

ISSUE  
12

the  
**HALO Times**  
NEWS AND REVIEWS ON THE HALO FOUNDATION



**DAINA  
BARNES**

HONOURNED WITH THE 2024  
**CRYSTAL VOLUNTEER AWARD**  
FROM THE HALO FOUNDATION



# PERSPECTIVES



2025 is the year we are exceptionally thrilled to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Halo Foundation in Antigua and Barbuda.

It has not been an easy year: increased demand for charitable funding; personal illness that continues to prevent me from fulfilling so many formidable plans; dealing with individuals who, for some reason or other, set out to make the world a more difficult place in which to exist.

But with the help and love of our partners, we have amazingly managed to accomplish quite a bit. Aiden eventually was simply ecstatic to get his new wheel chair. The Royal Drawing School tutors flew all the way from the United Kingdom to share their skills with our students here in Antigua and Barbuda. We were able to donate two brand new air conditioning units to the Girl Guides — and the list goes on and on.

We must always, always remember that “history is made by those with the courage to act. Our choice is now. Our chance is here. Let us invest in doing our best to help those who are desperately in need.

Brace for positive impact in 2025 and beyond.

H.E. Lady Williams  
Governor General's Goodwill Emissary  
President and Founder, The Halo Foundation Inc.

## DAINA BARNES

### HONOURNED WITH 2024 CRYSTAL VOLUNTEER AWARD FROM THE HALO FOUNDATION

Daina Barnes was presented with the prestigious 2024 Crystal Volunteer Award by Her Excellency Sandra, Lady Williams, President of the Halo Foundation, at a ceremony held at Government House.

Daina is the inaugural recipient of this award, which will be given annually to an individual who exemplifies exceptional dedication and willingness to support the Halo Foundation's mission of caring for the vulnerable and needy in Antigua and Barbuda and beyond. This recognition highlights the invaluable contribution of those who donate their time and talent to uplift various worthy causes through volunteerism.

“We are so proud to present the award to Daina,” said Her Excellency Lady Williams. “Her unwavering commitment to our initiatives, such as Wings of Charity in London and Music For A Cause during Christmas season in Antigua, showcases her deep involvement in helping others. Daina is a true advocate for all the areas in which Halo is active: art and culture, community outreach, support for the differently abled, education, the elderly, history and heritage, environmental sustainability, health, sports, women's empowerment, world peace and youth development.”

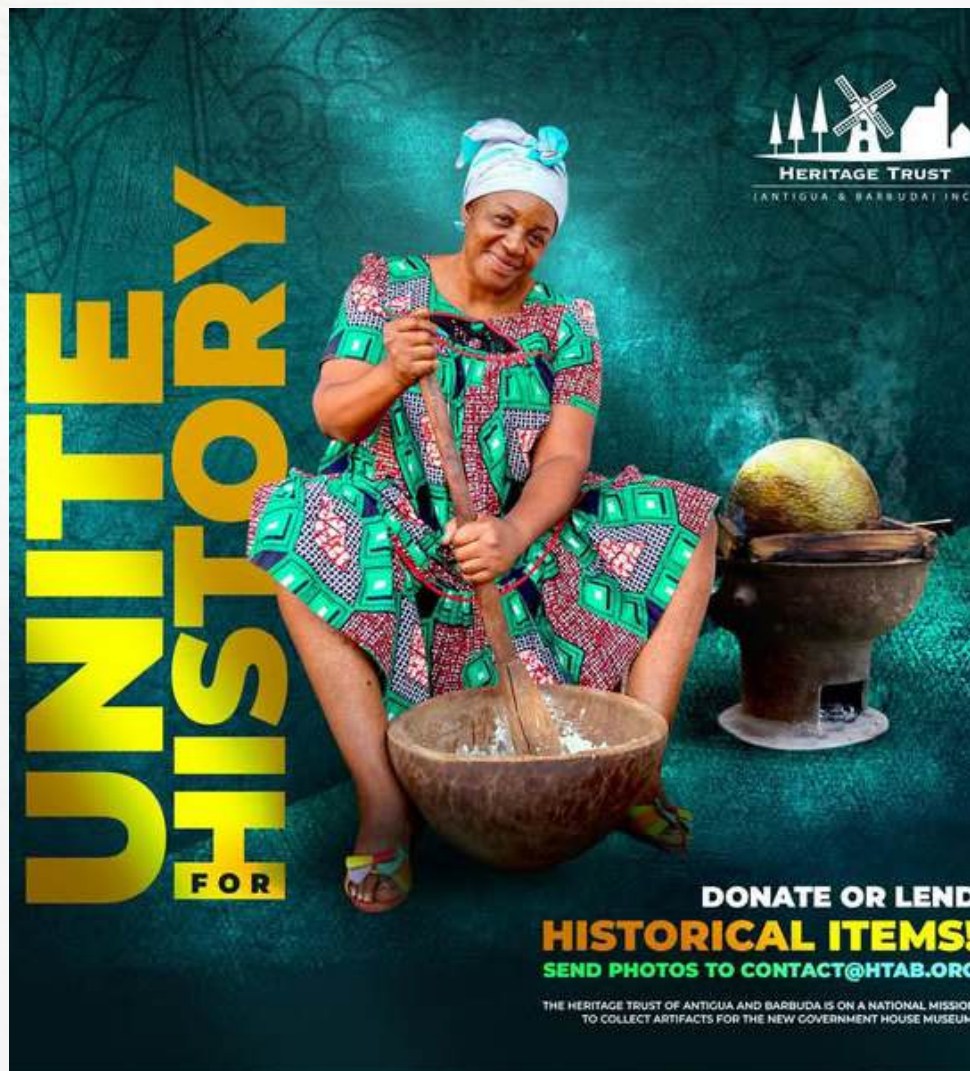
Daina Barnes first gained prominence as a finalist in the Pan Caribbean Singing Competition (The Digital Rising Star Competition) in 2007. In addition to her successful music career, she is a dedicated primary school teacher and has released some popular singles and albums, further illustrating her passion for both education and the arts.



