

Republic Bank



Words change worlds

THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

[2013 - 2018]



THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

[2013 - 2018]

INSIDE

Power to Make A Difference, Volume 3.



Highlight

Inspirational speaker Don La Foucade: “I must tell you this,” he says, “one word at the right time can change a life forever.”



4

A Message from the
Managing Director

6

Foreword

8

POWER TO CARE

Horses Helping Humans
Step by Step Foundation
Transplant Links Community
Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society
Hope of a Miracle Foundation
SickKids Foundation

29

POWER TO LEARN

Zebapique Productions
Republic Bank Junior Parade of the Bands
National Carnival Bands Association Mas Academy
Emancipation Support Committee
Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha
School Leadership Centre
Mytyl School
Republic Bank Pan Minors

C O N T E N T S

55

POWER TO HELP

Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago
Adult Literacy Tutors Association
In Full Flight!
Women Across Differences
Loveuntil Foundation
Republic Bank Staff Volunteerism Programme

74

POWER TO SUCCEED

Royhil Seals Water Polo Championships
Andrew Lewis Sailing Camp
Grenada Youth Adventurers
Jane Young Junior Golf Clinic
Tobago International Sea to Sea Marathon
Republic Cup National Youth Football League
Republic Bank RightStart Cup

96

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Jair Tjon En Fa
Andrew Lewis

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Special thanks to our contributors from the Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations who shared their experiences with us.



“This book should remind us all that Republic Bank remains committed to being an integral part of society.”

~ Nigel M. Baptiste ~
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Republic Financial Holdings Limited,
Managing Director, Republic Bank Limited

A message from

T H E M A N A G I N G D I R E C T O R



While compiling this narrative, we spoke to a young woman who we were able to help build a house, thanks to some timely assistance from a close ally and the Power to Make a Difference programme. At just the age of 18, she was justifiably proud of her accomplishment.

She was intrigued that a bank – which she had always thought of as a place solely devoted to financial transactions – was associated with helping to extricate her from a difficult living situation. Her story resonated with me as proof of the sometimes surprising difference a corporate entity can make.

As I reviewed the photographs on these pages and read the words of the people impacted by our efforts, I felt proud of the corporate footprint outside of our network. I was also inspired to find new and better ways to make a difference – by choosing the right causes to support and encouraging expansion of their capacity.

[#RepublicBank](#) [#PowerToMakeADifference](#)

I look back on the days when, mixing concrete side by side with eager staff members, (some of whom couldn't tell a trowel from a putty knife), I could feel their zeal and pride in helping others. This, in turn, sparked my own enthusiasm; reminding me of why the Power to Make A Difference exists.

There are unfortunately too many occasions when we become so bogged down by our jobs that we easily forget that there is always something that we can do to help others survive and prosper.

This book should remind us all that Republic Bank remains committed to being an integral part of society. It is proof of our capacity to enable truly transformative initiatives and our inherent power to make a difference as we work as a team and with the wider community.

[Nigel M. Baptiste](#)



“They guide our
understanding of
what the Republic
Group can do to
help build successful
sustainable societies.”

~ Michelle Palmer-Keizer ~
General Manager,
Group Marketing and Communications,
Republic Bank Limited

F O R E W O R D



Every five years, Republic Bank looks inward at the results of our Power to Make A Difference programme. We want to know how we measure up as a corporate citizen and whether our partners are making the difference we hope to enable.

Much of what we know about the impact of our Corporate Social Responsibility is gleaned from data but there are other ways of measuring what we have accomplished.

This book is a compendium of stories, told mostly by the beneficiaries of the projects we support. They're the ones making the most of our partnerships by finding

self-fulfilment, relief from hardship, and avenues to self-expression. They guide our understanding of what the Republic Group can do to help build successful sustainable societies.

The programmes' administrators also play a part in shaping the narrative of the Power to Make A Difference. They are best placed to testify to the impact of what they do. This publication is dedicated to their efforts to make the communities we proudly serve better places to live, work, play and grow.

[Michelle Palmer-Keizer](#)



POWER TO Care

Horses Helping Humans

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Step by Step Foundation

~

Transplant Links Community

~

Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society

~

Hope of a Miracle Foundation

~

SickKids Foundation



A story from

H O R S E S H E L P I N G H U M A N S

“Unless you are affected by a child with disabilities in your own life, you don’t have a clue because our society doesn’t make that something that everybody should be aware of. So these families suffer in silence. Republic Bank understands it from the parents’ perspective, and that is a very special quality.”

– Karen Stollmeyer, Hippotherapist and Speech/Language Pathologist at Horses Helping Humans

A story from

H O R S E S H E L P I N G H U M A N S

“
You now have children who
can learn.
”

Ten-year-old Luke is at the severe end of the autistic spectrum. When he first arrived at Horses Helping Humans (HHH) in 2015, he was barely manageable. All he did was shriek, giggle and try to run away from HHH therapist, Karen Stollmeyer.

Luke's parents both worked and his grandmother wasn't equipped to manage his disability. He was hyperactive and only slept in brief snatches. His family was exhausted and on the brink of psychological collapse.

But Luke was magnetically drawn to the horses, which allowed Stollmeyer to set rules that gradually changed his behaviour. If he kicked or screamed, she told him, the horse would bite or kick him back. He had to adapt to get close.

Ever so slowly, accompanied by lots of boundary-setting and tools for self-regulation, his negative behaviour ebbed.

But even after the first year, Stollmeyer could only report that Luke wasn't screaming as much.

Three years and several sessions later, Luke has made tremendous progress. On a family trip to a marine animal park, he sits quietly and looks out the plane window. Previously non-verbal, he now counts and says single words.

Best of all, Luke has even made another friend at HHH as he's been joined by another autistic child enrolled in the programme.

Seven-year-old Tej was hyperactive at first, bouncing all over like a rubber ball. One of the goals was to get him to settle. Like his companion, Luke, he has made significant progress. He attends school now and continues to develop his precocious mind. And, like Luke, he also follows the rules.

[#HorsesAreHealers](#)



The boys arrive at their sessions bubbling with anticipation. They hug their therapist, fetch grass, groom the animals, and ride.

“You now have children who can learn,” beams Stollmeyer.



*TITLE PAGE & TOP: Luke and HHH therapist, Karen Stollmeyer
RIGHT: Tej gets up close with the horses*



A story from

S T E P B Y S T E P F O U N D A T I O N

“It’s only too easy to have what would essentially be a daycare. But what we want is a school where we can maximise their potential.”

– Dr. Suraiya Ismail, Chairperson, Step by Step Foundation

A story from

S T E P B Y S T E P F O U N D A T I O N

“
Maximising each child’s
potential is the goal.
”

In 2011, Step by Step Foundation, a nonprofit organisation based in the capital of Georgetown, established a school to help children with autism spectrum disorders and other neurological disorders in Guyana meet their fullest potential.

While no survey has been conducted on the prevalence of autism in Guyana, extrapolation from US estimates points to the fact that there could be as many as 2,000 people nationwide with the neuro-behavioural condition which impairs language and social skills.

Currently, Step by Step is able to attend to 15 students at the school. However, their service in doing more to empower those with autism and their families extends across the nation. It is an effort, magnified by a partnership with the Ministry of Education, that facilitates the training of government teachers to take their skills into the public system.

As part of this training, through the Power to Make A Difference, Step by Step flies in two consultants, several times a year, to assess the children’s progress and monitor tutor performance.

“Our consultants’ input has been absolutely crucial in making our school, a school of quality,” says Step by Step chairperson, Dr. Suraiya Ismail.

“I would be hard-pressed to think of another school, not only in Guyana, but also I would say in the Caribbean, that functions at the high level that we do.”

The Autism Awareness Walk, held annually in April, is another joint Step by Step and Republic Bank initiative created to raise awareness and funds for the school and other autism activities. A community favourite for the past three years, the annual Walk has earned the endorsement

[#StepbyStepGuyana](#)



and support of several prominent local figures, including Her Excellency, Sandra Marie Granger, First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

Step by Step’s impact is perhaps best felt in families’ homes around the nation where small behavioural changes mean the world.

“We have children who can talk who could never talk before,” explains Dr. Ismail, “and others who can read, write and do math.” While most of the students may not ever be able to attend mainstream schools, she is confident they will go much further in life with the dedicated care of well-trained professionals.

TOP: First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Her Excellency, Sandra Granger and Republic Bank Guyana Management team lead the annual Autism Awareness Walk

LEFT: A visiting consultant shares a moment with a student at the Foundation





A story from

T R A N S P L A N T L I N K S C O M M U N I T Y

“A transplant costs less than dialysis and improves patients’ quality of life. There is an increasing problem of kidney failure in Barbados, and this is an important step in giving choice and hope to patients who are suffering.”

– Dr. Lisa Belle, co-initiator of Barbados’ Sustainable transplant programme

A story from

T R A N S P L A N T L I N K S C O M M U N I T Y

“
It was just lovely to see her
back, having a normal life
”

In 2016, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados, Glenn Sobers lay in an operating theatre awaiting transplant of her husband’s kidney. The surgery, intended to finally free her of the twice-weekly dialysis treatments she must undergo, was performed by the nonprofit British medical organisation, Transplant Links Community (TLC), and a highly skilled team of local surgeons and nurses.

TLC’s pursuit of more stories like Glenn’s is part of a broader mission to bring sustainable kidney transplant programmes to more countries in the Caribbean and Africa. They have already begun to fulfil this mission in Trinidad and Tobago where they are imparting life-saving skills and techniques to teams of local specialists.

Introduced in Trinidad and Tobago in 2008, the programme has produced encouraging results with more than 170 procedures successfully performed on patients at

the Eric Williams Medical Complex, Mt Hope. In that time, the Trinidad and Tobago system has become a model for other countries, including Barbados where Glenn lives.

