



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **dms Organization Announces the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award**

(GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman) Cayman Islands-based business conglomerate, dms Organization Ltd. (dms) has increased its ongoing commitment to support the local community by donating CI \$11,000 to Savannah Primary School PTA for new playground equipment. This donation is part of dms' new excellence in education initiative – The Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award.

dms Organization created the award to honor local educator Ms. Joanna Clarke and to recognize the efforts of all persons and organizations that contribute to education in the Cayman Islands. With this award, dms plans to donate up to CI\$12,000 annually to any person or organization that has demonstrated exemplary performance in education during the year. Nominations will be sought from the public, and dms is currently working with the Ministry of Education on final criteria for administering the award.

The announcement of the Joanna Clarke Award was made on the heels of another dms charitable donation in the education field. The company recently donated CI \$10,000 for an international scholarship for Caymanian student Rudy Davis.

The unveiling of the playground and presentation of the award took place on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Savannah Primary School. On hand for the event were Mr. Don Seymour, president of dms Organization Ltd.; Mr. Mark Scotland of the Savannah PTA; Mrs. Lorna Blackman, Savannah Primary School principal; Ms. Joanne Clarke, local educator and recognized patron of the award; Mr. Stran Bodden, deputy chief officer, from the Ministry of Education; and other members of the Savannah PTA.

Mr. Don Seymour, president of dms Organization, commented: “Ms. Clarke was natural choice for patron of this award. She has dedicated her life to children and has steered Cayman's youngsters in the right direction for over 40 years.” He added: “dms is committed to giving back to our community through various donations, sponsorship and volunteer efforts, in particular, our future - Cayman's children. This award is a progression of that ongoing commitment.”

Savannah Primary School PTA President, Mr. Mark Scotland commented: “We are pleased and honoured to have been selected as the first recipient of this prestigious award. For more information on this press release please contact Gretchen Lowe, Public Relations Manager, dms Organization Ltd., at 946-2368 or [glowe@dms.com.ky](mailto:glowe@dms.com.ky)

from Mr. Don Seymour and dms Organization. I would like to congratulate him for initiating this award, and hope that other members of the corporate community will follow in his example. It is also quite appropriate that he has chosen to name the award in honour of Ms. Joanna Clarke; she has been one of the most outstanding educators our islands have ever had. She continues to inspire the students that were taught by her, and is a model to other educators.”

He added: “Like Mr. Seymour, I am a past student of Savannah Primary. I consider Ms. Clarke to be an icon in the field of education in our islands. The strong foundation left by her at Savannah School has continued many years after her.”

Mr. Scotland further added: “We are deeply appreciative of the contribution from dms Organization and Mr. Seymour. It was used to purchase a playground set for the school, something that all the children in the school can use and enjoy.”

Ms. Joanna Clarke commented: “I am truly touched and honoured to have been selected as the namesake for this award. My purpose is and always will be to enhance the education of Cayman’s children as they are our future citizens. Savannah Primary School is very dear to me having taught there for 16 years. So, I’m delighted they are the first recipient of the award.” She added: “I taught both Mr. Scotland and Mr. Seymour and they are both a fine example of what can be achieved with passion and education.”

dms Organization is a business conglomerate engaged in the financial services, recruitment, commercial real estate, media, and entertainment industries.

*Photo Caption 1: Ms. Joanna Clarke and Mr. Don Seymour*

*Photo Caption 2: Savannah Primary School youngsters enjoying the new playground*