CEO gives back to the disabled

A boost was given to the Barbados Association for the Blind and Deaf at the centre in St Paul's Avenue, St Michael.

Philanthropist Annalee Bowen-Smith handed a \$2 000 cheque to supervisor Cheryl Griffith and manager Elviston Maloney as her way to give back to her country for people with visual and audible disabilities.

Barbadian born Bowen-Smith is visually impaired herself and also is the founder and chief executive officer of the Not My Eyes foundation. She raised the funds that she donated through the foundation's fashion show and shared how much the donation means to her.

"My platform is so that I can give back to the visually impaired community. Being a Bajan native it is a great thing for me and I hope that what we are doing will continue as time goes by," she said on Wednesday.

Maloney expressed his appreciation for the donation and what it would mean for the blind and deaf community.

"It is a pleasure to be involved in an endeavour such as this. It brings to mind the fact that disability is not an inability and it is up to us to make what we have work for us. The Not My Eyes foundation will help to inspire society to see persons with disabilities have worth."

Each year the foundation, whose CEO is a



From left, past president of JCI Barbados Charlene Corbin, JCI member Rochelle Walrond and health aide Beverly Culpepper at the hamper donation. (Picture by Jameel Springer.)

HIV/AIDS food bank receives donation

JCI Barbados has extended a helping hand to the Barbados HIV/ AIDS Food Bank.

The Juniour Chamber International Barbados Inc. (JCI) formerly known as Barbados Jaycees, celebrated their 66 years of impact through efforts to feed individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

As a way to celebrate their milestone, JCI Barbados donated items to the Barbados HIV/AIDS Food Bank, last Friday at their Ladymeade Gardens, Jemmotts Lane, St Michael location.

Past president of JCI Barbados, Charlene Corbin, spoke on behalf of the company and their reason for donating. "When I was president, we were looking for organisations to donate to and we were told that the food bank wasn't getting many donations at all. So, we thought of giving a donation to the food bank, which is doing such an amazing job for the community, and this is our third donation and we just want to keep supporting them."

Through sponsorship by the ANSA McAL group, internal donations and smart budgeting, JCI Barbados was able to donate food items, toiletries such as disinfectant, toothpaste and sanitary napkins, and non-perishable food items to the food bank. (JH)

plus-sized model, hosts a fashion show with notable fashion designers and pledges the proceeds to visually impaired organisations. Last year's fashion show had 175 attendees while the show this year had over 200 attendees.

This is the second year Bowen-Smith has donated to the cause. The first year she donated to an organisation in New York called Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Bowen-Smith also plans to give back regionally with Jamaica being the next selected destination. (**JH**)



From Left, visually impaired Annalee Bowen-Smith presenting a cheque on behalf of the Not My Eyes foundation to supervisor Cheryl Griffith and manager Elviston Maloney of the Barbados Association for the Blind and Deaf. (Picture by Shanice King.)

