



COMMUNITY CORNER

Care Package Initiative provides relief to thousands

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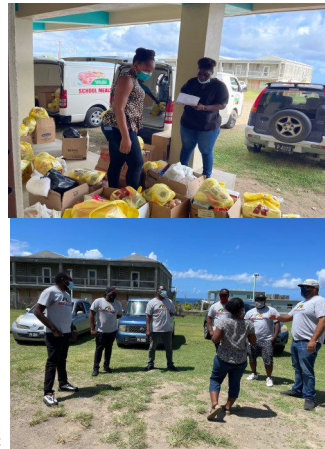
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Thousands of Care packages were distributed over the last few months, to assist persons placed in mandatory isolation/quarantine.

In speaking at the June 21st COVID-19 briefing, Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Janelle Lewis-Tafari noted that a Ministry-chaired Committee had been put in place to provide food and psychosocial assistance for these persons, as many were unable to make arrangements for their dietary and other needs, before being placed in isolation/quarantine.

As of July 7th, 3814 persons had been assisted with care packages, which included staple grocery items, produce, as well as toiletries.

Director of Community Development & Social Services, Mrs. Osslyn Ward-Harris indicated that while the initiative had been



Ministry staff and 869-To-Go Team assist with Care packages

scaled down in August, the Committee continued to assist the most vulnerable persons in isolation/quarantine, with assistance from several kind sponsors.

“The support has been overwhelming” said Mrs. Ward-Harris, noting that several generous contributions were received from individuals, organizations and businesses within the community, to assist vulnerable persons.

Contributors included the Moravian Conference of Churches, Best Buy Supermarket, 869-To-Go, the Business & Professional Womens’ Club, Mr. E.K Flanders, Social Security, Mr. William Dorset, the Office of the Governor General, the Rotary Club of St. Kitts, Mr. Lindbergh Belle, ‘Mr. Reuben’, the Ministry of Education, Mickey’s Hope, Food Centre, the Antioch Baptist Church, Fraites & Bass Bakeries, and the Chamber & Industry & Commerce, among many others.

Mrs. Ward-Harris also thanked the hardworking staff of the Ministry for rallying together for many hours to package and distribute the hampers to those in need.



Radio Host E.K Flanders



Ministry officers sort packages



Ministry Team

Adoption Committee soon to be established



PCPS Director
Mr. Gerald Connor

An Adoption Committee, which will oversee adoptions in St. Kitts-Nevis, is soon to be set up.

Director of Probation & Child Care (PCPS) Services, Mr. Gerald Connor, advised that while court-ordered foster placements have been taking place over several years, adoptions had lapsed due to an omission in the Child Care & Adoption Act (2013). However, he advised that in the last Parliament sitting, Cabinet had approved an amendment to the Act which will enable the Adoption Committee to be



formed for the purposes of facilitating the adoption of vulnerable children in the Federation.

Appointment instruments have recently been issued for the Committee, which is expected to be in place by September and will be mandated to determine the process and

fees for adoption. It will include the Director of Probation & Child Protection Services, members of the Probation & Child Welfare board, the Department of Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice & Legal Affairs, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Connor noted that there was a high level of interest in adoptions in St. Kitts, and that he was pleased to see the process moving forward.



Benefits of Gender Equality Policy being publicized

"The Policy is not a silent document...that resides with government agencies only...people have to be aware and educated"

The expected benefits of the Gender Equality Policy & Action Plan are being publicized, as the communications aspect of the Policy rolls out.

This has included the dissemination of Posters around the island, and the airing of informational Ads on Radio, television, and on Social Media.



Gender Policy
Consultant Mrs.
Dwynette Eversley

Consultant to the Gender Affairs Department on the Policy, Mrs. Dwynette Eversley, also recently gave an interview with Director of the St. Kitts Nevis Information Service (SKNIS) Mr. Lesroy Williams, in which she gave key information about the purpose of the Policy and the issues it hopes to address.

