

COMMUNITY CORNER

Thirty Years of Child Rights Celebrated in St. Kitts

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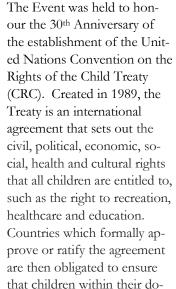
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main receive the rights as out-

lined in the Treaty.

It was an evening full of cele-

bration as the curtains opened

on the 30th Anniversary of the

Rights of the Child Summit,

hosted in St. Kitts from July

23rd-24th, 2019.



CRC 30th Anniversary Opening Ceremony

As the first country in the OECS and the second in CARICOM to sign on to the Convention, the Federation was chosen to host the regional 30th Anniversary Celebrations, which began with an Opening Ceremony at Warner Park, St. Kitts, and was followed by a Children's Summit the next day at the St. Kitts Marriott Hotel. Both days saw attendance from over three hundred children, including delegates from Antigua, Anguilla and Montserrat

along with local youth groups, as well as Cabinet Ministers and United Nations dignitaries.

As the Convention focuses on the rights of children, youth of all ages were selected to lead aspects of the event, from chairing the Opening Ceremony and Summit, to providing photography and catering, and showcasing their talent as guest artistes.

Member of the Organizing team, Mrs. Marecia Pemberton-Browne, informed that the "The intention was to have young people involved in every aspect of the Event'. She added that young entrepreneurs were also present at the Summit to showcase their products and services, and that the Remarkable Teens and Youth Empowerment Volunteer Corps were present in their numbers to provide support for the high-level





Convention on Persons with Disabilities Accepted

"It was a very proud moment on Friday, September 27th, when the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, at long last, acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York".

Those were the words of Prime Minister Honourable Dr. Timothy Harris as he announced that the Federation has acceded, or accepted, the opportunity to be party to, the important Human Rights treaty. The CRPD is an international



Cabinet Ministers stand with SKNAPD Members

tional agreement established in 2006 that sets out the human rights of persons with disabilities, and outlines steps that governments can take to ensure that disabled persons enjoy their full human rights, such as the right to personal mobility.

Present at the announcement, which took place at the Prime Minister's October Press conference, were several members of the Disabled Persons' Association (SKNAPD), including President Mr Joseph Bergan and community activist Mrs. Sylvine Henry, who lauded the Prime Minister's commitment to improve accessibility to public buildings and to uphold the rights of the disabled community as a whole.

A Summer of Skills and Socialization for Youth





Participants of the 'Games We Used to Play' Summer Camp



"The Children felt good. They felt like they were learning something, and were taken care of and occupied during the summer."

Youth from several communities enjoyed a stimulating two weeks of positive entertainment during Summer Camps jointly organized by the Gender Affairs and Social Services Departments.

Held at the Newtown Community Centre from July 15th to 19th, the camp, entitled 'Games We Used to Play' focused on teaching children to socialize positively through traditional games, such as Rounders and Rabbit in the Coop, as well as building skills in different areas.

Co-coordinator of the Camp, Mr. Dion Browne, said that several exciting sessions were held, including Art & Craft, Flower-Making, Basic First Aid, and Bullying Prevention. He noted that there were approximately thirty-five participants aged from three to fifteen years, and drawn from different communi-



Children get ready for ball games ties, such as Monkey Hill, McKnight, and. Newtown.

"The Children felt good. They felt like they were learning something, and were taken care of and occupied during the summer. Even after the camp finished, they were still coming up to the Centre for more activities", he reminisced.

The Camp ended with a *Dollar Fun Day*- sponsored by *Spotlight Inc* and *Kajola Kristada Limited*— featuring games, food and prizes for a few dollars each.

Meanwhile, August was also a busy month as the Gender Affairs' Boys Mentorship Programme partnered with St. Paul's youth group *Sons of Unlimited Light* (SOUL) to host a *Boys Under Construction* youth camp.

Mr. Browne noted that this camp was held at the St. Pauls Primary School during the week of August 25th to 31st, and that it targeted thirty boys between the ages of six to seventeen years old, drawn from the St. Pauls Community.

