Q3 2026 NEWSLETTER

UNITED WAY Trinidad and Tobago



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

BUILDING BRIDGES FROM LEARNING TO SUCCESS

After six years of supporting student success through the Building Bridges from Reading to Success Programme, UWTT is taking the next step in its journey. In August, we launched BBP 2.0, a renewed approach that shifts the focus from breadth to depth, placing greater emphasis on outcomes and coordinated school-community support.

For the 2026–2027 academic year, UWTT will work closely with **six** school communities, representing **1,219** students and **75** teachers and support staff. By concentrating resources and support within these communities, the programme will provide deeper engagement with schools, stronger family involvement, enhanced support for educators, and more effective measurement of student outcomes. These school communities include Belmont, Patna River Estate, Cocorite, Mt. D'Or, Mon Repos and Kelly Village, Caroni.

At the heart of BBP 2.0 is a whole-school, whole-community approach. By bringing together schools, families, community organizations, and corporate partners around shared priorities, schools can serve as community anchors, fostering lasting improvements for children and families while building a model that can be expanded to other communities over time.

Importantly, our existing Building Bridges schools remain part of the programme network. While the six focus schools will receive the full programme model, the remaining **12** schools will continue to benefit through targeted programme components, communities of learning, donations, and Day of Caring initiatives.

Corporate partnerships will continue to play a vital role in the programme's success. BBP 2.0 moves beyond traditional sponsorship by creating opportunities for sustained, meaningful engagement in school communities. Through volunteering, skills-based support, resource mobilisation, and strategic investment, corporate partners can contribute directly to priority areas identified by schools. With UWTT serving as the coordinating partner, these contributions will be aligned with each school's Childhood Success Action Plan, helping to deliver lasting outcomes for children, families, and communities.

COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING

In August, we kicked off the 2026 -2027 academic year with a three-day training for our **six** focus schools. **46** principals, vice-principals, and teachers participated in a training programme that established a shared understanding of BBP 2.0 and prepared schools for implementation over the next three years.

The sessions focused on strengthening instructional leadership, building collaborative school cultures, and enhancing literacy instruction through evidence-based teaching, assessment, and intervention practices. Participants explored topics such as childhood success, data-driven school improvement, the Science of Reading, and high-performing school teams. Participants appreciated the strategies shared, especially the Science of Reading. Similar programmes will continue into the academic year.





OUT OF SCHOOL TIME: MT. D'OR GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