# SAVE *the* DATE

**WINGS OF  
CHARITY 8**  
13TH JUNE, 2025

**MUSIC FOR  
A CAUSE**  
6TH DECEMBER, 2025



Exciting News! Be a part of history by donating or lending your antique items to the new Government House historic museum! Share your cherished pieces and help us preserve the past for future generations. Together, let's showcase the rich heritage of our nation. Contact us now at the Heritage Trust of Antigua and Barbuda to contribute.



# WOMEN OF POWER

## LADY WILLIAMS ADMITTED BEING COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN BY KING CHARLES THE THIRD

Her Excellency Sandra Lady Williams was admitted being Commander of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem on the instructions of His Majesty King Charles III. The investiture took place on October 22nd at the Priory in St. John's Gate, London.

The ceremony was conducted by Prior Stuart Shilson and Chancellor Simon Williams. Others present included His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Knight of the Order, Dean Paul Williams.

The motto of the order is "For the faith and in the service of humanity." In response to the welcome, Her Excellency Lady Williams graciously accepted the honour. She said, "Thanks to everyone who had a part to play in bestowing this award on me. I'm very humbled. And hopefully deserving. Two weeks ago, I found myself facing death. In fact, one minute more and I would not be here today. This award is therefore very timely, and my recent near-death experience has made me realize even more that what is important is for us to live a life of service. The Order of St. John has been dedicated to helping mankind. We can't thank you enough for your charitable contribution to global charity. I was fortunate enough to be involved with the work of the St. John Hospice in Antigua, and St. John Ambulance here in the United Kingdom. I pledge to continue to help as much as I can- as long as there is breath in my body."



## GAYE HECHME AWARDED BEST CORPORATE CITIZEN

Ms. Gaye Hechme, MBE was awarded the Halo Foundation's Best Corporate Citizen 2022 accolade at Government House. Ms. Hechme is a member of several professional boards and currently spearheads three successful companies: Chestertons Antigua and Barbuda, Moon Gate Development Ltd. and Island Living Investment Services. She serves as Board Director to the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO). As a Managing Partner of Henley and Partners up until 2020, she was instrumental in the development of the Henley & Partners Hero Scholarship managed by the Halo Foundation. This scholarship trained young people for 4 years to the first-degree level, at Saint Mary's University in Nova Scotia, Canada. Ms. Hechme was congratulated on her sterling charitable contribution by Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams, Patron and President respectively of the Halo Foundation.





## YOURS IN SERVICE

DRIVING SOCIAL INNOVATION + INVESTMENT + IMPACT

**THE NGO WHISPERER®**

MAGAZINE

CELEBRATING 31 WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

THEME: Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress

31 MARCH 2024

**H.E. LADY SANDRA WILLIAMS**  
Founder and President, Halo Foundation Inc.  
Antigua and Barbuda

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## CLEAN & GREEN!

Hosting an event?  
Get free refuse bins from us!

Simply collect them before your event and return them clean and undamaged afterwards.

**KEEP OUR COUNTRY CLEAN**

Contact Royal Commonwealth Society at  
rcsantbar@gmail.com or Halo Foundation  
at contact@foundationhalo.org.

Deposit of EC\$250 per bin, refunded upon return in good condition.

Halo | RSC

## SERVING & PROTECTING

FOR OVER 20 YEARS



For his intervention which ultimately helped to save the life of the Governor General's Goodwill Emissary, Sandra Lady Williams, Corporal Shane Williams of the Royal Police Force was among six men who were awarded the Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Award for their exemplary service.

# Christmas Card

## COMPETITION WINNERS

Eight-year-old Savannah Holborough of the St. Nicholas Primary School was selected as the overall winner of the Halo Foundation's Annual Christmas Card Competition 2023. During the brief prize giving ceremony held recently at Government House, Governor General H.E. Sir Rodney Williams charged the students to continuously hone their skills.

The Island Academy International School was lauded for being the school with the most winning entries.

The winners were provided with gifts of art supplies, cash prizes and trophies.

### OVERALL, WINNER

**Savanah Holborough**

St. Nicholas Primary

### AGE 7-9

**1ST Savanah Holborough**

St. Nicholas Primary

**2ND Alec Deazle**

St. Nicholas Primary

**3RD Savannah Andrew**

Pigott's Primary

### AGE 10-12

**1ST Isabella Wiik**

St. Nicholas Primary

**2ND Taker Joseph**

Antigua Girls High School

**3RD Joshua Southwell**

St. Nicholas Primary

### AGE 13-15

**1ST Gabriella Joseph**

Island Academy

**2ND India Robinson-Joseph**

Island Academy

**3RD Sienna Harney-Barnes**

Island Academy

### AGE 16-18

**1ST Amiah Quinland**

Island Academy

**2ND Katherine Woodhouse**

Island Academy

**3RD Jaaid Joseph**

Island Academy





# A GIRL'S DAY OUT

The ladies of Halo Generation Y — through their big sister initiative— recently hosted the residents of the Sunshine Home for Girls on a social retreat which was held on the lawns of Government House. The day included conversations with the group about their varied interests, skills and future career plans. They were then engaged in a sip-and-paint activity followed by cupcake decorating, refreshments and gifts.

President of Halo Generation Y Romancier Edwards stressed the importance of exposing the girls to fun activities which generate positive energy and behaviour.

Halo Generation Y is the youth arm of The Halo Foundation Inc. and focuses on community outreach, youth development and volunteerism.



# SUNSHINE HOME WITH DR. CUFFY

We are thrilled to share an inspiring initiative spearheaded by The Halo Foundation in collaboration with Dr. Charlotte Jeremy-Cuffy, a Senior Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health. Joining her was her ambitious high school daughter, Tashnique, who aspires to become a medical doctor. Together, they embarked on a mission to provide invaluable community service by educating the young residents at the Sunshine Home for Girls about the critical importance of personal hygiene.



