

National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) continues to provide services for all persons with disabilities and maintains a strong institution that promotes the rights and status of equity in today's society. As the new term began on the 6th of September 2021 with adherence to the COVID-19 regulations, NCPD has continued to provide education and training in a virtual setting that encourages ongoing success to trainees despite the restrictions of the pandemic. NCPD's goals remain steadfast to provide vocational training and a skill-centered environment for all their trainees preparing them for the world of work and successful independent living.

As a Non-Governmental Organization, NCPD is faced with challenges brought on by the pandemic which has impacted several activities and events. Those activities

have, before the Covid-19 pandemic, contributed to raising the awareness of the public about the rights and contributions to society of persons with disabilities (PWDs), as well as large fund-raising events for the flow of income to maintain operations. Despite the challenges, NCPD continues to host small fundraisers such as Bar-B-Que, Curry Que, Lunches, as well as some services that are offered to the wider public such as bookbinding and woodwork where crafty furniture and disability aids are designed, repaired, and refurbished.

Our Vision

A country in which every PWD enjoys equal access to the rights, privileges and opportunities afforded to all citizens.

Our Mission

To be the leading organization that is renowned for educating and training PWDs to contribute to a disability inclusive society.



NCPD Curry-Q Preparations

NCPD BAR-B-QUE



NCPD's Virtual Experience September 2021

NCPD has adapted to the virtual teaching and learning methodology in which all programmes are organized to be completed successfully online. Prior to the start of the new term in September 2021, the principal and teachers were required to meet in-person to prepare for the new term.



The preparation of booklets was completed by the teachers of NCPD. Those monthly packages were created and customized for each trainee. Each package comprises the content of the programmes in which each trainee is enrolled. The packages are designed to provide academic guidance for both the parents/caregivers and the trainees.



At NCPD we are pleased to announce that for this the new term there are one hundred and seventy-four trainees: ten trainees are enrolled in Woodwork; twelve in Welding; twenty-three in agriculture; nineteen in Office Administration; twenty-eight in Food Preparation; thirteen in Garment Construction; twelve in Beauty Culture; seventeen in Bookbinding, and forty in the Independent Living Skills Unit.



NCPD's ongoing fundraiser Tea Party @ Home 2020

The institution has seen the effective success and capabilities of all persons with various types of disabilities, where they take pride in the competencies they achieve. Despite the global pandemic challenges that NCPD continues to experience such as the lack of finances, the inability to engage in face-to-face classes, hands-on practical work, and large fundraising events, the NCPD family continues to put all plans and procedures in place to ensure that the institution maintains its successful operations.

NCPD continues to promote the skills that the trainees obtain through the institution by displaying their creative products for sale to the public at reasonable and affordable prices. One of the creative initiatives is the TeaParty@Home 2020.

That fundraiser consists of hand-crafted tea boxes created at NCPD, made with teak or cedar with a cover that is made with a glass insert. The tea boxes are packed with 24 tea bags of several flavours. Tickets are sold and ticket holders receive the stuffed tea-box which they can keep or give as gifts to family and friends. Businesses can also order for their staff or utilise as corporate gifts. Funds raised go towards the fence/enclosure for the NCPD compound.



Cedar
\$270.00



Dimensions: 8.625"L x 6.625"W x 4"H



Teak
\$325.00



Dimensions: 8.625"L x 6.625"W x 4"H

Holds approximately 48 tea bags

Add a custom engraving for \$25.00

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New Projects

Caribbean Horticultural Therapy Project

What is the Horticultural Therapy Project?

-What is Horticultural Therapy?

“Horticultural therapy is the use of horticulture to help improve outcomes of individuals with disabilities taking part in community-based rehabilitation programs. Horticultural therapy utilizes people-plant interactions to provide opportunities for empowering individuals with disabilities to improve health, increase educational opportunities, increase socialization, and gain skills to increase livelihood opportunities” (Stowell, 2021).

According to WHO (2004), Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is community action to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as all other community members. This includes, for example, equal access to health care, education, skills training, employment, family life, social mobility and political empowerment.

In 2019 the Guyana Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme conducted horticultural therapy programming at several locations throughout Guyana. With the success of horticultural therapy in Guyana, the Caribbean CBR Network (CCBRN) expressed a desire to implement horticultural therapy among its member nations and explore the potential of developing a train the trainer programme for horticultural therapy programme leaders (CCBRN, 2021). Several countries in the Caribbean agreed to participate in the horticultural therapy project. They are Jamaica, Belize, Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.

The National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) is the lead organisation for the implementation of this project in Trinidad and Tobago. Thirteen Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and persons belonging to organisations who work with PWDs joined the NCPD to implement the project in T&T.

