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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SOUFRIERE FOUNDATION DONATES 200 PAIRS OF SHOES TO NEEDY STUDENTS AND 3,500 PAIRS MORE TO BE DISTRIBUTED SOON**

### **SOUFRIÈRE, ST. LUCIA –**

On Tuesday 09, March the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation (SRDF), in partnership with Slippery Rock University (SRU) and Bishop Canevin High School both from Pennsylvania, USA, presented 200 pairs of brand new shoes to students of Soufriere and Canaries. Within the next few weeks an additional 3,500 pairs of slightly worn shoes, presently in transit, will be distributed by the Soufriere Foundation to members of the Soufriere community.

This shoe donation initiative was borne as a result of a discussion between members of the Soufriere Foundation, **Dr. Alice Kaiser-Drobney** of Slippery Rock University and Mr. Ross Delvecchio of Bishop Canevin High School held in August last year. Both faculty members lived true to their promise and on return to the US organized with their respective student populations for the purchase of new and donation of slightly worn shoes in a project called, “Sole 2 Soul”. During the presentation ceremony Mr. Delvecchio expressed his delight and that of his high school in being able to make a contribution to the educational wellbeing of young Soufrierians. Dr. Kaiser-Drobney, who is accompanied by 18 students and 4 faculty members from her university, was full of praise for the efforts of her students, whose lives she believes will forever be changed by their actions. “The response to our request to help the children and adults of Soufriere was truly overwhelming. Our students saw this as an opportunity to give back to society and they did so generously. Having seen and heard firsthand the expressions of gratitude from the benefactors they now truly recognize the magnitude of their generosity.” Presentations were made simultaneously at Bouton, Etangs, Fond St. Jacques, Soufriere and Canaries Combined Schools.

Both institutions are presently guests of the Soufriere Foundation. The three institutions conducted leadership and academic skill building workshops with the students of the Soufriere Comprehensive School and an Advanced Leadership Workshop for leaders of community groups. Whereas the shoe donation project marks the first collaboration between Bishop Canevin High and SRDF, collaboration between SRU and SRDF dates back some three years, thus far resulting in the formation of the stellar group, ICAN, and an annual Summer Enrichment Program.

The Soufriere Foundation is a non-profit company located in Soufriere whose mandate is to undertake social, cultural, human resource, tourism and infrastructural development in the Soufriere area. Some of its 2010 human resource development initiatives include the ABE Education programme and National Skills Development Centre/SRDF Tour Guide Training programme.