

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Beverly Beckles PhD

Hurricanes and People with Disabilities

The August/September onslaught of both Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma has been a reminder that hurricanes are life-threatening events — Both Hurricanes were responsible for at least 70 deaths each, the two hurricanes also inflicted serious, non-life-threatening injuries on countless others throughout our region. But while hurricanes are dangerous for all, they are particularly deadly for persons with disabilities - a group that is often neglected by the very people tasked with keeping them safe in the storm.

The UNCRPD states in Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

There is no clear data to show the full toll that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma took on persons with disabilities, however anecdotal evidence would show that the needs of the disabled were not being prioritized during these recent hurricane evacuations. The hurricanes should be seen as a wake-up call.

The need for clear data on the number of persons with disabilities in the country and the constituencies and communities in which they reside is paramount. The research needs to be done to

collect the data. The concerns and fears of persons with disabilities must be included in emergency plans when they are created.

Asking disabled people what their unique and diverse needs entail and opening that dialogue would not necessarily improve current circumstances for the thousands presently devastated by hurricanes, but it could help ensure a better outcome for disabled people in the future.

Beverly Beckles
Beverly Beckles, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

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NCPD's Music Program and the NCPD Ensemble

'Music in We Blood'

CANDICE B. JOHN

National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) Music Programme started in September 2014. Trainees and apprentices have the opportunity to be part of an educational and vibrant programme that exposes them to both music theory and the playing of an instrument. Music Instructor, Mr. Malomo Nkosi Joseph not only brings his love and passion for music but also over 30 years of experience in the music fraternity. He was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Steel Orchestra and is currently the musical director of the Southern Marines Steelband Foundation. Mr. Joseph is also a steelpan maker, tuner and arranger.

It can be clearly seen why NCPD's music programme is of high excellence and in great demand by the young people. Emerging from the programme was The NCPD Ensemble in April 2015. The band consists of 12 members with varying disabilities playing various instruments from the steel pan family, to piano percussion instruments with an added touch of vocals.

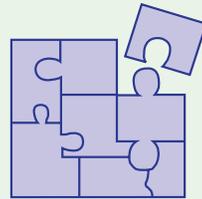
The Ensemble consists of a group of talented young people whom other than doing their daily work and training spend one and a half day in the band room learning songs in prepara-

performances up to three or four times in one month.

Studies have shown that the use of music therapy helps to break through barriers in the lives of children with special needs. They forge new friendships and learn things along the way that help them with other life skills. Music can change a person's mood and causes children to come out of their shell, it can also help them to feel comfortable and fight stress.

It is apparent the involvement in music has caused the young people to develop a positive outlet for creative expression. The instructors have noticed the marked improvement in behaviour, focus, concentration and cooperation of the young people participating in the music program.

Outdoor performances have opened up a whole new world for the young people this is reflected in their interaction with others, they are more confident and express themselves positively in other areas of their lives.



**NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

ENSEMBLE

tion for external and internal performances.

This group of young men and women display a deep passion for music and apply themselves well in order to learn the required pieces. Their repertoire consists of various songs from different genres ranging from soca, calypso, rhythm and blues, latin reggae, etc. The students have a busy schedule which sometimes involves



Let the New Adventures Begin

CANDICE B. JOHN

Indeed the new adventures have begun for the Trainee of the year, 2016/2017, Isaiah Hinds.

Isaiah became a trainee in the Food Preparation skilled area at the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in 2015.

From day one, this young man had an attitude that did not go unnoticed by his instructors, other staff members, fellow trainees and peers.

He was always punctual despite commuting from the east to south Monday to Friday and rarely ever missed a day of training.

One may think having multiple disabilities; hearing and speech impairment and being physically challenged will dampen Isaiah's spirit but in fact it did not. It has motivated him to focus and use his strengths towards achieving his goals and at the same time being fully aware of his limitations and developing methods to cope with them.