"The Policy...it is a blue print, and the Government...commits in this blue print to provide an equal footing for everyone's development- development that may have otherwise been hampered, impeded, or not realized-because of one being born a man, or boy or girl". She added that the Federa-

tion was also party to the global agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the Gender Policy would assist the Government in keeping its international obligations for gender equality.

In the Interview, Mrs. Eversley discussed several issues that were raised in the formulation of the Policy, including male marginalization in schools, the issues of equal work for equal pay and 'men's work and women's work', as well as domestic/sexual violence and reproductive rights, and that the Policy would help the country move to 'wellness' in these areas.

She informed that the Policy covered 10 domains- including health, education, youth, work, sustainable development and the environment- and that accountability would be required from different agencies, in making steps towards gender

equality.

"The implementation demands accountability from each sector...to ensure that their budgets and implementation align to the goals of Policy. The Policy provides for a gender management system - the establishment of gender focal points in all the Ministries...monitoring that actual benefits are reaching those who need to be reached." Noting that special groups such as disabled, elderly and migrants will also be covered by the country document, she said, that *"The Action Plan sets out who is responsible for what... and we envisage that there will be annual reporting to Parliament on the status of implementation and the benefits that are being perceived and felt by the people. And that is why there is such an important part of the Policy that relates to communication and implementation. The Policy is not a silent document...that resides with government agencies only...people have to be aware and educated"*, she said.

SECOND QUARTER RECAP

Digital Jobs Training benefits Youth from all walks of life

“It was a bit exciting... the experience of going into something new, but it was also very frustrating”.

Those were the words of Ms. Crannie Cranstoun, who graduated from a two-month Digital Jobs Training Course, along with three other youth members of the St. Kitts-Nevis Association of Persons with Disabilities.

The 2020 Course, which was open to youth throughout the region and sponsored by the OECS Juvenile Justice Rehabilitation Programme (JJRP), gave youth the chance to become digital entrepreneurs by choosing from three different areas of study: including Website Design and Social Media



Four graduates of the Digital Jobs Training Initiative

Marketing.

During the graduation ceremony, which was held on March 26th at the SKN Alliance Office, participants spoke about the challenges and rewards of the Programme, and noted that they were happy to graduate

as many had dropped out along the way.

Ms. Cranstoun, who is visually impaired and has a flair for Graphic Design, is optimistic about her chances for the future. *“Now that I finished, I will push my skills, to create flyers, invitations etc. Once I get good at it, I will put myself out there”*, she said.

Along with the four above-mentioned graduates, eight other youth from St. Kitts-Nevis successfully completed the Training Course.



Honourable Minister Jonel Powell presents certificate to Ms. Cranstoun



“Now that I finished, I will push my skills, to create flyers, invitations etc. Once I get good at it, I will put myself out there”

New National Social Protection Policy being developed

A new Social Protection Policy for the Federation is currently being developed.

The new Policy, which will replace the last Social Protection Strategy (2013-2017), began being developed in August 2020 by Dr. David Cownie of the *Social Impact Assessment and Policy Analysis Corporation (SLAPAC)* - a Cayman Islands-based Consultant with over thirty-four (34) years' experience in the social protection field.

While Dr. Cownie has been unable to travel to the Federation due to COVID-19 travel restrictions he was able to conduct several online interviews with local stakeholders late last year to gain initial input into the development of the Policy, and facilitate (via Zoom) a half-day Consultation with senior government officials in February 2021.

To obtain the perspectives of a broader section of society, the Ministry also recently hosted two Stakeholder Consultations – the first of which was held from May 11th-12th, at the Customs Training Room, Bird Rock, St. Kitts, while the other was held from May 13th-14th at the Gender Affairs Conference Room, Government Road, Nevis, for participants in St. Kitts and Nevis respectively.

