\$2 000 donation for nurses

Nurses' Week 2024 was a success, thanks to the hard work of nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and other medical institutions. Additionally, some members of corporate Barbados stepped up to assist, one of which was McBride (Caribbean) Limited, which donated \$2 000 towards the "amazing work of the nurses".

Shaneal Bynoe, regional sales & marketing manager, Caribbean, in handing over the cheque, praised the work of the nurses.

"This is our way of saying thank you for all that you do," she said, adding that the company wanted to celebrate nurses because of the critical work they do in what is oftentimes a thankless job.

Carolyn Arthur, a senior nursing officer at the QEH, acknowledged the donation, thanking McBride for its generosity. She explained this year's theme **Our Nurses**, **Our** Future, The Economic Power Of Care, was developed because "a healthy society will keep the economy going and lead to economic growth" and supporting nurses will help keep the society healthy. "Nurses are the backbone of any medical institution," she added.

She further explained that the nurses at the QEH, Psychiatric Hospital and the polyclinics collaborated with the Barbados Nurses Association (BNA) on some of the events that took place during the week. The aim of the week, she said, was to get nurses involved and to give back to them for all they do on a daily basis.

Director of Nursing Services at the QEH, Henderson Pinder, thanked the company on behalf of all at the QEH and for the investment in nurses at this time of its 60th anniversary. He urged other corporate entities to also support nurses. (PR)



From left: Carolyn Arthur accepting the cheque from Shaneal Bynoe as Henderson Pinder (centre) looks on. (GP)

CHTA: Travel forum a success

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) declared the third annual Caribbean Travel Forum a resounding success. The event featured insightful presentations and high-level panel discussions that explored Caribbean tourism performance, emerging trends, and future industry prospects.

industry prospects.

Nicola Madden-Greig, CHTA's president, presented key insights from the joint ForwardKeys and CHTA Caribbean Trends Report, which provided a thorough analysis of the region's performance and identified critical trends shaping the industry's future.

The report highlights a significant milestone

The report highlights a significant milestone for Caribbean tourism, with international arrivals expected to surpass 2019 levels by an impressive 13 per cent in the first half of 2024. Nevertheless, with the global reopening of destinations, especially in Asia, the Caribbean faces intensified competition for market share.

In terms of performance, Puerto Rico leads, followed by the Dominican Republic and Cancun, Mexico. Mid-tier destinations like Belize and Curaçao also show notable growth, fuelled by 'mproved connectivity and rising demand from key markets.

Awards

During the forum, the CHTA honoured destinations committed to resilience and sustainability with the **Destination Resilience Awards**. These awards recognise efforts aligned with the World Tourism Organisation's sustainable development goals, emphasising collaborative approaches and innovative, needs-driven strategies to tackle climate change and broader sustainability challenges.

sustainability challenges.

The Bahamas received the Category A Award for destinations with total stopover visitor arrivals greater than 500 000. The Abacos in The Bahamas have demonstrated remarkable resilience and a commitment to sustainable tourism post-Hurricane Dorian. Establishing the Abaco Stewardship Council marks a significant milestone, fostering collaboration among residents, businesses, NGOs and government agencies to promote sustainable tourism, cultural heritage preservation and community engagement.

St Lucia received the Category B Award for destinations with total stopover visitor arrivals under 500 000. The island stands out with strategic initiatives and legislative frameworks under the Tourism Development Act of 2023. (PR)

