



the **S P O R T S** issue



## - The First Word -

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## It's Time to 'Show Up'

Reflecting on the many sporting events sponsored annually by The Power To Make a Difference programme is always a source of inspiration. Our nation is blessed with such an abundance of young talent – naturally gifted girls and boys who, with the right guidance and support, are capable of reaching the highest levels of their chosen sport. Perusing the many photos of these events also highlights a challenge of sport development in our nation – the need for greater support at the most junior levels of sport. We are not just talking about financial support. We are talking about simply showing up. Too many of our stadia are near empty for youth sporting events.

The phenomenon is quite different in other parts of the world where crowd size is consistent, whether it's a little league game or an international match. Teams that dominate sports at the highest level have well-structured programmes that invest heavily in the scouting and development of young talent. But we are not only talking about financial support here. We are talking about simply 'showing up.' It's time we do the same and get out there and 'show up' for our young athletes. They need more than just our financial commitment – they need our emotional investment. In 2018, let's get out there, fill up those stadia and make some noise for our future stars!

*Nadia*



Nadia Williams, Social Investment Officer

**- Power To Succeed -**

**Celebrating the Young Stars of Caribbean Golf**  
18th year of support for Caribbean Junior Golf Championships

Team Puerto Rico beat Team T&T to walk away with the top accolades at this year's Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championships, which took place at the St. Andrew's Golf Club in Moka. Players from Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, the USVI, Turks & Caicos and Barbados contested the championships over 54 holes in three days. 2017 marked the tournament's 30th anniversary.



**On Our Investment in Golf...**

We don't see this as an investment in an event. We see it as an investment in the future of golf here and throughout the region. Most of all, we see it as an investment in you.

**Vijai Ragoonanan**  
General Manager, Risk Management

**31 Junior Golfers Graduate from Jane Young Golf Clinic**

The annual Jane Young Golf Clinic continues to draw tremendous enthusiasm among young golfers in Tobago. The 13th edition of the RBL sponsored clinic attracted 31 participants for an intense eight-day course.



# FUHHREAL

## HOW HORSES CAN HELP



### KAREN STOLLMMEYER

Founder, Horses Helping Humans (HHH). Born in England of Trinidadian parents. Raised in Maraval Trinidad. Lived and worked as a Speech Therapist in the US for 14 years before returning to TT. **Home Grown Inspiration:** Karen's mother (Marilyn Stollmeyer – midwife and founder of Mamatoto Resource & Birth Centre) has been a source of inspiration for Karen all her life, guiding her

toward a path of compassion and service to others. The late Father Gerard Pantin, founder of SERVOL, was a close family friend who also impacted her life profoundly: "He inspired me to follow my path and my dreams, and always radiated a deep, unconditional love and compassion and complete non-judgement that has had a deep and lasting effect on my being to this day." From US to TT: The story of HHH started in Miami in 1999 where Karen was a practicing speech therapist, but it was not until twelve years later that the NGO was formed in TT. **Combined Passion:** Karen's combined passion for horses and therapy drew her to Hippo Therapy which she discovered in a medical journal. Her curiosity led her to a Hippo Therapy Conference in Colorado and the rest is history. Following her heart: Karen moved to TT in 2000, following the closure of HHH in Miami, and opened a yoga studio, putting horses and therapy behind her. Fate intervened in 2012, however, when, upon hearing of a former jumping horse about to be put down, Karen felt drawn to begin working with horses again. "My husband and I adopted Uni, our first horse, with the intention of giving hippo therapy to a friend of mine who had a son with special needs. Once we adopted Uni, I started seeing other children with autism almost immediately with amazing results." **Therapy For All:** Karen's dream is for Hippo Therapy "to be made available to all who need it, not just those who can afford it." Despite the economic downturn and its impact on NGO funding, HHH is confident it will continue to grow and expand its services. "RBL's PMAD programme has made such a difference in the lives of two children with autism and their families as they have received free weekly hippo therapy over the last two years." HHH also hosts regular fundraisers and is open to the public for horseback riding and equine therapy services.

