



SCOTIABANK TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

MEDIA RELEASE

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Scotiabank Foundation and United Way support steelpan music programme at Mucurapo Boys and Girls Primary Schools.

Students at St. Mary's Mucurapo Boys' and Girls RC Primary Schools are now benefiting from new steelpans donated by the Scotiabank Foundation through United Way Trinidad and Tobago's (UWTT) Building Bridges to Success Programme.

The Building Bridges to Success Programme aims to help build strong foundational skills to ensure there is an increasing number of children learning to read by age 8 or standard 2. In addition to supporting parents and teachers to help them better engage in the learning process as well as language development and social emotional learning, the Programme promotes Out of School time (OST) play opportunities through music and sport.

The main objectives of the Building Bridges Out-of-School Time Play Programme are to promote the importance of OST programmes, as complementary to academic curricula, to the overall holistic development of children; and to ensure that children with different learning styles, marginalised and at-risk children have equitable access to OST programme as a way to improve wellbeing and school success. The steelpans are presently housed in a newly established music room at Mucurapo Boys for use by both Schools. 250 students from Mucurapo Boys and 500 students from Mucurapo Girls will benefit from the introduction of the steelpans

Gail Sooknarine, CEO Designate, United Way commented "Music has been shown to reduce stress, assist in brain development and improve social skills in children. At UWTT, we have incorporated the steelpan, our indigenous instrument, into our Building Bridges Programme; something we think important to support. We thank Scotiabank Foundation for its contribution towards making this possible."

Lyle Reece, Principal St. Mary's Mucurapo Boys RC expressed his delight in having the instruments as part of the school's music Programme "Scotiabank Foundation and United Way Trinidad and Tobago have brought 'nothing but the best' to the shores of our School. Through the Building Bridges Programme, and now through the intervention of these steelpan instruments, the students will 'play a tune of excellence' in all their endeavours.'

Gayle Pazos, Senior VP and Managing Director, Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago highlighted the Bank's support for steelpan education, stating "introducing young ones to the steelpan not only promotes a passion for our national instrument, but also helps develop their academic, social and physical skills. We are proud to collaborate with UWTT and invest in initiatives such as this one, that provide opportunities for our youth to develop and grow."



United Way and Scotiabank representatives, as well as other stakeholders share a fun moment with students at Mucurapo Boys with the new steelpan.



Students of Mucurapo Boys play a few notes on the steelpan with Cindy Mohammed - General Manager, Scotiabank Foundation.



A student of Mucurapo Boys enthusiastically plays the steelpan during a class with Kyshon Frith – Music Teacher

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