

## **NGC SUPPORTS CARNIVAL 2010**

In 2010 NGC continued its support of Carnival in the form of financial assistance to unsponsored, traditional (single pan) bands, and small and medium-sized, conventional steel bands. Assistance has also been provided to seven organizations involved in hosting Carnival celebrations within the communities, such as Rio Claro, Tunapuna, Downtown Port of Spain, Couva, La Brea, Carapichaima and the Carrera Annual Calypso Monarch Competition.

Thirty-eight unsponsored single pan bands received backing this year, of which nineteen qualified for the semi-finals and eleven made it to the finals. These traditional pan sides have continued to perform at a high standard despite the lack of much needed funding. Among those receiving sponsorship, La Horquetta Pan Groove placed first for the fifth consecutive year in the Finals while United sounds Steel Orchestra placed third. An additional incentive was provided to the Semi-final and Final qualifiers. Small and medium bands in NGC's fenceline communities ranging from Mayaro to Laventille and including Tobago also benefited from assistance for their participation in Panorama 2010. We are proud that four of the twelve bands assisted in this category made it to the Finals with Steel Xplosion placing first in the medium band category. Overall, NGC assisted fifty steel bands this year with 30% of them qualifying for the Finals.

NGC was also pleased to support the participation of Goodwill Industries of the West Indies in Junior Panorama. This non-profit organization which provides vocational and remedial training for persons with physical and mental disabilities, gave a solid account of themselves in the Finals, receiving a special prize in the Secondary School Category.

As a major state organization, we feel it our responsibility to help preserve the arts and culture of Trinidad and Tobago in this way. We see Carnival as an important part of the national tourism package that involves opportunities for artistic and entrepreneurial development. Even more than this, Carnival is a celebration of who we are as a people and NGC seized the opportunity to assist in preserving Carnival and steel pan throughout the country.

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2010**