



News Release

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Ministry of Education

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C. C. SWEETING GRADUATES ASSIST FELLOW STUDENT



The 2009 Graduating Class of C. C. Sweeting proved that the most valuable lesson in life is love and concern for one's fellowmen. They presented their classmate, Deniro LaFrenier with a new, motorized wheelchair.

Pictured is Mrs. Delores Ingraham, Principal of C. C. Sweeting Senior High School (right) making the presentation as Mrs. Elma Garraway, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Mr. Howard Newbold, Northwestern District Superintendent (back row) watches.

NASSAU, The Bahamas -- For the Class of 2009 of the C. C. Sweeting Senior High School, graduation was more than a celebration of achievements and the end of high school; it was an opportunity to show humanity. The students used a portion of their graduation fees to purchase a brand new Jazzy motorized wheelchair for fellow graduate, Deniro LaFrenier who is unable to walk.

When Mr. Donovan Turnquest, Vice Principal at C. C. Sweeting made the announcement of the students' generosity it brought the audience to their feet in applause and cheers. Deniro's father, Reverend C. Dennis LaFrenier expressed his gratitude to the graduating class for the wheel chair. He noted that it is acts such as this that brings out the tears that a man is traditionally prohibited from showing.

He also showered praises on the students particularly Nicholas Rose and others who during Deniro's three years at C. C. Sweeting Senior High School, would ensure that he got to his classes and waited with him until he was collected from school. Nicholas was presented with the school's Humanitarian Award for his consistent selfless support of his friend Deniro.

The grateful father told said that the students' thoughtfulness was reminiscent of the story in the Bible where four friends took their paralyzed friend to Jesus for healing and let him down through the roof instead of the door where thousands gathered to see the Saviour. He thanked them stating that when Deniro entered C. C. Sweeting he did so in a Ford Escort, now he is leaving in a Ford Escalade."

Mrs. Delores Ingraham, Principal of the school also thanked the students for their philanthropy and a cheque that they presented to assist the school with its operations. She also acknowledged the assistance The Minister of State for Social Development, Mrs. Loretta Butler-Turner, who was instrumental in facilitating the purchase of the wheelchair. Mrs. Ingraham further stated that the wheel chair would allow Deniro to manage his own mobility in his new life outside of the school. The shy student, who also received awards in Art, responded to the fanfare with a simple, "Thank you".