



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **dms Unveils the 2010 Joanna Clarke Award and Scholarship Fund Winners**

GEORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman – In a night dedicated to celebrating education and the local youth, on Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> dms Organization Ltd. (dms) announced the 2010 Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award (JCA) winners - Cayman Prep and High School for its a marine science programme, George Town Primary School for its Digital Visual Media Club and John Gray High School for its Scuba Diving Club. At an entertainment-filled award ceremony hosted at LUCA, dms presented cheques totaling \$12,000 KYD to help fund the initiatives, as well as awarded the Joanna Clarke Scholarship Fund recipient an additional \$2,500 KYD – an extension of dms’ ongoing effort to promoting education.

With each of the winners receiving a \$4,000 KYD grant, the award assists in funding their worthy initiatives as well raising awareness about the effort and encouraging further private sector support from the community.

“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 deserving initiatives that focus on our youth and provides them the support to succeed,” commented President of dms Don Seymour.

Cayman Prep and High School recently introduced a marine science programme as an A-level two-year course of sufficiently high standard which can be used for advanced credit at North American universities. The funds will aid in furthering efforts to offer students a host of off-site excursions, providing invaluable hands-on experience for students.

Commented Cayman Prep and High School’s Head of Science, Jason Nehra, “We’re honored to have received an award this year, especially in light of the strength of the bids of the other candidates. We’re now going to work very hard to ensure that the award is used so as to

*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.*

maximize its positive impact on both our students and on our wider community. Thanks again to the dms Organization for its commitment to excellence in education.”

Offering students insight to the world of media, George Town Primary School introduced a Digital Visual Media Club which equips students with necessary skills to integrate literacy with media. The grant will assist in continuing to teach students proficiency in various digital, visual, broadcasting and photojournalism applications, as well as the opportunity to explore careers in the relevant industry.

John Gray High School, also a JCA winner in 2008, entices students with its John Gray High School Scuba Diving Club. The club seeks to heighten awareness for environmental and marine conservation, and the funds will contribute towards purchasing equipment to make diving more accessible to students after they have completed their open-water dive course.

The other finalists recognized at the ceremony and their proposed initiatives included Bodden Town Primary School - *Beyond School* and The Wellness Centre - *Autism in the Classroom*.

Commented JCA Member Krista Pell, “Whether the grant benefits an educational or recreational endeavour, the point of this award is to ensure the energies of our local youth are directed towards positive activities, and ensure that Cayman’s young minds are kept inspired to continually better themselves.”

The JCA evening began with a cocktail reception at 6 PM where guests mixed and mingled, including the Honorable Rolston Anglin - Minister for Education, Training and Employment, the Honorable Mark Scotland - Minister for Health, Environment, Youth, Sports and Culture, Ms. Joanna Clarke, JCA Committee members and finalists, dms Organization representatives, respected educators and supporters of education. Showcasing the talents of Cayman’s students, last year’s JCA recipient, the Cayman Islands Scout Band, performed during the reception as well as an art exhibition, compliments of Prospect Primary School. There was also a silent auction to raise additional proceeds for the Joanna Clarke Scholarship Fund. The reception was followed by a three-course gourmet meal and the unveiling of the 2010 award recipients. Additionally, enlightening guests about past recipients’ progress, the 2009 JCA winners shared an overview of what has been accomplished over the course of the last year.

An extension of dms’ commitment to education, during the evening dms also announced the first recipient for the scholarship fund, Krishan Welcome. Annually, dms will award a minimum of \$1,000 KYD to Caymanians or those with permanent residency who are currently in the education field or aspiring to enter. An established lawyer in the Cayman Islands, Ms. Welcome hopes to redirect her energy from a career in law and pursue a teaching degree to one day explore her passion to influence young minds. Ms. Welcome was awarded \$2,500 KYD as well as being chosen to continue as the 2011 scholarship recipient.

On hand to acknowledge the successes of the winners and finalists alike was the Honorable Rolston Anglin. As well as presenting the winners alongside Ms. Clarke and Mr. Seymour, he also shared insight about education in the Cayman Islands – speaking specifically to the importance of leadership within education.

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During the evening Ms. Clarke read a poem and offered a blessing. Commented Ms. Clarke, “What is particularly motivating about the evening is that everyone in the room was there for the same reasons – for the children of the Cayman Islands and to ensure that they are exposed to the best opportunities possible. I would like to personally extend my gratitude to Don Seymour for taking the initiative to bring us together in this endeavour. This is an event that I hold close to my heart as the education community comes together to celebrate the efforts being made island wide. I wish that we could award all the applicants as there really are so many deserving initiatives put forth. More than anything, I would like to thank all the applicants for the time they invest in our youth. Their efforts are admirable, and on behalf of the JCA- we thank each of you.”

An iconic educator in the community, namesake of the award Ms. Joanna Clarke has been impacting students for more than 40 years. 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; 2008 winner, John Gray High School, for its “Blueprint for Literacy” initiative; and 2009 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.

With a strong applicant base of 13, after careful consideration, the JCA Committee narrowed the pool of applicants down to five finalists whom they then invited to give an oral presentation outlining their project and demonstrating how their proposed projects satisfy the criteria. 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. Committee members then numerically rated each finalist on each criteria point to determine an overall score for each initiative, thereby selecting the award winners.

Ms. Pell also added, “We would like to thank all of our applicants and everyone who came out to show their support – this is a community effort. In particular we would also like to extend our appreciation for the incredible support that we have received from the local media. They have been instrumental in the success of this award as the word is spread and more and more applicants come forth each year – we look forward to next year!”

Open to the public for ticket and table sales, all proceeds raised, as well as from the silent auction, will go towards funds for the 2011 Joanna Clarke Scholarship Fund. For further information on the Joanna Clarke Excellence in Education Award visit [www.joannaclarke.ky](http://www.joannaclarke.ky).

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

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*Photo caption 1: (L to R) JCA Committee Members Winston Connolly and April Cummings, Honorable Mark Scotland, Don Seymour, Ms. Joanna Clarke*

*Photo caption 2: (L to R) JCA Winner Jason Nehra on behalf of Cayman Prep and High School, JCA Winner Sharon Whitmore on behalf of John Gray High School, Ms. Joanna Clarke, Honorable Rolston Anglin*

*Photo caption 3: (L to R) Honorable Rolston Anglin, JCA Winner Jason Nehra on behalf of Cayman Prep and High School, Ms. Joanna Clarke*

*Photo caption 4: Ms. Joanna Clarke presents 2010 Scholarship Fund winner Krishan Welcome*

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