"The objective of this camp was to develop the building blocks of a sustainable boys group, to enhance the attitude and behaviour of boys and their general outlook on life, and to promote national pride and patriotism" he informed.

The boys participated in sessions on Conflict Resolution, First Aid, National Pride, and sessions on the Law and Technology, as well as a School Cleaning project at the St. Pauls Primary School - an activity designed to build teamwork and community spirit in the young men.

"More Safe Spaces Needed" says Gender Affairs Director

Gender Affairs Director Mrs. Celia Christopher says that there is an urgent need for more safe spaces for survivors of domestic violence.

While acknowledging the progress being made towards the privately-owned Garden of Rebirth women's shelter, Mrs. Christopher noted that the number of domestic violence cases reported in the Federation during the year was overwhelming, and that the need for 'safe spaces' was urgent and immediate. She informed that once a report on domestic violence was received, victims were often eventually referred to a place of safety away from the abuser, but

many times, "there is none".

"Oftentimes, there is no place of safety. Our challenge is that the families and friends of the victim often don't want to take them in, because of the risk involved", she lamented, adding that the situation was often a "bad one" for women and children, as they were then forced to stay in the abusive situation, or be split up by having to live in different places.

The Director appealed to churches and non-governmental or private sector organizations to partner with the Department to help provide these safe spaces, which, she clarified, could be at the church itself, or at a pa-

rishioners' home, or private sector domain.

Meanwhile, in furtherance of addressing cases of domestic violence, plans are being made towards the establishment of an International Injuries Surveillance System (IISS) in the Federation, which will be a database to record reports of injury and violence, including incidents of gender-based violence.

Gender Field Officer Mrs. Shinnel Charles advised that a consultant had been assigned to assess the current systems for capturing reports of violence in the Federation, towards the establishment of a more efficient database which... (cont'd on pg. 4)



Gender Affairs Director, Mrs. Celia Christopher

Staff attend training to further implement Child Justice Act

The Federation's youth will soon benefit from the improved operationalization of the Child Justice

The Act was passed in St. Kitts-Nevis in 2013 and replaces the Juvenile Justice Act. The New Act (2013) increases the age of criminal responsibility from age eight to age twelve and includes more child-friendly measures such as outlining how youth offenders reintegration into society.

Consultant Ms. Lucy Dawes travelled to the Federation to meet with officers of the Probation and Protection Department (PCPS), the Department of Social Services in Nevis, and other stakeholders during a two-week period from September 2nd-13th, to assist them in putting in place the changes required by the Child Justice Act. Ms Dawes noted that while the Act was passed in 2013, many of its tenets still needed to be instituted in the day-to-day management of young offenders, and that the series of workshops



Facilitator Lucy Dawes stands with participants would help to change that.

'I'm here to assist in writing manuals between the ages of twelve to for the Probation and Child Protection eighteen are to be best assessed, officers to use, which will take the law managed and provided with op- and put it into practical day-to-day guidportunities for rehabilitation and ance for their work. We are looking at the Child Justice Act, to now make it a reality...so we will look at what stakeholders will need to do and what changes will need to be made", she said.

> A former Director of the United Kingdom's Youth Justice Board, Ms Dawes also noted that the workshops and the Procedural Manuals that would be created as a product of the sessions, will help Probation and Child Protection officers with case management and investigation. The Manuals would also assist in the assessment of children for diversion, or providing alternatives to going through the

Court system for an offence.

She remarked: "Diversion gives children the opportunity to make a mistake, and to make amends for that mistake, and not end up in the criminal justice system....as well as get the support to do positive things with their lives".



Ms. Lucy Dawes expounds on the Child Justice Act

Acting Director of the Probation and Child Protection Services Department and participant of the workshops, Mr. Gerald Connor, disclosed that the Department did not have stand-alone diversion programmes, but that they were actively seeking to partner with local agencies, clubs, and vouth organizations to explore what options existed for children to be rehabilitated after an offence. He added that the current training would help them to determine the best ways of doing so, in order to help youth offenders to be able to 'turn their lives around'.