# NO BULLYING ALLOWED





# GENERATION-Y STRIKES AGAIN

## CHARITABLE AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE MAKES PROGRESS

The Halo Foundation's Generation Y agricultural initiative continues to "bear good fruit" as the group harvested its first set of papayas from the farm. The project which sought to address food security during the Covid-19 pandemic has made significant progress through advocacy and action.



## GEN Y + SCRUB LIFE

Halo Generation Y Joins Forces with Scrub Life Cares and NYPAAB to Empower Young Girls. In a powerful show of unity and purpose, Halo Foundation Gen-Y, the youth arm of the Halo Foundation, Scrub Life Cares, and the National Youth Parliament Association of Antigua and Barbuda (NYPAAB) joined forces to celebrate International Day of the Girl Child. This collaboration, which took place in mid-October, aimed to address critical health and wellness issues affecting young girls, with a focus on menstrual health, body awareness, and self-empowerment.

## GIRL'S GUIDE

The Halo Foundation's Gen-Y team would like to express our gratitude to the Girls Guide Association of Antigua and Barbuda (whose Patron is Her Excellency Lady Williams) for their dedication efforts during our 2024 Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) retreat. We appreciate their ongoing support and commitment as we pursue our mission to serve Antigua and Barbuda.





# GIVING A LITTLE TO CHANGE A LOT



## Kiwanis Club Receives Donation

The Kiwanis Club of St. John's extended its gratitude to the Halo Foundation for a recent donation, aimed at supporting the Club's various programs and initiatives. Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams, Patron and President of the Halo Foundation, presented a cheque for \$1500 to Janelle Whener-Watts, the current President of the Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Club of St. John's, an organization comprised of dedicated volunteers, is committed to serving the children of the world, with a particular focus on enhancing the lives of young people in the local community. Through their ongoing programs and initiatives, the Club strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.



## Victory Center Receives Wellness Equipment

The Victory Center, school for children with special needs, received an array of wellness equipment which was presented to them on Friday at Government House by Her Excellency Lady Williams, President of the Halo Foundation.

Kelly Hedges, Principal of the Victory Center, accepted the supply of items which included a rocking chair, several soft exercise balls, professional yoga mats, an extensive collection of stress balls, an easel whiteboard, a set of dry erase markers and two wall clocks.



## Halo Donates To Youth Development

The Halo Foundation donated \$5,500 to the National Youth Parliament Association of Antigua & Barbuda, keeping true to its promise to contribute towards the development of our nation's youth. The five-year-old organization focuses on youth advocacy and places high emphasis on civic pride, the development of skills, the involvement of youth in political processes and the boundless power of the youth movement. Mr. Kamalie Mannix, accepted the donation on behalf of his team. He thanked Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams for the donation, which will offset expenses for the organization's activities for 2024.



  
GOLDEN HALO  
FOUNDATION

# 7 Wings of Charity

JUNE 16, 2023

Music By:  
**O-JAY CITY, PATRICE MARTIN  
AND THE STRAYS**









# PCOS RETREAT

## HIGHLIGHTS ISSUES IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

A retreat on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), organised by the Halo Foundation's youth arm (Generation Y), was held recently at Government House. The event aimed to illuminate the complexities of PCOS, providing support, education, and empowerment to women affected by a prevalent, yet frequently misunderstood condition.

The Governor General, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, commended the Executive and Members of Halo Gen Y, of which he is proud to serve as Patron, for hosting a health education seminar at Government House. This is the second health-oriented seminar organised by Halo Gen Y, the first being an earlier mental health anti-suicide event which attracted well over one hundred young people in Antigua and Barbuda. Sir Rodney emphasized the importance of understanding one's body to enhance self-care. He encouraged Halo Gen Y to "continue organising such health seminars to complement the efforts of the Ministry of Health and other health institutions on the island", noting that knowledge empowers better personal health care.



## HALO FOUNDATION, PROGRESSIVE VISION AND SWISS EMBASSY LAUNCH EYE CARE INITIATIVE

The Halo Foundation, in collaboration with Progressive Vision and funded through the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Antigua and Barbuda, recently launched an eye care initiative under the slogan "Future Bright with the Gift of Sight." The goal of the project is to provide essential eye care services to underprivileged youth, offering free eye exams and when needed, glasses to improve their vision.

During the first phase of the project, over 65 individuals were provided with free vision care services, including new glasses. This timely initiative will also assist the youth as they are about to return to school and may need assistance with their vision.





# PATRONS FOR THE PEOPLE

## Halo Foundation Welcomes New Patronage

Antigua and Barbuda, [July 16, 2024] – The Halo Foundation announced that Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams have graciously accepted the patronage of the newly established Ricardo Barriteau Drue Foundation. This endorsement was formalised during a recent meeting at Government House, where Nicola Barriteau, the nonprofit's Founder and mother of the late musician Ricardo Drue, presented the Foundation's vision and operational plans.

The RBD Foundation, in a statement, highlighted the late Ricardo Drue's foresight before his passing in 2023. He recognised "the need to establish workshops inclusive of voice training, dance, and drama for [young people] in the Caribbean, starting with Antigua and Barbuda. One of the strategies discussed was to utilise role models within the art form to assist in the development of the Creative Sector." The nonprofit affirmed that they are committed to realising Ricardo's dream through the establishment of the Ricardo Barriteau Drue Foundation for Arts, Entertainment, Innovation, and Empowerment, headquartered in Antigua and Barbuda.



## Boys Brigade meets with Patron

Senior members of the Boys' Brigade Antigua Council visited the organization's Patron, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams - Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda last Thursday to discuss plans for a membership drive and awareness campaign. The organization, headed by its new President Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas, focuses on "the advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness".



