



## MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, September 17, 2022

PRIORITY: HIGH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **“Do not quit, never give up!” says Minister Cox at Agricola’s SEA Awards 2022**

As part of the Ministry’s ongoing thrust to strengthen its relationships with private entities, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services graciously accepted the opportunity to be involved in the Annual SEA Awards Ceremony for 2022, hosted by the Agricola Credit Union, earlier today, September 17. The initiative was lauded by Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, as it is aligned with the Ministry’s mandate of helping, empowering and transforming the lives of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, specifically vulnerable families.

In delivering the feature address, Minister Cox congratulated the Agricola Credit Union for their diligence in equipping its members towards social and economic upliftment for more than seventy years. According to Minister Cox, “The theme for this event, ‘Empowering Families, Transforming Education’ is powerful, because there are hundreds of stories of families who have been empowered and have had their history altered because they realised that education was the key to lifting themselves out of poverty. These families received support through institutions like the Credit Union, so that their children were educated to receive the best that this country has to offer. Today, many families continue to receive financial assistance to help their children achieve their educational goals; thus ensuring that the generational cycle of poverty is broken.”

The Minister stated that at the Ministry, we understand the powerful impact the immediate and extended family can make on others. “The Ministry has adopted a holistic approach to helping, empowering and transforming families. Through the various Divisions of the Ministry, we have embarked upon a series of initiatives that are also designed to strengthen families, and provide them with the tools necessary for raising the 21st century child.” She also took the opportunity to encourage the SEA recipients and other young persons to commit to their work. “You have to put in the work, with determination and purpose, bearing in mind that career you desire in your heart. Above all, Do Not quit! Never Give Up! Many of you may have dreams of becoming a nurse, doctor, mechanic, hairstylist but these dreams can only be accomplished if you study. You must have a study plan and make sure that you stick to it.” said Minister Cox.

Minister Cox further urged parents to continue investing in the lives of their children. “Educating them is one of the best gifts you can give to them because in your old age they will support you rather than depend on your pension to support them. Develop the attitude of gratitude in your children, so they will never take for granted your contributions and the sacrifices you made to their growth and success” said Minister Cox.

In closing, Minister Cox reassured the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services’ commitment to developing and maintaining partnerships in an effort to ensure that families are supported in their most critical time of need and certainly attempt to leave no one behind.

Also in attendance were Dr. Arthur Potts, President, Agricola Credit Union Co-operative Society Ltd, Charmaine Giroux-John, Chair, Bursary Committee and Marcia Quammie, Manager at the Agricola Credit Union.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to promoting healthy and functional families, in an effort to ensure that no one is left behind.

**-END-**

**For more information:**

Communications Unit  
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services  
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5400/5402-5404

Email: [cceu@social.gov.tt](mailto:cceu@social.gov.tt)



Minister Cox delivers the feature address at the SEA Awards Ceremony 2022, hosted by Agricola Credit Union



Minister Cox presents educational grant and other tokens to recipient, Brandon Ramdoo





Minister Cox presents educational grant to recipient, Avinesh Ragoo



Minister Cox takes a photo with recipient, Kavir Ramsingh





Minister Cox presents educational grant to recipient, Aatma Ramkissoon



Minister Cox gives words of advice to recipient, Felisha Peters





Minister Cox and the recipients of Agricola Credit Union’s educational grants