



*the* **CULTURE** *issue*



# - The First Word -

## Culture, Our Foundation

Carnival is to Trinidad & Tobago what football is to Brazil. It is the blood that pumps through our veins, nurturing us with creativity and joy. It has become a life force onto itself, spawning an entire industry and positively contributing to the economy.

Apart from its financial role, carnival, and all aspects of our culture, are an important part of our national identity. Whether it's children chanting bhajans, neighbours bending wire together to create costumes or folklore performances in Tobago, every story, song, dance and costume is a unifying force telling us who we are and from where we came.

This issue of MADE is dedicated to culture and highlights our involvement in cherished cultural traditions, especially those involving our youth. We marry that with features on our youth activities, particularly our support of programmes that uplift and enrich young people's lives. Culture is bringing our youth together through shared experiences. It is a foundation for unity and a powerful investment in our country's future.

*Nadia*



Nadia Williams, Social Investment Officer

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- The Power To To Learn -

## Youth Carnival 2017

### Junior Parade of the Bands

The future of T&T Carnival is in safe hands if one were to judge by the expressions of delight on the faces of thousands of children who participated in the Republic Bank Junior Parade of the Bands earlier this year. The Bank continued its tradition of sponsoring a section in which 50 of our staff's children participated.



- The Power To To Learn -



## Zebapique Productions

Not only is the love of Carnival secure in the hearts of the next generation, but so is the art of mas making. The Bank teamed up with Zebapique productions, a mas production company whose outreach programme is bringing at-risk communities together through the production of carnival costumes. A powerful tribute to the value of cultural traditions!



- The Power To Care -



## Refurbished Library & Cafeteria for Holy Cross RC Princes Town Branch Shines in Branch Community Project

This August saw the members of the Princes Town branch involved in another school-focussed community project. This time, Holy Cross RC School was the beneficiary of a refurbished library and new cafeteria.

## Where Can We Make a Difference

Customer Care Coordinator, Curtis Beckles, who was involved in the coordination of the Holy Cross RC project, explains that it can sometimes be daunting to select the right cause from the many requests that the branch receives. Using the following two criteria has served the branch well in choosing their projects:

- 1 – Where the need is most urgent
- 2 – Where a large number of persons can benefit quickly



### Princes Town BCP in Numbers

30

RBL  
staff members  
participated

16

school staff  
assisted

308

students  
benefitted

## Overcoming Challenges

BCP's have their ups and downs. Curtis explained that a change in school principals in the midst of planning posed a small challenge but the team worked quickly to bring the new principal up to speed and receive her nod of approval. "Never give up no matter how tough the project gets. Always keep in mind that someone out there needs some assistance and that you are the one doing the good deed."

### Service Beyond the Banking Hall

“ Giving a helping hand to those in need allows us to make someone smile and feel loved. We get a chance to interact with our community on a different basis other than banking. ”

# FUHH REAL



Don La Foucade  
Inspired To Inspire

**Don La Foucade** Originally from Point Fortin, grew up in Morvant and Carenage. Attended Trinity College. Inspirational Speaker, Power To Make a Difference Brand Ambassador. **"A rotten beginning does not have to be a rotten ending"**: Don's "A-ha moment" came as a young student at Trinity College when his music teacher, Dr. Dawn Batson, shared the powerful message with him. "From that moment, I realised that I did not have to hurt people, but help them."

**Finding his God-given purpose**: From as early as his late teens, Don discovered his passion for motivational speaking and helping others. Throughout his 20's and 30's he spoke at numerous school graduations and bank events until he could no longer ignore the fact that this was his path. At the age of 38, Don walked away from 19 years in banking and began speaking full time. "I see myself more as an 'inspirational speaker' because I NEVER speak from paper, but rather speak as inspired."

**On Youth Today**: Don has spoken at 285 secondary schools since 2013 as part of his RBL sponsored school tour and has great insight into the challenges facing our youth – the greatest perhaps being that our youth reflect what they receive from society. "Our society is in a cycle of unresolved hurt. All of us as adults have to do our part, and parents in particular need to understand their critical role in stemming the tide of degradation." Don is optimistic about the future however, believing that we can turn things around with a proactive, focused approach: "We are either part of the problem or part of the solution. There is no middle ground."

# - The Power To Care -



## RBL joins hands with Rapid Fire Kidz Support for NGO that assists Persons With Disabilities

We have always openly embraced the fact that the onus must rest with those who have and those who can, to help those who have not and those who simply cannot.

Tisha Lee  
Group Corporate Communications Manager

Launched in 2012, the Rapid Fire Kidz Foundation assists underprivileged children with learning and physical disabilities. It was a natural fit for RBL to partner with the NGO to host its first Walk for Children with Disabilities in San Fernando in April.

\$175,000

RBL's investment in  
Rapid Fire Kidz for 2017



## My Voice, My Community

RBL partners with DSFN to host World Down Syndrome Day Conference

Turning advocacy into activism was the key message coming out of this year's World Down Syndrome Day Conference held on March 21 at the Hyatt Hotel & Conference Centre. We are proud to continue our support of the Down Syndrome Family Network in raising awareness for persons with Down Syndrome and adding our voice to the fight for inclusion and acceptance.



Sujeet Desai – accomplished museum and self-advocate – was the feature speaker at this year's conference and is pictured here receiving a token from President Anthony Carmona.

# - The Power To Learn -

## Rich Cultural Traditions Preserved

2017 Baal Vikaas Vihaar & Chowtaal  
Sammelan Delight Thousands

The months of March to May saw the continued traditions of the Baal Vikaas Vihaar and Chowtaal Sammelan competitions. Hosted by the SDMS for over 30 years, RBL was proud to once again be part of the rich, creative display put on by the hundreds of primary school students who participated in some of our country's most cherished cultural traditions.



- The Power To Learn -



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## A Bus for Naparima College

We were honoured to present Naparima College with a school bus in February to assist students in transportation to various activities.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Naparima College was founded in 1894 as the Canadian Mission Indian School by Dr. Kenneth J Grant, a Presbyterian Missionary from Canada. In 1900, the school was officially recognised as a secondary school and renamed Naparima College.

## St. Francois Student Tops Power of One Competition

Renique Mano of St. Francois Girls College earned top accolades for her environmental awareness project, earning her this year's Loveuntil Foundation Power of One Trophy. The Loveuntil Foundation Power of One competition challenges secondary school students in forms three and four to harness their creativity to put forward solutions to some of society's challenges.



- The Power To Learn -



RBL sponsors 30th Les Coteaux Folk Tales & Superstitions – Tobago Heritage Festival

The Les Coteaux Folk Tales & Superstitions event in July continues to be a highlight of the Tobago Heritage Festival. The highly anticipated segment, sponsored by RBL since 2006, has been hosted in Les Coteaux since 1987 and centres around the tales of Tobago’s mythical characters—douens, La Diablesse, the soucouyant, the fairy maid, and many others.



How to catch a Soucouyant

Legend has it that if you want to identify the Soucouyant in your village you must empty 100 lbs of rice at the village crossroads. The soucouyant will be compelled to pick up the rice one grain at a time, allowing villagers time to catch her in the act!

