 full- and part-time employees who serve more than 15 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the U.S. and 49 other countries.. For more information, please visit [rbc.com](http://rbc.com)

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