

**Bank staff head back to school as third Community Action Day project is launched.**

(Hamilton, Bermuda, 2 October 2006) Bank of Bermuda launched its third Staff Community Action Day project today as more than 50 staff headed to Spice Valley Middle School for the first of five educational projects. The Staff Community Action Day programme, introduced this year, offers every Bank of Bermuda staff member with a half day off from work each year to volunteer their time to one of three community initiatives: the environment; housing or education. These projects are aligned with Bank of Bermuda and HSBC's worldwide practice of giving back to the community, whether financially or by volunteering time and skills, to promote education, to safeguard the environment and to support other important local community projects.

Today, Bank of Bermuda staff have been speaking to students about their roles in the Bank, educational requirements for their jobs and subjects in Middle Schools that are key to their current role in order to illustrate the many careers one can pursue in the banking world and the importance of education in reaching one's goals. Additionally, later this month several students from Spice Valley will have the opportunity to work-shadow a member of the Bank's staff of the students' choice who visited the school. Over the next week more than 175 staff members will be visiting the five public Middle Schools and will assist in various projects identified by the schools. At Dellwood Middle School staff will be involved in reading programmes; at Whitney Middle School staff will act as teachers' aides; at Sandys Middle School staff will work together gardening and painting and at Clearwater Middle School staff will give a helping hand in refurbishing the library.

Bank of Bermuda CEO, Philip Butterfield, who participated in today's project at Spice Valley Middle School, thanked those who had volunteered their services to this week's projects noting, "In May we launched the first Community Action Day where over 150 staff members volunteered their time in cleaning up the Island's railway trails and parks in partnership with Keep Bermuda Beautiful. In June, close to 100 staff members worked alongside Habit for Humanity and the Coalition for the Protection

of Children in painting two houses and clearing debris for homes being refurbished for families in need. Today marks the start of the weeklong educational component of our commitment to the community. I was impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of those involved in the previous projects and the result of our efforts, today, I am equally impressed with the enthusiasm on display. However, I believe that true success will come if we can inspire other organisations to take similar steps because while these projects will have some immediate results it is only when we all join together as a community that we can have an impact in improving education and inspiring our youth. Today we plant the seed; tomorrow we watch our youth grow.”

Spice Valley Middle School Principal, Dawnnelle Walker, stated, “It is a blessing to be a part of the Partners in Leadership programme with Bank of Bermuda and to be a beneficiary of their community action initiative. Today has been a successful event and has left many of our students with information about careers that they knew very little about. The more our students are exposed to the opportunities for employment available in Bermuda, the more likely they are to set a career goal and remain focused on it. This is critical because our students are Bermuda’s future.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Founded in 1889, Bank of Bermuda is the leading provider of fund administration, trust, custody, asset management and banking services in Bermuda. Since 2004 it has been a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.
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