Since the time of her procedure, the TLC team has made several working visits to Barbados. But adults aren’t the only beneficiaries, as TLC’s paediatric service has also been gaining momentum.

“The best ones to see are the children,” says TLC chief executive, Dr. Jennie Jewitt-Harris. “It transforms their lives completely.”

Jewitt-Harris saw Glenn on a recent visit to Barbados. She was on her feet and recovering well with her new kidney working away as intended. “It was just lovely to see her back, having a normal life,” says Jewitt-Harris.

#TransplantLinks

TITLE PAGE: Dr. Margaret O’Shea, Consultant Surgeon at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, operates with TLC surgeon Mr. Nick Inston.



*TOP: Glenn and Martin Sobers in Barbados.
LEFT: Transplant surgeon Dr. Malcolm Samuel of Trinidad (right) with TLC
surgeon Mr. Steve Mellor
RIGHT: A paediatric kidney transplant patient at the Mt Hope Hospital, Trinidad.*



A story from

T R I N I D A D & T O B A G O
C A N C E R S O C I E T Y

“We feel that students are the millennials, the influencers. If we can impart the message to them about making lifestyle changes that could impact cancer numbers, they can go back and talk to their parents.”

– Sherine Mungal, Managing Director of Eidetic Creative

A story from

T R I N I D A D & T O B A G O
C A N C E R S O C I E T Y

“
We also wanted it to be a
celebration of life.
”

Students of Chaguanas North Secondary School gather around a display of smoke-blackened lungs at the Cancer Society’s “I Care” campaign in 2018. Squeamishly prodding the spongy tissue, they grimace.

“We wanted to make the campaign attractive to those in secondary schools,” says Kevin Cox, General Manager of the Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society.

“I Care Because Cancer Doesn’t” has been making the school circuit since 2017, educating children about the importance of early detection and the effect of lifestyle on the risk of getting cancer.

As many as 10 schools participate at a time – to hear presentations, interact with displays, and present on what they’ve learned. Most of all, these students have a chance to learn how they can play active roles in saving lives and spreading awareness across the country.

“We feel that they’re the millennials, the influencers,” says Sherine Mungal, Managing Director of Eidetic Creative, which conceptualised the “I Care” campaign.

“So if we can talk to them and impart the message to them, they could then go back and talk to their parents.”

The campaign, which continues to grow from strength to strength, won an advertising award the year it was launched in 2017.

With greater outreach as the aim, the Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society’s Walk for Life has also been rebranded to appeal to youth. Now Bubbles for Life, the Walk has been moved from October to June to set it apart from the range of other cancer-awareness activities taking place at that time.

[#FightAgainstCancer](#)



Whether as Walk for Life or Bubbles for Life, the event has always been a demonstration of solidarity for the friends and families of people who have passed away, some after years of treatment.

Now it has evolved to become a celebration of life and an outpouring of support for those and their families courageously battling the disease today.



TITLE PAGE: Students get up close with the effects of cigarette smoking at an I Care symposium

THIS PAGE: Supporters enjoy a moment at the Bubbles for Life event



THIS PAGE: Participants show their support for the fight against cancer



RIGHT: "Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society facilitator, Sherma Mills shares a message at an "I Care Because Cancer Doesn't" symposium



A story from

H O P E O F A M I R A C L E F O U N D A T I O N

“When they come back and have had these surgeries done, those children start bouncing off the walls. Yes, parents now get more tired because they have to run after healthy children, but it’s all for the betterment.”

– Cindy Schutters, President of Hope of a Miracle Foundation

A story from

H O P E O F A M I R A C L E F O U N D A T I O N

“
We didn't know what to do,
what step to take next.”

If you saw 13-month-old Azari Charles today, scooting around his living room, ‘talking’ on a remote control, shoving obstacles aside and lunging for the door when it opens, you’d never know that not too long ago, this boisterous boy had a tiny time-bomb in his chest.

Two months after his birth, at a routine check-up, Azari was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot – an opening between the chambers of his heart that meant his blood wasn’t fully oxygenated before being pumped to his body.

Left unrepaired as he grew, living with the condition would mean that he would suffer from the occasional bout of shortness of breath and possibly life-threatening heart failure.

A paediatric cardiologist informs his parents that their son has to be taken abroad for surgery as soon as possible.

“We were in shock,” says Azari’s mother, Maya Julien. “We were just lost. We didn’t know what to do, what step to take next.”

After unsuccessfully seeking assistance from many associations, Maya hears about the Hope of a Miracle Foundation, part-funded through the Power to Make A Difference. Within weeks of reaching out to them, great news comes her way.

“The hospital already approved him,” relays Hope of a Miracle President, Cindy Schutters. “Now it’s just for you guys to organise your stuff and go.”

On the day of surgery at Holtz Children’s Hospital in Florida, Maya feels overwhelmed as 8-month-old Azari is wheeled into theatre to have the procedure performed. Several hours later, the surgeon appears. The operation

[#HopeOfaMiracle](#)



is a success. Maya's anxiety, which had been building throughout the entire process, has all but gone away.

Azari will need still long-term check-ups to monitor his heart, and the scar running down his chest will always remind him of his congenital defect, but for now, he's your average, energetic one-year-old.

"He thinks he's the man of the house," says Maya with a smile as little Azari romps about in his playpen downstairs.



TITLE PAGE, THIS PAGE: Azari and his mother, Maya.



A story from

S I C K K I D S F O U N D A T I O N

“Republic Bank is our Caribbean Sickle Cell Partner. Anything related to sickle cell, whether it’s training or diagnostics, or anything like that, we recognise them as enabling.”

– Leonard Nolasco, Manager of Major Gifts & Strategic Projects, SickKids Foundation

A story from

S I C K K I D S F O U N D A T I O N

“
When I grow up I would
like to be a doctor.
”

With a swift but gentle jab of a newborn’s heel, a nurse takes a tiny blood sample that will soon be on its way to be tested for one of the most common genetic blood disorders in the English-speaking Caribbean – sickle cell disease (SCD). To date, the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative (SCI), created by the Toronto-based SickKids Foundation, has performed almost 58,000 such tests on babies in St Lucia and Jamaica, with ambitions of reaching out to even more.

People living with SCD endure a host of challenges, from seizures to stunted growth and chronic pain that can last for days. Without testing, the illness can remain hidden until children are five or six months old. Early detection, therefore, can drastically improve life expectancy and is the key to winning this battle.

“The idea is when you screen every newborn, and you identify early on, you are able to treat it so it doesn’t manifest into complications later in life,” says Leonard Nolasco of the SickKids Foundation.

With sights set on reaching even more families, SCI is currently building capacity for the treatment of childhood cancers by training specialist nurses and doctors in Trinidad and Tobago.

With much needed support from the Power to Make A Difference, the programme has already trained 27 nurses in paediatric haematology/oncology at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and will soon train 15 more.

The work continues apace, the progress sure and steady, but their specialised education programme is already transforming the lives of kids with cancer and sickle cell disease and the medical practitioners who care for them. What’s more, the work continues to give hope to those who need it the most.

For Trinidad and Tobago’s Dr. Curt Bodkyn, the change has been nothing short of exceptional.



“[SCI] continues to exceed my expectations. It has been the perfect balance of helping our developing region provide the best care for our children with cancer and blood disorders while building capacity within the region to ensure this new standard of care is sustainable.”

For patients like Jameca, that means better care and the chance to grow up and become a haematologist just like SCI’s Dr. Cheryl Alexis.

“When I grow up I would like to be a doctor. I would like to be a haematologist because when I was in the hospital I saw a lot of them and I saw what they were doing, so I became interested in the job,” beams little Jameca.

[#SickkidsCaribbean](#)

*TITLE PAGE: Jameca and Dr. Cheryl Alexis share a moment
RIGHT: Dr. Curt Bodkyn, Physician Lead, SickKids-Caribbean Initiative*



POWER TO Learn

Zebapique Productions

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Republic Bank Junior Parade of the Bands

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National Carnival Bands Association Mas Academy

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Emancipation Support Committee

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Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha

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School Leadership Center

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Mytyl School

~

Republic Bank Pan Minors



A story from

Z E B A P I Q U E P R O D U C T I O N S

“We are creating relationships between people from different communities. And it is deliberately done. You’re breaking your comfort zone. So you know, ‘Hello, respect that other child from the other area.’”

– Andrew Alleng, co-founder of Zebapique

A story from

Z E B A P I Q U E P R O D U C T I O N S

“
I wish I was a child again.
Five days on the road!
”

“You don’t know the joy that Zebapique puts on these kids’ faces,” says Michelle Hall as she glues a strip of sequins to a costume at the Zebapique mas camp in January.

“Because none of them could afford a costume,” she quickly adds.

Zebapique is a registered Carnival band with its headquarters (mas camp) in Petit Valley, but it is a little different to most other bands. For the past six years, Zebapique has provided free costumes to hundreds of young masqueraders from at-risk communities like Belmont, Beetham, Sea Lots, and Laventille.

This year, they have their ambitions set on getting 150 juniors ready for the road. And they have been working hard.

On weeknights before Carnival, it’s not unusual to see parents, like Hall, doing the meticulous work of

[#ZebapiqueProductions](#)

costume-making. On weekends, however, when school is out, some of the junior masqueraders, ages 5 to 18, make their way to the mas camp’s catchment areas to help with the mas making. It is an experience that is as fun as it is educational for the young ones.

Zebapique co-founder, Andrew Alleng, says the band is doing its part to solve crime through culture. They have partnered with the Inter-Agency Task Force’s Hearts and Minds Programme in an effort to get at-risk young men involved in mas making.

