



PRESS RELEASE

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2009 Finalists for Joanna Clarke Award Announced

GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman – Cayman Islands-based business conglomerate, dms Organization Ltd. (dms), has announced the finalists for the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award (JCA). The Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium, National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Cayman Islands Scout Association, John A. Cumber Primary School, and John Gray High School have each been selected as 2009 finalists.

The JCA, which celebrates the exemplary service of longtime educator Ms. Joanna Clarke, began calling for 2009 applicants in early March and received 14 applications from public and private schools, government and community organizations, according to the JCA Committee.

The six 2009 JCA finalists and their proposed initiatives/projects are:

Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium requires funding to launch the second phase of its “Youth Development Partnership Scheme” which provides school-based, after-school community programmes as it aims to form partnerships with the youth, their parents and the community in a joint quest to strengthen their developmental assets, and empower them to deal with harmful issues in society.

NCVO has applied for funding for its “Accessing Computer Aided Learning” initiative which would offer youth residents of the Nadine Andreas Residential Foster Home computing and network equipment, in turn enabling them to have the same access to computer websites and activities such as ‘lanschool’ as their peers schooled at George Hicks High School and John Gray High School. The grant will go towards purchasing and installing the PCs and necessary software programmes.

Cayman Islands Scout Association proposed to establish a Cayman Islands Scout Band. Potential funds would go towards purchasing a full complement of musical instruments and uniforms, as well as to hire an instructor to train its band members to perform in the community.

For more information on this press release please contact Laura-Anne Howard, Public Relations and Communications Coordinator, dms Organization Ltd., at 946-2368 or lhoward@dms.com.ky.

John A. Cumber Primary School requires funding for its “Improving Literacy and Numeracy Through The Arts” initiative. This project aspires to encourage greater student involvement in music, dance, drama and visual arts. Through delivery of the curriculum by classroom teachers, subject specialists, as well as after-school programmes and activities, students will be exposed to all areas of the arts.

John Gray High School (JGHS) had two applications that were selected for finalist consideration this year. They applied for funding for its “BTEC First in Music Technology” which is 180 hours of guided learning that offers students an introductory qualification that focuses on aspects of employment within the music industry, involving sound engineering and technology. JGHS also proposed potential funding for the “John Gray Surf Club”, an after-school programme that aims to foster physical, emotional and environmental wellness to students. Funding is required to purchase surfboards, kayaks and a trailer to transport surf equipment.

The finalists recently individually met with the JCA Committee and presented their projects in person and partook in a question-and-answer session which will be considered against the award’s criteria. The 2009 winner(s) will be announced Saturday, May 30th at an Award Evening at Ristorante Pappagallo. If several worthy projects are identified, the committee may provide grants to multiple organizations up to \$12,000 KYD in total.

Chairperson of the JCA Committee Ms. Clarke commented, “We are delighted with the response; it’s very encouraging to witness firsthand so many worthy and deserving applicants who are making a concerted effort to improve education and the development of Cayman’s youth. The diversity of the applications that we received was particularly pleasing. The committee certainly has a tough decision ahead of them.”

The JCA Committee consists of the celebrated Ms. Joanna Clarke; President of dms Organization Ltd., Don Seymour; Literacy Education Specialist, Tanya-Marie Samuels; Red Bay Primary School’s Literacy Coordinator, Anne Briggs; President of Savannah Primary School’s PTA, Mark Scotland; John Gray High School’s Reading Specialist, Lydia Warren; and News Director of CITN, April Cummings.

Mr. Seymour commented, “On behalf of the committee, I’d like to sincerely thank all individuals and organizations for their participation in applying for this award as well as for their commitment to bettering education in the Cayman Islands.”

Past recipients include 2007 winner, Savannah Primary School PTA, which used the funding to pay for new playground equipment and 2008 winner, John Gray High School, for its “Blueprint for Literacy” initiative.

For further information on the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award, visit www.joannaclarke.ky, email kfellman@dms.com.ky or call 345-814-4279. dms Organization is a business conglomerate engaged in the financial services, real estate and media industries.

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Photo caption 1: Finalists met individually with the JCA Committee and presented their project in person. (Left front clockwise) Tanya-Marie Samuels, April Cummings, Lydia Warren, John A. Cumber Primary School Finalist Representatives Rebekah Jefferson and Marcia Rennie, Shannon Wilcox, Anne Briggs and Joanna Clarke.

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