



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday December 21, 2021

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Priority: HIGH**

#### **MSDFS Staff donates toys to Children's Homes**

Despite the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, today, Tuesday December 21, 2021 donated toys, snack bags and hampers to the Hope Centre and the Our Lady of the Wayside – Halfway House for Children. The Hope Centre is a charitable non-profit organization for abused and abandoned children and the Our Lady of the Wayside Halfway House for Children is a home for children abandoned, abused, neglected and brought in by the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

The initiative, now in its fourth year, is an annual event under the Ministry's Sports and Events Committee for underprivileged children and children with disabilities, where initially, children were treated to toys, games, eats and drinks, as well as a story telling segment, courtesy NALIS. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the activity was downscaled to delivering toys, food hampers and snacks to the selected homes.

Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox was on hand to present the items to the Our Lady of the Wayside – Halfway House for Children. Speaking to Ms Kathleen Holder-Pierre, Manager of the Home, Minister Cox stated that the initiative is always a highlight for staff as they look forward to giving back during the yuletide season.

As she applauded the efforts of the staff to contribute to the event, Minister Cox indicated to Ms. Pierre Holder that the gesture is in keeping with the caring role of the Ministry.

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.

**END-**

**For more information:**

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Minister Cox presents a bag of toys to Ms Kathleen Holder-Pierre, Manager of Our Lady of the Wayside – Halfway House for Children



Minister Cox signs the visitor book at Our Lady of the Wayside – Halfway House for Children





Deputy Permanent Secretary, Jasmine Pascal presents one of the food hampers to the Sabita Seebaran, Coordinator of the Hope Centre.