

Bank helps support unsponsored steelbands

Gary Cardinez

12/13/10

"I CHALLENGE my competitors to follow this initiative by Scotiabank and come on board and help the steelband movement," said Richard Young managing director of the bank.

Young was talking to the media after handing out assistance to 40 unsponsored steelbands throughout Trinidad and Tobago, an initiative the bank started 32 years ago.

Back then the bank started off with \$2,100 which was given to three bands in the three regions in Trinidad. Each got the grand sum of \$700. Now, the assistance ranges from \$1,000-\$3,500.

"We are involved in the fight against Cancer and they followed, we are in the Music Festival and they followed, I truly wish they will follow in this one."

Young continued, "As long as SBTT is making a profit we will continue to support the steelbands. I am very proud that Scotiabank can do something for the unsponsored steelbands. The job they do is tremendous, keeping Trinidad and Tobago's culture alive."

"I urge them to keep at it, I wish one day I could become the sponsor of one band but that would mean other bands will suffer. On behalf of Scotiabank I want to ask the bands to maintain their good work and we are proud to be a part of this initiative."

"If the bank does not make a profit we will not stop the initiative, we will just give less assistance."

"We believe in the culture of Trinidad and Tobago, we took the Panorama winners to Caribana this year. Steel band must be a part of Carnival."

"Scotiabank has done more than the People's Partnership, they have not yet come forward to help but already Scotiabank has done something."

Scotiabank's assistance by the regions shows 14 bands from the East, 17 bands from the North, 3 from South/Central and 6 from Tobago collected cheques last week.



CASABLANCA: Gilbert Mark of Casablanca collects from Gilbert Sankar.



TUNAPUNA ALL STARS: Sam Ramjitsingh of Tunapuna All Stars collects his cheque from Anthony McQuilkin.



RECEIVING: Pan Trinbago's vice president Bryon Serrette presents Helen Scantarbury-James with a cheque.



HELPING HAND: Kimberly Davis receives a cheque from Richard Young.