Ms. Ruby Thomas of the Federation's Probation and Child Welfare Board,.... (cont'd pg. 4)



"Diversion gives children the opportunity to make a mistake, and to make amends for that mistake, and not end up in the criminal justice system'

New Horizons' residents have enriching Summer Break

Along with an enriching academic curriculum which gained a one hundred percent pass rate in the CXC 2019 examinations, the New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre continued to build an enriching summer for its residents through its annual summer programme, which was held from July 15th to August 30th this year.

Coordinator of the programme. Ms. Shiraine Williams, advised that residents were engaged in

athletic/sporting activities such as football and gym, as well as skill devel- school classes, and so the programme opment in areas such as natural hair plaiting, airbrushing, and drumming. Character and life skills training was also part of the programme, as the residents participated in sessions on anger management, sexual health and regular Devotionals. According to Ms Williams, various professionals from the community were called to be facilitators for the sessions, which were also strengthened by officers from the Youth Explorers Clubs.

"The children spend a long time in helps them have fun and learn a skill at the same time — they really enjoy it", Ms. Williams said, adding that the Centre hosts programmes during every major school vacation period, and that they are looking forward to holding another stimulating programme for residents during the Christmas break from clas-



The New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre

Staff attend training cont'd...

the work of its probation officers, said that the sessions were very interactive and encouraging, while Acting Senior Child Care officer, Mr. Naren Maynard, remarked that the workshops were "extremely helpful" and that he hoped that they would be able to put the needed changes into practice as soon as possible. Child Protection Officer of Nevis, Ms. Udora Liburd, also commended the training, noting that it was "filled with good information, and enjoyable":

The Procedural Manuals are expected to be completed and turned over to the Ministry by early October.

(cont'd from pg. 3)...which oversees As the Child Justice Act (2013) provides guidance to major stakeholders in the area of youth care and empowerment, several other officials attended the training, including representatives from the education, medical and religious sectors, the Gender Affairs Department, and the New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre.

> Local organizations that wish to be considered as providers juvenile diversion programmes with the Ministry may register at the following OECS web address: https:// survey.us.confirmit.com/wix/3/ p3091073653.aspx., to be evalu-

Thirty years cont'd...

(cont'd from pg. 1) Minister of Education, Honourable Shawn Richards and United Nations' representative Ms. Heather Simmonds both gave remarks at the Summit on the importance of child rights, while the afternoon saw breakaway sessions for youth in various areas, such as Education, Culture and Health.

According to Mrs. Pemberton-Browne, the Summit's participants gained a better understanding of their rights and enjoyed the interactivity and youth participation at the event, as well as the presentations in poetry, song and dance by young artistes present.

More Safe Spaces needed cont'd...

(cont'd from pg. 2)... will allow stakeholders of the Domestic Violence Protocol, such as counsellors and doctors, to log incidents when they occur, as well as enable the Gender Affairs Department to move cases towards resolution. "The system will allow us to better track and manage our client cases, so that there are no complaints or duplication of effort between stakeholders", she said.

The PAHO-funded system is expected to be established by the middle of next year.

Counselling Director completes Certification Training on Substance Abuse

Director or the Counselling Centre, Mrs. Michele Blake completed certification training through the ISSUP (International Society of Substance Use Professionals, in Vienna Austria, from July 1st-5th, 2019.

The certification activity came after two one-week long training courses in Oc-

Counselling Director, Mrs. Michele Blake



tober 2018 and February 2019, and now enables Ms. Blake to be a certified trainer for front-line workers in the field of substance abuse, including officers in drug treatment settings, hospital and clinic staff, and community outreach workers.

According to Mrs. Blake, the training was a part of an outreach by the Organization of American States (OAS) through the drug demand reduction unit (CICAD), which aims to develop a team of trainers who could be deployed to conduct workshops

in countries and areas requesting this type of training for its substance abuse workers.

The training is expected to strengthen the

capacity of front line officers in St. Kitts-Nevis in treating clients struggling with substance abuse issues—who may continue to receive assistance through medical practitioners, counsellors, hospital outpatient settings, the Counselling Centre, located at Wades Garden, and/or the National Drug Council on Drug Abuse Prevention, now based at Horsfords Road, Basseterre.