“It is about bridging the gaps,” says Inspector Elvin Reid of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

“What we might call, breaking the borderlines – by bringing the same people from different communities together to make mas and play mas.”



It is working in ways they could not have expected. Last year, there was a noticeable increase in the number of fathers joining the mas making and Junior Carnival experience with their children; along with the mothers and grandmothers who have made enjoying mas with their children a regular affair.

This year, Zebapique entered five competitions.

“I wish I was a child again,” says Ingrid Mitchell of Gonzales, who has been making costumes with Zebapique for six years.

“Five days on the road? Hellooo!”



ALL PHOTOS: Youngsters enjoy parading in their costumes during Carnival



A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K J U N I O R
P A R A D E O F T H E B A N D S

“It has often been said that the children’s mas is the
purest form of the mas.”

– Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K J U N I O R
P A R A D E O F T H E B A N D S

“
The faces show the value
of what we are doing.
”

From the Brian Lara Promenade to the Big Stage at the Queen’s Park Savannah, a distance of just over 3 kilometres, they skip, jump, and dance; their little legs carrying them along to the sounds of the biggest and best soca music of the Carnival season.

A premiere event on the Junior Carnival calendar, the Annual Republic Bank Junior Parade of the Bands is staged in partnership with the state agency, the National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (NCC).

It is once again commandeering the biggest Carnival stage, calling out thousands of children, parents, teachers, and bandleaders from Port of Spain and environs.

“In this world, where it is becoming increasingly easy to lose one’s sense of self,” says Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, “it is important that we ground our younger generations in what our culture is and get them to love what we are.”

For the next 6 hours, hundreds of faces will light up with grins and tiny feet will leap into the air as they show off their mas presentations before an audience that includes tens of thousands around the world, watching live on television and online.

As a band of vibrant sunflowers take the stage, renowned Junior bandleader and President of the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival Bandleaders Association (TTCBA), Rosalind Gabriel comments that juniors are great masqueraders.

“In my humble opinion, after 40 years in mas,” Gabriel says, “I know that children don’t like abstract mas. They like to know whether they are a bird, a flower. What am I, and what part am I taking in the band?”

Faces bright and innocent, the sunflowers seem to know quite well what they are there for, whirling and bowing in the gentle breeze on the Savannah grass.





A story from

N A T I O N A L C A R N I V A L B A N D S
A S S O C I A T I O N M A S A C A D E M Y

“I think it’s the only way we can save our Carnival, by passing on the information to the next generation. To let them know the importance of our Carnival. Our Carnival is not just beads and bikini: We have the history of the traditional characters.”

– David Lopez, President of the National Carnival Bands Association

A story from

N A T I O N A L C A R N I V A L B A N D S
A S S O C I A T I O N M A S A C A D E M Y

“We give them a history of Carnival.”

Sitting in the doorway of a Standard Two class at St. Margaret’s Boys’ Anglican School in Belmont, two elderly gentlemen are bending wire for King Sailor costume headpieces.

Frank Nelson, 68, grew up playing sailor mas with a band that regularly won the Small Band of the Year category – the Belmont Original-Stylin’ Sailors, better known as BOSS. His friend, 65-year-old Kendall De Peaza, sculpted wire and made mas for many bandleaders, including renowned mas maker, Peter Minshall.

The duo finds itself at St. Margaret’s, every Thursday morning, for weeks leading up to Carnival and the Annual Republic Bank Junior Parade of the Bands, helping the St. Margaret’s students make their traditional costumes as part of the National Carnival Bands Association (NCBA) Mas Academy programme. They try to teach a little whenever and wherever they can; everything they know, from colour-blending and working with papier mâché

to wire-bending – the fundamentals of mas making in Trinidad and Tobago.

“They are interested,” says De Peaza, pausing his wire-work to peep over his spectacles at the class, “but they are not encouraged.”

On this day, however, the boys certainly are being encouraged by their teacher, Elizabeth Dookie-Carlow, who has a deep history in mas herself and proudly identifies as “Teacher & Bandleader.”

“What are the different kinds of sailors?” she prompts the class. Hands shoot up like rockets.

“Fireman!”

“King Sailor!”

“Drunken Sailor!”

A student is asked to do the Drunken Sailor dance, fails soberly, and is asked to sit so someone else can try.



Carlow says her King Sailor class, which is paying tribute to beloved wire-bender, Cito Velasquez, with flowers and fruit, will participate in as many as seven junior mas competitions in 2019. In 2018, her group played Midnight Robbers.

“We give them a history of Carnival,” says Mas Academy coordinator, Ann Collins, “from inception up to traditional characters.”

Instructors at the Academy frequently lecture on the some of the most famous masqueraders to have ever portrayed these characters and have students colour images of



traditional costumes so that they can become even more familiar with the presentations.

For now, Miss Carlow is intent on getting this year’s costumes just right. And she means business.

“You can’t give me that lazy man thing,” she says inspecting a flower from a plastic doily that one student is trimming to decorate his Sailor pants.

“Cut out all the white,” she adds, “or else you’ll have to wear it on your pants.”

#MasAcademy

TITLE PAGE: A student cuts flowers out of a doily for his King Sailor bell-bottomed pants

LEFT: Boys jump jubilantly in their costumes

RIGHT: Kendall De Peaza bends wire for a King Sailor headpiece



A story from

E M A N C I P A T I O N S U P P O R T C O M M I T T E E

“They did take it seriously, but it wasn’t that the most important thing was winning. It was the journey and it was having fun.”

– Zainab Abdullah, National African History Quiz coach

A story from

E M A N C I P A T I O N S U P P O R T C O M M I T T E E

“The road is not always paved in gold”

Television cameras roll as the Emancipation Support Committee’s National African History Quiz gets underway in 2018. Zainab Abdullah, coach of the Chaguanas-based Roots Foundation team, could hear that some of her teenage charges were feeling the pressure, as voices crack ever so slightly.

Between takes, she counsels them: “Just breathe.”

The annual quiz recently received a much-needed upgrade, with a new TV set construction and an update to the rulebook. Contestants can now use a ‘lifeline’ to call their alternates if they’re stumped.

Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada of the Emancipation Support Committee calls the competition “a little pressurised space”. But learning to handle that pressure is an important feature

of a contest designed to impart knowledge about the history and accomplishments of Africans — past and present.

The Roots Foundation team differs from most of the others. It is made up of students from separate schools — one from St. Augustine Girls’ High School, another from Shiva Boys Hindu College in Penal, a third from St. Francois Girls’ College in Belmont, and two from Bishop Anstey High School, Port of Spain.

They couldn’t get together in one place, so they video conferenced to review material and spent a night in study camp on the eve of the quiz.

Abdullah is particularly pleased to see her team studying a section on the accomplishments of young Africans who have earned international accolades for innovative thinking.

#TriniESC



“It allows them to see that the road is not always easy and it’s not always paved in gold, but if you work, you’re going to have that success.”

Having a good time and walking away with a message means a lot to the Roots Foundation, which promotes self-expression through poetry and Spoken Word.

In the end, the Roots Foundation team definitely proved their sportsmanship, staying behind to cheer on rivals, even after they themselves had tumbled out of contention.



*TITLE PAGE: A young participant in the Spoken Word Competition enthralled the audience
TOP: Participants from The Roots Foundation pose at the start of the finals.*



*LEFT: Third place winner, Makeda Peters of Arima Centenary performs Victims during the Finals of the Spoken Word Competition
RIGHT: Breshawn Springer of Diego Martin Government "Brings Down the Power" during his National Spoken Word performance*



A story from

S A N A T A N D H A R M A M A H A S A B H A

“Through the Baal Vikaas programme, there is a new sense of belonging to an ancient culture with a distinct link to the Supreme Being.”

– Satnarayan Maharaj, Secretary General of the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha

A story from

S A N A T A N D H A R M A M A H A S A B H A

“
We want you to learn and
appreciate your religion as well.
”

In the early days of the Baal Vikaas Vihaar, Khimchan Bhairosingh had to coax fellow Hindu school principals to enroll their students to compete in just one category of Hindu culture.

Back then, they may have only let their students sing Chowtaal (North Indian folk song), perform Bhangra (dances), or recite passages from the Ramayana (the story of Lord Rama) and the Bhagavad Gita.

“Sometimes you had to cajole them to get involved in even one,” says Bhairosingh, who is now Secretary of the Baal Vikaas Vihaar Committee.

“Now they’re fully on board. They participate in all categories.”

From those modest beginnings, the competitive festival on Hindu culture has since flourished to now fully include

all 43 Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS) schools in Trinidad and Tobago. Not surprisingly, it has been widely credited with a modern rejuvenation of the culture, particularly within young children.

His students at Orange Field Hindu Primary, where he is School Principal, have certainly been putting in the practice.

They’ve been using their Religion period at school to rehearse for the Festival since September, despite not competing until March of the following year.

Each year, Baal Vikaas Vihaar, which has been held since 1985 and sponsored by Republic Bank since 2012, brings hundreds of students closer to their ancestral languages and inculcates greater appreciation of the tenets and touchstones of Hinduism.

[#BaalVikaasVihaar](#)



Principal Bhairosingh was recently approached by a concerned student, worried that his marks were slipping due to his rigorous rehearsal schedule.

“Academics is always most important,” Bhairosingh says as he promises to help balance the student’s schedule.

“We have to cater for your studies,” he assures the young achiever.

“But we want you to learn and appreciate your religion as well,” he quickly adds.



*TITLE PAGE: A beautiful portrayal of Lord Shiva
TOP: The Palmyra Hindu School choir performs in the Bhajan category
BOTTOM: A student portrays Lord Rama*



A story from

S C H O O L L E A D E R S H I P C E N T R E

“This project was able to enhance my teachers’ delivery of the Jolly Phonics Programme. We had the resources, we had some kits, but we still didn’t know how to effectively implement the programme.”

