

DEFINING SOCIAL HAPPINESS



What's Inside:

- 2** Foreword by Nadia Williams
- 3** Young Talent on Display at Baal Vikaas Vihaar finals
- 4** Trendsetter Hawks Top 2018 Republic Youth Football League
- 6** Record Participation in 2018 Sea To Sea Marathon
- 7** RBL Helps Youth and the Differently-Abled for United Way Day of Caring
- 8** Youngsters Read to Their Communities
- 10** Parenting TT Hosts Family Day
- 11** First Bubbles For Life launched in TT
- 13** Throwback to #181GoodDeeds

Happiness – N – A state of well-being or contentment
 Definition by Merriam-Webster Dictionary

- The First Word -

Building A Happy Society



Nadia Williams, Social Investment Officer

The 2018 World Happiness Report was released toward the end of last quarter. The annual UN publication measures happiness based on GDP, Social Support Services, Life Expectancy, Perception of Corruption and Freedom to make life choices. T&T ranked 38th out of 156 countries, the same position as 2017. European countries dominate the top 10 places, with Central American, South American and Middle Eastern countries rounding out the next 20. A good showing for T&T, which prompts one to ask – for all the challenges we may face, are we building a happy society?

The Happiness Index came to mind when flipping through the stories of this MADE issue. The photos exude happiness – young footballers holding their trophy in

triumph, families running through a sea of bubbles celebrating the memories of loved ones, school children beaming with pride as they read books to their classmates and parents, a marathon runner crossing the finish line, volunteers happily working together to make a school cleaner and more welcoming to its students – the list goes on. It is the sum of all these actions that contributes to that feeling of well-being and contentment. These are the little moments of happiness that go a long way in building constructive, well-adjusted and stable societies.

Through the Power to Make a Difference, we aim to build a better society; and I dare say, a better society is a happy place to be! We are proud to support programmes that are bringing families together, improving health, setting up young people for academic and sporting success and allowing talented individuals to realise their dreams. We hope this issue brings as much happiness to you as it did to us!

Nadia

- Power To Learn -



Another Successful Baal Vikaas Concludes Youngsters Embrace Hindu Culture and Tradition

The future of time-honoured Hindu traditions is in safe hands in Trinidad and Tobago, judging from the impressive performances put on by hundreds of primary school students at the finals of the 2018 Baal Vikaas Festival. The curtain came down on the annual festival, which is in its 32nd year, with a colourful and talented display of song, recital and dance. The finals took place at the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS) Headquarters in St. Augustine and marked RBL's 10th year of sponsorship of the event.



The future
depends on what
you do today.

Mahatma Gandhi



Schools competed in a number of categories such as a Ramayan Test Piece, Gita Slokas, Bhajan Singing, Local Classical Singing, Instrumental, Folk Song and Dance.

- Power To Succeed -

Trendsetter Hawks Top 2018 Republic Cup National Youth Football League

Marking its 24th year, the Republic Cup National Youth Football League came to a riveting close with Trendsetter Hawks ousting defending champs QPCC for this year's trophy. The tournament kicked off in March with hundreds of clubs participating across all zones in Trinidad and Tobago. The longest running youth football league in the country, the tournament is sanctioned by the TT Football Association and is viewed as an important stepping stone in the careers of young aspiring footballers.



2018 Republic Cup National Youth Football League

Winners' Row

Under 12 – Trendsetter Hawks
 Under 14 – Trincity Nationals
 Under 16 – Trendsetter Hawks

MVP's

Under 12 – Addae Paponette – QPCC
 Under 14 – Omari Flanders – Trincity Nationals
 Under 16 – Josiah Edwards – Trendsetter Hawks

- Power To Succeed -



Republic Cup Player Impresses Man U Coaches

Tournament under 12 MVP and top scorer Addae Paponette, who plays with QP Academy, impressed scouts from Manchester United, Sheffield United, West Bromwich Albion and Stoke City when he attended a two-week tour in England with his club over the July/ August vacation. Upon completion of the club tour, the QRC student was invited to stay on with CrownPro Elite Football Academy for further training and recruitment opportunities. Looks like there's a bright future ahead for this Republic Cup alum!



- Power To Succeed -

South Americans Rule the Road in 3rd Sea To Sea Marathon

Venezuelan Pedro Mora cruised to victory in the 3rd annual Tobago Sea to Sea Marathon with a time of 2:39:04 in the 26.2-mile road race. Colombian Jose Diaz took second place and Trinidadian Curtis Cox came in third. Scores of local and international athletes descended on Lambeau, Tobago to participate in the event which is fast becoming a high-profile fixture on the international road running calendar. The event is aimed at heightening awareness for environmental preservation and promoting healthy lifestyles.



Many people still do not know that Trinidad and Tobago was at the forefront of the earliest stages of the environmental conservation movement. We started back in 1776 when the Tobago Main Ridge Forest became the first legally protected forest reserve in the World. That is no small accomplishment and it's important for us to pass that knowledge and that legacy on to our youth so they can be sure that 'small' is not a label that limits them. It is entirely within their potential to be leaders on the World's stage.

Shedley Branche
RBL Area Manager - Tobago

- Power To Care -



United Way Day Of Caring 2018 RBL Staff Support Youth and Differently-Abled

Over 400 staff members, along with their friends and family, came out for United Way T&T's 6th annual Day of Caring. In keeping with our pillars of the Power to Make A Difference programme, the Bank chose projects focussed on the youth and differently-abled. The teams dedicated their Sunday to enhancing the structures of St. Roses Girl's RC School, St. Finbar's Girl's RC School and the National Centre for Persons With Disabilities by applying fresh coats of paint and assisting with general repairs.



