

**Greetings on behalf of Sponsors and Donors  
By Bruce Bowen, President & CEO Scotiabank Group  
March 5, 2012**

Your Excellency Lady Allen, Chief Volunteer

Mr. Lyttleton Shirley, Chairman of SERHA

Mr. Anthony Wood, CEO, Bustamante Hospital

Mrs. Tina Matalon, Director of Marketing, Restaurants of Jamaica

Members of Staff of the Bustamante Hospital

Representatives of LIME, FLOW and the Kingston Bookshop

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning

Scotiabank is pleased to join everyone this morning to officially open the refurbished Bustamante Hospital Learning Center. I know that the contractor and volunteers were working until late last night to have everything ready for today, and I'm sure everyone who has visited the Center in the past will agree that the transformation has been miraculous!

In fact, over the past week Joylene Griffiths-Irving, Executive Director of Scotia Foundation and the Scotia Volunteers have been so inspired that the work has gone beyond the Learning Center to landscaping at the entrance to the hospital, planters around the wards and even painting in places.

We are excited about what this refurbished Learning Center will mean for the children, tutors and volunteers who will use this facility daily. Researchers have known for some time that the aesthetics of a learning environment has a direct impact on both the students' experience and their retention of information. A great environment leads to better learning. We also hope that this Learning Centre will help our little ones to feel better during their stay here at the Hospital, as we are cognizant that some of the children are here for extended periods. In a few weeks, thousands of children around Jamaica will sit the GSAT exams, among them will be several children who are currently admitted here. We hope that the studying and learning experience created by this Centre will improve their chances of success.

Over the years the Scotia Foundation has helped improve the environment and delivery of health care to many hospitals: the University Hospital of the West Indies, Port Antonio, Cornwall Regional, Victoria Jubilee and the Kingston Public Hospital. However the work we do here at the Bustamante Children's Hospital is particularly dear to all of us because it is specifically for the children.

Over the past 10 years or more Scotia Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours in direct service to Bustamante, and in support of other initiatives such as the Shaggy & Friends Foundation and the Sigma Corporate Run that in turn support the Hospital. Scotia Foundation has also supported Bustamante with funding for heart surgeries and other projects. All of this is done because we recognize the amazing work that this hospital does for children from across Jamaica and the region, notwithstanding the lack of funding and other resources available. The future of Jamaica and the region's children depends upon the great work being done here, and we are committed to doing what we can to help.

No doubt, this is the same reason that Restaurants of Jamaica came on so willingly as a partner. When the scope of the project expanded beyond what we expected, we called Tina Matalon for her support, and there was no hesitation in her commitment to partner with us.

Restaurants of Jamaica is also a long time supporter of the Hospital. They have made significant donations to Chain of Hope and have also been partners with the Shaggy & Friends Foundation since inception. This project is a perfect fit for Restaurants of Jamaica as they have for some time been creating, refurbishing and equipping Learning Centers in parish libraries. *Tina's expression of her company's vision is that ROJ's aim as an organization, is to help empower Jamaica's young people, so that they will be able to achieve and become equipped to serve as nation builders.* So again, thank you Tina, thank you Restaurants of Jamaica for coming on board and partnering with the Scotia Foundation in refurbishing this centre.

We would also like to publicly recognize and thank:

- Kingston Bookshop, the leading supplier of books in the region, for supplying a selection of Grade 1 to Grade 6 and GSAT preparation material to the Centre. The Center had been operating with an incomplete mix of text books, and this donation will ensure that children at all levels will be able to learn from proper materials. Thank you for this generous contribution.
- Telecommunications companies FLOW and LIME have also joined forces to improve the aesthetic and functionality of the centre. FLOW has provided internet service which will open a world of access to the tutors and students. LIME has helped refurbish the phone used by the Center which will be of value to the children. In fact, I understand that when LIME came to repair the phone they didn't stop here, but repaired or replaced all the phones around the Hospital.

All of us here understand the great work done at Bustamante Hospital for Children and the importance of this Learning Center. However, let me end with this quote from U.S. President Barack Obama, who put it so well;

*“Life doesn't count for much unless you're willing to do your small part to leave our children – all of our children – a better world. Even if it's difficult.”*      *President Barack Obama*

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to thank all of the sponsors and our volunteers for responding so generously to meet this need and to help ensure continued learning for the little patients here at Bustamante. Let this be an example to corporate Jamaica of what can be accomplished when we work together.

Thanks You & God Bless.