## Antigua and Barbuda Falcons Announce H.E. Sir Rodney Williams as Patron and Continue To Show Support

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, the newest team in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), proudly announces the appointment of His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, as their esteemed patron. This significant collaboration marks a new era for cricket in Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean, combining sports excellence with community impact.

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, established in January 2024, are set to soar in the upcoming CPL season. Replacing the Jamaica Tallawahs, the Falcons bring fresh energy and determination to the league. Their home ground, the iconic Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua, will witness several thrilling matches as the Falcons. The Halo Foundation confirms their support for the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons by hosting a grand cocktail party at Government House. With esteemed cricket legends such as Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Andy Roberts and Sir Curtley Ambrose. H.E. Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General and Patron of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons seen shaking hands with Mr. Kris Persaud (owner of the Falcons).





# FOCUSED ON PHILANTHROPY

## HONOURING EXCEPTIONAL PHILANTHROPY AND SERVICE

At an Investiture Ceremony held at Government House on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, two outstanding individuals, The Honourable Chesterfield Brewster CHB and Mr. Christopher Holder SCM, were awarded the prestigious Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Plaque and Cross.

Their commendable philanthropic contributions to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and the wider Caribbean have left an indelible mark on communities locally and regionally, embodying the spirit of compassion and service.



## MANY HATS, ONE MAN

We are proud of Michael Joseph. He is so many things, Pharmacist, Entrepreneur, Husband, Father, Senator, Minister of Government and Philanthropist. Past Chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Authority, Ex-member of the Halo Generation Y Board, and the list goes on and on.





# SHARED CULTURE, ONE NATION

A fundraiser organized by the Chinese Association of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda China Friendship Association, Stanley's Home Restaurant and Little Canton Supermarket raised approximately \$20,000 last weekend. The funds were donated to the Halo Foundation, to assist with the continuation of the organization's charitable work.

Sentiments of gratitude echoed through the air as 100 homeless, elderly or sick people were treated to a warm lunch. The pre-packed meals, catered by Stanley's Home Restaurant and Little Canton Supermarket through the "WOK for Charity" promotion, were delivered within the Pares community, and through the assistance of the Soup Kitchen.

This feeding exercise was sponsored by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, and organized by the Halo Foundation, the Chinese Association of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Antigua and Barbuda China Friendship Association.





# CULTURE SHARE

## ACFA collaborates with Confucius Institute on Summer Camp

The Antigua & Barbuda China Friendship Association (ACFA), in collaboration with the Confucius Institute, kicked off a week-long summer camp on Wednesday, at the Sir Novel Richards Academy. The camp welcomed over 100 participants and offered foundational training in martial arts (Kung-Fu) along with an introductory course in Mandarin/Chinese.

Cuthbert Forbes Jr., Secretary of ABCFA, attended the launch and made remarks on behalf of H.E Lady Williams - President of the Association. During his speech, he commended Ms. Joanna Li and her team for the initiative. In his remarks, Forbes also emphasized the significance of partnerships like these, which not only aim to introduce Antiguan to Chinese culture but also seek to expand the knowledge and skills of our youth. He also reassured the audience that the association is steadily working to introduce Antiguan traditions, history, and culture to the Chinese community.



## Kung fu and Chinese Language Summer Camp Successfully Concludes

A week-long cultural exchange summer camp, hosted by the Confucius Institute of Antigua and Barbuda (CIAB) in collaboration with the Antigua & Barbuda China Friendship Association (ACFA), concluded successfully with a vibrant closing ceremony held this morning on the lawns of Government House. The event was attended by almost 100 participants, including Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams, as well as directors and members of the Confucius Institute, school principals, parents, and students.

L-R: Mrs. Arlene Weste, President of the Board of Directors, Caribbean International Chinese Language Education Community; Ms. Joanna Li, Director of the Confucius Institute of Antigua and Barbuda(CIAB); H.E. Lady Williams, President of ACFA; H.E. Sir Rodney Williams, Patron of ACFA; Mr. Wang Erdong, Chargé d'Affaires - Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Antigua and Barbuda; and Mrs.Gayle Greene-Phillip, Local Director at CIAB.





## ACFA Partners with CIAB to Launch First Chinese Art Exhibition in Antigua & Barbuda

The Confucius Institute of Antigua & Barbuda (CIAB), in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the Antigua & Barbuda China Friendship Association (ACFA), officially launched the first Antigua & Barbuda Chinese Art Exhibition yesterday. The three-day event showcases the remarkable calligraphy works and paintings of Mrs. Zheng Lai Yili, a resident of Antigua for the past 23 years.

The event was attended by students from six primary and secondary schools (some of which were also displaying art created by the pupils), along with various Ministry officials, teachers and parents. Mr. Cuthbert Forbes Jr., Secretary of the ACFA, delivered remarks on behalf of the Association's President, Her Excellency Lady Williams. In his address, Mr. Forbes congratulated Mrs. Zheng on curating the exhibition and commended the launch of her two books: *Traditional Flowers of China* and *Making Home in the Beautiful Islands of Antigua & Barbuda*. He encouraged the students to engage with the artwork over the next two days, noting the deep connection between the pieces and the picturesque landscapes of Antigua.



## CHINESE LANGUAGE DAY

The Embassy of The People's Republic of China hosted Chinese Language Day on Friday, April 19th, in a vibrant celebration of Mandarin language and culture. The event welcomed teachers, students, and parents from various educational institutions that have incorporated Mandarin into their curriculum, showcasing a commitment to promoting cross-cultural exchange.

Co-hosted by Grace from the Chinese Embassy and Cuthbert Forbes, Secretary of the Antigua & Barbuda China Friendship Association, the event was a collaborative effort aimed at strengthening ties between both nations and fostering mutual appreciation for cultural diversity.

Attendees were treated to a spectacle of traditional Asian performances and delectable cuisine, as they immersed themselves into the rich tapestry of Chinese heritage.

