

Special Report

October 12, 2020

SKNCIC Hands Over Shopping Vouchers to the Department of Gender Affairs and Red Cross Society through its COVID-19 Relief Drive.

On Friday, October 09, 2020, the St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce handed over EC\$40,000.00 in Shopping Vouchers to the Department of Gender Affairs and Social Services and the St. Kitts-Nevis Red Cross Society. Vouchers totalling \$20,000 were presented to each partner agency (\$20,000 to Red Cross Society and \$20,000 to the Department of Gender Affairs and Social Services). These agencies are responsible for distributing the vouchers to families in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The handing over was the first stage of one of the responses by the Chamber to ensuring that families – in particular, those who were employed in the Tourism Sector that needs some basic food items and essential personal items can purchase those items from the supermarkets in the Federation.

The Board of Directors of the wanted to make a contribution that would be meaningful to the average man, woman and child, something that would be tangible and make a difference in relieving some level of stress to families experiencing unexpected hardship for a prolonged period. The COVID-19 Relief Drive was conceptualized and developed into a project in July this year.

The Chamber partnered with the Department of Gender Affairs and Social Services and the St. Kitts Nevis Red Cross Society to execute the project because both institutions have the infrastructure necessary to ensure that donations reached the needy persons.

Support will be given to families in the form of shopping vouchers in denominations of XCD\$50 and XCD\$100 issued by the following supermarkets: Horsford's IGA (Valu Mart), Ram's Supermarket, Fraités & Sons Enterprises, Dollar Stretcher Supermarket, E&K Supermarket.

Based on our discussions with our partner organizations, recipients would not be allowed to utilize vouchers to purchase alcohol or cigarettes. Families of one (1) to two (2) persons will receive shopping vouchers valued at XCD 200.00, with three (3) to four (4)

persons will receive XCD300.00, and with more than four (4) persons will receive of XCD400.00.

The Covid-19 Relief Drive fits perfectly with the Chamber's Mission Statement: ***“To improve the standard and quality of life of all people of St. Kitts and Nevis”***.

During the President's presentation, she announced that the Chamber's Drive realized a total of \$42,500.00 to date, and was quite pleased to announce that the Chamber was able to exceed its target of \$40,000.00. Significant donations by two of the leading supermarket chains and competitors in the “A” category Membership (S L Horsford and Valumart/IGA) – \$20,000.00 and Rams Supermarkets (10,000.00). The remaining amount of \$12,500.00 was donated by the SKNCIC, Harpers Office Depot, The Cable, CCCU – Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions, CIBC/FCIB First Caribbean International Bank, First Federal Credit Union and the Law Office of Shauna Lake. She thanked the donors for supporting the humanitarian cause.

In accepting the Shopping Vouchers, Mrs. Celia Christopher - Director of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services and Ms. Telca Wallace – Disaster Coordinator of the St. Kitts-Nevis Red Cross Society expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Chamber of Commerce for joining the national effort towards providing food and essential personal items to families in need in the Federation.

Mr Desroy Tate, Chairman of the Manufacturing Division, delivered the Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Chamber. He thanked all the business places that contributed to this very important cause. He also commended Board Member, Mrs. Kiran Chandiramani-Perkins for her hard work, leadership and dedication to the project and the success of this Covid-19 Relief Drive.

Chamber Members are invited to contribute to this humanitarian cause as every effort is being made to help feed the people of the Federation



Mrs. Celia Christopher (second from left) Director of Gender Affairs in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services prepares to receive package of Shopping Vouchers from President Giselle Matthews, Vice President Natalie Kelsick and Board Member Kiran Chandiramani-Perkins



Ms. Telca Wallace (second from left) – Disaster Coordinator at the St. Kitts-Nevis Red Cross Society receives package of Shopping Vouchers from President Giselle Matthews, Vice President Natalie Kelsick and Board Member Kiran Chandiramani-Perkins



Recipients of the Shopping Vouchers (the St. Kitts-Nevis Red Cross and the Department of Gender Affairs and Social Services) along with representatives of Donor Companies and members of the SKNIC Board of Directors poses for this special photo.