



Belize Tourism Board

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For Immediate Release

CTO and Belize Cultural Federation Donates to Child Care Centre

-- Belize City, Belize, Tuesday, July 12th, 2005 -- The Caribbean Tourism Organization, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, has donated two boxes each of toys and children's books to the Dorothy Menzies Child Care Center in Belize City. Additionally, Mr. & Mrs. George Greenwood, members of the Belize Cultural Foundation in Los Angeles, also donated children's books, furniture and other items to the center as well.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) main objective is the development of sustainable tourism for the economic and social benefit of Caribbean people. Every year, the CTO Chapters make contributions amounting to over US\$80,000 to assist Caribbean charities with orphanages, sponsor summer camps for youths, nursing homes, and schools, and to assist in rehabilitation efforts of CTO member countries, affected by a natural disaster. The CTO Greater Los Angeles Chapter has a membership of 85 travel agents.

The Belize Cultural Foundation is a philanthropic organization of Belizean Americans united to promote the economic advancement of the Belizean Community, with a focus on economic and educational empowerment and public advocacy to improve the quality of life in Belize and the United States. In the area of human capital, the Foundation plans to contribute to various educational funds in Belize and the United States, and plans to honor Belizean Americans who practice charitable responsibility and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles for the benefit of Belizeans.

"Our children are the future of our country and any investment that can be made to help those that are less fortunate is one worthwhile making," comments Tourism Director, Tracy Panton. "The initiative between CTO Greater Los Angeles Chapter and Mr. & Mrs. George Greenwood of the Belize Cultural Foundation is an excellent way of giving back to the Belizean community and

reaching out to the children.?

On April 15th, 1975, the Child Care Center was declared open. There were 12 children under the supervision of the then Department of Social Development. In 1995, the Center was expanded enabling up to 25 children between the ages of 1 year to 18 years to be housed comfortably. The Center has since seen a gradual increase in the number of children needing protective care over the years. This has led to the opening of other similar centers across the country. The average population presently at the Center ranges between 30 and 50.

Some of the items donated were infant strollers, play pens, adult crutches, large wing set with attached slider, small merry-go-round, wooden book shelf, doll house, infant basketball net and stand, infant linens, children shoes, infant beds, infant sleeping pads and children videos.

For more information on developments and events in Belize's tourism industry, please contact the Marketing Department at the Belize Tourism Board at 223-1913, via e-mail: btbb@btl.net or visit us at our website at www.travelbelize.org.