Chinese Language Day holds special significance, having been acknowledged by the United Nations 14 years ago.



## Antiguan Delegates Participate in Cultural and Educational Exchange in China

Cuthbert Forbes, Administrative Assistant at Government House, Public Relations Officer of the Halo Foundation, and Secretary of the Antigua Barbuda China Friendship Association, together with Rozanne Emanuel, Administrative Assistant at Government House, recently embarked on a significant journey to China to investigate the development of small commodity markets in developing countries.

At the seminar, Forbes and Emanuel acquired invaluable insights into the expectations of emerging markets and explored innovative strategies by which small island states like Antigua and Barbuda can utilize their natural resources to promote economic development. They visited local businesses and technological centres, thereby enhancing their understanding of potential avenues for capital generation.



Additionally, the delegates engaged deeply with Chinese culture through martial arts training, museum visits, and sampling the local cuisine as part of a comprehensive cultural awareness program. This immersive experience was shared with representatives from eight nations, totalling 45 participants, thereby fostering international collaboration and cross-cultural exchange. The participation of Forbes and Emanuel in this Chinese cultural and educational exchange underscores Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to fostering global partnerships and enhancing bilateral relations. Their enriching journey exemplifies the power of cultural immersion and knowledge sharing in driving sustainable development and promoting mutual understanding among nations.





# HUMANITARIANISM — IN OUR YOUTHS —

## Lady Sandra Williams Humanitarian Award 2024

Faith Gibson was recently selected as the Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) recipient of the Lady Sandra Williams Award for Humanitarianism, during the school's anniversary service.

Her Excellency Lady Williams attended the AGHS for a few years in the '70's, and has introduced the award as a platform to encourage selflessness among young people.

Faith is described as a student who is genuinely helpful to both her peers and the staff. She is a strong advocate for the well-being of her fellow students and has on occasion taken up the mantle of discreetly alerting staff to situations where a student may be in need of assistance or intervention.



## Lady Williams Award for Humanitarianism

D' Myca Samuel is the 2024 recipient of the Lady Sandra Williams Award for Humanitarianism. The award, which was presented during the Christ the King Graduation Ceremony earlier this year, is bestowed annually upon a student who exemplifies exceptional leadership through selfless actions.

Her Excellency Lady Williams is a past student at both the Christ the King and the Antigua Girls' High Schools.



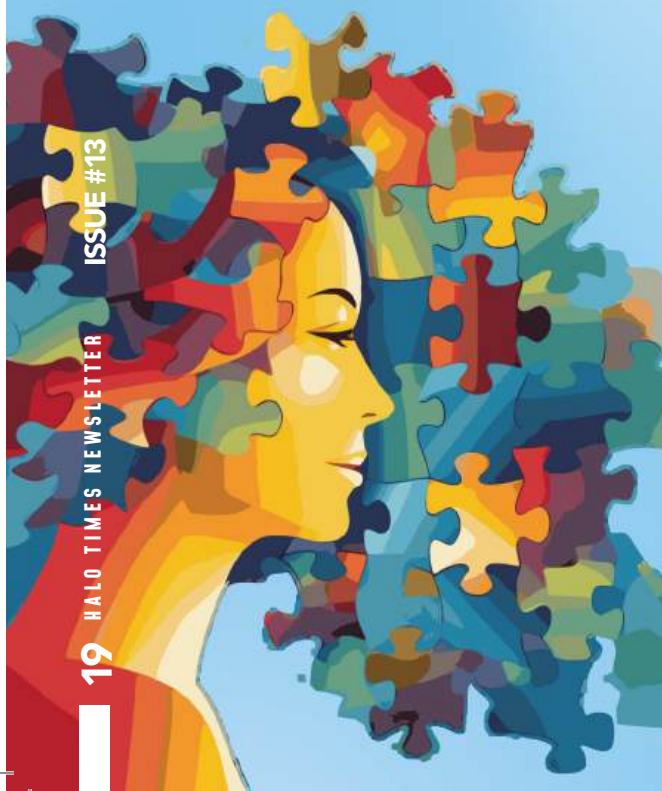
## HALO CONTINUES SCHOOL TOURS TO BOOST MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS.

Over the past four weeks, the Halo Foundation conducted school tours across Antigua and Barbuda in collaboration with a team of mental health professionals. These tours were largely aimed at increasing mental health awareness while promoting overall wellness, and addressing issues related to youth violence. Launched in October, the initiative marks the debut of "BLUE," a branch of the Halo Foundation focused on human development through mental wellness.

The tours included visits to T.N Kiron Primary School (Daryl George), Five Islands Primary School (Harriet Warner ), Villa Primary School (Dr. Koren Norton ), Antigua Girl's High School (Jill Fuller ) and Clare Hall Secondary School (Devra Thomas ). During each visit, the mental health professionals encouraged positive peer engagement and listening as strategies for managing social anxiety and stress. They also shared practical advice in time management and emotional balance, equipping students with essential skills to effectively

navigate their pre-adolescent and adolescent years.

The primary school sessions gave students and avenue to understand emotional intelligence and how to express themselves effectively. In contrast, the secondary school visits focused on managing stress during examinations and adapting to new environments. President of the Halo Foundation, Her Excellency Lady Williams noted that the timely initiative has been in the making for some time now. She said "in 2017, we became concerned with the nation's incidences of teen suicide and that is now being addressed, as we seek to find ways to surmount challenges surrounding mental health awareness and wellness." The Halo Foundation, which was launched in 2014, is an umbrella charity assisting 35 organizations under the patronage of Their Excellencies, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams.





# COMMUNITY COMES FIRST

Bolinda Baptiste of the Halo Foundation donated to the St. John Hospice of Antigua and Barbuda recently at Government House. Several boxes of adult pampers and cleaning supplies, sponsored by Anjo Wholesale, were handed over to a representative of the Hospice, Ms. Charlene Selkridge. The Halo Foundation continues to support those in need.

