



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Saturday December 25, 2021

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Priority: HIGH**

#### **Minister Cox spreads Christmas joy to Vulnerable Family**

*Port-of-Spain* --- The holiday season was made a bit brighter when Senator the Honourable Donna Cox and staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services visited a Diego Martin family of four (4) to distribute hampers and toys as part of her usual yuletide duties.

This follows the distribution of a total of 4100 Christmas food support cards to vulnerable families via the various Members of Parliament to ensure that vulnerable families who are experiencing hardship and are unable to fully provide for the nutritional needs of their respective families are provided with the necessary support.

Minister Cox noted that the initiative, which has continued from last year, is intended to supplement families' food requirements for the Christmas season, as the Ministry continues to fulfil its mandate of helping, empowering and transforming lives.

Receiving the items was mother of three, Christina Amoroso, who was recommended through the NGO, Is There Not A Cause (ITNAC) who told Minister Cox that she was indeed grateful for the toys and the hamper and for sharing her Christmas day holiday with their family. Minister Cox further thanked ITNAC for identifying Ms. Amoroso, noting that Civil Society Organisations play a key role in the Ministry's response to assisting vulnerable citizens in Trinidad and Tobago. Minister Cox also credited the countless donors from around the country who despite the lingering effects of COVID-19, contributed towards the initiative to assist the less fortunate.

Also in attendance was ITNAC founder Mrs Avonelle Hector-Joseph, who indicated that she was pleased to join Minister Cox today to bring comfort to the family. She agreed with Minister Cox on the importance of collaboration, stating that an intentional three-point approach among the Government, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations is indeed necessary.

In closing, Minister Cox extended warm and sincere Christmas greetings to the national community and encouraged persons to inspire each other to keep the reason for the season alive. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is pleased to be able to provide this support to those most in need as it continues to meet its mandate of helping, empowering, and transforming lives.

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*For more information:  
Communications and Education Unit  
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services  
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5405/5432  
[cceu@social.gov.tt](mailto:cceu@social.gov.tt)*



*Minister Cox arrives at the house of Christina Amoroso with gifts for her three children*





*Minister Cox presents toys to the Amoroso family*



Is There Not A Cause (ITNAC) founder Mrs Avonelle Hector-Joseph, Minister Cox, Christina Amoroso and her children.





*Minister Cox presents a bag of food items to Christina Amoroso*





Is There Not A Cause (ITNAC) founder Mrs Avonelle Hector-Joseph thanks Minister Cox for her assistance on Christmas Day



Christina Amoroso and her neighbour receive the bag of food items





*The children happily display their toys received from Minister Cox*





*Minister Cox presents the Amoroso family with toys and a food hamper.*