The Consultations were attended by Ministers with oversight of Social Development matters, the Honourable Mr. Eugene Hamilton and the Honourable Mr. Eric Evelyn, respectively. In giving remarks at the start of the Consultations, the Ministers outlined the Federation's longstanding efforts to protect its citizens from poverty, and reasserted the Government's commitment to the creation of a more comprehensive Social Protection strategy.

Facilitation for the Consultation was provided by Dr. David Cownie (via Zoom) as well as Ministry officials, including Director of Community Development & Social Services, Mrs. Osslyn Ward-Harris, Project Officer II, Mrs. Jewelene Manners-Woodley, and Director of the Policy, Planning & Projects Unit, Ms. Azilla Clarke.

Project Officer II and Workshop Coordinator, Mrs. Manners-Woodley, noted that the workshops were well attended by of total of fifty representatives from various Ministries, organizations, and civil-society groups, who were able to apply their experience and expertise to key areas of the document.



Honourable Minister Eugene Hamilton speaks at Consultation

SECOND QUARTER RECAP cont'd

Youth encouraged to become Social Media Ambassadors

The Probation & Child Protection Services Department hopes to turn youth's love of social media into a force for good, as they hosted a Camp called 'The Positive Use of Social Media' from April 6th-9th, at the CU-NA Conference Centre, Fortlands.

The Easter Camp was attended by forty adolescents who were nominated from various high schools across St. Kitts, based on their ability to become 'positive social media ambassadors'.

According to Supervisor in the Probation Department Ms. Tivanna Wharton, the Camp's theme was chosen to help youth learn how to use social media channels, such as *Instagram*, *Facebook* and *TikTok* in a positive way. "We realize that social media and technology is central to their lives right now, and so we want to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary skills, tools and information to use social media and technology to their benefit and to the benefit of those around them".

Noting that the Camp was experience-based, Ms. Wharton informed



Mr. Travis Duporte presents at Workshop

that the teens participated in fun activities and listened to several presentations by impactful facilitators, including Ms. Markysa O'Loughlin, who presented on monetizing the use of social media. Mr. Enoete Inanga, who talked about the value of being positive, and Probation Officer Mr. Stephan Joseph, who gave youth tips on photography and professional self-presentation on social media channels.

The Camp was also enhanced by a session on Substance use by Drug Prevention Officer, Ms. Ichelle Huggins, and encouragement by residents of Her Majesty's Prison, who cautioned youth to "soak up guidance" so that they would not end up in jail.

"The children have been very receptive to the content, as well as the parents – they have been calling us daily to say that they are

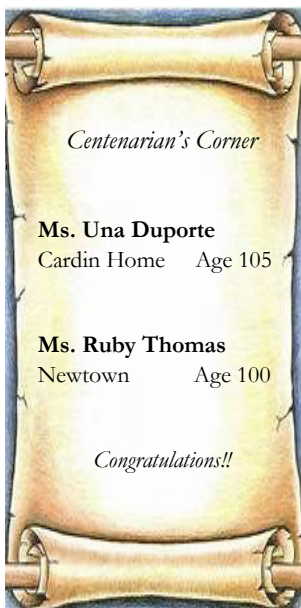
happy and that their children are excited and have been going to sleep early because they don't want to miss the next day. It has been a success!" the Supervisor advised.

She thanked the many officers of the Probation & Child Protection Services Department who were instrumental over the week in organizing and coordinating the Camp activities, including Probation Officer Ms. Trevisia Clarke, who rallied to have the Department restart its Youth Camp outreach.

"It is our intention to design more programmes in the future that are activity-based and would resonate with our children" Ms. Wharton said, adding that the Department also hoped to host a Summer Camp this year and establish stronger partnerships with the business community for future youth activities.

For more information on upcoming events and to render your support and partnership, please contact Ms.

Wharton at 467-1311 or via email at tivannawharton.govkn@gmail.com.



Centenarians honoured for their contributions

The two nationals from St. Kitts who have achieved the honour of living over one hundred (100) years, were celebrated on May 31st - officially observed as Centenarians' Day.