At the Halo Foundation, we believe in the incredible power of lending a helping hand to those in need. We're excited to donate adult pampers and cleaning supplies —sponsored by Anjo Wholesale — to the St. Vincent de Paul daycare center for the elderly.

Together, as each other's keepers, we aim to make a positive impact and inspire others to give back to their communities. Let's keep uplifting one another and making a difference!



## GIVING A LITTLE FOR THE ELDERLY

No matter the size, contributions made within a community can create a powerful and positive impact in a person's life. At the Halo Foundation we foster a culture of compassion and generosity. We are elated to donate adult diapers and cleaning supplies- sponsored by Anjo Wholesale- to the Pares Pentecostal Church. This contribution affirms our commitment to giving back and supporting others.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A truly special day spent at the soup kitchen, this could not have been made possible without the incredible support of Lady Sandra Scotland- Williams and the Halo Foundation! The generosity in sponsoring and sharing the meal has made a huge difference in the community. A huge shout-out to the amazing chef, Ms. Sasha James, for preparing such a delightful meal that brought warmth and joy to all who joined us.





# HONOURING OUR HERITAGE

## HERITAGE TRUST AND LONDON MUSEUM PARTNER ON RESTORATION PROJECT

The Heritage Trust of Antigua and Barbuda (HTAB) and the London Museum Docklands have joined efforts to progress the historical Government House Restoration Project. The aim of this collaboration is to explore the synergies between the West Indies and the United Kingdom, and their story of “sugar and the enslaved”, as the narrative progresses “from slavery to emancipation to independence”.

Sir David Harrison said that he was pleased to be involved with the Government House project. He stressed that not only would the physical property be revamped, but the training of Antiguan and Barbudans in conservation and restoration, and the creation of meaningful jobs, were high on the agenda.

dinner held two days earlier, guests were given the opportunity to tour Government House, inclusive of the upstairs chambers, and to view old paintings of royalty. Also on exhibit was the Parham Prince painting collection donated by Nancy Underhills, interesting pieces of crockery from the 1700's unearthed from the grounds of Government House, and other important relics — including antique pots, aged rum kegs and fragile water jars.

The first phase of “Operation Restoration” was funded by the Calvin Ayre Foundation, the Mill Reef Club and Sir David Harrison, with the second phase scheduled to commence in April 2024.

At both the cocktail party and an exclusive donor's appreciation



HTAB BOARD L-R: Sen. Hon. Kiz Nathaniel, Mrs. Janey Henderson-Howell, Sir David Harrison, Mr. Hendren Parker, H.E. Lady Williams, H.E. Sir Rodney Williams, Ms. Gabriella Howell, Lady Harrison and H.E. Karen-Mae Hill.





# INAUGURAL HERITAGE TALK SERIES BEGINS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Dr. Reginald Murphy, renowned for his expertise in heritage and archaeology, delivered a compelling presentation on the "Prehistory of Antigua and Its First People," revealing profound insights that mapped out the true history and early roots of our twin island nation and its people.

Ms. Agnes Meeker, a respected author and historian, delved into the "Plantations of Antigua in the Colonial Era," bringing to life pivotal chapters that have shaped the island's cultural identity. Ms. Meeker took the audience on a journey through old sugar mill ruins and plantation houses, stressing the importance of protecting and preserving our culture.



## GOVERNMENT HOUSE POISED TO BECOME IMPORTANT HISTORIC ATTRACTION

The grounds of Government House are currently undergoing a major metamorphosis as restoration work on the over 200-year-old historical landmark continues. The 2-acre property is being transformed into a cultural heritage site, managed by The Heritage Trust Antigua and Barbuda (HTAB) Inc.

## HALO DONATES \$34,000 TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE RESTORATION

The Halo Foundation recently donated EC\$34,000 to the Heritage Trust of Antigua and Barbuda (HTB), towards the advancement of much-needed restoration work at Government House. The cheque was handed over by President of the Halo Foundation, H.E. Lady Williams. HTAB is actively working to renovate the beautiful Georgian architectural building, Government House, in its third phase of the restoration project.





# FOOD FOR FRIENDS



Bolinda Baptiste of the Halo Foundation (pictured) collects a donation of monthly groceries from Billy's Food Mart to be delivered to families in need.



The Halo Foundation continues its ongoing partnership with Billy's Food Mart (Food Brokerage Services Antigua) to feed the needy in our community. Cuthbert Forbes (pictured) assists with the distribution to families in need.

Every small act of kindness holds immeasurable value, surpassing even the grandest intentions. Bolinda Baptiste from the Halo Foundation (pictured) spreads love by providing monthly groceries to families in need. Thanks to the unwavering support of Billy's Supermarket, we're making a real difference.





# YOUTH ADVANCE WITH COMMONWEALTH AI CERTIFICATION

The Halo Foundation recently announced that five team members have completed 21 online AI courses from The Commonwealth e-learning platform. This training equips the Halo Team with skills to streamline data, manage workloads, and securely back up information.

In a recent Avanade AI Readiness Report, it was deduced that “92% [of 3,000 respondents] believe they must shift to an AI-first operating model in the next 12 months to stay competitive”. Additionally, “63% agree that employees will need new skills for generative AI”.

Lady Sandra Williams, President of Halo, states: “We must take every opportunity to help our young people to learn and develop. AI training is essential for Antigua’s youth to face the future — and therefore, as AI technology advances, staying informed is crucial. It is extremely encouraging that the Commonwealth Secretariat has provided these resources to member states at no cost.”

The Commonwealth AI Consortium (CAIC) offers various AI education initiatives, including the Commonwealth AI Academy with Intel, the Make-A-Thon program with Open Weaver, the Commonwealth AI Incubator, and Simplilearn certification opportunities. Other courses on offer include Digital Readiness for Public Sector Leaders, Introduction to Responsible AI Skills and Commonwealth Climate Finance Essentials.