– Carlene Hayes, Principal of Caratal Sacred Heart RC Primary School

A story from

S C H O O L L E A D E R S H I P C E N T R E

“
All of them are reading. My class
last term wasn't reading yet
”

“Today we want to talk about another letter that makes that ‘e’ sound,” says Miss Vanessa Beckles, standing in front of her class of nine Infant Two students at Caratal Sacred Heart RC Primary School. Hands shoot up and the children respond in unison: “YYYY!”

Beckles is pleased with her class's reading progress. She, and her principal, Carlene Hayes, attended a week of Leading for Literacy Now phonics training through the School Leadership Centre in August 2018.

The training required a small sacrifice: Surrendering one week of precious school vacation for voluntary self-improvement. But both are glad they went.

“Where this class is now, to where my previous class was last term, is a vast improvement,” says Beckles.

“All of them are reading. My class last term wasn't reading yet.”

Principal Hayes has been particularly enthusiastic about implementing Leading for Literacy Now, encouraging the parents to attend training sessions where they learned how to support literacy in the home.

“One they really liked was ‘Granny Going to Market’,” says Hayes, “which showed children how to communicate and how to sound out letters.”

Before the training, Beckles felt that the Jolly Phonics programme had been dropped in infant teachers' laps.

“When you read the books, initially you would look at it and be like, ‘What is phonics? Phonics doesn't make any



sense.” The training clarified the importance of systematic progression, from understanding letter sounds, to blending, to reading.

Back in class, Miss Beckles wants answers.

“That ‘y’ makes the ‘e’ sound, but only when it comes where?”

“At the end of a worrrd!” offers a girl.

“Thank you very much. At the end of a word.”

On the whiteboard, she quickly writes ‘body’, where the ‘y’ sounds just like an...



*TOP: Infant Two students at Caratal Sacred Heart RC practice letter sounds
RIGHT: Students from Belle Gardens A.C. Primary School, Tobago, participate in the community reading segment of the programme*



A story from

M Y T Y L S C H O O L

“We decided to give the children an education specific to their possibilities, not to focus on things they cannot do.”

– Joan Voigt, Vice-President, Mytyl School, Paramaribo

A story from

M Y T Y L S C H O O L

“These kids also need a chance”

On an average day at the Mytyl School in Paramaribo, you might find a few special needs teenagers sitting around the kitchen table. One deliberately measures out some flour and yeast. With an apron-clad teacher standing by, another adds water to a rotating mixer. The pizza dough is soon ready for the oven.

Ten years ago, the non-governmental Mytyl School did not have a secondary department. Students who had finished their primary education went home.

“The children came back crying to us,” says Joan Voigt, school board Vice-President. They wanted to continue to learn and socialise, so the school found a way, on a very tight budget, to open a secondary programme.

In 2018, Republic Bank Suriname committed to assisting with Mytyl’s specific educational needs. The budget allowed administrators to develop ‘learning lines’ for their

secondary students, like cooking and gardening classes, in hopes that some graduates would be able to pursue careers in those fields.

Founded in 1966 for children with physical disabilities, Mytyl now caters to mental needs as well. Through the Power to Make A Difference, computers have been installed in classrooms and a pilot project has been started to track student progress.

For 50 years, the curriculum had not been changed. Now it has been reformed to cater to students’ individual needs.

“These kids also need a chance,” says Voigt, who emigrated from the Netherlands in 2007.

“The chances in Suriname are not so abundant, so we like to give them a fair chance.”



*TITLE PAGE: A teacher poses with students at the Mytyl School
THIS PAGE: Mytyl School students now have computers in their
classrooms and a Student Track system for monitoring progress*



A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K P A N M I N O R S

“A musician who can only play the instrument and cannot read music will have to be told what notes to play. Whereas a musician who can read music can go in any panyard, go to any music school, be given a score and spend some time preparing to play by reading the music.”

– Michelle Amoroso, Overall Coordinator of Republic Bank Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme

A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K P A N M I N O R S

“
I always like to smile and ‘In the
Mood’ will always make me smile
”

Trinity College music teacher Malaina Moffett admits that 16-year-old Nkosi Clarence is not her average music student.

“He’s a perfectionist, so he always has to practice, over and over and over to get it right.”

Nkosi has taken his musical ear and his pan experience and signed up for the Annual Republic Bank Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme, which provides young students with, among many other things, 30 hours of music training each July vacation.

It was here that Nkosi earned a distinction at Level II. He then moves on to complete the recently implemented

Level III, where he will be taught how to arrange on music notation software used by many universities.

At a Trinity College music class in January, after a late night of practice at the Nutrien Silver Stars panyard the day before, Nkosi and his Form 5 classmates settle in to play his arrangement of the 1940s big band hit, “In the Mood”. Their arranger counts them in and notes flow almost flawlessly from well-used steel pans.

“If you know me, I always like to smile and ‘In the Mood’ will always make me smile,” he says, half-joking about his choice of song. He adds that he actually liked the piece



because it's in A-flat, uses three chords, is easy to make a variation for, and has nice solos.

Nkosi is just the kind of student who has benefited from Pan Minors training, which begins with teaching pannists how to read music. Pan Minors Overall Coordinator, Michelle Amoroso, says most of the students who attend the programme are very talented and can play a lot of music.

“But when they're introduced to reading, you can see that they're quite happy and they realise something new.”

“Scoring music was difficult at first,” Nkosi says, “but Pan Minors helped a lot.”

Now, he often hijacks Miss Moffett's laptop to jot down new ideas. She says he's one of the few students to have started his CXC-required composition and notes that he even scores pieces by ear.

“I wanted to be a doctor at first,” says Nkosi, “but after the programme, to be very honest, I actually want to be an arranger now.”

ALL PHOTOS: Nkosi plays his arrangement of “In the Mood” with his Form 5 classmates



POWER TO Help

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Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago

~

Adult Literacy Tutors Association

~

In Full Flight!

~

Women Across Differences

~

Loveuntil Foundation

~

Republic Bank Staff Volunteerism Programme



A story from

H A B I T A T F O R H U M A N I T Y
T R I N I D A D A N D T O B A G O

“Republic Bank was open to the concept of doing more things, like repairs, renovations, material donations, that kind of thing. They were the first company actually that was. It was because they came on board a lot of other companies said, Ok, this actually makes a lot of sense.”

– Tracy Hutchinson Wallace, Communications Officer, Habitat for Humanity

A story from

H A B I T A T F O R H U M A N I T Y
T R I N I D A D A N D T O B A G O

“
You mean, I’ll own my
own house!
”

In 2016, Azaria Waithe lived in the little village of Paramin, Maraval; a place where she lived her entire life and was mostly happy there. But circumstances were quickly changing all around her. Her mother was having health issues and living with relatives had become increasingly difficult.

The 17-year-old had inherited a parcel of land in Arima from a great-aunt and started dreaming of owning a home. When a relative pointed her to an ad for Habitat for Humanity, Azaria got her mother and set off to apply.

There were bound to be challenges. For starters, there was the prevailing economic downturn, which meant that Habitat – a global nonprofit that helps families in need of decent, affordable housing – had to turn to partners for additional help with construction.

But even in challenges, there is always opportunity to rise above them. Habitat for Humanity and Republic Bank

recognise this and word gets out fast of Azaria’s dream of a better life for her and her mother.

Volunteers show up from all quarters: A team from Guyana, a Walking Football squad, some Scots who had taken a particular interest in the teenager’s story online.

Next, Habitat realised they needed a mortgage co-signee. The project would be delayed if they couldn’t find one. The Habitat programme manager suggests that they could fast-track the mortgage application in Azaria’s name. She was turning 18 soon. As long as she was willing...

The team pops the question at their next meeting with the family. “You mean I’ll own my own house!” responds the bubbly teen.

“We were just laughing,” recalls Habitat’s Communications Officer, Tracy Hutchinson-Wallace.

#HabitatTnT



“It’s true. She was 18! How many 18-year-olds own their own house? We were really glad that a young person who was so emotionally mature was ready to take on that responsibility.”

In December 2017, Azaria and her mother were presented with the keys to the last of 20 houses built during a five-year partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Republic Bank.

Azaria was brimming with ideas and emotions. She was moving to a new house, in a new community, and it was all happening at Christmastime. She wanted to do something with her bedroom and planned to buy curtains and furniture to make the place her own.

“It was a lot. But you know, it was that bubbly feeling. It was kind of unbelievable, because you go from staring at a blank piece of land, to now staring at a finished home. Your finished home. So it was beautiful.”



*TOP LEFT: Azaria’s house
TITLE PAGE, TOP RIGHT: Habitat for Humanity volunteers at work
BOTTOM: Anna-María García-Brooks, General Manager, Group Human Resources, Republic Bank (right) presents Azaria and her mom with the keys to their new home*



A story from

A D U L T L I T E R A C Y
T U T O R S A S S O C I A T I O N

“Students’ greatest fear is that people find out that they can’t read or write or spell, so they try to hide that throughout their lives. Until some ‘Aha’ moment comes and they come to ALTA and then they realise they’re not alone. They really put a great effort into the whole opportunity that they’re getting.”

– Hamilton Padmore, ALTA Tutor

A story from

A D U L T L I T E R A C Y
T U T O R S A S S O C I A T I O N

“
I never knew we had such a
major problem in this country.
”

Hamilton Padmore’s career as a financial controller was winding down when he decided he wanted to try something different; something new yet equally rewarding.

Flipping through a newspaper, conscious of his own good fortune in life, the then 63-year-old happens upon an Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA) advertisement looking for volunteer tutors.

