



Digicel (Barbados) Limited CEO Mark Linehan (right) and colleagues Alex Tasker (left) and Andrea Worrell (second from right) presenting a cheque for \$10,000 to Shelley Weir, president of the Hope Foundation.

Digicel bumps up Hope funding

Telecommunications company Digicel has bumped up its support of the Hope Foundation, the organization that has been driving local awareness of lupus. Following its annual **Walk For Lupus** last month, the foundation received the unexpected, but very welcome, news that Digicel had decided to more than double its financial support, now pledging \$10,000 in an effort to assist the organization with its various programmes.

Mark Linehan, said. Foundation president Shelley Weir thanked Digicel for its increased contribution and continued support. "It is not normal for me to be at a loss for words, but this increased contribution has left me dumbfounded. Since 2006 Digicel has been a constant and dependable partner of the foundation which in a lot of ways has given us the confidence to proceed with some of our programmes," she said.

"The Hope Foundation does tremendous work not only in raising awareness for lupus but also sickle cell disease and arthritis. Given Barbados is rated second in the world in terms of the percentage of the population with lupus and that the number of persons being diagnosed with lupus is increasing each year, it is important now more than ever to ensure that the Hope Foundation continues with its work of raising awareness of the disease while supporting those among us who are suffering from it. I would like to congratulate Shelley Weir and her team for the great work they are doing at the Hope Foundation," CEO of Digicel (Barbados) Limited,

"In this economic climate, the level of support though unexpected is undoubtedly welcomed. We not only thank Digicel for their financial support but equally that the team took the time to participate in our **Walk For Lupus** in large numbers to further demonstrate the meaning of partnership. We eagerly look forward to this continued relationship." Lupus is an autoimmune disease where the body's immune system becomes hyperactive and attacks normal, healthy tissue. This results in symptoms such as inflammation, swelling, and damage to joints, skin, kidneys, blood, the heart and lungs. (PR)

Bank On Me briefing for second season

Winner Kristina Adams and other finalists of the inaugural **Bank On Me** television reality show will be participating in a briefing session for entrepreneurs interested in entering the upcoming second season.

Blue Waters Productions Inc., in association with Scotiabank, announced that the session was being held to ensure entrepreneurs submitted applications that were well thought out and that demonstrated a good understanding of their business. This could result in a better chance to be selected for the show.

Detailed information will also be provided about the application process and what to expect on the show. The session will be held tomorrow at **Bagnall's Point Gallery & Annex, Pelican Craft Centre**, Princess Alice Highway, Bridgetown, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Winner of the prize for the **Most Improved Business**, Julia Caine, of Torchworkx, says of her experience: "This is a great opportunity for anyone wishing to enter the competition. Although a workshop was held last year offering guidance and support when I made my application, being able to talk to someone who went through it and explained their experiences

would have prepared me for what I encountered: it is a different level of understanding.

"It promises to be a beneficial session and I encourage any interested applicants to attend armed with any questions they may have prior to completing their form."

Scotiabank senior marketing manager Lisa Cole, who will also speak at the session, said Scotiabank believed that entrepreneurship and small business were a key driver to growing the economy and to making persons financially better off.

"We see our relationship with **Bank On Me** as the perfect opportunity to marry financial expertise and entrepreneurial vision to create opportunities for current and potential business owners across Barbados to grow, hone their skills and take their business ideas to the next level," she said.

Application forms are available on the **Bank On Me** website and **Facebook** page, and must be submitted on or before Friday, September 26. All applicants must be over 18, reside in Barbados and have a business with a product or service already on the market or market-ready. (PR)

CIBC emerging leaders

FIRST CARIBBEAN TEAMS UP WITH JCI TO REFURBISH GOVERNMENT HILL NURSERY

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank has joined forces with an organization of emerging leaders seeking to effect positive change within the Barbadian community. The bank has responded to a request from JCI Barbados for assistance in replacing crucial items destroyed in a fire last year at the Government Hill Nursery School.

Monies will also go towards replacing items that are now defunct due to age, and wear and tear. JCI Barbados was instrumental in the building of the school. CIBC FirstCaribbean has worked with JCI Barbados in the past through initiatives such as the **Special Day For Special Children**.

"We approached the bank with our proposed initiatives for the year and they indicated an interest in assisting with respect to Government Hill Nursery School," JCI Barbados president Abena Agard explained.

With regard to the impact of the bank's support on JCI Barbados and its programmes, Agard added: "Through the bank's support we can continue to create positive impact among the youth, as well as reallocate our limited resources."

Thanking the bank for its continued assistance, the JCI Barbados president noted: "We seek, among other things, to bring about positive change within our community, and we note that corporate Barbados is instrumental in all our efforts. As individuals, we all want to do business with companies who want to improve the quality of life of communities to which they are committed. And so we're grateful for the bank's sponsorship of our chapter's initiatives."

CIBC FirstCaribbean, Barbados, managing director Donna Wellington said the bank was eager to support volunteerism and developmental initiatives among young adults, as well as causes related to education.

"Through this activity we've been able to do both, by supporting a dynamic and positive group of young men and women with a keen sense of social responsibility demonstrated, in this case, by their outreach to the Government Hill Nursery School," she said.



Paige Bryan, manager, retail banking channels, CIBC FirstCaribbean (right), presenting Abena Agard, JCI Barbados president, with funds to assist with the organization's outreach at the Government Hill Nursery School.

Wellington added: "We continue our relationship with causes that are synergistic with the bank's mandate to effect positive change and development within the communities we serve." For the remainder of the year, JCI Barbados will continue its training programme, as well as launch **Project Mission Empowerment** and **Mathfanatix**, free tutorial maths courses for students sitting the **Common Entrance Exam**. (PR)