



PRESS RELEASE

6<sup>th</sup> August 2008

**dms Receives Overwhelming Response to Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award**

GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman – Cayman Islands-based business conglomerate, dms Organization Ltd. (dms), has received an overwhelming response to its education initiative – the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award. 13 applications were received for the award which celebrates exemplary service in education.

President of dms Organization, Don Seymour commented, “Although strong, Cayman’s education system is in need of funding from the private sector. At dms we are committed to giving back to our community through various donations, sponsorship and volunteer efforts, and in particular, educating our future - Cayman’s youth.” He added, “We are delighted with the response from schools and organizations; it’s humbling to see so many worthy applicants making a concerted effort to improve our schooling here in Cayman. The selection process is underway and the committee certainly has a tough job ahead of them.”

The 2008 applicants include: Cayman Brac High School, East End Primary School, Kids Adventures Pre-School, John A. Cumber Primary School, John Gray High School, Nadine Andreas Foster Home (operated by the NCVO), North Side Primary School, Pace High School, Prospect Primary School, Savannah Primary School, Shauna’s Early World of Learning Center, St. Ignatius Catholic School, and Tiffany’s Pre-School and Childcare.

The individual organizations presented specific project proposals to the Joanna Clarke Award (JCA) Committee. After carefully reviewing all applications submitted against the set criteria the committee will announce the winner/s. If several worthy projects are identified, they may provide grants to multiple organizations up to \$12,000 KYD in total. The JCA Committee consists of the celebrated Ms. Joanna Clarke; President of dms Organization Ltd., Don Seymour; Literacy Education Specialist, Tanya Marie Dwight; Red Bay Primary School’s Literacy Coordinator, Anne Briggs; President of Savannah Primary School’s PTA, Mark Scotland; and John Gray High School’s Reading Specialist, Lydia Warren.

*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.*

The process began with an island-wide call through the local media to inform the public as to the availability of the funds and how to apply. “I commend dms for their endeavors; they have set a new benchmark for corporate responsibility. I am truly touched and honored 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,” commented Ms. Clarke, Patron of the award.

### **Applicants**

**Cayman Brac High School** has requested funding for their initiative: *Improving Teaching and Learning through Interactive Technology*. With the focus on improving teaching and learning the school hopes to purchase more Smart Boards. By introducing the new software and devices their aim is that students will become more engaged in the learning process.

**East End Primary School** hopes to purchase a full compliment of musical instruments in the string, woodwind, brass and percussion family, thereby affording the opportunity to instruct a group of students all of whom have varying abilities and diverse backgrounds.

**Kids Adventures Pre-School PTA** has applied for funding for outdoor equipment and some indoor furniture not yet replaced following hurricane Ivan. Because of other repairs taking priority, many items from text books to playground equipment are still required.

**John A. Cumber Primary School** hopes to launch their project: *Technology, Shaping Our Future* with funding from the award. The aim of this programme is to increase student attention and improve student achievement and retention through the introduction of Promethean Boards. The boards would provide an interactive, colourful, vibrant, and easy access to information.

**John Gray High School** hopes to introduce a literacy initiative: *Blueprint for Literacy* with the aim of ensuring that all high school students, upon graduation, will be able to perform at their grade levels and will pass at least four external exams.

**Nadine Andreas Foster Home** (operated by the NCVO), has requested funding for a computer room. The home would like to convert the upstairs attic into a computer room that could be utilized by its residents to complete homework and accommodate educational programmes. Renovations have already begun however; a dual staircase is required to complete the project.

**North Side Primary School** requires funding for their project: *Read it! Rate it! Release it!* which aims to help children develop a passion for reading. This will come through skill development and structured lessons in class as well as exposing them to great books through both shared and independent reading.

*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.*

**Pace High School** located at George Hicks Campus has applied for fund for their *Work Education Project*, which is specifically designed for year-nine students with the aim of getting them to think about career options. The project will consist of two areas: a Work Education Conference and the Pace Apprenticeship Programme.

**Prospect Primary School** hopes for funding for its project: *Passport to Peace*, a character education programme that helps children to develop positive social attitudes. The initiative which has already run for the past five years develops these attitudes through interaction and learning, in doing so the students learn to resist negative and/or violent behaviour.

**Savannah Primary School** has applied for funding for its *Enrichment Programme: The power to think, the will to act*. Already in place for the past eight years the programme has given students identified as gifted, challenging and differentiated learning support. Throughout the year the gifted students have the opportunity to develop their research, questioning and problem-solving skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

**Shauna's Early World of Learning Center** hopes to raise the necessary funding for one scholarship for a child in need. In addition, they require a new computer and equipment for a recreational room.

**St. Ignatius Catholic School** has requested funding for their initiative: *Improving ICT (Information Communications Technology) Across the Curriculum*, a project-based support programme that has been created to have a direct impact on the teaching and learning process. The overall objective is to increase the use of ICT by improving recourse and teachers' professional development of competency in the use of them. They hope to purchase interactive whiteboards and recourses to support them for all classrooms.

**Tiffany's Pre-School and Childcare** requires funding for safe and proper playground equipment. The pre-school places emphasis on play being important in a young child's development, therefore hopes to create a safe and attractive play area in which they can learn and grow.

"The JCA Committee will make a decision by the end of August and will contact the successful applicant/s accordingly", commented Mr. Seymour. "On behalf of the committee I'd like to sincerely thank all individuals and organizations for taking the time to submit their applications. We wish them all the best of luck"

For further information the public can visit [www.joannaclarke.ky](http://www.joannaclarke.ky), email [glowe@dms.com.ky](mailto:glowe@dms.com.ky) or call 814-3252.

*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](mailto:lhoward@dms.com.ky).*

**Comment [MSOffice1]:** Maybe "hopes to make a decision"?

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

*Photo caption : JCA Committee members Ms. Joanna Clarke, Lydia Warren, Don Seymour, Tanya Marie Dwight, and Anne Briggs (Mark Scotland not pictured).*

*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.*