



The Bulletin

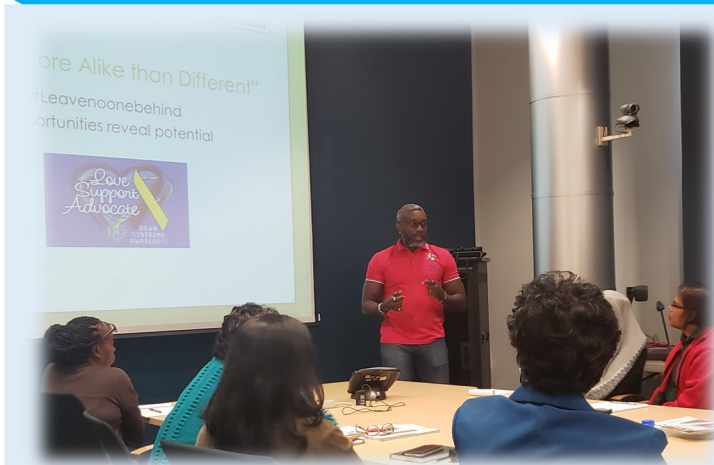
Issue No. 22

Our Monthly Achievement Report

February 2020

Empowerment 101...

Learning the Facts



The Office of the Prime Minister once again partnered with the Down Syndrome Family Network to host a Sensitization Session for staff of the Office of the Prime Minister to promote awareness and camaraderie for interacting with persons living with Down Syndrome.

People with Down's Syndrome are all unique individuals and should be acknowledged as a person first and foremost. Here are appropriate terminologies courtesy the Down's Syndrome Association:

DOWN SYNDROME

DO NOT SAY

DO SAY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> person suffers from OR is a victim of Down's Syndrome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> person has Down's Syndrome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Down's baby/person/child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a person/baby/child with Down's Syndrome or who has Down's Syndrome. People with Down's Syndrome are all unique individuals and should be acknowledged as a person first and foremost. It is important to think of the person first, e.g. John is 29 and has Down's syndrome.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> retarded/mentally handicapped/backward/mental disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a learning disability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disease/illness/handicap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> condition OR genetic condition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the risk of a baby having Down's syndrome (in relation to pre-natal screening and probability assessments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the chance of a baby having Down's Syndrome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Down's as an abbreviation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Down's Syndrome or DS is an abbreviation if necessary

Featured IN THIS ISSUE: ➔

Empowerment 101...Learning the Facts.....	1-2
Putting People First.....	2
Leaders of the Caribbean	3
Orientation for New Recruits at St. Jude's School for Girls.....	4
Health and Fitness Fair.....	5
We are on the Move.....	6
Rukshun.....	7

Empowerment 101... Learning the Facts Continues

AUTISM

Autism Speaks (an international autism research and advocacy organization) defines Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, speech and nonverbal communication .

Here are **some tips** on how to interact with children living with ASD:

1. **Learn about Autism.** The more you know about Autism Spectrum Disorder, the better equipped you will be to engage the child.
2. **Be respectful and kind.** Don't discriminate against children with ASD or their caregivers. Consider asking their caregiver/s if and how you can help.
3. **Be patient.** It often takes a child with ASD longer to process information (sights, sounds, odours etc.). If you see someone with ASD exhibiting unusual or challenging behaviours, take time to first observe the situation. Do not make a rash decision.
4. **Respect personal space.** Never force physical affection or touch on a child. Accept the child's unique preferences.
5. **Believe.** Recognize and appreciate a child's potential. Don't define the child with ASD by their diagnosis.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



On 19th February, 2020, the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister visited several Community Residences. Minister noted during her visit that “I was reminded of the resilience of children, the need for us to be each other's keeper and the power of a listening ear. These two pieces of artwork done by two of the residents at St. Jude's evoked a range of emotions as they show that our children still have hope for a better tomorrow”.



Top-Bottom: Artwork from residence at St Jude's School for Girls



Leaders of the Caribbean



The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime (OPM), Mrs. Antoinette Jack-Martin, Director, Gender Affairs Division, OPM and Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein, MP for Cumuto/Manzanilla area attended a meeting held among Caribbean Stakeholders ahead of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and CSW64 in Bridgetown Barbados from 10th to 11th February, 2020.

The meeting afforded Trinidad and Tobago the opportunity to build a coordinated position for Caribbean negotiations on Beijing+25, at the 64th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020. This will facilitate a more collaborative effort among the English-speaking Caribbean countries at CSW64.

Additionally, the meeting provided insight into the experiences of member states as it relates to the challenges and progress made in furthering the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Here are some highlights from the meeting among Caribbean Stakeholders.

Photo: (Left) Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein, MP for Cumuto/Manzanilla and (Third from right) the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister among other CARICOM Ministers.



Orientation for New Recruits at St. Jude's School for Girls

St Jude's School for Girls hosted an orientation for new recruits on the 11th February, 2020. The orientation focussed on the history of the institution, the role and function of the Management Committee, the role of the Children's Authority (CA), the duties and functions of Caregivers and dealing with trauma and self-care. The St. Jude's School for Girls is an institution for young women between the ages 10 and 18. Formerly governed by the Roman Catholic Church for 125 years, the School was officially handed over to Government on May 31, 2015.

Top left: Mrs. Yvette Bruce (*Manager of the School*) address their new staff members.



Above and Below: The recruits are fully engaged as they participate in an exercise during the Orientation.



Above and Below: Mrs. Rosanna Cardines (*Child Development Specialist, Office of the Prime Minister*) during her presentation to the recruits on Trauma and Self-Care.



Health and Fitness Fair

The Office of the Prime Minister participated in En ToTo's 5th Health and Fitness Fair for students across Trinidad held on 19th February, 2020 at Nelson Mandela Park.

Minister Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister reminded students that the National Child Policy which was created by children and for children will ensure that the rights of all will be protected and promoted. She noted that the government is working with key stakeholders to ensure that the National Child Policy is rolled out and implemented across Trinidad and Tobago.

Here are some highlights from the Fair.



We are on the Move!



Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Community Outreach and Social Impact Caravan

The Office of the Prime Minister has continued its partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in providing much needed services and information to far reaching areas. [#Vision2030Initiative](#) [#PuttingPeopleFirst](#)



Plaisance Park



Pinto



St. Augustine

South Oropouche



Here are some highlights from the OPM's Carnival Staff engagement:



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