

## Standard Chartered Bank, Corporate Real Estate Services (CRES) employees volunteer

**Tuesday 14 May 2013, Harare-** Employees from Standard Chartered Bank, CRES department, today volunteered to offer environmental knowledge to students from Queen Elizabeth, Allan Wilson, Girls High and Prince Edward Schools as part of their volunteering activities. The event which was held at Queen Elizabeth School was capped by a tree planting session and the rest of the participating schools receiving some trees to plant at their respective schools. The leading international bank offers its staff three 'volunteer days' per year, in addition to annual leave. This is a way that the Bank reinforces its commitment to contribute positively to the economies and communities where it operates, a key part of its Here for good brand promise. Standard Chartered partnered with ZINWA and Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in this educational awareness on the environment.

Standard Chartered's commitment to employee volunteering stems from the substantial benefits that it brings not only to local communities but also to employee engagement. Volunteering also enables employees to enhance their skills outside of their usual business roles. Volunteering and commitment to communities is cited as a key driver for joining and staying with the bank for many employees.

In 2012 staff from Standard Chartered volunteered 962 days towards activities that included tree planting, career guidance talks, sweeping of public areas, holding fun days for orphans, gardening and cleaning of orphanage premises and spending quality time with the underprivileged.

*"Volunteering is important to Standard Chartered Bank, as it gives staff members the opportunity to be active in assisting the communities in which they live. Staff members identify causes they are passionate about and are allowed to take time off to participate in various initiatives of their choice. This helps us as an organisation to forge stronger relationships with our communities and demonstrate our positive intentions as a brand",* says Ralph Watungwa, Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Chief Executive Officer.

Standard Chartered also encourages employees to donate time to its own global community investment programmes, including:

- Living with HIV - a programme designed to combat the disease through educating over a million people worldwide
- Seeing is Believing - a unique partnership between the Bank, the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness and local NGOs to deliver eye care for 20 million people in deprived communities
- Nets for Life – a programme which aims to eliminate malaria in affected countries.

- ENDS -

**Notes to the Editor:**

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