Before signing up to help adults improve their literacy, Padmore had assumed that everyone knew how to read, write and spell. Maybe some were better than others, but in his reckoning, a general standard of literacy prevailed across society.

Fast forward 13 years later, the now veteran tutor has learned a lot about illiteracy: how people with poor reading skills mask their deficiencies and how they tragically slip

through the cracks of our education system. But, most of all, Padmore fully understands just how much it really means to a person when their reading abilities improve.

Padmore has taught a university-educated safety officer whose greatest fear was being asked to read at a weekly safety meeting and a 73-year-old woman, who just wanted to be able to follow along in her Bible at church. The safety officer is still working on her fluency; the septuagenarian has earned a distinction in CXC English.

ALTA classes are free but students are asked to pay nominal fees for their workbooks. The association understands that it’s important for students to feel financially vested in their education and development.

Despite the dropout rate, many students still persevere, in the face of financial and other constraints, to pursue their

[#AdultLiteracy](#)



evening classes part time while earning a living. To help remedy this issue, soon ALTA will launch an online initiative, taking the brick and mortar classes into the virtual world and allowing students to follow along from home.

“It’s really about providing access,” says ALTA Resource Development Officer, M’aisha Thomas about the purpose of ALTA Online.

“And it’s also about fighting against the stigma for those who may not wish to enter a classroom.”

For now, however, from time to time, Padmore still runs into some of his ex-tutees. While they each have different stories about how ALTA has worked for them, some seem further along on the road to empowerment through education than others. In the end, Padmore knows that he must keep trying to reach more persons on the fringe.

But he takes heart in knowing that there are those committed to improving literacy rates across diverse communities and, with that knowledge, he carries on with a smile.

ALL PHOTOS: ALTA tutors are trained to constantly evaluate their readers



A story from

I N F U L L F L I G H T !

“Mr. La Foucade, you visited ASJA Girls’ College, San Fernando today. My daughter cannot stop speaking about you. I would like to thank you for getting her to drop the word CAN’T from her vocabulary. I’ve been telling her that for years.”

– Anonymous mother

A story from

I N F U L L F L I G H T!

“
One word at the right time
can change a life forever.
”

For almost six years, inspirational speaker Don La Foucade has been touring the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago, encouraging students at hundreds of secondary schools to value themselves and their peers.

“I consider it a wonderful opportunity just to say something and somebody’s life improves,” he says. “That is like a God-given gift.”

The Trinity College graduate – who describes himself as “the worst child” in his time there – loves to play with words and is a fount of catchphrases such as: “For there to be true impact, there must be contact” and “Dress like a prospect, not like a suspect, so when I inspect, you can get some respect.”

But what he does best is impart the sincere message that every life has value.

“The Eagle Man,” as the children call him for his use of an eagle prop and love of flight metaphors (his company’s name is In Full Flight!), has a range of tactics to keep his material fresh. He never speaks from a prepared script, so there’s always that element of spontaneity that young people respond to most and he changes the name of his tour annually to reflect that he’s listening as well as speaking.

His most recent tour is called “Hope” because he thinks children, as a microcosm of society, are losing that.

#InFullFlight



He's also extremely dramatic during his two-hour presentations. He'll stand atop a table or throw himself on the floor; whatever it takes to grab attention and keep it focussed.

La Foucade is used to being surrounded after presentations by children who want to thank him, share their thoughts, and even discuss the things that resonated. He's probably heard it all before, but he always stays long enough to hear it again.

"I must tell you this," he says, "one word at the right time can change a life forever."



ALL PHOTOS: Don La Foucade interacting with students on his tour



A story from

W O M E N A C R O S S D I F F E R E N C E S

“We feel proud when young mothers can go back to school; when so many of them could complete university. What else could you want? Money can’t buy that.”

– Clonel Samuels-Boston, Coordinator, Women Across Differences

A story from

W O M E N A C R O S S D I F F E R E N C E S

“
I am empowered enough to
stand on my own two feet.
”

While still at secondary school in Georgetown, Guyana, Tiffiney Tyrell Hunte got pregnant. The then 16-year-old planned to sit CXC exams after having the baby but her grandmother died a couple of weeks after her son was born.

“It was devastating to me,” says Tiffiney. “She was the one that was taking care of me.”

Without a reliable caregiver for her child, Tiffiney’s academic prospects looked bleak. Despite living in the marginalised community of Sophia, she managed to further her education, taking a catering course here and IT training there, but she never succeeded in getting the CXC passes she had her sights set upon.

By 18 she was pregnant again and depressed. When a friend told her about Women Across Differences (WAD) – an organisation with a programme specially devoted

to supporting adolescent and teen mothers – she found a community of young women in a similar situation.

“I’ve been in doubts and fear,” says Tiffiney, now 29, “but thanks to the support of WAD and the mothers here, I am empowered enough to stand on my own two feet to say, ‘Look, this is what I want.’”

WAD’s matriarch and coordinator is Clonel Samuels-Boston. A librarian by profession, her priority is getting young mothers back to school. Clonel has heard countless tales of abuse and sexual assault, but has also seen shy girls with low self-esteem blossom through self-development training.

In fact, an emotional presentation by a teenage mother at a World Population Day forum in Guyana was all the incentive Republic Bank needed to become WAD’s main sponsor.

[#YoungMothersForChange](#)



After giving birth at 16 years old, Makeiza Larose was referred to WAD by staff at the Georgetown Public Hospital. A victim of abuse since the age of five, she was terrified about interacting with strangers. Five years since joining WAD, she has made tremendous progress in her journey of adulthood, still visiting their office regularly to reconnect with those who have helped her.

Her journey looks encouraging as Makeiza recently graduated from a child care and first aid course.

She is now part of a WAD group called Young Mothers for Change that, among other charitable works, shares their stories with many others in at-risk communities in the hope of ending the vicious cycle of abuse and teenage pregnancies.

“I know what I went through,” says Makeiza, “and I don’t want to know somebody else is going through the same thing. It’s best I told you to prevent it.”

For now, the work continues and WAD and their teams of courageous staff and volunteers show no signs of slowing down.

In 2018, Samuels-Boston received a national award for her work with WAD and the programme is currently being used as a model for reintegration into Guyana’s secondary schools, with more than 500 young women having benefited from it since inception in 2008.



A story from

L O V E U N T I L F O U N D A T I O N

“We believe that by training multiple groups of young people to form Student Councils they could be a force of positive change at the schools.”

– Dale Jones, Programme Manager, Loveuntil Foundation

A story from

L O V E U N T I L F O U N D A T I O N

“
We desperately need
the positivity.
”

Over the past eight years, life skills facilitator, Dale Jones has seen it all at schools around Port of Spain – fights, bullying, and students on the brink of giving up. Fortunately, through his work with the Loveuntil Foundation’s School-based Programme, Jones has developed an impressive toolkit for improving self-esteem, clarifying values, and developing interpersonal skills.

The Loveuntil Programme Manager firmly believes in the ability of youth to effect change within their own age groups because they speak the same language. That’s why Loveuntil has implemented a competition called the Power of One (patterned after the Power to Make A Difference), which challenges teens to develop ideas that can make positive lasting impacts in their schools and communities.

Paired with adult mentors and given funding to actualise their concepts, Power of One participants continue to shine. A Tranquillity Government graduate developed a handbook on dealing with bullying, while the 2018 winner created a Reading Safe Space in Beetham Gardens where children could spark their imaginations.

Loveuntil’s most recent initiative, rolled out at South-East Port of Spain Secondary and Russell Latapy Secondary in Morvant, has been training student councils. Jones remembers a time, many moons ago, when councils resolved peer-to-peer issues before they got to the dean or principal.



At Russell Latapy, the council has been advocating for casual Fridays, when students would be allowed to wear something other than their uniforms. The student body's request is being passed through school administration to the Ministry of Education. There's no indication yet of the likelihood of success, but Jones is buoyed by the effort, which attests to young people embracing their capacity to create change.

Republic's partnership with the Loveuntil Foundation dates back to 2005 and includes drug rehabilitation programmes,

a building renovation, and the well-received School-Based Programme for imparting life skills. The programme now operates at a dozen primary and secondary schools in Port of Spain and environs.

"Loveuntil really sees the value of training young people to be the future, and the present!" says Jones.

"A lot of young people need to focus and harness their energies to help Trinidad and Tobago. We desperately need the positivity," he adds.

*Title Page: Student Council meeting to effect change
Top: Power of One Winner accepts her prize*



A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K S T A F F
V O L U N T E E R I S M P R O G R A M M E

“For any initiative, we always have staff coming back and saying they feel so humble and so happy to be working with Republic Bank. Because they never thought that in their working lives they would be given the opportunity to work and to volunteer.”

– Nadia Williams, Management Associate and Social Investment Officer,
Group Marketing & Communications, Republic Bank

A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K S T A F F
V O L U N T E E R I S M P R O G R A M M E

“
When they see the difference
they make, they’re proud.
”

If you happened to have passed by any Habitat for Humanity house construction site between 2012 and 2017, there was a chance you would have seen Republic’s True Blue teams hard at work and fun as they painted, cleaned, mixed cement and did whatever it took to help make a house a home for someone in need.

Staff volunteerism is actively encouraged through the Power to Make A Difference programme, whether it’s by directly helping Programme partners or pledging support to a cause within any of the communities the Bank serves.

In 2018, the Rio Claro branch spruced up the library at Poole Presbyterian Primary School, rolling on the paint themselves and helping replace the tiles, some of which were badly cracked and lifting. Rio Claro Branch, like so many others in the branch network, typically hosts fundraising activities to assist persons and organisations in need in the community.

A little ways north, in Chaguanas, the Branch Support Services team donned overalls to repaint the infants’ play area of a Chaguanas primary school in Republic Bank blue, and donated a photocopier and a door for the music room.