The Centenarians are 105-year old Mrs. Una Duporte of the Cardin Home, and 100-year old Mrs. Ruby Thomas, of Roxborough

Ms. Adolane Browne and Mrs. Ruby Thomas

Street, Newtown.

Daughter of Mrs. Una Duporte, Ms. Adolane Browne, accepted the Medal of Honour on behalf of her mother, while Mrs. Ruby Thomas received her own Award, surrounded by relatives and well-wishers. Both women offered thanks for the presentation and special recognition.



The Ministry extends hearty congratulations to Mrs. Una Duporte and Mrs. Ruby Thomas and their families, and wishes them continued long life, good health and happiness.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Employment

Dorn Henry	Deputy Director, New Horizons
Sheniqua Caesar	Family Counsellor, Counselling Centre
Belisha Clarke	Assistant to Clerk, CDSS (STEP attachment)

Nadia Rawlins	Counsellor, Counselling Centre (transfer)
Valencia Byron	Counsellor, Counselling Centre (transfer)

Appointment

Jozelle Leader	Intake Officer, CDSS
Delicia Crawford	Social Assistance Officer, CDSS
Shantel Pemberton	Community Development Officer , CDSS

Study Leave

Davin Francis	Counsellor, Counselling Centre
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Resignation

Pauline Ward	Security Officer, New Horizons
Zahra Jacobs	Counsellor, Counselling Centre

Retirement

Janet Hodge	Office Attendant, CDSS
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Upcoming Celebrations

September

4 September - Andria Caines-James
12 September - Carolyn French

November

6 November - Patricia Huggins
6 November - Michelle Stanley
13 November - Janelle Henry
14 November - Amoy Richards-Brandy
14 November - Carren Hicks
17 November - Tashine Henville-Stevens

**October**

6 October - Davin Francis
15 October - Bilisa Browne
17 October - Shantel Pemberton
31 October - Vanessa Nolan

**November cont'd**

21 November - Tivanna Wharton
21 November - Veronica Greene
29 November - Erslyn Bridgewater



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Boys Mentorship Programme expands to Cayon High School



Probation & Child Protection Services Department seeks potential foster parents during a Recruitment Drive



Happy retirement to Mrs. Janet Hodge!



Consultations held for National Social Protection Policy





Staff of Community Development & Social Services receive Financial Empowerment and Shelter Management Training



FLASHBACK PHOTOS!

"FACES OF THE BNTF"

(Basic Needs Trust Fund)



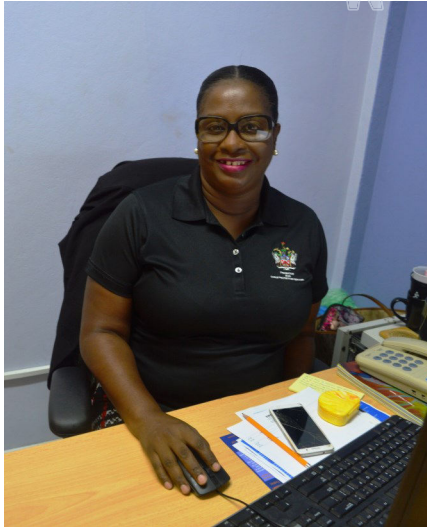
Business & Professional Women's Club donate to Prison Women's Programme



Seniors enjoy a Health Walk along with Home Care staff

SCHOOL IN SESSION

Interview with *Ms. Judy Mardenborough* on the **Foster Care Programme**



Name: Judy Mardenborough

Contact: 467-1309/664-8527

Current Position: Foster Care Programme Coordinator (but I've been with the Ministry/Probation & Child Protection Services Department since 2002).

What is 'fostering'/foster care?: Fostering is the term used to describe a situation in which a child is raised in a home other than that of his/her natural parents. Fostering is a temporary arrangement, and the aim of fostering is to have a child reunite with his/her biological parents. Fostering is different to adoption in that the natural parents do not give up the legal rights as parents, whereas adoption is permanent and irreversible.