- Power to Care -

## Header: Children Treated to Fun Day with Horses Helping Humans (HHH)

It was a joy to once again partner with our friends at Horses Helping Humans to sponsor their 2nd Rainbow Family Fun Fair at The Green Park, Movie Towne. The family event was well attended and featured a variety of entertainment that included Carousel park rides, pony rides, magic and puppet shows, a petting zoo and arts & craft activities. RBL once again sponsored tickets for 200 special needs children from homes that are currently beneficiaries of the Power To Make a Difference programme.



## 3 FACTS ABOUT HHH

- HHH is the only organisation to offer Hippotherapy (therapy with horses) in Trinidad
- Physical interaction with horses is scientifically proven to stimulate motor, sensory and cognitive skills
- RBL has partnered with HHH since 2015 to provide hippotherapy to special needs children who would otherwise not be able to afford the service

# - Power To Succeed -

## Young Footballers Shine as Republic Football League Concludes

The 23rd annual Republic Cup Youth Football Tournament was yet another dazzling display of talent among our young footballers. Queen's Park Cricket Club captured the Under-11 title with Central FC walking away with the Under-13 honours, and Santa Rosa, the Under 15 title. The finals were a culmination of several weeks of matches which saw over 100 teams participate.



## Republic Cup or Republic League?

Restructured slightly in 2010, the Republic Cup is now formally known as the Republic Bank National Youth League and is aimed at preparing young footballers for the next step towards achieving their dreams. Though the name and format of this initiative have changed from those of the Tournament, the focus remains the same – toward youth development through sport.



- Power To Succeed -

## 3 FACTS

### About Republic Bank National Youth Football League

- The tournament is sanctioned by the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association.
- The winners vie for the Republic Cup Shield and over \$50,000 worth of prizes.
- Prizes are awarded to the First place and Runners up in each of the following categories: Boys 11 and under; Boys 13 and under; Boys 15 and under and Girls 15 and under category. There are also prizes for Most Valuable Player, Most Disciplined Player and Most Promising Player.



- Power To Succeed -



## Support for Inaugural Basketball Fiesta

2017 marks our 40th year of support for basketball in T&T, but our first year of partnership with the Diego Martin based Spartans TT basketball team in hosting their Basketball Fiesta. The inaugural event saw more than 40 teams participate with over 150 players between the ages of five and 20 years old.



## Winner's Row

Maloney Pacers Basketball Academy and Youth Development Programme dominated the tournament, winning both the U-18 and U-14 age groups.



## Young Laventille Netballers Celebrated

The Republic Bank Laventille Netball League celebrated its 30th anniversary this year with another successful and keenly contested league. Winners of the various categories were presented with their prizes at a ceremony at RBL's Head Office at the end of November.



No Excuses To Be All that you can be.

Don La Foucade, Motivational Speaker of In Full Flight, and beneficiary of the Power To Make A Difference programme, creates an inspirational acronym with the sport's name.



- Power To Learn -



RBL Sponsors Chaguanas based Children's Camp

We were proud to be part sponsor of the Chaguanas-based 'Camp Phoenix', a joint effort of the TT Police Service, TT Defense Force and Enterprise Community Council. The camp offered children from the community a number of educational and uplifting activities with motivational sessions facilitated by Don La Foucade of In Full Flight.

Leading For Literacy in the Classroom



Principal of the Year, Milton Eastman of Black Rock Government School, Tobago, receives his award from Nadia Williams, Social Investment Officer, RBL. "Work like this cannot be done alone and as educators, we all need to support the call for a Literacy movement, to ensure that our children are successful," commented Mr. Eastman on receiving the recognition. The 3rd phase of the Leading For Literacy Now! Programme came to successful completion in September with a closing ceremony held at the Bank's Head Office. Thirty-six principals, 72 teachers, 1,000 parents and over 1,600 infant-year students participated in this installment of the programme.



A cross section of the audience at the closing ceremony of the Leading For Literacy Now! Programme Graduation Ceremony. The programme is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Education, the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, the School Leadership Center, NALIS and Republic Bank Ltd. It provides a comprehensive approach for school principals, teachers and parents to work towards improving the reading capacity of children in the classroom.