## SECOND GENERATION MASON

*“Let the youth carry our heritage in their hearts as they march forward into the future, for it is in embracing the wisdom of the past that they will build a brighter tomorrow.”*

~ Lady Sandra Williams



Second generation mason Henson Wilshaw at Government House.



# HEAD OF STATE & OUR

# Hearts

The Friends Development Center (FDC), under the leadership of Founder/President Mrs. Annette Carey and Principal Mr. Raphael Robertson, hosted its annual Christmas Programme on Friday, December 13, 2024. The festive event brought together families, staff, students, and esteemed guest for a joyful celebration of the season. Their Excellencies Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, and Lady Williams honoured the occasion with presence.

His Excellency presented greetings to the Board, Management, Staff, Parents, and Participants, extending heartfelt commendations for the Centre's tireless efforts in caring for differently-abled children. Lady Williams graciously shared gifts, spreading holiday cheer and goodwill. The event featured an inspiring

Nativity presentation performed by the dedicated FDC staff and students.

The celebration included songs and steel pan renditions performed by the Young Adult Outreach Programme, showcasing the talents and vibrancy of the Centre's youth participants.

The Friends Development Centre remains steadfast in its mission to empower children through inclusive care and holistic development. This annual event exemplifies the love, compassion, and dedication that the staff and management extend to the children and their families.



## HEART AND STROKE ACKNOWLEDGES

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, the Patron of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Antigua and Barbuda, is a true champion for health and wellness in our nation! As a medical doctor for almost 50 years, Sir Rodney advocates tirelessly for advancements in medical care to promote a healthier and more productive society.

**Here's towards a brighter, healthier future for all!**





# CHECK THIS OUT!

The T20 World Cup trophy made a special stop at Government House earlier and was warmly welcomed by Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams.



## MUSIC FOR A CAUSE SCOTLAND

On #StAndrewsDay the High Commission was delighted to bring a little taste of #Scotland to St John's.

Our stall at #MusicForACause served some sweet Scottish treats and brought a touch of tartan flair to the evening. "The event was a great success, and we were delighted to support the amazing work of The Halo Foundation, Inc. who do amazing work with 36 charitable bodies & organisations across Antigua and Barbuda."





# CHECK IT OUT

## VOLUNTEERING FOR A CHANGE

I am Ashantae Wallace of the Halo Foundation.

For the past few weeks, I was given the opportunity to join the ACE (A Challenge 4 Everyone) team as a Unit Leader. I was put in charge of mentoring a group (Cygnus) of young and aspiring athletes, lawyers, scientists and so on. ... all who believe that challenges will prevent their dreams.

My two weeks of volunteered service were well enjoyed; my mind was open to the different ways in which we could help make even a small change in the lives of our youth. Our mantra at ACE is apt: "How high I aim; How far I reach; How much I see; Depends on me."

This is notable and I acknowledge my involvement.

(ACE) Summer Camp, 'Igniting the Potential', has truly been an awesome and exceptionally gratifying opportunity. To be able to be a part of such a monumental programme, conceived and executed by H.E. Karen Mae Hill, is truly worthwhile.



## FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Ms. Valerie Davis was the lucky winner of a bottle of wine, compliments of the Halo Foundation. Ms. Davis received a bottle of Mud House Chile Sauvignon Blanc 2022 from Cuthbert Forbes Jr. as one of the Foundation's Carnival Fever promotion winners.



