



MEDIA RELEASE

December 23rd 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

MSDFS spreads some staff Christmas Cheer

Wednesday December 23, 2020 --- Referring to it as the most 'Vabulous Time of the Year', the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) gave their staff the opportunity to decorate a Christmas Tree which was dedicated to recognize and promote positive Values, Attitudes and Behaviours (VABs). The VABs Christmas Tree which was located at the Ministry's Head office on St Vincent Street, was set up for staff to decorate with festive handmade ornaments.

The staff's talent shone as the ornaments were all required to incorporate a VABs theme in mind and to



be of a particular size. The MSDFS saw from hearts to globes to snowmen as eager staff members, beaming with excitement and pride, hung their individual ornaments on the tree as part of its overall décor.

Bringing the true spirit of Christmas to the office space, the exercise was promoted to engage staff rather than have them compete with each other. The response was quite overwhelming and providing some excitement to staffers who also enjoyed displaying their pieces for the entire Ministry to see.

Caption: Senator The Honourable Donna Cox stands with winners of the VABs Christmas Ornament Activity, Marva Francis-Jerome (L) of the MSDFS PS Secretariat and Reshma Laxhan (R) of the Ministry's Social Welfare Division

At the end, three ornaments were selected as being most popular and those staff members responsible for making them were awarded a prize in an effort to spread some Christmas cheer.

The VABs campaign is ongoing within the MSDFS in an effort to have staff share a communal value system all in a long term effort to improve services to both internal and external customers. Very early within the New Year, 2021, the Ministry will be introducing the VABs campaign nationwide as part of Vision 2030's strategy to build resilience within Trinidad and Tobago's population.



Caption: The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Values, Attitudes and Behaviours (VABs) Christmas Tree on display in the lobby of their Head Office on St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain.

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