- Power To Learn -

## Pan, Sweet Pan!

Over 150 young pannists graduated from this year's Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme held at venues in both Trinidad and Tobago. 2017 marks the programme's 22nd year. It offers 30 hours of music training and runs over three weeks. The curriculum comprises 15 hours of music theory with aural training; and 15 hours of music reading, writing and technical skills.



## Quizz!

How well do you know our national instrument?

Select one response.

Answers on the back page.

1. Who was credited with making the first steelpan?

- a. Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe
- b. Winston 'Spree' Simon
- c. Aldwin Roberts

2. Which of the following instruments can be found in a modern-day steel band?

- a. Biscuit tin
- b. Soapbox
- c. Triangle

3. Which steel band is currently sponsored by RBL?

- a. Exodus
- b. Phase 2
- c. Invaders



## Interesting Pan Minors Facts

- RBL has been supporting the development of youth in steelpan since 1995.
- The Pan Minors Music Literacy Programme is a pre-requisite for entry to study Musicology at the degree level at the Department for Creative and Festive Arts, University of the West Indies.
- The programme is open to music students between the ages of 10 and 17. Schools which feature steelpan as part of their music curriculum are invited to nominate students for entry to the programme.



- Power to Care -

## Chaguanas Branch Lights Up for Divali

Divali celebrations at the Centre City, Chaguanas branch have become a mainstay of the RBL calendar with 2017 marking 45 years of the tradition. The annual event takes place three weeks before the holy day of Divali and attracts approximately 800 customers, management and staff. This year, attendees were treated to a festive evening of entertainment featuring the Susan Mohip Dance Group, Freeport Hindu School, NGC T&T Sweet Tassa All Girls Band and Sargam International Orchestra. The event is planned and executed entirely by staff members of the Centre City branch, many of whom also participated in the fashion show – one of the highlights of the evening's programme. Attendees included His Excellency, Shri Bishwadip Dey, High Commissioner of India for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and His Worship, Gopaul Boodhan, Mayor for the Borough of Chaguanas.



# FUHR REAL



## On Hope & Miracles

### CINDY SCHUTTERS

Founder Hope of A Miracle Foundation. **Born:** South Africa, of Belgian Parents. **A citizen of the world:** Cindy's family moved many times due to her father's profession, but she spent most of her childhood in South America - Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela; then finally settled in Trinidad. **A passion for helping others:** Though Cindy cannot pinpoint one particular event in her life that moved her to help others, she recalls discovering that desire to serve even as a young girl. "It is being in a foundation like Hope Of A Miracle where I can help others that inspires me every day." **Creating miracles:** Cindy is one of the founding members of Hope of A Miracle which was formed in 2006 to offer financial assistance to families whose children need medical access both locally and abroad. "Challenges are minor compared to Success": Cindy acknowledges that like any NGO, Hope of A Miracle experiences its own challenges but believes that these are dwarfed by the enormous impact of the good that the charity does: "These children come to the Foundation with medical conditions, some are even a matter of life and death. Just to see these children smile after the procedures is the greatest success for us." **Advice to young people:** Cindy is a mother of two boys who are very involved in the Foundation's activities with her. "It is important that they understand from young, that in life, one must always help those in need."

- Power to Help -

## Mayaro Government School gets Much-Needed Boost

With the Mayaro Government Primary School just a short distance from the Mayaro branch, supporting the school's latest efforts at bolstering its learning facilities was a natural fit for the branch's community project. Members of staff dedicated a weekend to assisting in the construction of three outdoor spaces on the school's compound. The facilities are designated as 'learning centres' with the intention of creating a more stimulating environment for both learning and socialising. The school currently has enrollment of 475 students and feedback about the open spaces indicates that the initiative is already proving successful.

Well done Mayaro Branch!



## Outdoor Learning

### Did you know?

Recent studies have shown that students who have periods of outdoor learning throughout the school day perform better than peers who do not. It is believed that the ambient sounds of nature increase the release of the 'feel good' hormone, serotonin, which creates feelings of relaxation and wellbeing. The outdoors also boost cognitive awareness and sensory perception.



Responses to Pan Sweet Pan Quiz on Page 12

- 1 - B
- 2 - C
- 3 - A