How does the process work?: If a child needs to be removed from a home (maybe due to neglect, sexual or physical abuse) and there are no family members in a position to care for that child, then the Department completes a Foster Care Admission Form. Once that is done, my responsibility is to seek out foster parents from our 'pool' who would be in a position to provide a home for that child. We have over fifty children currently in foster Care.



Is there a need for more foster parents?: Yes, especially for persons who are willing to take children from ages 12-18. Persons usually indicate an interest for children between the ages of 0-10, because they think that it would be easier to mold that child into their lifestyle and upbringing, whereas there is a stigma that the older children are delinquent. But sometimes the foster placement is not because of the child's behaviour, but because of something like abuse, and so the child just needs a safe space.

How does fostering help children and parents?: It is a great help for a child who needs out-of-home placement to be in a safe space. When a child is removed, the aim is for the Unit to work along with the biological parents so that the child can be reunited. A foster placement can last from months to a couple years, although it depends on that the reason the child is removed. There is a Case worker that works with the biological parent to provide assistance- whether it's a parenting class, or counselling, or finding a job. Also, it's important to know that not all placements are court-ordered—some are voluntary. For example, a parent may come to the Department to say that they are not able to take care of their children (for example, maybe they do not have a place to live) and they ask the Department to help in finding a temporary place for them to live—so this helps them get back on their feet.

Are foster parents paid?: There is a stipend of \$450EC monthly for children ages 3-18, and \$600 for ages 0-3 (which includes a diaper allowance). Also, school uniforms are provided once yearly, and there is a clothing allowance and medical and eye care.

How can interested persons apply to be foster parents?: Persons must be 25 years or older, fill out an application form (which can be collected from the Department), provide proof of employment/income, two identification cards, and three references, as well as consent to a criminal/background and medical checks, and a home safety check.

What's your role as Coordinator?: I ensure that children in need of out-of-home placement have a safe place and support. Sometimes my job is overwhelming, but I have a passion for working with children and it gives me pleasure to provide assistance to a child in need!



GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE - TIPS

- ◇ Smile!
- ◇ Make yourself Presentable and Well-Groomed
- ◇ Greet each customer/client nicely when they enter your service area
- ◇ Make eye-contact when speaking to customers/clients
- ◇ Avoid chatting with other staff when customers are around. Give them your full attention

- ◇ Be a good listener and show interest in what the customer/client is saying
- ◇ Identify and anticipate needs
- ◇ Apologize when something goes wrong and do your best to resolve the situation
- ◇ Make clients and customers feel important and appreciated
- ◇ Go the extra mile
- ◇ Avoid rushing or doing too many things at once
- ◇ Use positive verbal and body language

Source: Customer Centricite <https://de2.slideshare.net/tarungoel1000/customer-centricite>

Words of Inspiration

Let it be said to our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we didn't turn our back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.

President Barack Obama



Contributed by Naren Maynard

**COMPUTER HACK****To Reopen a Closed Tab**

Right-click on the empty space just after the last open Tab

Click 'Re-open Closed Tab'

And the Tab Re-opens

St. Kitts-Nevis Olympic Heroes

Did you Know?



Name: Jason Rogers **Age:** 29

Hometown: Sandy Point

Fun Facts:

-Basketball was his first love

-He loves farming



Name Amya Clarke **Age:** 21

Hometown: Christ-Church

Current Location:

