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- Branch Community Projects -



In Service to the Community Rio Claro Embraces the Spirit of Volunteerism

When it comes to making a difference, the Rio Claro branch has shown that size does not matter. Small but mighty, the 35 staff members have been quietly but diligently making a difference in their community since the Branch Community Projects programme was launched, three years ago. Led by Branch Sales Manager, Jemma Persad, Rio Claro has successfully completed four projects that touched a wide cross section of the community – from school-aged children to senior citizens.



Tips for Getting Staff to Rally around Projects

Here's how the team gets "all hands on deck":

- Eyes and ears – All staff members are encouraged to look for needy cases in their community and recommend potential projects
- 100% involvement – Projects are voted on by all staff at a branch meeting
- Low hanging fruits – Selected projects are those in which staff can actively participate and see visible results

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Successfully Completed Projects

- Stepping Up - repairs to a public walkway
- Stairway to Heaven Part II - handrails and plants installed at the repaired walkway
- Covering Our Community – refurbishment of a dilapidated bus shed
- We Read Too – upgrade to the library facilities at Rio Claro ASJA Primary School



The coordinating team conducts a feasibility study when reviewing selected projects. The feasibility study determines whether or not it makes sense to pursue the project within the given financial, physical, human resource and time constraints.

Where there's a will...

There have been times when certain projects exceeded the financial limitations, but the team hosted fundraisers, such as curry-q's, cake sales and raffles to generate the additional funds.

Volunteering has to be a part of your branch culture. It has to be a natural extension of your desire to be of service to your community.

Zobida Khan-Baksh

Plans for 2016

The branch is hoping to focus on school projects in the next fiscal. Inspired by the Bank's literacy caravan, from which several schools in Rio Claro benefitted, the branch intends to go into more schools to determine what is needed. "When you walk into a school, to see the children's eyes light up when they see you, it is so heartwarming. You are taking the time to visit them, to read with them, to see their needs – that is truly making a difference," says Zobida.

“We are fortunate to have a manager who is passionate about volunteerism. When staff see the drive coming from the top, they feel motivated.”

Zobida Khan-Baksh

- Health -



Cancer Prevention is in Your Hands

Republic and Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society Team Up To Raise Cancer Awareness

It's been six years since Republic joined forces with the Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society to raise awareness for cancer testing and prevention, during the month of October.



Activities held to mark Cancer Awareness Month were:

- Walk 4 Life – Walks in both Trinidad & Tobago to celebrate the lives of those affected by cancer
- Edufest – educational symposium targeting primary and secondary school children, spreading messages about healthy lifestyles, exercise and the dangers of smoking
- Candlelight Vigil – the finale of the month of activities, remembering those we have lost to cancer
- Free Screening – the RBL sponsored mobile clinics travelled the length and breadth of the country, targeting rural areas to offer free screening for breast, cervical and prostate cancer



On the Incidence of Cancer in T&T

“Sadly, far too many men in our society, driven by years of Caribbean machismo, are reluctant to test for prostate cancer – even though there are now new methods of doing this. This reluctance translates into one of the highest mortality rates in the region.”

Hilton Hyland, General Manager, Commercial and Retail Banking

- Health -

Cancer in T&T

- T&T is one of three countries with the highest cancer rates in Latin America
- Mortality rates from cancer in T&T are higher in men than women
- Prostate Cancer is the leading type of cancer in T&T
- Other common cancers in T&T are lung, stomach, colorectal, breast and cervical



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Facts about Cancer

- There are over 100 types of cancer – any part of the body can be affected.
- In 2008, cancer accounted for 13% of deaths worldwide.
- Tobacco use is the single largest preventable cause of cancer in the world causing 22% of cancer deaths.
- Breast, cervical and colorectal cancer can be cured if detected early and treated adequately.
- More than 30% of cancer could be prevented, mainly by not using tobacco, having a healthy diet, being physically active and moderating the use of alcohol.

When last did you screen? Get Tested Early and Often.

- Culture -

Centre City Celebrates Divali with Customers

Centre City Branch's Divali celebrations have become an annual fixture for the Chaguanas community and 2015 was no different. The staff-organised event once again brought together members of the community, customers and staff to mark the Festival of Lights.



- Poverty Alleviation -

RBL Leaders Support Habitat Build in Tobago

Lowlands Family of 7 Receives Keys to New Home

Theresa and her grandmother Anderesa, and her family of seven lived in a cramped, termite-ridden wooden structure with no indoor plumbing, before receiving the keys to their new home from Habitat for Humanity in November. Members of the RBL management team and Tobago branches spent a day with the Habitat for Humanity volunteers working to complete the new three-bedroom concrete home for the family.



When you go through your daily lives, pay attention to those around you and listen to that voice within that says I should help. I can help. And get started. Be the catalyst of positive change within your communities. It only takes one person.

Hilton Hyland, General Manager, Commercial and Retail Banking.

RBL & HFH in Numbers:

4

the number of builds RBL has completed with HFH since the start of our partnership in 2010

1st

the Francois home marks our first build in Tobago

5k

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

- Youth Development through Culture -



“UMBUNTU” I am because we are

Holy Faith Convent, Penal, walked away with first place at the recently concluded National African History Quiz. The finals took place at our Head Office in Port of Spain and featured a spoken word segment, which was won by Samara Wallace of Atwell’s Educational Institute. The finals marked the end of National African History Month which is coordinated by the Emancipation Support Committee and sponsored by the Bank as part of its thrust to develop youth through culture and education.



Winners’ Row:

- 1st – Holy Faith Convent, Penal
- 2nd – San Fernando West
- 3rd – St. Joseph’s Convent, Port of Spain
- 4th – Siparia East Secondary



North Gate College Cops Top Prize in RS Teen Debate

The annual RS Teen Ultimate Debate came to a successful close in November with North Gate College walking away with the winner’s trophy. It was a hotly contested series, with the semi-finals and finals tackling the contentious issue of youth membership in gangs and the anti-gang legislation.



- Disaster Relief -

Relief for Dominica

In response to the devastation wrought upon Dominica by Tropical Storm Erika in August, the Bank's territories came together to contribute USD 40,000 to the Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross (TTRC). The TTRC used the funds to send relief to citizens affected by the storm. Twenty people were killed by Tropical Storm Erika and substantial damage was done to the Island's infrastructure, setting it back some 20 years, according to Prime Minister Skerrit.



Margarita Elliot (standing, far left), Director Human Resources/Operational Development at the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) and Angela Gouveia, Director of Communications at TTRCS (sitting, far left) posed for a photo, on October 7, at our Head Office with Managing Director, David Dulal-Whiteway; General Manager, Group Marketing and Communications, Michelle Palmer-Keizer (standing) and Social Investment Officer, Nadia Williams.

International Effort

Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana, Barbados, Suriname and Ghana all contributed towards the sum donated to the TTRC, making the contribution a truly international effort.

Environmental Education through Storytelling

RBL-sponsored NGO, Culture House, commemorated Universal Children's Day on November 20th at NALIS with Environmental Storyfest – a storytelling festival for Primary School children. The festival focussed on preservation of the environment.



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Facts about
Environmental
Storyfest

- 300 primary school children attended the event
- 10 primary schools were represented
- The event was part of Project AWARE (A Wonderful And Rare Earth), which is sponsored by the Bank and aims to raise awareness on a wide range of environmental issues
- Culture House uses the art of storytelling to deliver its messages
- Students and teachers attended a storytelling workshop in June, hosted by Aunty Thea, to learn about the art