“It’s for children, right, so it’s a real nice feeling to know that they would be happy,” says Clerical Support Officer, Rajmatie Moonilal.

Often branches may work individually to assist, and then there are times when they will band together in an effort to produce an even greater benefit. Teams in the South Zone did just this when they, displaying True Blue spirit, worked together to paint the National Centre for People with Disabilities (NCPD) in San Fernando, following that up by renovating the kitchen facilities where the Centre’s cooks prepare the cafeteria’s meals.

#BeTheOne



These are just a few examples of a volunteerism programme that, whether it's supporting awareness events, helping build and renovate homes for those in need, or enriching young minds through literacy activities, continues to yield tremendous benefits.

“People, both staff and customers, come forward and they say, so many times, they only hear about the Bank in terms of dollars and cents and finances,” says Republic Bank Management Associate and Social Investment Officer, Nadia Williams.

“But when they really see how much of a difference the Programme makes, they're proud.”





POWER TO Succeed

.....
Royhil Seals Water Polo Championships

~

Andrew Lewis Sailing Camp

~

Grenada Youth Adventurers

~

Jane Young Junior Golf Clinic

~

Tobago International Sea to Sea Marathon

~

Republic Cup National Youth Football League

~

Republic Bank RightStart Cup



A story from

R O Y H I L S E A L S W A T E R P O L O
C H A M P I O N S H I P S

“Water polo started off very weak where we had to struggle to beat teams from foreign territories and not a lot of players were playing. Now the Primary and Secondary Schools Leagues have really sent us skyrocketing.”

– Ryan Smith, National Schools Water Polo Leagues

A story from

R O Y H I L S E A L S W A T E R P O L O
C H A M P I O N S H I P S

“
We are really trying to
build the sport.
”

By the end of a game filled with the usual amount of underwater grabbing, shoving and splashing, St Mary's College has triumphed, 18 - 17, over their rivals from Queen's Royal College (QRC). At the final whistle, an assortment of fit young men clad in water polo caps rises from the pool and exchanges handshakes and well wishes.

The Royhil Seals Secondary Schools Water Polo League is still a relatively small competition, with only five male and three female teams, but what they lack in numbers, they more than make up for in commitment and energy.

“It's one of the hardest sports,” says co-founder of the primary and secondary school leagues, Ryan Smith.

The school leagues are the feeders for a handful of clubs and the national teams. The primary school games are played in water shallow enough to stand, but at the secondary level, players have to know how to ‘eggbeat’ – treading water between spurts of all-out swimming.

Water polo has a history in Trinidad and Tobago that dates back to the 1930s when players first faced off out in the open seas off the St. Vincent Street jetty and the San Fernando boat club.

The sport faded over the years but has enjoyed a recent renaissance in clubs and schools around the country since the early 2000s; a rebirth that Royhil and Republic Bank intend to turn into something long lasting and

#RoyhilSeals



rewarding.

“We are really trying to build the sport on a whole,” says Smith, who also manages the Royhil Seals, which hosts the school leagues.

“It’s about just developing youth and giving them something to do besides academics.”

As water polo aficionados try to attract and keep players, there are plans for lots of new formats, including a one-day tournament and, eventually returning to the sea where the sport began.



Photos courtesy Royhil Seals Water Polo Club



A story from

A N D R E W L E W I S S A I L I N G C A M P

“I had the opportunity to be exposed to sailing at a very young age, and that was the beginning of my passion for the sport. Hopefully, these camps can be the start of a new sailing journey for someone else.”

– Andrew Lewis, Olympic Sailor, Men’s Laser class

A story from

A N D R E W L E W I S S A I L I N G C A M P

“
To sail, the feeling is
indescribable.”

He weighs 112 pounds and really has to work to keep his Laser dinghy from capsizing in anything more than a moderate breeze, but 15-year-old Simeon Duncan, or as his family calls him “Popeye” as in Popeye the Sailor, is more than determined to keep an even keel every time he touches the open sea.

In 2016, Simeon was on his way to Vessigny Beach in south Trinidad when he saw a tiny white triangle skimming across the Gulf of Paria.

“I just saw a boat with this thing sticking up into the air and it was moving. That was really breathtaking to me,” says the soft-spoken “Popeye”.

“I realised that was for me,” he quickly adds.

Almost three years later and Simeon has attended Olympic Sailor Andrew Lewis’s two-day sailing camp every time the event has been held three times a year. That’s nine camps under his young sailing cap so far.

Simeon started the sport with a regular sailing coach – the one who urged him to turn out for his maiden voyage – but also holds a special admiration for Lewis, who competed at the Olympics in 2012 and 2016 in the Men’s Laser Class.

“Knowing he’s from our country, and representing our country and working really hard, he’s a role model to me.”

Simeon finds the sailing camp enlightening and feels that he has made good progress, even though Lewis’s teaching style was different to his regular coach’s.



He has come a long way from his first time out on the water, when he had no feeling for the vagaries of wind power and felt he might flip his boat at any time. He still capsizes occasionally, but he's not afraid of it anymore. He knows he can right his own boat.

On a recent Saturday morning in February, a light wind is just picking up and Simeon is eager to get out on the water.

“To sail,” he explains, “the feeling is indescribable.”



TITLE PAGE: A tight race for the finish at the Andrew Lewis Sailing Camp

TOP: Simeon Duncan, left, on beach clean-up

RIGHT: Keeping your boat flat takes a nice strong core



A story from

G R E N A D A Y O U T H A D V E N T U R E R S

“We’re trying to teach 8,000 kids to swim by 2021 and we’re halfway towards our goal already. So we feel good about that.”

– Deb Eastwood, Founder, Grenada Youth Adventurers

A story from

G R E N A D A Y O U T H A D V E N T U R E R S

“
I’m feeling a lot more
confident in the water.
”

A girl in a swim cap, with goggles perched on her forehead, lies belly-down on the white sand of Grand Anse beach, Grenada. A volunteer swim coach holds her feet, moving them through the motion of a breaststroke kick.

“There you go!” cheers the coach, as she stands back and the young swimmer practices her kicking.

It is Learn to Swim Week and the founder of Grenada Youth Adventurers, Deb Eastwood, surveys the azure beach water. Under the close watch of encouraging coaches, small groups of swimmers dip their faces in the water, blowing bubbles and kicking excitedly.

Eastwood, a former sales manager and jet engine mechanic, moved to Grenada in 2007 to teach. She soon discovered that many children on the island were missing out on one

of life’s great pleasures, swimming. So she started free swim classes to remedy that.

“We think everybody in Grenada should know how to swim, children and adults alike, and we’re trying to make that available,” she says.

Thanks to the Power to Make A Difference, this dream is one step closer to becoming reality with a doubling of the initial investment in the Grenada Youth Adventurers following an impressive turnout at “Beach Friday.”

While the potential economic benefits of widespread swimming skills on the marine and tourism industries are always top of mind, the underlying goal is more immediate and much simpler – get more people, especially young children, involved in swimming. The progress has been

[#GetGrenadaSwimming](#)



steady in coming. In 2018, the programme broke barriers by running free Saturday classes at nine locations across the nation.

Deshara Fleary has been taking her children to classes with “Miss Debs” for several years.

“We’re surrounded by water here and I think it’s a good promotion of safety for our kids,” Fleary says.

Volunteers, some of whom fly in from abroad at their own expense for National Learn to Swim Week, are trained in workshops. Many, like Lucille Sylvester, are fully immersed in the concept of producing an island of people who enjoy the ocean rather than fear it.

“I felt really proud to be able to step up and help others because I myself only learned to swim about five years ago,” says Sylvester.

Some of the adults who joined the classes could already swim or at least tread water. Allecia Mason used to say that she could “do a thing.” But she wanted to do it properly, so she joined the Swim Week classes at Grand Anse.

In her bathing suit and white swim cap, she certainly looks the part.

“I wouldn’t say I’m a swimmer yet, but I’m getting there and feeling a lot more confident in the water. By the end of the week, I should be going to the Olympics,” Mason jokes.



A story from

J A N E Y O U N G J U N I O R G O L F C L I N I C

“We, the former caddies who became golfers in the 1970s, are passing the game on to the younger people.”

– Lennox Wilkinson, President, Leeward Golfers’ Association, Tobago

A story from

J A N E Y O U N G J U N I O R G O L F
C L I N I C

“
The game has grown to
the locals.
”

Playing with plastic golf clubs and balls very much like tennis balls, 26 young golfers gather for the 14th Annual Jane Young Tobago Junior Golf Clinic at the Mt Irvine Golf Club in Tobago in August 2018.

For one week, golfers aged 5 to 18, will practice their grips, chipping and putting, and soak up all that their local coaches have to impart. By the end of the clinic, they are using metal clubs and real golf balls, teeing off on the actual course.

Ten-year-old Tahlia Thomas proves that she had the longest shot among the girls, while 12-year-old Lebron James shines like his namesake and bests his age-group peers over 18 holes.

While Republic Bank has supported Junior Golf in Trinidad and Tobago for almost 20 years, sponsoring a number of open competitions, clinics, and even the National Team, the work

with the Jane Young team follows in this strong tradition of empowering young achievers in the pursuit of future opportunities and avenues for success and development.

Back at the Clinic, the Juniors are in for a special surprise on their fourth day of practice when Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. The Honourable Keith Rowley, himself an avid golfer, and former professional golfer, Greg “The Shark” Norman of Australia, stop by to see how the young golfers are faring.

Needless to say, those 26 players are all elated when the famous pair drive a few shots using their junior clubs.

The young Tobago players are the ‘descendants’ of the first generation of Tobago golfers – former caddies who lobbied for concessions on green fees that they couldn’t afford.