University of Akron, Ohio

Interesting Fact: Her late father was one of her biggest supporters

Some Islands of the Caribbean

V O S I V E N D N A S T T I K T S
 S D A Y Q F C K R L T B L O J E T
 H I S P A N I O L A S Z J M I M Y
 B A R B U D A X D O M I N I C A H
 K Y R V T E Z A U G I T N A K U W
 V H S O C I A C D N A S K R U T F
 B A R B A D O S H N K W K T Z N C
 I S J B W Q M O O Q N B H P V P T
 O U N M A R T I N I Q U E A J R T
 I U A P O D I S T L U C I A I M N
 J A M A I C A O C L V C V N T V S
 D U T K L V R U H Q D A I E O W N
 M U E P I R B W D Y W D T R B T V
 D X L R J A W E X V A K L O A G R
 K J J M M A S S W D C O Z W G I I
 O R O X S T V I N C E N T I O M G
 B L Y K T A R R E S T N O M F P F

Turks and Caicos

Jamaica

Trinidad

Tobago

Montserrat

St Vincent

Barbados

St Lucia

Martinique

Dominica

Antigua

Barbuda

Cuba

Hispaniola

St Kitts and Nevis



"I figured you should have breakfast in bed on your birthday. Can you reach the stove okay?"

SOLVE THE RIDDLE

(<https://www.riddlester.co/5-mystery-riddles/>)

Peter is put in a cell with a dirt floor and only one window.

The window is too high for him to reach.

The only thing he has in the cell is a shovel.

He won't be able to get any food or water and only has two days to escape or he'll die.

Peter can't dig a tunnel because it will take him much longer than two days to do it.

Answer: Peter has to use the shovel to create a pile of dirt under the window so he can climb up onto it and escape from the cell.

KITTITIAN COOK-UP RECIPE

Ingredients and measurements:

- 1/2 chopped green pepper
- Other seasonings of your choice, not limited to thyme, green onions, etc.
- 1/2 chopped onion
- 1 tbsp. each - Sazon, Adobo seasoning salt
- 10 chicken wings (seasoned)
- 1 lb saltfish
- 1 cup pink peas/red peas
- 3 cups of rice
- 3 tbsp gravy browning
- Vegetable oil



Optional ingredients

- Pork - pig ear etc
- Chicken back and neck

Season and pre-cook your saltfish, chicken wings and pink peas in separate pots.

Once they are near completion, it is now time to focus on the rice. (We focus on the rice last because it cooks the fastest.

In a large pot, add water, a splash of oil, 3 tbsp of gravy browning and your chopped onions and peppers as well as other seasonings. I used salt, black pepper, Adobo seasoning salt and Italian seasoning (since I didn't have thyme on hand).

Once that is brought to a boil, pour over your pot with the peas then add your chicken wings.

Once the peas and chicken are added to the water and brought to a boil, taste your broth and make sure it is seasoned enough. Add extra salt, Adobo, gravy browning or any seasoning of your choice. Once it is seasoned to your liking, it is now time to add the rice.

Depending on how much water is in your pot, you may want to add or take away. Too much water isn't ideal.

Now it's time to add your rice and saltfish. Mix well and cover pot for about 15 mins until all the water is gone and the rice has come together.

Let cool, serve yourself a plate and enjoy!

By Juvandy Source: <https://www.itsjuvandy.com/post/st-kitts-cookup-recipe>



UPCOMING

October 1st - International Day of Older Persons

October 10th - Mental Health Day

November 19th - International Men's Day

November 20th - Universal Children's Day

November 25th - December 5th -

16-Day Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence

December 3rd - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 5th - Human Rights Day



Notice Board

The Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs 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.

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Website: www.socialdevelopment.gov.kn

Youtube: MSDGA *Instagram:* msdga_skn



Departments

Administration - 467-1020

Community Development & Social Services - 467-1222/662-5539

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

(PCPS hotline: 662-6833)

Policy, Planning and Projects Unit (PPPU) - 467-1523

Gender Affairs - 467-1397/662-2035

(Domestic violence hotline: 662-5492)

Finance - 467-1276

Counselling Centre - 465-5000

New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre - 467-1598/662-5624



Community Corner is a publication of the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs. It is compiled by the Policy, Planning and Projects Unit and will be circulated quarterly to staff and other stakeholders in social services.

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