The OPDs held several meetings to discuss their needs re the project. The results of their meetings were used by Partners of the Americas to develop the scope of the project to source a Volunteer Horticultural Therapist who will provide the training of leaders for the project in Trinidad and Tobago. While the team awaits the volunteer, they are preparing the gardening aspect of the project. Some are engaged in sourcing containers for container gardening; others are preparing raised beds to begin planting. Still others are seeking support to acquire the materials and tools required for the project.



Persons with Disabilities as Change Agents for Upcycling Waste Plastics (PWDsUp)

The University of the West Indies in collaboration with National Centre for Persons with Disabilities has embarked on a project that will benefit PWDs.

The main goal is to Leverage the abilities and skill set of PWDs to adopt technologies and support services for upcycling waste plastic into a range of affordable products and to create new appropriate social entrepreneurial opportunities.

This is being done by teaching PWDs to use 3D printing equipment to produce prosthetics limbs. The project will enhance their ability in learning a new skill that may turn into a profitable business venture later on in meeting the demands of persons requiring these products. This project is one of a kind that can reduce pollution while developing environmental products while continuing to support the needs of PWDS.

At this juncture, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed and we are awaiting the commencement of the project.



Raising Awareness

Usher Syndrome Awareness Day

NCPD recognized Usher Syndrome Awareness Day on the 18th September 2021. That day has been observed since 2015 by the Usher Syndrome Coalition, which comprises families and individuals that focus on developing a global community in search of a rapid cure. The global awareness day raises mindfulness of the inherited condition of deafness, blindness and balance combined. The vision problem is referred to as Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), that causes retinal degeneration. The retina is a thin layer of tissue that lines the back of the eye to receive light and detects the ability to see. The hearing problem in Usher Syndrome develops because of gene mutations that affect the cochlea, which contributes to the transmission of sounds for hearing.

Symptoms of Usher Syndrome

There are three types major of Usher Syndrome, all of which cause hearing and vision loss. Balance problems may sometimes be experienced.

Type 1: Babies are born with severe hearing loss. They develop balance dysfunctions and progressive vision loss, which usually appears at the early stage of adolescence, and worsens with age.

Type 2: Babies are born with moderate to severe hearing loss. Vision loss begins in the teens and progresses over time. They do not usually have balance problems.

Type 3: Not common. Usually born with normal vision and hearing. Progressive hearing loss, vision loss and balance dysfunctions are developed gradually at the puberty stage.

Treatment for persons with Usher Syndrome

Babies are usually screened for hearing problems at birth followed by testing of eyesight and balance to determine whether or not Usher Syndrome is present. Although there is no cure for Usher Syndrome, there are treatments that will depend on the type and the age of the child. The treatments include hearing aids or assistive listening devices, cochlear implants, hearing or auditory training, low vision support and services, therapy for speech and physical balance, braille instruction and counseling for persons to deal with the long-term health problem. There are now assistive devices which use modern technology to facilitate good communication for persons with Usher's syndrome.

Deaf Awareness Month

Deaf Awareness is recognized in September. The International Week of the Deaf (IWD) is celebrated during the last full week in September (20th - 26th) and the International Day of the Sign Languages declared by the United Nations General Assembly, on 23rd September 2021. The month raises awareness to the public, to educate persons on the capabilities of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as their rights, freedom, and justice. It also supports and protects the linguistic identity, promotes the notion that sign language should be included in the school curriculum, and various services to promote the development and growth of persons who are deaf/hard of hearing to live independently in society.



According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are over 300 different sign languages used for communication worldwide. The 2021 theme was declared as “We Sign for Human Rights,” which promotes the recognition of the right to incorporate sign languages throughout society. Members of the NCPD participated in the webinar organised and carried out by the Caribbean Sign Language Centre (CSLC).

At NCPD there are currently three staff, and five trainees who are deaf, communicate with sign language, and are successfully enrolled in various programmes such as Bookbinding, Office Administration, Beauty Culture, Garment Construction, Woodwork and Food Preparation.

Recognition of Basic Communication in Sign Language

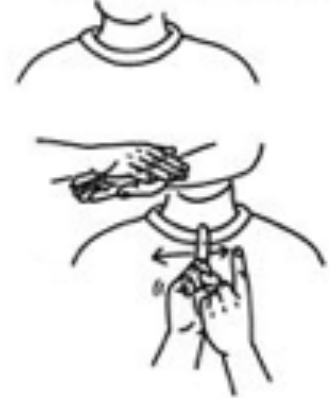
HELLO



GOODBYE



NICE TO MEET YOU



YES



NO



PLEASE



THANKS



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