



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Awards #SMILE Competition Participants

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services earlier today, December 8, awarded winners and participants of its #SMILE - Seniors Mastering ICT for Learning & Engagement - and #HALO – Honouring Appreciation and Loving Older Persons Competitions. The brief ceremony took at the Ministry’s Head Office, 39 – 43 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain.

The #HALO2 Competition in its second year and #SMILE Competitions were launched and branded as part of the Ministry’s commemoration of the United Nations’ International Day of Older Persons on October 1st, 2021 under the theme “Digital Equity for All Ages.”

Participants were asked to submit a one (1) minute videos teaching and assisting other older persons (60 years and older) on how to use their cellular phone, tablet, and/or personal computer. The Selfie Competition which targeted children 12 years and under, and older persons 60 years and over, saw persons submitting a selfie of how they honoured, appreciated and loved an older person.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the activities incorporated the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to safely and conveniently engage older persons and the national community.

In her brief remarks, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox noted that she was pleased to see young persons participating in the competition noting that it augers well for the future of fostering healthy intergenerational relationships. Following this, she presented those in winners’ row with their prizes.

Placing first in the #SMILE Video and Selfie Competitions were Tishean Abraham Warner and **Jahedon Noel** respectively. In Tishean’s submission, he eloquently demonstrated to his grandmother Theodora how to download and use the Google Duo application for video calling. Jahedon, in his selfie submission, said he appreciates and loves his grandmother by spending time with her and giving her hugs every day. Prizes were also awarded to Alexander Davis, who was the runner up in the Selfie and #SMILE Competition.

Minister Cox also thanked the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) and the Heritage Petroleum Company Limited for donating the prizes for the competitions, endorsing that public and private partnerships were now key to helping, empowering and transforming lives.

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Minister Cox presents a prize to Jahedon Noel, the first place winner of the #SMILE Video and Selfie Competition



Minister Cox presents a prize to the mother of Tishean Abraham Warner, the first place winner of the #SMILE Video and Selfie Competition.