[#JaneYoungJuniorGolf](#)



Lennox Wilkinson, President of the Leeward Golfers' Association, which represents local golfers, says the Jane Young programme is the incubator for golf in Tobago.

"You can see the continuity and growth of the sport," says Wilkinson.

With vision honed by years of tracking a little white ball against a hazy sky, he can see clearly that the sport's future in Tobago is assured.



ALL PHOTOS: Young golfers in the making



A story from

T O B A G O I N T E R N A T I O N A L
S E A T O S E A M A R A T H O N

“I’ve been into fancy gyms all over the world and people always tell me, ‘I am going to run in Antarctica’ or ‘I’m going to run in Mallorca.’ No matter where I was, I would always say, ‘They should be running in Tobago.’”

– Karen O’Connor, founder of Sea to Sea Marathon

A story from

T O B A G O I N T E R N A T I O N A L
S E A T O S E A M A R A T H O N

“
Just feel what it means
to be human...
”

The Tobago road-running community was devastated in 2013 when news of the deaths of two students circulated. They both died in that same year while running cross-country. One of the students had been mixing energy drinks to improve performance.

Following an investigation, the Tobago House of Assembly's Division of Education indefinitely suspended cross-country training in secondary schools on the island.

However, in 2016, the Sea to Sea Marathon, a new cross-country event with a novel and proven approach to training and competition was created, and the Division of Education soon moved to lift the ban.

“Maybe Sea to Sea could have contributed to them understanding, ‘Hey, it’s not the running that’s killing the

children,’” says Roxborough Secondary School Track and Field coach and Physical Education teacher, Kern Thom.

“It’s just a lack of education in terms of stuff they [the children] think is going to help them.”

The Sea to Sea races – a full marathon, half-marathon, 10K and 5K – are always preceded by running clinics, where coaches like Thom train under-18 runners by sharing the essentials of nutrition and preparation.

Thom notes the effect of the annual event and its youth running clinic on Tobago road-running. He has already seen steady growth in the number of young people participating in the sport. From the very first year, in recognition of their talents, kids who have performed well in the races go on to develop further as they train with athletic clubs.

[#SeaToSea](#)



First and foremost, however, is having fun and understanding the importance of training the right way. This year's event is no exception and, as the race descends into Lambeau, the final stretch, shouts of encouragement rise to greet the racers.

Sea to Sea founder, Karen O'Connor says spectator turnout is an important aspect of the races.

“You don't have to run. You could watch them and be elated for their accomplishment. Just feel what it means to be human, accomplishing something like that.”

*TITLE PAGE: Clint Busby enters ahead of Louis Garraway and the group
LEFT: The Community Drum Walk, on the morning of the 5K and 10K
RIGHT: Kurt Younglao of La Romaine finishes the Tobago International
Sea to Sea Marathon 10k*





A story from

R E P U B L I C C U P N A T I O N A L Y O U T H
F O O T B A L L L E A G U E

“Every single player on every national youth team has played in the
Republic Cup League, even if it’s once.”

– Anthony Harford, All Sport Promotions

A story from

R E P U B L I C C U P N A T I O N A L
Y O U T H F O O T B A L L L E A G U E

“
The difference it makes in
communities is unreal.
”

Anthony “Dada” Wickham coaches the Trendsetter Hawks youth teams out of East Port of Spain. As the head of one of the perennial contenders at the Republic Cup National Youth Football League, he knows that having a longstanding tournament is important not only for the development of football but also for his community.

“There are all kinds of distractions for them to get involved in,” says Wickham, “especially in areas like where we come from, youths have to be kept occupied so they wouldn’t go on the other side of the fence.”

Trendsetters sent six age-group teams to the tournament in 2018.

The Republic Cup National Youth Football League began 25 years ago as a five-a-side weekend tournament on hastily marked fields. It has since become the most sought-after youth football competition in the country, hosting 130

[#RepublicCup](#)

clubs in 11-a-side FIFA rules games over three months across Trinidad and Tobago, with the finals at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in the nation’s capital, Port of Spain.

Anthony Harford of All Sport Promotions, which manages the tournament, says it’s a chance for children to play competitive football against peers from all over the country.

The 2018 semi-finals were played at the Mannie Ramjohn Stadium in Marabella, which gave the players from San Juan TT Pro League team, Jabloteh of the chance to travel and see some of the country.

Jabloteh’s Youth Programme Manager, Cyril George, says the tournament, usually played during off season, is essential for keeping the club’s young players fit and ready for the CONCACAF Under-13 tournament against regional competition.



“Everybody can’t be included in the Pro League,” says George, “so the Republic Cup is, come on, it’s what we’re looking forward to. So all our players in our academy, from age 5 to 17, will get something to do.”

The Republic Cup, the longest-running single-sponsored sporting event in the country and the only one in which Tobago has played every year since inception, commemorated 25 years of service to the youth of the nation in 2018.

TITLE PAGE, THIS PAGE:

The Under-12, U14 and U16 finals at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in July 2018





A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K R I G H T S T A R T C U P

“RightStart Cup is a direct deposit to the development of our most valuable human resource – our youth – helping to build character, team spirit and other life skills.”

– Keith Johnson, Managing Director, Republic Bank (Grenada) Limited

A story from

R E P U B L I C B A N K R I G H T S T A R T C U P

“
Engagement in football is not
only about winning.
”

Amidst the thumping drums and bright banners of hundreds of fervent supporters, on the National Stadium’s big stage, Grenada’s best secondary school football players compete in the finals of the Republic Bank RightStart Cup Youth Football Tournament, fondly called RightStart.

A staple of the junior football calendar for well over a decade, the country’s premier youth tournament naturally attracts the scouts who stock the national cupboards. That’s why retired Sports Ministry coordinator, Conrad Francis, says the league has become a “feeder for most of our national teams.”

Each year, more than 30 secondary schools compete in girls’ and boys’ divisions.

But as the President of the Grenada Football Association, Cheney Joseph says, “Engagement in football is not only about winning.” He believes that the camaraderie built by months of training and long bus trips to play away from home is perhaps more important.

“Through RightStart, Republic Bank has embraced the culture, fervour and energies of young minds while shaping their pathway to future life successes,” says Joseph.

Of course, Republic Bank gets a kick out of the tournament too.

“The time and other resources expended are more than worth the excitement and enthusiasm that our young boys and girls bring to the games,” says Managing Director, Keith Johnson.

[#RightStart](#)



*Left: Young footballers celebrate at their prize giving ceremonies
Right: Young footballer dribbles the ball during the game*

A man with a beard and a Republic Bank cap stands in front of a dark banner. He is wearing a t-shirt that says "I HAVE THE POWER" and "Republic Bank". The background is a dark, draped fabric. In the foreground, there are several white plastic chairs.

Republic Bank Brand Ambassadors

.....

Khalifa St. Fort

~

Jair Tjon En Fa

~

Andrew Lewis



Republic Bank’s Sport Brand Ambassadors are young athletes who have distinguished themselves on the world stage. They are role models, not only to the next generation of athletes, but to all young people who want to know what it takes to be the best in any field. We hope that the interactions they have are memorable and the examples they set are worthy of emulation.



Sprinter

K H A L I F A S T . F O R T

Sprinter Khalifa St. Fort has been a Republic Bank Ambassador since 2017. She is a World Youth Championships 100 metre silver medallist.

“
I want to be the reason a
kid pushes through.
”

“My most memorable visit as a Republic Bank Ambassador would have to be when we went to watch “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” with the kids. It was really good to see how happy they were to watch the movie with me and fellow Olympians Keshorn Walcott and Andrew Lewis. It made my heart feel warm that they felt good about themselves and maybe even wanted to become athletes as well.

They asked questions about what it’s like being a professional athlete – my training regimen and what I eat. But they mostly want to hear about “the championship experience” and how we overcome adversity to either win a medal or push through to the finals.

Having a corporate sponsorship means that all your hard work as an athlete has been noticed and appreciated. Being partnered with Republic Bank means a lot to me because they do so much charitable work. Like the hamper drive

we did for Christmas 2018 and working with the kids when we host camps. It allows us, as athletes, to give back to the country that has given us so much support.

I honestly enjoy being appointed as a role model because I know when I was younger I had athletes that I looked up to. It’s a big responsibility but I welcome it with open arms because I want to be the reason a kid decides: ‘I’m going to stay in this sport. I’m going to stick through it’ or ‘I’m going to continue to pursue my education no matter how difficult it is.’

Because I do that now: I am a student as well as an athlete, and I want kids to understand that your education is just as important as your sport. I make sure that I am the best role model I can be in public because I don’t want to be the reason a kid falls off. I want to be the reason a kid pushes through and pursues their dreams.”



Cyclist

J A I R T J O N E N F A

Track cyclist Jair Tjon En Fa has been Republic Bank Suriname's Brand Ambassador since 2017. The 25-year-old sprinter has mounted the podium at the Pan American Championships in consecutive years and is ranked 11th in the world for the 200-metre sprint.

“
Always fight for your dreams.
”

“Being a role model to me is about setting a good example for others. Doing that is not hard because even before I was a role model, I always presented myself in a respectful manner.

When I interact with young achievers, they are always interested in knowing what I do daily and how much I train, just to see how hard it is and if they really want to do it.

Last year, I got an opportunity to share some of my stories and experiences with schoolchildren in my homeland, Suriname. With them, my message was simple: Always fight for your dreams, even if the fight seems impossible. It’s simple because I truly believe that if you work hard enough to achieve what you want in life, eventually it can happen for you.

I remember this most of all as now I am working towards my dream – earning Olympic gold for my people and my country.”

Jair doesn’t have any major events at the moment, but he is constantly working with his coaches on getting stronger, faster, and better.

