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HLSCC CAMPUS STORE MAKES A DIFFERENCE THROUGH HOLIDAY TOY & FOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, 21 January – As H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC) welcomes a new academic year, the College is also reflecting on a meaningful act of service that closed the previous one. In December, the HLSCC Campus Store successfully concluded its annual Toy and Food Drive, reinforcing the College's commitment to community engagement and partnership building across the British Virgin Islands.

The initiative, which aligns directly with Goal 3: Community and Partnerships of the College's Strategic Goals, mobilised students, faculty, staff, and community members to support families in need during the holiday season. Through their collective generosity, the Campus Store collected 53 toys along with a significant quantity of food items.

Campus Store Manager, Mrs. Khrystal Smith, shared that the toys were donated to Women in Need British Virgin Islands (WIN BVI), while the food items were gathered on designated collection days and used to help restock WIN BVI's food pantry. This contribution supported women and families experiencing food insecurity during a time of heightened need.

"This initiative speaks directly to our role as a community-focused institution," Mrs Smith said. "The Campus Store, and by extension the College, is committed to enhancing our value to the community and building collaborative relationships that deliver tangible benefits beyond campus."

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On 22 December, WIN BVI distributed the donated toys to children across the Territory, ensuring that many families were able to experience the joy of the holiday season. For some children, these gifts represented the only presents they received.

"This initiative goes beyond donations," Mrs Smith added. "It represents compassion, community, and collective care. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed whether through toys, food, or simply by spreading the word."

As HLSCC begins a new semester, the Campus Store's Toy and Food Drive stands as a reminder of the College's broader mission: to educate, empower, and uplift not only its students, but the wider Virgin Islands community. Through initiatives such as this, HLSCC continues to demonstrate that partnership, service, and social responsibility remain central to its institutional identity.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

1. Bisa Smith, Mrs. BVI Classique pictured handing over a gift from the toy drive to a child. **(Photo credit: Provided)**

2. Bisa Smith, Mrs. BVI Classique pictured with a young boy as he accepts his gift from the toy drive. (**Photo credit: Provided)**

3. Bisa Smith, Mrs. BVI Classique pictured bringing smiles to a child after giving them a gift from the toy drive. **(Photo credit: Provided)**

4. Khrystal Smith, Campus Store Manager pictured with Members of WINBVI with some of the gifts received from the toy drive. **(Photo credit: Provided)**

5. Bisa Smith, Mrs. BVI Classique pictured with two girls smiling as they receive their gifts from the toy drive. **(Photo credit: Provided)**