This young man took part in almost all of the Centre's activities. He can play just about any sport but his passion for football led him to be part of NCPD's football team. He showed dedication to the sport and was a great team player.



Isaiah Hinds, a former trainee, now an apprentice of NCPD always faces the world with a smile and is one who is full of life. He never backs down from a chal-



lenge is committed, determined, dedicated and hard working.

On graduation day, this exceptional young man was not only awarded Trainee of the Year but also:

- Most Outstanding in Food Preparation
- Dr. Wendy Diaz Award for Punctuality and Regularity
- Dr. Harry M. Collymore Award for an Outstanding Physically Challenged Trainee
- The Julia Riberio Award for an Outstanding Hearing and Speech Impaired trainee
- S. M. Khan Memorial Challenge Trophy for Sportsman of the Year

Let us pause for a moment to applaud Isaiah Hinds on his accomplishments.

As mentioned before the new adventures have begun for this young man as he is an on the job trainee at one of Trinidad's popular and well known hotel and restaurant; Courtyard by Marriott Port-of-Spain.

The Board Members, CEO, (Dr. Beverly Beckles) and all staff members congratulate Mr. Hinds on this new adventure and wish him further success in this journey. NCPD applauds Courtyard by Marriott Port-of-Spain for recognising the

abilities of this young man, giving him the opportunity to further develop and enhance his skills in Food Preparation and further for being a partner in inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

New Faces at NCPD

NCPD is pleased to introduce two new members of staff into the NCPD Family.



Mr. Jamal K. Legen

The NCPD family welcomes Mr. Jamal K. Legen. Mr. Legen is one of NCPD's newest staff members in the Training Department as a Teachers' Aide.

Mr. Legen belongs to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. He was very instrumental in the formation of the Deaf Sports organisation of Trinidad and Tobago and is currently the President of the organisation, Voice of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Legen also serves on other boards for Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

Mr. Jamal K. Legen looks forward to using his experience in Agriculture, Human Rights, Sign Language and Sports to positively impact the young people of NCPD



Ms. Lystra Joachim

NCPD is pleased to welcome Ms. Lystra Joachim to the Training Department as a Developmental Assistant at The Unit.

Ms. Joachim is a former trainee of NCPD and has 5 years working experience as a teaching assistant. Ms. Joachim looks forward to positively impacting the lives of the young people and the organisation.

Quote Corner

“There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more.”

-Robert M. Hensel

Deaf Awareness

September is Deaf Awareness Month. The Purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to increase awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture.

There are approximately 70 million deaf people in the world and in Trinidad and Tobago, there are over 5000 deaf persons.