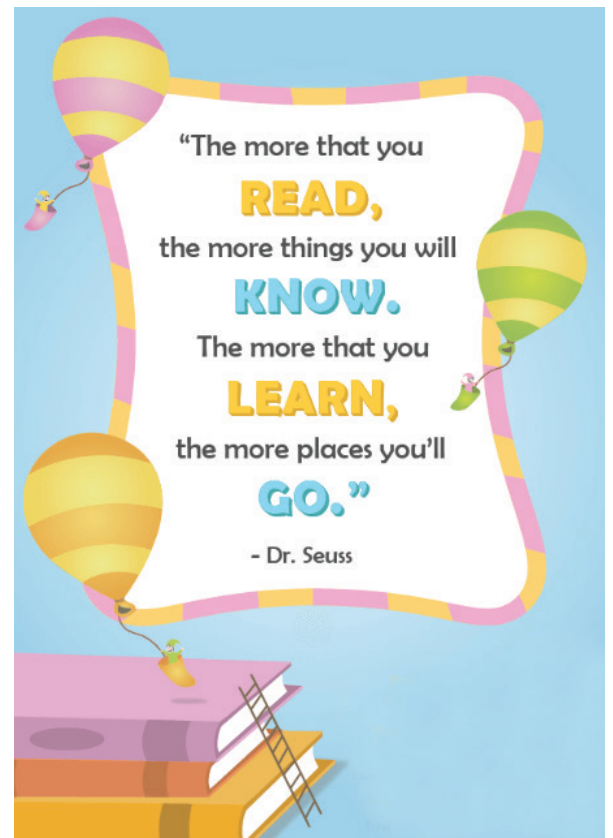
Life's most persistent and urgent question is – what are you doing for others?
Martin Luther King Jr.



- Power To Succeed -

Leading For Literacy RBL and School Leadership Centre Team Up to Promote Literacy

Together with the School Leadership Centre, we hosted the 2018 Leading For Literacy! programme – a leadership course that provides school principals and teachers with the necessary tools and resources to support the critical stages of reading at the Infant 1 and 2 levels. This year marks our 4th year of sponsorship of the programme, which was originally hosted by UNESCO. The programme also features a component for parents. 35 schools participated in this year's programme with 1,462 children taking up the challenge to read to their peers, friends and family.



- Power To Succeed -

Reading – A Form of Escapism

Children should be encouraged to read books that bring them joy and peak their interest. Even as an adult, you can still vividly recall books that captivated you as a child. They transported you to another world – a form of escapism that is therapeutic and strongly linked to the pleasure centers of the brain.

Studies show that reading also helps children:

- Build confidence
- Expand vocabulary
- Develop empathy
- Sleep better
- Enjoy quiet moments alone



- Power To Care -



Parenting TT Hosts Family Day to Strengthen Parenting Skills

Families were treated to a day of fun, creativity and entertainment at local NGO, Parenting TT's, Family Fun Fair - It's Elemental. The event featured activities centred around the five elements – Earth, Wind, Fire, Water and Aether with RBL sponsoring the Earth zone. The Earth zone featured a silent auction of artwork created by young artists, distribution of seedlings and open art pieces where patrons could add their own splash of colour.



About Parenting TT

For over 21 years, ParentingTT has been supporting families through their parent education programmes, using creative and innovative outreach ideas to connect with families in need. In 2016 and 2017, they hosted two family plays, "To Light" and "Boundaries", respectively. These plays allowed families to engage in interactive conversations about substance and sexual abuse and other social issues.



- Power To Care -



Inaugural Bubbles For Life Held in Tarouba Walk Is in Partnership with TT Cancer Society

RBL and TT Cancer Society hosted the inaugural Bubbles for Life this year at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba. The event replaces the annual Walk for Life which RBL also sponsored for the last ten years. Bubbles for Life is a novel approach to cancer awareness, engaging participants in a livelier, more energising experience to educate and generate discussion around cancer and cancer prevention.

Over 5,000 persons supported the event this year – a milestone achievement for the Cancer Society – with the final proceeds of \$500,000 going to the TT Cancer Society.

Very special mention and thank you to the 'True Blue Spirit' of our own RBL staff, who came out in their numbers to make the inaugural event a resounding success!



- Power To Care -



Tell Us!

Did you participate in our 1st Bubbles For Life? Tell us what you thought of it!

Email: newsroom@republictt.com



Did you know?

Over 5,000 people supported the event this year – a milestone achievement for the Cancer Society with a whopping \$500,000.00 raised for the TT Cancer Society.

-THROWBACK -

More #181GoodDeeds

We continue to recognise our branches for their efforts in our #181GoodDeeds challenge!



Tunapuna West - 1 Branch, 8 Members, 1 Ward

The staff at Tunapuna West paid a special visit to the Pediatric Ward of Mt. Hope Hospital, gifting the patients with toys, books, snacks and drinks.

Woodbrook - 1 Branch, 8 Boxes of Groceries, 1 Community

The Woodbrook branch staff presented eight boxes of groceries to the Emmanuel Community of T&T and the Mercy Home for the Elderly.

Branch Support Services - 1 Team, 8 Books, 1 School

Our Branch Support Services team focussed on the importance of literacy in their #GoodDeeds Challenge, donating eight books to the remedial class of the Chaguanas Government Primary School.

