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Carenage pupils get Alcoa schols

THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Youth Sailing School (TTYSS) received a major boost to its drive to reach the nation's youth earlier this week.

Alcoa Steamship Incorporated recently sponsored scholarships for 10 female students from the Carenage Girls Government Primary School to enroll in the TTYSS.

Peter Bell of Alcoa, a company that has been part of the Carenage community for over 51 years, presented a \$12,000 cheque for the girls' tuition to TTYSS president, Michael Rostant, on Thursday at the T&T Sailing Association in Hart's Cut.

"We have had a good relationship with the community and, as good corporate citizens, we have sought to play our part," Bell said afterwards.

The donation was part of a huge community drive in Carenage by Alcoa, which has also seen the company providing wheelchairs and blood pressure reading instruments for residents along with television and video equipment for schools.

Since the start of the sailing school, an estimated 900 children from seven years upwards have been trained in basic and advanced level sailing skills. Branches have also been started in Pointe-a-Pierre and Tobago.

One of the school's first students, Jeron Rogers, eventually gained a scholarship to Hampton Virginia University in the United States.

The university's sailing coach has also expressed interest in enrolling other students from T&T.

The school has a team of 16 competitors leaving shortly to compete in the International Schoelcher Regatta in Martinique from February 23-28.