



PRESS RELEASE

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dms Announces the 2009 Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Winners

GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman – dms Organization Ltd. (dms) is pleased to announce the 2009 Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award (JCA) recipients: 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. At an entertainment-filled award ceremony hosted at Ristorante Pappagallo on Saturday 30th of May, dms awarded cheques totaling \$12,000 KYD to help fund the two initiatives.

Having received full funding for its initiative, the N.C.V.O.'s Accessing Computer Aided Learning programme will offer youth residents of the Nadine Andreas Residential Foster Home a computing and network suite, in turn enabling them to have the same access to approved computer websites and activities such as 'lanschool' as some of their peers schooled at George Hicks and John Gray High School. The funds will go towards purchasing and installing the PCs and necessary software programmes.

Runner-up, the Cayman Islands Scout Association, received partial funding for the Cayman Islands Scout Band. The band requires a full complement of musical instruments and uniforms, as well as an instructor to train its band members to perform in the community.

The newly-elected Minister of Education, Training and Employment, the Honourable Rolston Anglin, attended the JCA Evening and shared his insight regarding education in the Cayman Islands. He commented on the importance of leadership within education and the new government of the Cayman Islands. Other distinguished guests included the Minister of Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture, the Honourable Mark Scotland, and award patron Ms. Joanna Clarke, as well as the JCA Committee members and finalists, dms Organization representatives, respected educators and supporters of education.

The other finalists recognized at the ceremony and their proposed initiatives included Cayman Islands Youth Development Consortium - Youth Development Partnership Scheme; John Gray High School – John Gray Surf Club; John A. Cumber Primary - Improving Literacy and Numeracy through the Arts; and John Gray High School - BTEC First in Music Technology.

For more information on this press release please contact Laura-Anne Howard, Public Relations and Communications Coordinator, dms Organization Ltd., at 749-2458 or lhoward@dms.com.ky.

The JCA Evening also showcased the talents of Cayman's students with John Gray High Jazz Combo performing during the reception and the John A. Cumber Primary Year 6 Choir sang "Open de Library" at the beginning of the dinner. An assortment of artwork was also on display from students of Savannah Primary School.

Commented Ms. Clarke, "I would like to note the diversity of the 14 applications that we received this year was particularly pleasing. There was a great selection of applicants and even better finalists. We had a tough road to reach our decision, and ultimately, after much deliberation arrived at the decision to award two grants."

The JCA celebrates the exemplary service of longtime educator, Ms. Joanna Clarke, and provides funding up to \$12,000 KYD annually. dms launched this cornerstone education initiative to recognize the efforts of all persons and organizations that contribute to 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.

The JCA Committee carefully reviewed all applications submitted and narrowed the selection down to six finalists whom were invited to give an oral presentation outlining their project and demonstrating how the six JCA criteria would be met by their proposed project. The JCA criteria are: ensuring that the initiative contributes to and promotes excellence in education in the Cayman Islands; is sustainable and measurable; contributes to increase parental and/or community involvement in education; is affiliated with a reputable educational institution or organization; demonstrates a proven history in successful education projects and/or teaching; and has a contingency for leadership.

To select award winner(s), committee members numerically rated each finalist on each criteria. An overall score was then determined for each initiative.

In previous years, the JCA Evening was an exclusive, invite-only event. For 2009, it was open to the public for ticket and table sales to raise funds for a new Joanna Clarke Scholarship Fund. This fund will grant financial support to an aspiring or existing teacher looking to further his/her education. dms hopes to award the first scholarship in 2010. A number of individuals and organizations purchased tickets to show their support, with a great representation being former students of Ms. Clarke's, particularly those from Savannah Primary School.

"The award started with a belief that our children, who represent our future, are a worthy investment in the well being of our community. dms believes in the importance of corporate social responsibility, and this award is part of our ongoing commitment to recognize education initiatives and provide them the support to succeed," commented President of dms Organization Don Seymour.

"The evening was a great success, and it is very rewarding to do our part to support our community – particularly the youth – the future our Island. I would like to congratulate our winners and finalists alike. The N.C.V.O. had an impressive initiative which we are honoured to support," commented Mr. Seymour.

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Added Ms. Clarke, “Thank you to all individuals and organizations for taking the time to submit their applications. We appreciate all applicants’ efforts to improve the education of Cayman’s youth and encourage you to continue in your strides to make a difference – it takes a community effort. We encourage all of the local schools to apply for funding for the 2010 Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award.”

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; the Honourable Mark Scotland; John Gray High School’s Reading Specialist, Lydia Warren; and News Director of CITN, April Cummings.

For further information on the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award visit www.joannaclarke.ky.

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

Photo caption 1: Hon. Rolston Anglin, Ms. Joanna Clarke and Don Seymour presented the 2009 JCA winner - the N.C.V.O.’s Nadine Andreas Residential Foster Home for its Accessing Computer Aided Learning.

Photo caption 2: Ms. Joanna Clarke, Hon. Rolston Anglin and Don Seymour presented the 2009 JCA runner up, the Cayman Islands Scout Association for the Cayman Islands Scout Band.

Photo caption 3: John A. Cumber Primary Year 6 Choir sang “Open de Library.”

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