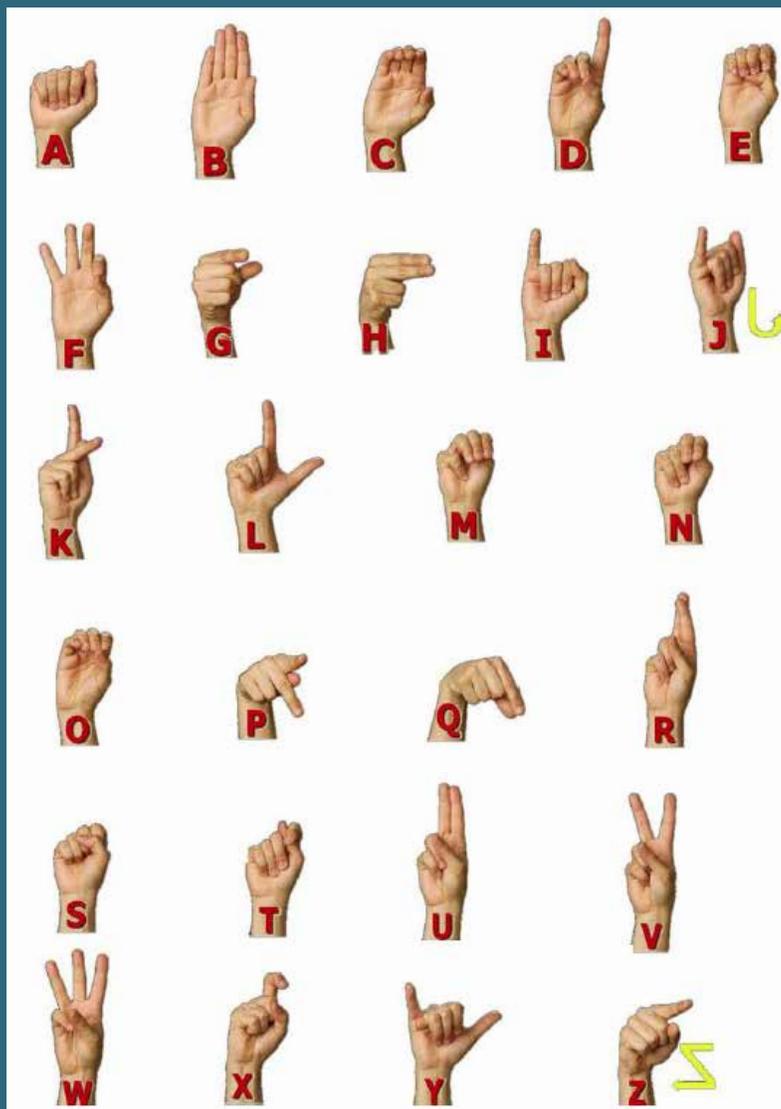
Deaf rights include the following:

To improve:

- The status of sign language
- Education of deaf people
- Access to information and services
- Human Rights for deaf people in developing countries

A snippet from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Article 24 (3): b) states, “Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;”

It should be noted that Human Rights for deaf people also depends on the recognition of, and respect for, sign language.



The Sign Language Alphabet

Deaf Awareness

TTSL NUMBERS 0 -10



0



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

NCPD's Activities July - September 2017

SOTT National Games

Special Olympics Trinidad and Tobago National Games held its National Cricket Games on July 1st 2017 at Constantine Park, Macoya. The National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) team comprised of 20 students (both trainees and apprentices) and 4 staff members; Mr. Ricardo Rampaul, Mr. Clarence Shepherd, Ms. Lesa Paul and Mr. Nicholas Nancoo.

The rain did not dampen the spirit of the competitors. NCPD was victorious at the end of the day as they reclaimed the championship title, walking away with 14 gold medals, the Skill event achieved 2 silver and 1 bronze medal, NCPD also received 5th and 6th place ribbons.



NEC Exams

On July 8th 2017, 21 trainees from the various skill areas; Beauty Culture, Book Binding, Office Administration, Welding and Woodwork sat the National Examination Council exam to attain Level 1 certification in their respective skill area.

NCPD is pleased to announce that all 21 trainees were successful and are now part of the apprenticeship program.

NCPD's Board Members and Staff congratulate all and wish them continued success.



Summer Camp

NCPD held its second All-Inclusive Summer Camp from July 10th-July 28th 2017 at the Centre's main location. There were 35 participants at the camp comprising of both persons with disabilities (PWD) and persons without disabilities.

Campers had the opportunity to socialise in an environment that catered to the needs of persons with disabilities while developing an appreciation and understanding of what it is like to live with a disability and the importance of treating every human being with respect.

Participants at the camp were exposed to Art, Craft, Book Binding, Jewellery Making, Paper Recycling, Information Technology and Assistive Technology, Soap Making, and Basic Dining Etiquette.

There were also field trips to La Vega and Trincity Mall for a Wild Life Expo. The camp was a great success and the Centre looks forward to hosting another one in 2018.



Let New Adventures Begin

‘Let New Adventures Begin’, was the theme of the Graduation Class 2017 of the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities. The graduation ceremony was held on July 13th at the City Hall Auditorium, San Fernando.

