

N Community

Sandals, Jabez team up to lift families

THE WARMTH of the holiday season for vulnerable households across Barbados was a little more special this year following the Sandals Foundation joining the Jabez House Feed A Family Food Drive and extending the reach and impact of the initiative.

In addition to the 22 female-led families supported by Jabez House, sponsorship from the Sandals Foundation saw an additional 20 households from two registered charities – Breaking Bread and The HURT (Help Us Reach Them) initiative – receiving care packages comprising food items and ingredients to supplement their yuletide meals.

Patrice Gilpin, public relations manager at Sandals Foundation, says the Jabez House outreach partnership formed part of its continued effort to support the welfare needs of Caribbean communities.

“This has been an extraordinary year for families across the region. Since March, we have worked



SANDALS BARBADOS RESORT manager Patrick Drake leading the packaging efforts, while Sandals accountant Melissa Hope (centre), and Racquel Green, of Jabez House, mark as completed. (GP)

with numerous organisations to distribute more than one thousand care packages to help people meet some of their basic needs.

“Christmas is a time which beckons us all to take a closer look around us and see how we can each support another. Every little counts in helping to bring joy and a sense of love to those who need it the most,” Gilpin said.

Gratitude

Shamelle Rice, founder and director at Jabez House, expressed gratitude for the continued support of the Food Drive which is now celebrating its third year.

“We are extremely grateful to all our partners and families who have consistently come on

board to purchase, pack and donate to our ladies. Christmas can be a particularly challenging time of the year for many of the clients we serve, and their children. Making a difference to ensure they can have a smile on their faces on Christmas Day is very precious to us,” Rice said.

Ramel Sobrino, general manager of the Sandals Resorts, who led a team of volunteers, including resort manager Patrick Drake and public relations manager David Hinds, who helped pack and prepare the packages, said the service project will undoubtedly bring a welcome relief.

He said: “It is our duty as a resort to do what we can to serve the communities which we call home. We will continue to engage our team members to be active change makers and engage our guests to support solutions.” (PR)

Courtesy adds ‘a little magic’ to children’s Christmas

“Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.”

This was stated by Nicholas Mackie, senior general manager of Courtesy Garage, as the company made another in its series of annual donations of toys to children of Variety, the Children’s Charity of Barbados, at Cave Shepherd on Broad Street last week.

Recognition

Mackie said Courtesy’s long-standing commitment to Variety was driven by its recognition of the fact that the joy of brightening other lives and supplanting empty hearts with generous gifts, represented for Courtesy, the real magic of Christmas.

“There’s no better feeling on Christmas morning than knowing you have helped bring a little magic to children who have in some way, experienced very



COURTESY’S senior general manager Nicholas Mackie (left) and Hyundai sales manager Roger Maxwell (right) join in sharing the joy of giving at Christmas with some of the children, parents and teachers. On Maxwell’s right is Donnah Russell, volunteer with Variety. (GP)

challenging times,” he said. “We consider it a beautiful gesture of community spirit and a way of taking some

of the pressure off many parents who simply may not be able to afford to buy a gift for their children at

this time, particularly with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.” Donnah Russell, as

a volunteer with Variety after many years of outstanding service at its helm in Barbados, said the organisation was again most appreciative of Courtesy’s effort to “spell out love, hope and joy” to the children of the charity.

“Variety is, indeed happy to commend Courtesy Garage on its celebration of the spirit of giving each Christmas.”

Committed

She said the organisation was equally happy to have, for the first time, the participation of the teachers of the Challenger School, in the coordination and planning of the donation event.

Established in November, 1994, Variety, the Children’s Charity of Barbados, is committed to supporting the children of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, especially those who are sick, physically or mentally challenged, through the improvement of the quality of their lives. (PR)