Vulnerability Mapping Exercise underway

In an effort to protect residents, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Departpartnered in an exercise to mark the areas most vulnerable to disasters on the St. Kitts.

Known as the Vulnerability Mapping Exercise, the pro-

ject is designed to register the pop- Social Services officers have been ulations, such as the disabled or elderly, who might be most impacted by a disaster, and their placment of Social Services have es of residence. This would then enable agencies to provide a timely Government Information System response to these persons in the event of a national emergency, such as a major hurricane or flood.

> Director of Social Services, Mrs. Osslyn Ward-Harris, noted that

out in communities collecting the needed pieces of information, and that once this process was complete, the data would be reported to the (GIS), which would produce a map that could be quickly referred to when needed. The NEMAsponsored project is expected to be finalized by the end of 2019.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Appointments

Mrs. Sharon Warner Executive Officer, Gender Affairs

Mr. Gerald Connor Acting Director, Probation & Child Protection Services

Mr. Naren Maynard Acting Senior Child Protection & Probation Officer

Ms. Kedauna Gumbs Social Assistance Officer

Interim assignment

Ms. Dahlia Scarborough Interim Case Manager (maternity cover)



Congratulations to Executive Officer, Mrs. Marecia Pemberton-Browne, on her recent nuptials!

Condolences to Counselling Administrative Assistant Shanelle Liburd, on the passing of her aunt

Upcoming Celebrations

October 6 - Davin Francis

October 9 - Zahra Jacobs

October 15 - Bilisa Browne

October 17 - Shantell Pemberton

October 31-Vanessa Nolan



November 5 - Craig Jules

November 6 - Michele Stanley

November 6 - Patricia Huggins

November 14 - Caren Hicks

14 November - Amoy Richards-Brandy

November 17 - Tashine Stevens

21 November - Tivanna Wharton

21 November - Veronica Greene

22 November - Jacqueline Christopher

29 November - Erslyn Bridgewater



Congratulations to the New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre, which obtained a **100% pass rate** in the 2019 CXC Examinations!!



December 4 - Alpha Pennyfeather

December 5 - Michele Blake

December 12—Theodore Phipps

December 15 - Glenda Marshall

December 16 - Brenda Clarke

December 22—Adeline Carey

December 24 - Shiraine Williams

December 28 - Charlotte Salters



Convention of the Rights of the Child Opening Ceremony & Summit





Seniors enjoy the benefits of Yoga at the Shadwell Great House

Smartly-dressed Social Services' staff at Church Service to open Elderly Month



Think he can really play? New Horizons' Teacher Clive Williams strums some notes on his 'air guitar'



Saddlers' seniors savour lunch prepared by Rotary Club of Liamuiga



Marriott Vacation Club donates dishware to the Saddlers' Elderly Home



Ladies of Leadership Award for leadership and community involvement presented to Ms. Bernesha Audain of the



Violet Petty School and Ms. Murluska Liburd of the Estridge Primary School





Students of surrounding schools get free health check-ups at Ministry's Community Wellness Day





Keeping our beaches clean! Gender Affairs staff, Project Viola and Boys Mentorship programme members partner for a clean-up

SCHOOL IN SESSION

How to Help Someone Who is Suicidal

In observance of World Suicide Prevention Day - September 10th

1. ASSESS for risk of suicide or harm:

The best way to find out if someone is considering suicide and determining the urgency of the situation is to ask them:

- Are you having thoughts of suicide?
- Do you have a plan to kill yourself?
- Have you decided when you'd do it?
- Do you have everything you need to carry out your plan?



IMPORTANT NOTE: Some people believe that mentioning suicide might cause someone to consider suicide for the first time. **This is not true, so do not be afraid of this outcome.** You're much more likely to help someone feel less alone if they were considering it.

If they have a plan and are ready to carry out that plan, call 911 immediately. How you respond to other answers will depend on the situation, but always call 911 if you're unsure. It's better to be safe than for someone to lose their life.