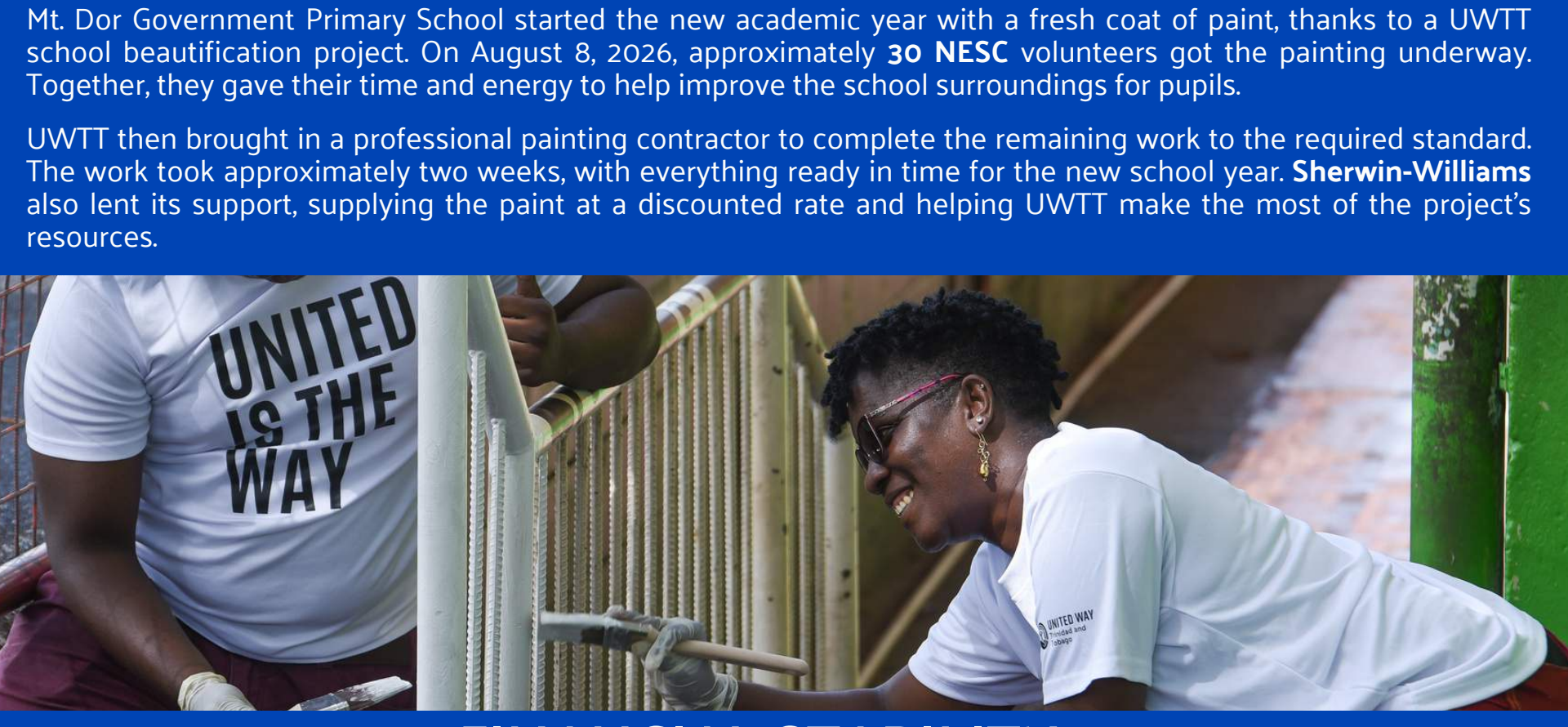
In July, Mt. Dor Government Primary School received a **13-piece pan ensemble** through the Building Bridges Out of School Time Play Programme and financial support from the **ScotiaBank Foundation**. They began their pan lessons in September, with UWTT providing tutoring for Infants 1 through Standard 1 pupils. Some students shared that they cannot wait to practice so they can enter the Panorama competition in 2027.

> "This gift of steelpans to Mt D'Or Government Primary School is more than just a donation of a set of instruments- it is an investment in the future of our students. It will inspire them, nurture their talents, build their confidence and help them gain a deeper appreciation for our rich cultural heritage."
> **Ms. Lyra Bonaparte**
> **Principal, Mt. Dor Government Primary Scool**

SCHOOL SUPPORT TO THE NEW NORM: MT. D'OR GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mt. Dor Government Primary School started the new academic year with a fresh coat of paint, thanks to a UWTT school beautification project. On August 8, 2026, approximately **30 NESC** volunteers got the painting underway. Together, they gave their time and energy to help improve the school surroundings for pupils.

UWTT then brought in a professional painting contractor to complete the remaining work to the required standard. The work took approximately two weeks, with everything ready in time for the new school year. **Sherwin-Williams** also lent its support, supplying the paint at a discounted rate and helping UWTT make the most of the project's resources.



FINANCIAL STABILITY



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

12 community members from **Patna/River Estate** attended our Community Conversation in July, including the president of the Patna/River Estate Community Council. The group identified funding for activities, parental support, and community safety as their primary concerns. Financial stability and job security was also a challenge, often preventing parents from enrolling their children in extracurriculars. The group also identified youth club, adult literacy, and financial literacy as possible meaningful interventions for the community.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

HURRICANE MELISSA SUPPORT

When Hurricane Melissa disrupted livelihoods across western Jamaica, United Way of Trinidad and Tobago raised **TT$917,000** with support from our partners **Atlantic LNG, bpTT, Republic Bank Limited, Southern Sales Limited,** and **TSTT,** to help bring hope and much needed resources to hundreds of families. Through our partnership with **United Way of Jamaica**, farmers and fisherfolk received the tools they needed to rebuild, recover and move forward.

The programme directly supported **346 poultry farmers** with **16,300 baby chicks, 572 bags of feed, 286 automated waterers and 286 antistress packs,** while fisherfolk received essential equipment including **579** ropes, **155** life vests, **620** floats, **310** rolls of wire, **739** nets and **24** coolers to help them safely return to work.

The initiative strengthened food security, restored livelihoods and supported community recovery across some of the areas hardest hit by the storm, including **St. James, Hanover, St. Elizabeth**, and **Westmoreland**.







GET INVOLVED. GIVE BACK. TAKE ACTION

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