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Supervisor Shaw Helps Needy with Beauty Contest Win

By Laura Kloth  
Staff Writer

(Nov. 3, 2009) Metro Transit Operations Supervisor Gina Shaw casually entered the Miss Belize America Contest last summer, encouraged by her father, Div. 3 Bus Operator Harry Shaw.

"I didn't even go into it thinking I was going to win," she said, adding that, at most, she expected to sing a gospel song, strut the runway in a swim suit and help contest organizers raise money for needy families in the small Central American country.

But as fate would have it for those who never expect to win anything, Shaw drew two prizes.

"I was surprised because they not only had 'Miss Big, Bold and Beautiful', they also had a 'Miss Popularity', and I won both," she said.

Still in disbelief about her big win, Shaw wasn't completely convinced until the Master of Ceremonies placed the official crown on her head and presented her with a 3-foot trophy.

"They had pictures of me with my mouth open" when they announced the vote tally, she said.

Along with her \$500 grand prize, Shaw also won a trip to Catalina Island and was asked to represent the people of Belize, a request she proudly accepted since it's the birthplace to both her parents.

The 12-year Metro employee who started out working at the windows of Division 18 and 5, now holds the Miss America Belize title for the rest of the year and will help raise money to send clothing and other necessities to the underprivileged in Belize.



Westside/Central Sector Transit Operations Supervisor Gina Shaw set aside her Metro uniform to don a crown when she was named "Miss Belize America" last summer.



Shaw said she participated in the contest at the urging of her dad, Harry, a Div. 3 Bus Operator.

“I just went into it because my dad asked me to,” she said, noting that her dad’s been on sick leave, but was still all smiles when he learned that she’d won the contest.

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