If you think the person is in danger, you need to keep the person safe. Stay with them for as long as you can, because an actively suicidal person shouldn't be left alone. If you can't stay, find someone who can until help arrives. If you determine the person is having suicidal thoughts but there's no immediate danger, engage in conversation with them if possible.

2. LISTEN non-judgmentally: If the person does not appear to be in a crisis, encourage them to talk about what they're thinking and how they're feeling. It can be hard to hear someone you know is experiencing distress, but when you listen and genuinely care, you can have a calming, positive impact on them, and you can start to learn more about what is at the root of their suicidal thinking.

You may not fully understand what they're going through, and that's OK. What's important is that you're accepting of what they're saying, acknowledge it and genuinely try to imagine what it might be like for them. Staying patient and respectful can make a world of difference.

- **3. GIVE reassurance and information:** Reassurance is crucial, as people having suicidal ideation may not have much hope. Clearly state to them that suicidal thoughts are often associated with a treatable mental illness (like depression), and if you feel comfortable, you can also offer to help them get the appropriate treatment. You can also tell them that thoughts of suicide are common, and that you don't have to act on them.
- **4. ENCOURAGE** appropriate professional help: If you are concerned for the person's immediate safety, call 911. If you're concerned but it's not an immediately urgent situation, make sure the person has a safety contact available at all times, whether it's a loved one or mental health professional. Offer to call the mental health professional if they don't already have one- to schedule an appointment— or offer to do any of the other legwork required to get them help. Remind them that recovery is possible with treatment.
- **5. ENCOURAGE self-help and other support strategies:** Ask the person to think about what has helped them in the past. Perhaps a particular therapist, family member, friend or spiritual leader has given them support, or maybe a particular community, like a church or club, has been there for them. They should tap into their support system as much as possible during this time.

REMEMBER: These steps don't have to necessarily go in order. Apply them in whichever way makes sense for you and the person you're addressing. Always remember to practice self-care after a crisis situation. These types of encounters won't be easy for you, but your confidence and support can make a huge difference in someone's life.

SCHOOL IN SESSION



Spotlight on...

The SADDLER'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Set between the rural mountains and sea, the Saddlers Home for the Elderly provides a breezy and comfortable respite for seniors.

The small but cosy former dwelling house was donated to the Ministry in 2002 by Kittitian couple, Mr. and Mrs. Francis, who wanted to see better accommodations for elderly persons in the rural area. Opened in 2004, the Saddlers Home for the Elderly now caters to seniors who may need some assistance in daily tasks, as well as those whose families may not be able to care for them on a regular basis.

"Sometimes the family is working during the day, or living overseas, and so they want a safe place to make sure their loved ones are taken care of" said Home Supervisor, Ms. Francess Madir. She added that the Home does not take bedridden clients, but those who are fairly mobile, and that the Facility currently houses four clients (three females and one male), aged between 61-79 years old, but that it can accommodate eight clients (six females and two males).

In addition to the Supervisor, the Home is staffed by four Home Care Officers, namely Ms. Veronica



Hendrickson, Ms. Henrietta Ward, Ms. Jacqueline Francis, Ms. Carleen Richardson, and Ms. Bernadette Duncan—all of whom work on shift to provide care for their clients around the clock, including bathing and grooming, preparing healthy meals, administering medication, and doing laundry.

With one current resident with Alzheimer's, Ms. Madir acknowledges that elderly care can be challenging, but that "the smiles, greetings, and I missed you' from the clients makes it well worthwhile". She notes that her training in Nursing and Gerontology as well as the staff members' similar training and experience helps to equip them well for their roles.

Seniors at the Facility participate in stimulating exercises such as regular walks, ball and board games, knitting and colouring, as well as socializing with each other while relaxing and enjoying the breeze that wafts into the Home. Family members are also allowed regular visits with their elderly ones.

Persons wishing to have their loved ones considered for entry into the Saddler's Home for the Elderly may contact the Department of Social Services at 467-1314. The monthly cost of residence at the Home is EC\$800 monthly per resident.

