

Date: For immediate release

FAIRMONT HAMILTON PRINCESS INVITES YOU TO THE DUKE'S CELEBRATION

On Sunday December 4th 2011 The Fairmont Hamilton Princess will host The Duke of Edinburgh's Award's celebration of close to 260 young people achieving either their Bronze or Silver Award. These young people have shown commitment and follow through and will receive their well deserved Duke of Edinburgh's Award after conquering one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Of the Award Recipients, approximately 144 will be Bronze Award Recipients and 116 will be Silver Award recipients. Each of them will have achieved their Award by undertaking various physical and community-based activities. Many have worked with children, the elderly, the sick or disabled, played football, netball and athletics, while others have tackled a choice of skills such as conservation, restoration, and photographic projects, just to name a few. We wish to applaud their efforts, as this is a great accomplishment. The skills and qualities all these young people have developed will help them stand on their own two feet and prepare them to be good citizens of the future.

The Award is **currently active at the following Approved Award Centres** - Saltus Grammar, The Berkeley Institute, Bermuda High School, St. Paul's Church Brigade, Warwick Academy, CedarBridge Academy, Mount Saint Agnes Academy, The New Start Programme at the COED, Somersfield Academy and 'De Navigators' Open Award Group at the Community Centre in Hamilton.

In attendance at the event will be **the Award's Patron, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Richard Gozney and Premier Hon. Paula Cox, amongst many invited dignitaries, families and friends.** A special performance will be given by new up and coming local pianist Keenan Bailey (Bronze Recipient) and he would also accompany violinist and Gold Participant Michelle Oniya as they serenade the audience.

An open invitation is also extended to friends of the Award to come and observe the hard work of the young people involved and **donations are welcomed.**

For 44 years now, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Bermuda has provided an enjoyable, challenging, rewarding, **free programme of personal development for 14 – 25 year olds.** To date thousands have obtained their Award in Bermuda and in the last three years alone, enrolment in the Award Programme has grown from approximately 300 participants to just over 800 active participants. We have consistently seen a rise in recipients at our Awards Ceremonies, which now annually averages over 200 participants. There are three levels of the Award – Bronze, Silver, and Gold - each made up of four main sections; Community Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journeys, as well as a fifth section that all Gold Award participants must undertake – a Residential Project taking many abroad on worthwhile projects. These young people would **join a network of Alumni of over 7 million from more than 135 countries** around the world that were motivated enough to undertake the variety of voluntary and challenging activities through the Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme in Bermuda = Real FUN, Real CHALLENGES and Real REWARDS!

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Note to Editors:

If you would like further information, please contact: Kenneth Bartram, Award Chairman @ 537-5075