“This is something I want all aspiring athletes and young achievers with a dream to know. It takes constant work but you have to be ready to do it and be gracious enough to reap the rewards when they come.”

On the agenda for Jair this year are the Pan American Games and the Pan American Championships; two important meets that can give him a lot of points towards qualifying for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Like a true role model, Jair lives what he speaks and is working hard to achieve his goals. He does this always keeping in mind his most important life lesson.

“Always fight for your dreams.”



Sailor

A N D R E W L E W I S

Sailing Olympian Andrew Lewis has been a Republic Bank Ambassador since 2015, representing the brand through the Power to Make A Difference programme.

Sailor

A N D R E W L E W I S

“
We all have an opportunity to
leave a positive footprint.
”

“The Republic Bank Brand Ambassadorship allows me to reach lots of different areas and networks that I, as an athlete, couldn’t reach otherwise. I’ve visited a lot of schools, but I’ve also spoken at bank-hosted cultural events, and presented to interns of the Republic Bank Youth Link Apprenticeship Programme for young people interested in banking.

The most powerful appearance I’ve made was at Bishop Anstey High School. It was the first time I’d appeared at a school since my accident in Rio de Janeiro while training for the 2016 Olympics. A wall had collapsed on me and I broke two bones in my left leg, several ribs, got lots of facial fractures and punctured my left lung.

The students greeted me with hugs and love. It was the first school where I was able to tell the story of my recovery, and how precious life is, and my whole Olympic experience. My wife was there and I spoke side by side with inspirational speaker, Don La Foucade.

The biggest questions I get are: How do I become successful? How do I make money? How do I achieve my goals? I do get questions about my Olympic experience and how I got into sailing, but it’s amazing how many young people are asking for the pathway to success.

I always say, two things – vision and hard work.

It’s a very powerful thing when a corporate sponsor steps in to help any athlete, putting money behind them to train the way they need to train and eat the way they need to eat, allowing us to focus on what we want to achieve.

I think it’s an honour to be a role model in a formal capacity but everyone has the opportunity to be one. From the least known to the most known, it’s really up to you and how you want to be viewed. We all have an opportunity to leave a positive footprint.”

[#ThePowerofOne](#)



POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE PARTNERS
SUPPORTED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS

T R I N I D A D A N D T O B A G O

- 2 Cents Movement
- Adult Literacy Tutors Association
- AIDS Hotline
- Archdiocesan Family Life Commission
- Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago
- Avatar Internal Monitoring
- Belmont Boys R.C. School
- Brand Ambassador Sponsorship — Andrew Lewis
- Brand Ambassador Sponsorship — Khalifa St. Fort
- Butler Institute of Learning and Labour
- Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championships
- Caribbean Premier League
- Carifta Water Polo Championships
- Central FC
- Community Remedial Programme
- Cotton Tree Foundation
- CREDO Foundation for Hope & Justice — Nelson Street Boys Facility
- Cropper Foundation
- Culture House
- Deloitte & Touche
- Diabetic Association of Trinidad & Tobago
- Down Syndrome Family Network
- Dyslexia Association of Trinidad & Tobago
- Emancipation Support Committee
- Eshe's Learning Centre
- Eternal Light Community Vocational School
- EXODUS Steelband
- Families in Action
- Family Planning Association of Trinidad & Tobago
- Fatima College
- Foundation for Hope and Development
- Foundation for the Enhancement and Enrichment of Life (FEEL)
- Friends of Asa Wright
- Habitat For Humanity Trinidad & Tobago
- Helen Bhagwansingh Diabetes Education Research & Prevention Institute (DERPI)
- Hero Film Ltd.
- Heroes Foundation
- Hope Centre
- Hope of a Miracle Foundation
- Horses Helping Humans
- In Full Flight!
- Life Line
- John Hayes Memorial Kidney Foundation
- Living Water Community
- Lorna Lashley Save the Children Foundation
- Loveuntil Foundation
- Marlins Swim Club
- Memphis Pioneer Athletic Club
- MOMS for Literacy
- Monlo Music
- More Solutions
- Mt. Carmel Generalate
- Mucurapo Boys' R.C. School
- NALIS
- National Carnival Commission — Republic Bank Junior Carnival
- National Council for Indian Culture of Trinidad & Tobago
- National Water Polo Championships
- National Carnival Bands Association Mas Academy
- NiNA Programme
- Olives House
- Paralympics Organization of Trinidad & Tobago
- Patrons of Queen's Hall
- Persons Associated with Visual Impairment



POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE PARTNERS
SUPPORTED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS

- Petit Valley Boys' RC School
- Presentation College
- President's Award Foundation
- Queens Royal College
- R.C. Archbishop — Companions of the Transfigured Christ
- R.C. Archbishop — Holy Rosary RC Church
- R.C. Archbishop — Post SEA Vision & Values
- R.C. Archbishop Appeal Fund
- Rape Crisis Society
- Rapidfire Kidz Foundation
- Rebirth House Drug Rehabilitation Centre
- Republic Bank Caribbean Junior Golf Open
- Republic Bank Carols at the Botanical Gardens — Tobago
- Republic Bank Gift of Love Christmas Concert — Adam Smith Square
- Republic Bank Laventille Netball League
- Republic Bank Literacy Caravan
- Republic Bank Love Movement Youth Outreach Programme
- Republic Bank National Agri-Science Primary School Competition
- Republic Bank Pan Minors Music Literacy
- Republic Bank/Jane Young Junior Golf Tournament — Tobago
- Republic Cup National Youth Football League
- Revelation Institute for Performing Education
- Rodney's Revolution
- Sacred Heart Boys' R.C. School
- Salvation Army
- San Rafael R.C. School
- Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha — Baal Vikaas Vihaar
- Sangre Grande Government Primary School
- School for the Blind
- Scout Association of Trinidad & Tobago
- Sea to Sea Events Limited
- Servol Limited
- Sickkids Foundations (Caribbean Initiative)
- Society de Les Amantes de Jesus — Villa Assumpta
- St. Agnes Anglican Church
- St. Ann's/Cascade Motivational Programme
- St. Francis R.C. Church
- St. Jude's School for Girls
- St. Michael's School for the Boys
- St. Theresa's Girls' R.C. School
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- St. Vincent de Paul Society — Tobago
- Swaha Social Services
- T&T Association in Aid of the Deaf
- T&T Blind Welfare Association
- Trinidad & Tobago Cancer Society
- T&T Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- T&T National Commission for UNESCO — Leading for Literacy Now!
- T&T Red Cross Society
- Tackveeyatul Islamic Association
- The Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago
- The Breast Centre Cancer Support Group
- Transplant Links Community
- Trinidad & Tobago Hotels, Restaurants & Tourism Association
- Trinidad Muslim League Inc.
- United Way of Trinidad & Tobago
- University of the West Indies — Trinidad & Tobago
- Vision on Mission
- Young Men Christian Association
- Youth Business of T & T
- YTEPP Limited
- Zebapique Productions



POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE PARTNERS
SUPPORTED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS

B A R B A D O S

- Ann Hill School
- Barbados Association of Palliative Care
- Barbados Dance Project
- Barbados Golf Association
- Broadway to Barbados Charitable Trust
- Christian Learning Clinic
- Diabetes Association of Barbados
- Eden Lodge Youth Charitable Trust
- Erdiston Special School
- Franklyn Stephenson Academy
- Inter-Club Tennis Tournament
- Irving Wilson School
- Living Water Community
- Marlon Legal Voice Project
- More 4 Kids Barbados
- Republic Bank Grand Kadooment
- RightStart Primary School Speech Contest
- St. John the Baptist Church
- The Barbados Association for the Correction of Learning Disabilities
- The Barbados Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
- The National Cultural Foundation– Barbados National Youth Symphony Orchestra
- The Preservation (Barbados) Foundation Trust
- Transplant Links Community
- Ursuline Convent

G R E N A D A

- Angel Harps Steel Orchestra
- Anglican High School
- Cadrona Home for the Aged
- Carriacou Maroon Festival Committee
- Carriacou Regatta Festival Committee
- Carriacou United Cricket Board
- Grand Anse Home for the Aged
- Grenada Cancer Society
- Grenada Cricket Association
- Grenada Invitational Meet
- Grenada Sailing Festival
- Grenada School for Special Education
- Grenada Tourism Authority
- Grenada Youth Adventurers
- Hillview Home for the Aged
- Legal Aid & Counselling Clinic
- Ministry of Youth Development, Sports, Culture & The Arts
- New Life Organization
- Proactive National Builders
- Resource Centre for the Blind
- T.A. Marryshow Community College
- The Franciscan Institute
- University of the West Indies – Open Campus



POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE PARTNERS
SUPPORTED OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS

G U Y A N A

- Career Coach
- Community Based Rehabilitation Programme Transportation Project
- Iwokrama Environmental Literacy Project
- Ministry of Education Academic Achievement Awards
- National Drawing Competition
- Promenade Gardens Maintenance
- Republic Bank Mashramani Panorama Steel Band Competition
- Republic Bank RightStart Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Rebuilding Project
- Step by Step School for Autistic Children
- Theatre Guild Corporate Sponsorship
- University Library Business Journals Subscription
- University of Guyana Awards
- University of Guyana Scholarship
- Youth Link Apprenticeship Programme

S U R I N A M E

- Diakonessen Hospital
- Elderly Home Ashiana
- Foundation Bibilonef Suriname
- Foundation Child and Youth Telephone Line
- Foundation for Postacademic Education for Medicine in Suriname (SPAOGS)
- Foundation Mytyl School
- Foundation Sprint2Tokyo
- National Foundation for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons in Suriname (NSBS)
- Swimming Association Neptunes



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