



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **dms Announces 2010 Joanna Clarke Award Application Process Underway**

GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman – Cayman Islands-based business conglomerate, dms Organization Ltd. (dms), proudly announces its call for applicants for the 2010 Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award (JCA), and the newly-created Joanna Clarke Scholarship Fund, with applications being accepted through April 1<sup>st</sup>. Through the JCA, annually dms will reward worthy education initiatives with up to \$12,000 KYD.

With the JCA in its fourth year, the local education community is becoming increasingly familiar with the requirements and foundation for this award. Recognizing the importance of private sector support for education, dms introduced the award to honour Ms. Clarke in 2006, and publicly acknowledge the efforts of all persons and organizations that contribute to education in the Cayman Islands.

Don Seymour, president of dms, commented, “We recognize that corporate responsibility and business success go hand in hand and it is particularly rewarding to invest in our nation’s youth - the future of Cayman. Giving back to the local community through a selection of sponsorship and volunteer efforts has always been fundamental to our business practice. This award seeks to bring awareness to the contributions of our local educators and encourage others to demonstrate their support.”

Applications are currently being circulated throughout Cayman Islands’ schools and are available at the award website [www.joannaclarke.ky](http://www.joannaclarke.ky). Parties eligible for consideration include but are not limited to: teachers, students, Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and schools.

The JCA criteria are:

*For more information on this press release please contact Laura-Anne Howard, Corporate Communications Coordinator, dms Organization Ltd., at 749-2458 or [lhoward@dms.com.ky](mailto:lhoward@dms.com.ky).*

- Contribute to and promote excellence in education in the Cayman Islands
- Be sustainable and measurable
- Contribute to increased parental and/or community involvement in education
- Be affiliated with a reputable educational institution or organization
- Demonstrate a proven history in successful education projects and/or teaching
- Contingency for leadership

The JCA Committee will carefully review all applications submitted, and if several worthy projects are identified, they may provide grants to multiple organizations up to \$12,000 KYD in total.

Remarked dms Vice President Krista Pell, “Each year it becomes increasingly abundant how many deserving initiatives and committed educators we have amongst us in our community. It can be incredibly challenging to decipher – but what is important to remember is that we invite applicants who may not have been chosen last year to apply again, as well as of course welcoming new initiatives for consideration. As well as winning, there is also the opportunity to bring awareness to your programmes, and we very much look forward to what is brought forth to us this year.”

Previous recipients of the JCA include last year’s winner, the N.C.V.O.’s Nadine Andreas Residential Foster Home for its Accessing Computer Aided Learning programme and runner-up - Cayman Islands Scout Association for Cayman Islands Scout Band. The 2008 recipient was John Gray High School for its “Blueprint for Literacy” initiative which aimed to ensure that all high school students, upon graduation, will be able to perform at their grade levels and pass at least four external exams. The 2007 recipient was Savannah Primary School PTA, which used the funding to pay for new playground equipment.

Commented Ms. Clarke, “It is of paramount importance to us to visit the recipients and follow up with the progress of the initiatives – my favourite part of this whole process is interacting with the children and learning how they are benefitting. After all, it is about the children. We are always greeted with such a warm reception, and to date it has been indescribably rewarding to see how well maintained the initiatives we have selected are.”

Advancing its commitment to education, dms recently introduced the Joanna Clarke Scholarship Fund will grant financial support to an aspiring or existing educator looking to further his/her education or wishing to further expand on his/her professional development. dms will be hosting a ‘dress up - dress down day’ to raise additional funds for the fund in late February – date yet to be announced. The fundraising effort is geared towards all members of the education and business communities.

For further information and to obtain an application contact Tara Tvedt-Pearson, dms Organization Ltd. Project Coordinator, at 749-2407 or ttvedt@dms.com.ky.

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

*Photo caption 1: Ms. Joanna Clarke and JCA committee members visit 2007 recipient - Savannah Primary School PTA, which used the funding to pay for new playground equipment.*

*Photo caption 2: Ms. Joanna Clarke visits 2008 recipient - John Gray High School, for its “Blueprint for Literacy” initiative.*

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