INDEPENDENCE 36

(Schedule of Remaining Activities)

Saturday, October 26th - Night of Instrumental Music

Sunday, October 27th - Night of Dance

November - Tourism Month & Youth Month Activities

ON DE PLAYGROUND

Inspiration from our Schools

Mottos

"I am, can, I ought, I will"

George Moody Stuart School

"Rise Above the Ordinary"

Cayon Primary School

"If You Can Dream it, You Can Achieve it"

St. Kitts International (SKI) Academy

"Keep Climbing Higher"

Dr. William Connor Primary

"Nihil Nisi Optimum - Nothing But The Best!"

Seventh Day Adventist Primary

contributed by Major Roxroy Campbell





Prayer for The Work Place

Lord, help me remember that there are no small places or small people. All are precious in your sight. May I see the volume of my work and cherish it as you do.

Contributed by Mr. James 'Bunny' Pemberton

Ginger Beer Recipe



Ingredients:

- 1 lb (one pound) ginger root
- 1-2 tablespoons uncooked rice
- 1/2 cup sugar (approx.)
- 2-3 limes or lemons

Directions

- Using a small knife, remove skin from ginger root
- Cut the ginger into small pieces. Put pieces in a blender with approximately two to three (2-3) cups of water and blend until the ginger and water form a coarse mixture. Stir.
- Add one or two tablespoons of sugar, and one or two tablespoons of uncooked rice to the mixture. Stir.
- Cover blender with lid and ensure that it is sealed tightly around, or pour ginger mixture into a glass jar with a tight-fitting lid, and leave mixture untouched for at least eight hours.
- After this time has passed, uncover ginger mixture and use a sieve to strain the ginger juice into a large bowl.
- Add water, sugar, and lime juice to taste.
- Chill and serve!

Contributed by Mrs. Jeweleen Manners-Woodley

ON DE PLAYGROUND



COMPUTER #2960 Hold down the control key and C - Copy V - Paste B - Bold A - Select All L - Highlight URL P - Print T - New Tab W - Close Tab R - Refresh Page S - Save F - Find Z - Undo @1000LifeHacks -1-

ONCE, All villagers decided to pray for rain, on the day of prayer all the People gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH

-2-

WHEN You throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her.

That's TRUST

-3-

EVERY Night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next Morning,

but still we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE

THE HUSBAND STORE

A Woman goes to the Husband Store to Find a Husband.

The 1st floor sign reads: **Floor 1** - These men have Jobs.

The 2nd floor sign reads: Floor 2 - These men Have Jobs and Love Kids.

000LifeHacks.com

The 3rd floor sign reads: Floor 3 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids and are extremely good looking.

"Wow," she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going.

She goes to the 4th floor and The sign reads:

Floor 4 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Good Looking and Help with Housework.

"Oh, mercy me!" she exclaims, "I can hardly stand it!" Still, she goes to the 5th floor and The sign reads:

Floor 5 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Gorgeous, help with Housework and Have A Strong Romantic Streak.

She is so tempted to stay, but she goes to the 6th floor and the sign reads:

Floor 6 - You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor. There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at the Husband Store.





October Month of the Elderly

October 10th World Mental Health Day

November Youth Month

November 19th International Men's Day November 20th Universal Children's Day

November 25th-December 10th 16 Day Campaign against Gender-based Violence

December 1st World AIDS Day

December 3rd International Day for Persons with Disabilities

December 5th International Volunteers Day

December 10th **Human Rights Day**

> The Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services is dedicated to serving vulnerable populations through advocacy, education, empowerment and enhancement of individuals, families and communities through evidence-based and customer-oriented programmes that promote equity, growth and development, regardless of race and culture.

CONTACT:

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Victoria Road Basseterre St. Kitts

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Email: deptsdcga@yahoo.com

Social Services & Community Development - 467-1314

Probation & Child Protection Services (PCPS) - 467-1311

(PCPS hotline: 662-6833)

Social Protection Implementation Unit (SPIU) - 467-1523

Gender Affairs - 467-1397/662-2035

(Domestic violence hotline: 662-5492)

Finance - 467-1276

Counselling Centre - 465-5000

New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre - 662-5624



