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- Branch Community Projects -



A Rhythm Renaissance

Siparia Branch uplifts Diatonic Pan Institute

The Diatonic Pan Institute has been an active NGO in the Siparia community since the Institute's inception, using the power of music to enrich the lives of at-risk youth. From May 5 to 19, 25 members of staff from the Siparia Branch, together with students and staff from the Institute, spent several mornings and afternoons giving the NGO's premises a much needed face lift. Work carried out included renovations to the male and female washrooms and the rehearsal stage. A number of hampers were also distributed to members of the community.



For Janine Thomas, Siparia Customer Sales Officer and Branch Community Project Coordinator, selecting the Diatonic Pan Institute as the Branch's Community Project was natural: "Many of the branch's customers have children who attend the Institute's pan classes. Their good work and far-reaching impact in the community are well known to us in the branch."



"This project has been a tremendous help to us and by extension, to the community of Siparia because this building is not only accessed by our members but other community-based organisations."

Vernon Dimsoy
Vice President – Diatonic Pan Institute

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Facts About
Diatonic Pan
Institute

- Established in 2010
- Offers free pan lessons to at-risk youth between the ages of 10 and 25
- Hosts classes for post-SEA students, annual vacation camps and overseas tours

- Youth Development & Sport -



Tobago Sea to Sea Marathon a Success

The inaugural Tobago Sea to Sea Marathon in May was a resounding success, attracting 800 local and international runners to make the historic run through the Western Hemisphere's only protected rain forest reserve. The weekend of events comprised 5K and 10K runs, a half-marathon and marathon. We are honoured to have been the leading sponsor of the event's first installment and look forward to its continued success.



- Youth Development & Sport -



In many ways, our environment is much like our nation's youth; if we do not take innovative and comprehensive steps to protect them, then we stand to lose them forever.

Shedley Branche, Area Manager,
Republic Bank Tobago

- Youth Development & Sport -



Winner's Row

5K

Male Winner - Iley Bruce - 00:17:08.4
Trinidad & Tobago

Female Winner - Aaliyah Mitchell - 00:21:44.4
Trinidad & Tobago

10K

Male Winner - Kenneth Rotich - 00:31:16.1
Kenya

Female Winner - Yeisy Alvarez - 00:36:24.0
Venezuela

Half Marathon

Male Winner - Alexis Pena - 01:16:00.3
Venezuela

Female Winner - Yeisy Alvarez - 01:25:29.5
Venezuela

Marathon

Male Winner - Peters Nkaya - 02:43:13
Kenya

Female Winner - Mary Beasley - 03:07:31.7
United States



- Youth Development & Education -

RBL Literacy Caravan Hits The Road

Our Literacy Caravan was at it again in April, donating over \$100,000 in Art and Craft Supplies to 20 primary schools across the country. 2016 marks the 2nd year of the literacy drive aimed at boosting literacy levels among school-aged children.

DID YOU KNOW?

A country's literacy level is measured by the percentage of the population over the age of 15 that can read and write.



RBL partners with YMCA for Week of Reading

The YMCA Week of Reading kicked off on April 1, marking yet another year of our long-standing partnership with the YMCA in the area of literacy. The week-long event, which started with the "Children Read Aloud" activity, hosted over 30 children between the ages of five and 11 from the communities of Morvant, Dibe and Laventille.



- Power to Care -

Driving Advocacy & Awareness for ASD

April is Autism Awareness month across the World and we once again gave support to the Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago in their month of activities to raise awareness for Autism Spectrum Disorder. The month's activities included the sale of tee shirts, donations and support of the annual walk around the Queen's Park Savannah.



They say it takes a village to raise a child. I think it takes a child with autism or other special needs to raise the consciousness of a village.

Elaine Hall – Author



This year's theme was
Awareness, Acceptance & Advocacy

- Youth Development -



When we started planning the Primary School Spoken Word Showcase, we realised we had no reference point for anything like this, anywhere in the World. It quickly became clear to us that this space provided an essential platform for pre-teen children to develop their writing skills and performance techniques, while allowing them to engage their own social awareness.

Jean-Claude Cournand,
2CM Founder & Managing Director

2CM continues to Inspire through Spoken Word

The Inspire Tour continues to educate and entertain primary school children across the country, introducing them to the art form of Spoken Word poetry. "Inspire" is the brain child of The 2 Cents Movement (2CM) and has already been successfully received at over 80 secondary schools across the country. 2CM is now taking its programme to primary schools, visiting 25 in their inaugural year. The project begins with a tour which introduces the art form to the students. A workshop series then follows and ends with a competition in which the young artists can showcase their new talent. Through the tour, children gain financial literacy and character building skills.



Support for Dyslexia Seminar

To commemorate our 8th year of partnership with the Dyslexia Association of Trinidad and Tobago, we sponsored the 5-day 'Dyslexia Now' seminar, in which US based neuropsychologist Dr. Tim Conway and his team showcased teaching techniques for differently abled students.

T&T Dyslexia Stats:

It is estimated that in a class of

30

students in T&T,

3

would be dyslexic.

- Poverty Alleviation -



United Way Day of Caring

RBL Staffers Head South

150 RBL staffers joined students of Naparima College and Bishop Anstey High School, East, on Sunday May 22, to paint the Vision on Mission (VOM) Women's Transitional Centre, at Claxton Bay as part of the United Way National Day of Caring. For the past three years, RBL has supported the construction of the facility, which will be home to over 50 female ex-offenders, once completed. The Centre will be the first of its kind in the Caribbean and will be commissioned later this year.

- Across the Territories -

RBL celebrates Guyana's 50th Anniversary of Independence

With Guyana recognising 50 years of Independence in May this year, RBL branches throughout the country joined in the celebrations, adorning the banking halls with Guyana's national colours and participating in inter-branch contests that highlighted the nation's heritage. The Bank also hosted a series of free steelpan concerts at the Sea Wall entitled "Pan on the Wall," which showcased the talents of a number of school steel orchestras and larger bands.



- Thoughts on Volunteerism -

As we reach out our hands as volunteers
And seek to grasp the hands of those in need
Imagine how great our combined impact could be

If only all the hands that reach could touch
There would be no loneliness
We'd be there for each other

If only all the hands that reach could touch
There would be no selfishness
We'd be selfless

If only all the hands that reach could touch
There would be no distrust
We'd all be friends

If only all the hands that reach could touch
There would be no lost generation
We'd be there for our youth

If only all the hands that reach could touch
There would be no wars
We'd be at peace

If only all the hands that reach could touch!

By Republic Bank Staffer