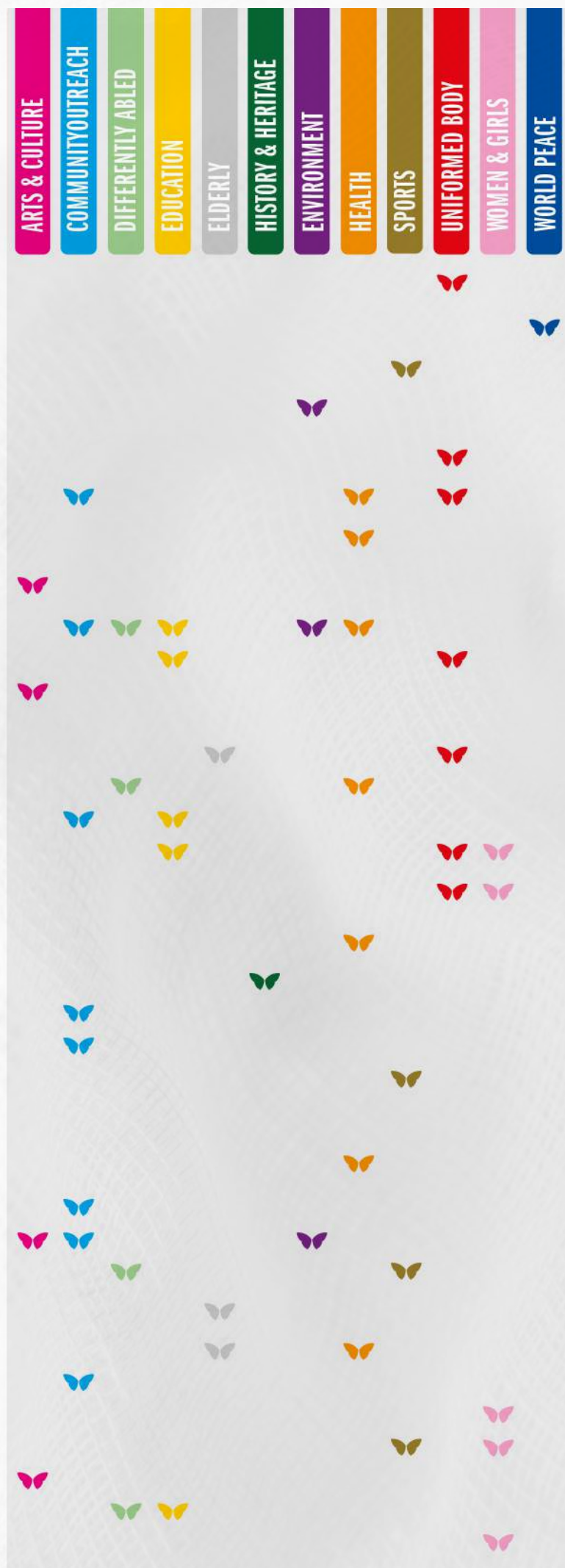




# LIST OF CURRENT CHARITIES

## UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

- ● Antigua & Barbuda Branch Of The Scout Association
- Antigua & Barbuda China Friendship Association
- Antigua and Barbuda Falcons
- Antigua & Barbuda Horticulture Society
- ● Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corp
- ● ● Antigua & Barbuda Red Cross
- Antigua & Barbuda Sickle Cell Association
- ● Antigua & Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra
- ● ● ● The Blue Dragonfly Foundation
- ● ● Boys' Brigade
- Classic Singers (Antigua & Barbuda) Ltd.
- Duke Of Edinburgh Award
- ● Ex-Servicemen's Association
- ● Friends Foundation
- ● ● The Gard Centre
- ● ● Girls' Brigade
- ● ● Girl Guides Association Of Antigua & Barbuda
- Heart & Stroke Foundation Of Antigua And Barbuda
- Heritage Trust Antigua and Barbuda
- ● Kiwanis Club (Circle K)
- Lions Club Of Antigua
- ● National Sailing Academy
- National Youth Parliament Of Antigua & Barbuda
- Renal Society Of Antigua & Barbuda
- Rotary Club Of Antigua
- ● ● The Royal Commonwealth Society
- ● ● Sailability
- Society Of St.Vincent De Paul (Holy Family Conference)
- ● St.John Hospice
- Street Pastors
- ● Sunshine Home For Girls
- ● Team Antigua Island Girls
- Tostem Emancipation Stories
- ● The Victory Centre
- Women Of Esteem





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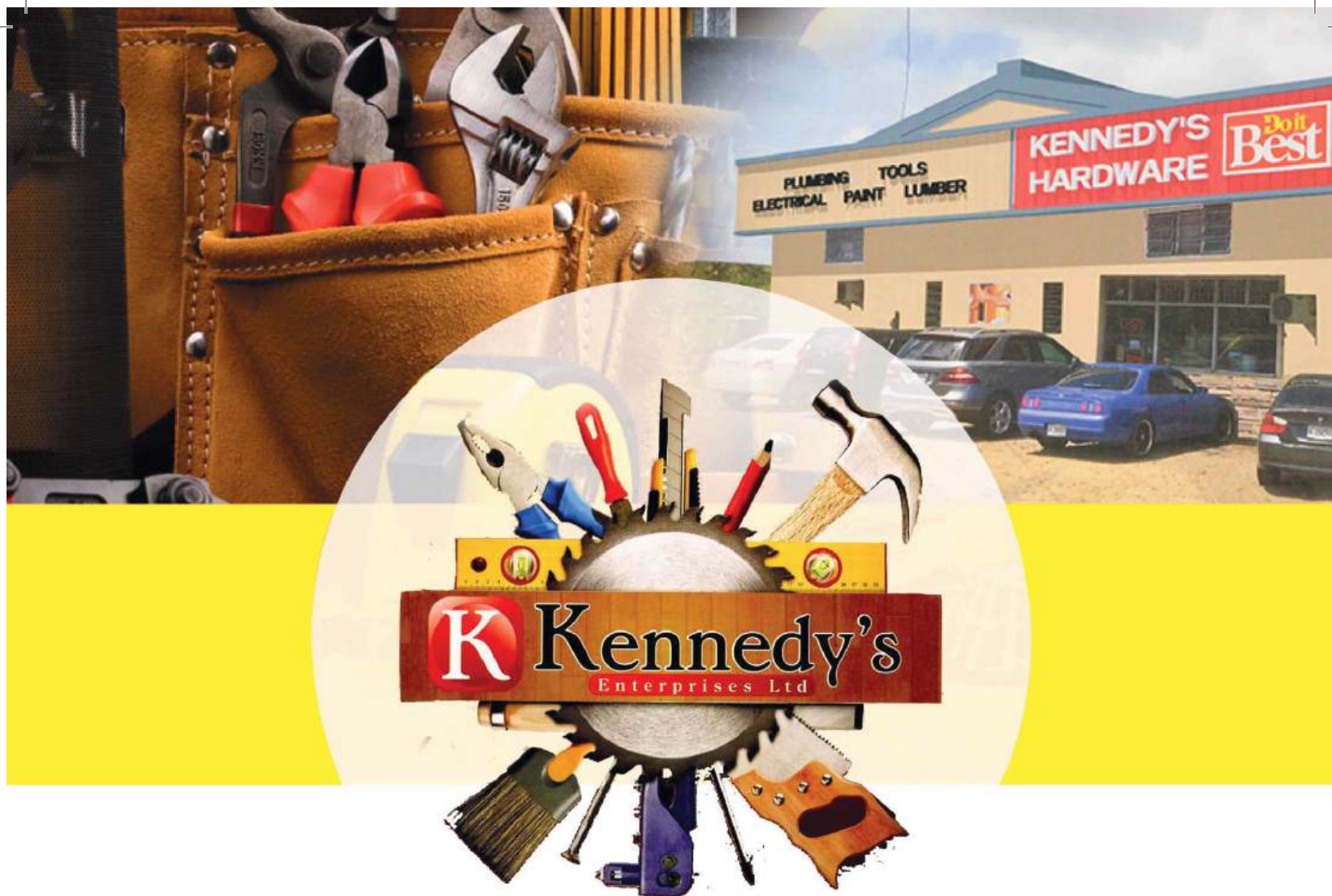


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