

SEARCH

## About Scholastic

- ▶ About Scholastic Home
- ▶ Corporate Philanthropy
  - Scholastic Gives Back to Schools
  - Community Programs & Corporate Donations
  - Scholastic/Save The Children
- ▶ Community Programs & Corporate Donations
- ▶ Contact Scholastic
- ▶ Corporate Conventions
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ Investor Relations
- ▶ Job Openings, Careers and Internships
- ▶ Media Room and Press Releases
- ▶ Mission and Credo
- ▶ People and History
- ▶ Retail Store
- ▶ Scholastic Event Services
- ▶ Shop Scholastic

### Scholastic Donates 150,000 Books to Children in Caribbean Countries

#### **Leading Education Company Sponsors The White House Centers of Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT) Initiative Overseas**

New York, NY (November 11, 2003) -- Scholastic, the global children's publishing and media company, today announced that it will donate 150,000 books to school-aged children throughout the English-speaking Caribbean as part of the company's sponsorship of The White House Centers of Excellence in Teacher Training (CETT) initiative to develop and train master teachers using best practices of teacher training and reading achievement in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participating countries have pledged to better train educators through the CETT program to help all children learn to read by third grade for success in school and in life.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is responsible for implementing the CETT initiative through its headquarters in Washington DC and its Missions in the respective countries. INMED Partnerships for Children, an international non-profit organization, is responsible for developing and facilitating private sector participation.

Scholastic's Caribbean donation launches with 50,000 children's books, which will be delivered to schools in Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize and Guyana in January 2004. In the first year of the program, the books will be used to support the professional development training of 250 teachers on how to best sustain independent reading as part of their regular curriculum. In addition, the books will ensure the reading practice of more than 7,500 first through third graders throughout the region, which is critical to sustaining long-term literacy growth. The Scholastic donation will roll out over a three-year period, with a donation of 50,000 books each subsequent year to help train a total of 2,300 teachers and reach approximately 69,000 children in participating Caribbean countries.

"Scholastic believes children will become lifelong readers and learners if provided with access to wonderful books supported by strong teaching," said Hugh Roome, President of Scholastic International Group. "We are proud to play a role in this important initiative by donating 150,000 books throughout the Caribbean, and we are particularly pleased to also offer classroom resources to teachers in the region."

The Caribbean CETT initiative is being developed and implemented by the University of the West Indies and the Joint Board of Teacher Education based in Jamaica and Barbados. An outstanding team of educators, led by Dr. Errol Miller, Head of the Institute of Education, University of West Indies, have come together to establish this important program.

"The Caribbean CETT is delighted to enter into a partnership with Scholastic and is enormously grateful to INMED for facilitating the relationship for this exciting initiative," said Dr. Miller, Director Caribbean CETT. "Scholastic is a great company with a philosophy and a track record that is consistent with the mission and the mandate of the Caribbean CETT program, and I am confident that this collaboration is to the benefit of the children of the Caribbean."

The Caribbean CETT program will provide continuing education courses and coaching in best practices in reading education for teachers from primary schools. The program will provide learning resources to participating primary schools and teachers colleges. In addition, all newly trained teachers will receive at least 6 hours of course work in reading education methodologies to ensure that educators are instilling best practices in the classroom. The program began operations in August.

#### [More on Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training](#)

The CETT program focuses on classroom impact in first through third grades, where teachers will be trained in best practices methods to help children learn to read and write by the end of the third grade, widely recognized as a critical milestone in education. Primary schools in marginal urban and rural areas will be selected based on their needs as well as the strength of commitment to improving student academic achievement. The CETT master teachers will be trained through the Centers using teaching strategies based on their own best practices from indigenous countries as well as others throughout the hemisphere. Master teachers will train, coach and mentor teachers from participating schools and provide resources and materials that will support children's reading and writing development. The Central and South America CETT programs provide similar services to participating countries in the region including, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Belize, Honduras and Guatemala.

#### [About USAID](#)

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent federal government agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of foreign policy goals of the United States. ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov))

#### [About INMED](#)

INMED Partnerships for Children is a non-profit 501 © (3) development organization dedicated to inspiring communities in the United States and globally and fostering their ability to develop healthy, educated children with increased

opportunities for the future. ([www.inmed.org](http://www.inmed.org))

Throughout its 83-year history, Scholastic has recognized the importance of working with public, private and nonprofit organizations that share its mission to improve the well-being of children. Scholastic demonstrates this commitment to social responsibility and educational outreach today through far-reaching partnerships that address the most critical issues facing children, parents and teachers, with a particular emphasis on reading and literacy.

About Scholastic

Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL) is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. Scholastic creates quality educational and entertaining materials and products for use in school and at home, including children's books, magazines, technology-based products, teacher materials, television programming, film, videos and toys. The Company distributes its products and services through a variety of channels, including proprietary school-based book clubs, school-based book fairs, and school-based and direct-to-home continuity programs; retail stores, schools, libraries, and television networks; and the Company's Internet Site, [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com).

Contacts:

Scholastic Inc.  
Judy Corman  
212-343-6833  
[jcorman@scholastic.com](mailto:jcorman@scholastic.com)

Scholastic Inc.  
Aimee Spengler Dolan  
212-343-6570  
[aspenglerdolan@scholastic.com](mailto:aspenglerdolan@scholastic.com)