

Students get help with school supplies



Some students who sat the 11-Plus exam were given help with back to school supplies by the Eden Lodge Youth Charitable Trust, Sandy Lane Charitable Trust and other donors. In this picture they were at partners Cloister Bookstore. (GP)

Some students who sat the 11-Plus exam and are off to secondary school next week were given a helping hand with school supplies.

The Eden Lodge Youth Charitable Trust Back to School Programme made presentations at partners Cloister Bookstore, Woolworth Co. Ltd, and Abed's with some of the donors – including The Sandy Lane Charitable Trust, Carib LPG Trading, Scotiabank, the City of Bridgetown Cooperative Credit Union (who provided starter savings accounts for students who sat the exam) and Digicel Barbados (who provided tablets) – in attendance.

Dwayne Gazette, president and chief executive officer of the Eden Lodge Youth Charitable Trust, said school supplies were provided for more than 494 children whose families had different challenges.

“At the Eden Lodge Youth Charitable Trust we provide school books, bags, shoes as well as pay the textbook and petty fees for the secondary school children. This year, amongst a lot of challenges, we want to let the Barbados public and our donors know that this programme is very important to us and very important to the lives of these children. These children are our future and we have to invest in them because these are the future leaders.

Get on board

“Some of them go on to be integrated in the companies that help us after they leave secondary school and so I would like to appeal to other Barbadians and other companies to get on board. Even if they do their own back-to-school programme . . . invest in our future and invest in our children, especially where we are today with the current situation in Barbados. We have to give our young people and our children hope for tomorrow and believe in them.”

\$400 000 budget

Gazette said the budget for the programme was about \$400 000 and they were able to raise about two-thirds of that from donors.

“We started off with about 420-something children needing help and now we are at 494. . . . The need is out there and a lot of people obviously are coming to us.

“We don't only run the back-to-school supplies programme but we also provide lunches to these children at the secondary school level. Obviously, in order for them to learn properly, they can't be hungry. The Sunday before school opens we also provide hair cuts for those children who need them. We do that with the Sandy Lane Charitable Trust and Roger Husbands and his team of young barbers in Roebuck Street to send out the children on the first day of school looking smart.”

Gazette said the help also extended to paying utilities and the Christmas programme which provides vouchers to feed families during the season. (NS/PR)

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