



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

#### **“It’s never too late to learn”- says elated Quarry Street Fire Victim**

In an ongoing effort to bring as much restoration and a sense of normalcy to the affected families of the Quarry Street fire on New Years Day, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, on January 19<sup>th</sup>, presented a desktop computer to one of the affected families. An elated Anastacia Grant joined by her husband, was quite happy to receive the device which will be of tremendous assistance with her online classes for the upcoming Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examination.

The device was donated to the Ministry by a corporate sponsor, following a request from the Office of the Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox. On receiving the computer, Ms. Grant expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the Ministry’s assistance. Ms Grant, age 35, also indicated that the desktop computer would assist her in being adequately prepared for the examinations. As an adult CSEC candidate, Ms Grant believes that age should not be a factor when it comes to education and learning, and hopes that she will inspire others who are in similar situations.

The presentation of this desktop computer follows earlier action by the Ministry when the other affected families were provided with emergency relief. The affected families were assessed to receive assistance under the Ministry’s disaster relief grants including the clothing grant which is up to \$1,000.00 per person as well as the school supplies grant which amounts to \$700.00 for primary school children and \$1,000.00 for secondary school children. Through the Social Welfare Division, grants for household items have also been made available. The affected families continue to receive counselling and psychosocial support from the Ministry’s National Family Services Division.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services once again remains committed to bringing relief to families affected by man-made and natural disasters, ensuring that no one gets left behind.



*Ms. Natalie Walters Communications Manager (right) presents the desktop computer to fire victim, Ms. Anastasia Grant*