Twenty one trainees who wrote the NEC examination crossed the stage and received their Certificates. Trainees were recognised for their achievements in their various skill areas. Special Awards were also awarded in the areas of Remedial, Punctuality and Regularity, Outstanding Physically Challenged trainee, Outstanding Hearing Impaired trainee, Sportsman and Sportswoman and Trainee of the Year.

This year’s Trainee of the Year award was captured by Isaiah Hinds who also received several other awards.

Mr. John Williams, the featured guest speaker, Co-Founder of W. Connection Football Club, President of T&T Football Association and businessman delivered an engaging and vibrant speech to the young men and women graduating. Here is an excerpt from his speech referring to a trainee who knew Sparrow’s Calypso: “Education”

“It is tremendous to see that a young man who was born after 1968 when the song was made, How you know this calypso? NCPD students Calypso seems to be in good hands, so graduants, let the new adventures begin, there will be challenges, there will be pitfalls, but as I always tell young people yuh doh find a diamond at the surface of the earth, you find a diamond deep down. Pressure makes diamonds and if you do not go through the difficulties in life you will never appreciate when you achieve something. I always heard my mother say “Easy come easy go”.

Present at the ceremony were Former First Lady Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali, Board Members of NCPD, parents, guardians and well-wishers.



Technology Training Seminar

In an effort to bring about awareness and to encourage blind and visually impaired persons to make full use of their smart phones, Bmobile partnered with Persons Associated with Visual Impairment (PAVI) and held a one day training seminar at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), John Donaldson Campus, Port-of-Spain on July 17th 2017.

The training seminar focused on the Apps and Features both on the Android device and Apple iPhone that persons who are blind and visually impaired can use for carrying out various tasks such as colour identification, money identification, creating documents and presentations, reading printed materials and scanning documents.

The training seminar was well attended, the Information Technology Instructor Ms. Candice Barbara John of NCPD attended and found that the information shared was beneficial.



Road Safety for All

As part of Orientation week for the new school term, on September 8th 2017 trainees and apprentices were sensitised about Road safety by the organisations, Arrive Alive and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS).

Representatives from the organisations held an interactive session with the trainees and apprentices. The information shared was beneficial and the students were very receptive.

At the end of the sensitising workshop, the presenters toured the facilities. Health and Safety Officer, Ms. Dainelle McLean spear headed the initiative.



7th Annual Mediation Symposium

The Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago held its 7th Annual Symposium on September 13-14 2017 at the Hyatt Regency, Port-of-Spain.

This year's symposium focused on the development of mediation throughout the Caribbean region and some of the things that will have an impact on the mediation process such as culture, politics and religion.

As part of this year's Symposium, a youth forum, was held exposing youths including young persons with disabilities to mediation.

Programme Manager, Ms. Kahaya Sooklalsingh along with two apprentices; Isaiah Hinds and Navin Rampaul participated in the youth forum. CEO, Dr. Beverly Beckles attended the Opening Ceremony and Social Worker, Ms. Giselle Ramose attended the session on September 14th.



Special Olympics Award Ceremony

On September 23rd 2017 Special Olympics Trinidad and Tobago held an Award Ceremony to pay tribute to the athletes who represented Trinidad and Tobago at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, March 2017. Trinidad and Tobago placed 4th in Floor Hockey. Forming the team was five athletes from NCPD; Antonio Sorzano, Sean Gibson, Jamol Noel, Darrius Gokool and Donald Doyle along with NCPD's coach and Welding Instructor, Mr. Ron Wiltshire.

The athletes and coaches were recognised for their achievements. Coaches who also took part in the training workshop were also recognised for their participation. Ms. Sharon Rochard Agriculture Instructor, as well as NCPD coach in Bocce and Mr. Clarence Shepherd, WoodWork Instructor and Football coach both received certificates at the ceremony.

Congratulations Team!



