

Senior Programme Supports Students With Back-To-School Giveaway

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The Social Development Department's East End Long Look Senior Engagement Programme blessed the Francis Lettsome and Willard Wheatley Primary Schools with back-to-school supplies.

More than 20 senior citizens participated in the September 10 presentation, which benefited approximately 30 students through their generosity.

The seniors donated notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, colouring pencils, folders, rulers and other essential school supplies. Items were either donated directly by the seniors or purchased using funds they contributed to the initiative.

Manager for the East End Long Look Senior Programme Ms. Amia Chalwell said that the idea originated with the seniors last year and was further developed through discussions with programme staff. "The seniors wanted to find a meaningful way to support younger members of the community and contribute to their education," Ms. Chalwell said.

According to the Manager the initiative represents more than providing school supplies. It was an opportunity to encourage the next generation and remind young people that their community believes in their success.

The donation was received with thanks from the principals, with one principal expressing that the supplies would be especially beneficial to students who returned to school without all the items needed to begin the academic year.

The initiative also supports the Senior Engagement Programme's efforts to strengthen connections between generations. It provides opportunities for older persons to remain active and contribute their ideas, experiences and resources to the community.

"Through the initiative, our senior citizens also hope to encourage a continued culture of giving. They want other older persons to recognise that their voices, ideas and contributions continue to matter," Ms. Chalwell expressed.

Ms. Chalwell further stated that the Social Development Department commends the seniors for taking the initiative to support the Territory's children. Their efforts

demonstrate that older persons continue to play an important role in building stronger families and communities.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands through effective policies, sustainable programmes, and strategic partnerships that support a safe, healthy, and resilient society.

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