

**Staff volunteerism becomes an annual commitment as Community Action Day Programme continues**

(Hamilton, Bermuda, 17 May 2007) Bank of Bermuda launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Action Day Programme as staff members joined residents at the Westmeath Residential and Rest Home facility for tea and an afternoon of socialising. The Staff Community Action Day programme, introduced last 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 initiatives focusing on the environment, education and the community.

As part of the Community Project, Bank of Bermuda staff have this week been spending time with the residents of LeFroy House Geriatric Unit, Lorraine Rest Home, Matilda Smith Williams Home, Westmeath Residential and Rest Home, as well as the Sylvia Richardson Care Facility, for an afternoon of games, reading, music and afternoon tea. The Environmental Project which will take place later this year, is in partnership with the Bermuda Audubon Society, the Bermuda National Trust and the Department of Conservation Services and Parks. Bank volunteers will remove invasive plant species and replant endemic plants in parks and nature reserves across the Island. The Education Project will involve Bank staff partnering with students from the five public middle schools to tour the Bermuda National Gallery's fall exhibit, Modern and Contemporary African American Art from the Collection of Alitash Kebede. Bank staff and students will also take part in interactive activities to help the students learn more about the exhibit and the importance of art as a form of expression.

Bank of Bermuda Chief Operating Officer, Michael Collins, thanked those who had volunteered their services to this week's project noting, "By focusing on the senior population as part of our community project we hope we can give back to those who gave so much to make Bermuda the success story it is today. Last year when we launched the Community Action Day programme, some 400 staff members took advantage of the opportunity to volunteer; this year we hope even more staff will participate.

These projects may have some immediate results but ultimately our goal is to raise awareness and the level of volunteerism within our staff. With some 1,100 staff we have a real opportunity to make a difference not only today but tomorrow and the next day for the betterment of Bermuda.”

Westmeath Administrator, Debbie Chase, took the opportunity to thank staff at the Bank of Bermuda for selecting Westmeath as one of the sites for the Community Action Day Programme saying, “Westmeath’s residents and staff are delighted with the interest that the Bank of Bermuda has taken in our seniors by providing afternoon tea and socialization. It’s refreshing to see members of the community, especially the corporate sector, volunteer their time to provide some joy and entertainment for our residents. Our seniors are part of our history and volunteerism is a way of giving back to our seniors that which they have already given to our community.”

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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.
- Further information on Bank of Bermuda can be found at [www.bankofbermuda.com](http://www.bankofbermuda.com)
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