Marabella South Secondary Graduation Ceremony

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Beverly Beckles was invited to share in the joyous occasion of Marabella South Secondary School 2017 graduation ceremony.

Dr. Beckles was the guest speaker at the event. She delivered a speech centred on the theme 'Colouring this Life - Far from Finish', A short excerpt from her presentation follows.

To all you beautiful young people before me, I wish to let you know that this country belongs to all of you from whatever background or walk of life.

Successful Trininis and by extension Caribbean people can be found anywhere. Do not let anyone make you feel like you do not matter or like you do not have a place in our beautiful twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago because you do and you have a right to be exactly who you are.

So live your life in a way that you will not regret.



NCPD's participation in Consultations and Workshops

Proper Accounting for NGOs Workshop

On August 30th 2017, the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust and Trinidad and Tobago Non-Government Organisation Professionals held a one day workshop on Financial Reporting and Accounting for NGOs.

The workshop was attended by Operations Manager, Mr. Ozneil West. The workshop was held at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

SDGs Catalyst Network

NCPD has been invited to join the SDGs Catalyst Network which was established under the CSOs for Good Governance Project. The official Launch and Inception Workshop of the SDGs Catalysts Network was held on Wednesday 20th September, 2017 at the Barataria Community Centre. Elizabeth Nicholas, Research and Communications Officer attended the meeting.

Training Session

On September 14th 2017, Programme Manager, Ms. Sooklalsingh and Placement Officer Mr. Rampaul facilitated a training session for some employees of the Marriot Courtyard Hotel, Port-of-Spain.



The employees were sensitised on issues pertaining to persons with disabilities. Participants were very receptive of the information. The organisation was being pro-active as it prepared to welcome one of NCPD's apprentices, Isaiah Hinds who has been employed by the organisation.

Trinidad and Tobago National Sport Policy 2017-2027

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs held a High Level Stakeholder Consultation at the National Racquet Centre, Tacarigua on September 25, 2017. Organisations which provided feedback on the Draft Sport Policy and other key personnel were invited to the meeting. NCPD was represented at the meeting by Elizabeth Nicholas, Research and Communication Officer.

We Boat Ride 4

NCPD held another one of its annual fundraisers, 'We Boat Ride 4'. This was the fourth year of the event. The boat ride was held on July 8th 2017 on-board the popular Coral Vision.

Patrons danced the evening away to the Coral Vision's resident DJ and the new Generation of Gold Djs.

The event was well attended.

NCPD thanks all for supporting this annual fundraiser. We look forward to your continued support for We Boat Ride 5.



Eyegaze Communication Technology

On July 7th 2017, 7 trainees and clients of National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) were assessed and exposed to Eyegaze Edge.

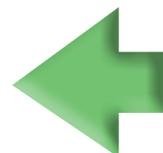
“The Eyegaze Edge is an eye-operated communication and control system that empowers people with disabilities to communicate and interact with the world. By looking at control keys or cells displayed on a screen, a user can generate speech either by typing a message or selecting pre-programmed phrases. Eyegaze Edge Systems are being used to write books, to assist persons who attend school and enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities all over the world.”

The Children's Ark, a charitable, non-profit organisation in Trinidad and Tobago believes that the technology will be beneficial to young persons with disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago.



Scotia Bank Insights-5th Installment

A workshop on how to manage non-profit organisations in the era of digital transformation was held by Scotia Bank Insights at the Hyatt Regency on July 27, 2017. The meeting was attended by Ozneil West- Operations Manager and Elizabeth Nicholas- Research and Communications Officer.



NCPD's Upcoming Activities

Date

October 17th-October 18th 2017

October 28th 2017

December 15th 2017

Activity

Eyegaze Training

Tea by Sea

School Closure

Wellness Tip

Why you should use more lemons!

Lemons;

- Boost the immune system;
- Cleanse the liver
- Act as a digestive aid;
- Alkalise the body
- Cleanse cells and tissues.

Source: www.myhealthpassion.com

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