

What Would You Name This Newsletter?



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Welcome! We are thrilled to introduce you to our latest communication piece, focusing on our recent activities under the Power to Make a Difference Programme. Every two months, we will feature snapshots of our latest events, with the aim of keeping you informed about programmes we are funding, the impact they are making, and why they matter to us as RBL employees.

But, because you are so integral to making the Power to Make a Difference Programme the success that is, we will be challenging you, in each issue, to make this newsletter feel truly yours.

So here is our very first challenge – NAME THIS NEWSLETTER!

We challenge you to submit a name for this newsletter which highlights our Power to Make a Difference Programme. Have a read of our first issue to get a feel for the type of stories we want to share with you. Then, submit your newsletter name via email to nwilliams@republictt.com or ramroop@republictt.com not later than Friday August 28th at 4pm.

Feel free to give us a little background about your choice for the newsletter name!

We'll unveil the newsletter name and our winner in the next issue! Good luck!

- Literacy -

UNESCO Leading for Literacy Now!

The launch of the second phase of the "Leading for Literacy Now!" primary school project was held on Wednesday 6 May, 2015 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Invader's Bay, Port of Spain. RBL has committed over TT\$1.4 million for each of the next four years of the project.



RBL & Leading for Literacy Now! in figures:

160

the number of primary schools that will be covered over the next four years

12k

the number of children expected to benefit over that period

320

the number of teachers to be trained

4k

the number of parents who will be trained



The project trains 1st and 2nd year primary school teachers, principals and parents on how to better assist the children in literacy development and provide an appropriate environment for developing their literacy skills.



- The programme will run from August, 2015 to July, 2016 and consist of 7 stages.
- Leading for Literacy Now was launched in T&T in 2013.
- Over 3,000 children in 40 primary schools have already benefitted from the programme.



- Literacy -



RBL Literacy Caravan

The RBL Literacy Caravan took place in April. Twelve primary schools received

\$6,000

in recreational books for their libraries.

The Literacy Caravan rolled out to:

- Trinidad:
- Spring Village Hindu School
 - Arima West Government Primary
 - St. Pius Boys' R.C. School
 - Toco R.C. School
 - Grande Riviere A.C. School
 - Freeport Presbyterian School
 - Claxton Bay Junior A.C. School
 - Rio Claro ASJA Primary School
 - Hokett Baptist Primary
 - Gloster Lodge Moravian School

- Tobago:
- Moriah Government Primary
 - Scarborough S.D.A. Primary

Books contain

50%

more rare words than primetime television. Books give children a chance to explore and use new words to which they wouldn't normally be exposed.



Ellie the Owl was presented for the first time as the mascot for the RBL Literacy Caravan. Ellie, which stands for 'Education Lasts Longest in Everyone', was created and portrayed by traditional mas maker, Kendall De Peaza, with whom the Bank became acquainted through the RBL/NCBA Mas Academy initiative.

- Literacy -



YMCA marks International Children's Book Day

RBL contributed TT\$120,000 toward a week of activities hosted by the YMCA to mark International Children's Book Day. The programme is held in countries across the World and is aimed at increasing the reading levels of at risk children and raising awareness about the value of reading.

International Children's Book Day is celebrated annually on

APRIL 2

The date also marks the birthday of famed fairytale writer, Hans Christian Andersen.

Activities Included:

- Reading aloud for Audience
- Family Reading Night
- International Children's Book Day Spelling Bee
- Reading in the Jungle



“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.”

Albert Einstein

- Poverty Alleviation -

Habitat for Humanity

RBL has committed another TT\$1,000,000 to Habitat for Humanity for 2015 with plans to construct the NGO's first home in Tobago. This year's Leadership Build took place on April 18. Members of our management and executive teams came out to assist in the painting and dedication of a home for Alister Thomas, victim of a house fire.



RBL staff support United Way Day of Caring

In true RBL style, staff came out in their numbers to support the 3rd annual United Way Day of Caring on May 17.

Here is who we helped:

- Autistic Society Headquarters
- Grand Riviere RC School
- Moriah Government Primary School

HFH in Numbers!

22x24 the number of square feet an average house built by HFH measures

200 average monthly mortgage payment, in TTD

500 the number of families HFH intends to serve over the next 5 years

65,000,000 total amount of money needed in TTD for HFH to meet its local housing programme over the next 5 years

Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest to you.

Mother Teresa

3

Facts about HFH

- Global NGO focused on rallying volunteers to provide homes for those in need
- Builds and rehabilitates homes, provides training to occupants to improve shelter
- First T&T HFH home was built in Sangre Grande

- Youth Development -

Continued Support for Making The Switch

RBL continued its support of the youth motivational workshop series, Making the Switch, with a contribution of TT\$200,000 for the first half of 2015.

The programme targets Form 1 students transitioning to the next educational level and seeks to provide positive reinforcement and motivation.

Topics covered by "Making the Switch":

- Choices & Consequences
- Overcoming Obstacles & Facing Challenges
- Discovering & Living One's Purpose

Another successful Baal Vikaas Vihaar

The 31st annual Baal Vikaas Vihaar competition came to a successful close in June with 43 schools competing. This is the 7th year that RBL has supported the cultural youth event. We have invested TT\$250,000 annually.

What is the meaning of

YAGA?

YAGA means the giving up of the material for the sake of the Divine. By so doing the inner power of man blossoms forth.



I admire Mr. La Foucade because he is very funny and talks about life and what you want to be in the future. I wish he was my father so that I can listen to him talk and share laughter.

Student Maleena Mitchell, Malabar Secondary

4 Facts about Baal Vikaas Vihaar

- The Festival is compulsory for all Hindu primary schools
- It showcases talent in the fields of singing, dancing and music
- All activities are done in Hindi
- The festival creates an environment for respect, tolerance and harmony for students of all cultural and religious backgrounds

Why we support cultural events?

Our commitment to culture and cultural development stems from our overarching vision of preserving traditions - the traditions that all of us as adults enjoyed and continue to enjoy - for future generations.

- Caring for the Differently-abled -



Support for Autism Awareness

The Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago marked Autism Awareness Month in April. Republic Bank continues to provide therapy sessions for both the children and the parents at the Society. This is our 7th year of involvement with the Autistic Society, and each year our contribution has focused on aiding the Society's efforts to provide information, guidance, training and support to the families of autistic children.



3 Facts about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- ASD typically appears during the first three years of a child's life
- It is a complex development disability that affects individuals differently
- There is no known single cause for autism

- Environmental Conservation -



Project AWARE

RBL teamed up with non-profit organisation, Culture House, to launch Project AWARE (A Wonderful And Rare Earth) in June. The project aims to heighten awareness of the role and responsibility of citizens in the preservation and conservation of our environment through creative and vibrant programmes.

T&T has the

2ND

highest carbon footprint in the world per capita.



What Project AWARE Aims to Achieve:

- Public education on environmental issues specifically related to T&T
- School and community workshops offering practical steps to improve our local environment
- Highlighting other NGO's, CBO's and individuals doing outstanding work in the area of environmental awareness