



## COMMUNITY CORNER

### PAP transitions to LIFT SKN

The Newsstand	1-4
House Matters	5
Working Scenes	6-7
School in Session	8-9
On de Playground	10-11
Notice Board	12
Contact Us	12

The LIFT (Livelihood Improvement for Family Transformation) SKN Programme was officially launched on April 1st, replacing the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP).

According to the Honourable Junior Minister of Social Development Ms. Isalean Phillip, LIFT SKN was carefully structured after a prior evaluation of the PAP Programme, which ran from 2013 to 2024 as a cash transfer benefit for households making less than \$3000 per month as gross income. The restructured LIFT SKN Programme is expected to be an improved cash transfer system in several ways, notably:

1. The provision of more money to households and families, with varying benefit amounts ranging up to \$600 per approved family,



according to need and vulnerability. Under LIFT, the restriction of \$500 per household is relaxed to provide cash transfer assistance to multiple family units that live in the same household or share the same address.

2. The establishment of a refined systematic process to improve fairness and better target and streamline those most in need. LIFT will continue to prioritize unemployed individuals (with/without children), single parent households with children, persons with disabilities, and seniors who make less than a gross income of \$2500 monthly.

3. The provision of empowerment opportunities

through case management support and coordinated self-development activities, which will help to reduce dependency and improve self-sufficiency.

Additionally, as a result of the Ministry's partnership with the Social Security Board, eligible seniors, who were automatically transferred to the LIFT system, will receive a combined payment at the end of each month, consisting of their LIFT payment together with their pension benefit.

From April 1st, existing beneficiaries were invited to visit the registration Portal at [lift.gov.kn](http://lift.gov.kn) to verify their pre-existing application information for future consideration on the LIFT SKN Programme.

New registrants will be invited to register by mid-year.

### Womens' Day Skills Training in Traditional Male Fields Oversubscribed



Females took good advantage of a Skills Training Workshop in male-dominated fields, hosted by the Gender Affairs Department for Women's Month (May).

The training, which ran each Saturday during May, featured sessions on Plumbing, Electricity, Tiling,

Auto-Mechanics, and Welding.

According to the Department, classes were oversubscribed, with females eager to learn skills that would enable them to enter male-dominated job markets or start their own businesses.

With a mandate to empower women and men, the Gender Affairs Department hopes to host a second workshop in the near future, and thanks partners S.L Horsfords, TDC, and AVEC, for their partnership in this endeavour.

## Second Phase of Women's Empowerment Programme begins

(SKNIS): A second phase of the Women's Empowerment Programme (WEP) was launched on Tuesday, April 16th at the CUNA Conference Centre.

Funded by the Taiwanese, the second phase builds on the first phase of the Programme, which ran from October 2021 to June 2023, and provided business development training for female entrepreneurs.

According to the Honourable Minister Isalean Phillip, the decision was taken to embrace gender inclusivity in the second phase of the Programme, by providing training in male



Second Phase Launching Ceremony

-dominated fields, such as construction.

*"We want to be inclusive in our efforts and we can't talk about advancing women and leave the men behind. That is why we thought about this project in terms of how we could expand it to not only focus on women, but also empower men who will be interested,"* explained the Honourable Ms. Phillip. *"It is also an opportunity for women to get training and skills in sectors and jobs that are traditionally male-dominated."*

In addition to gender inclusivity, the project integrates youth involvement through a collaboration with Junior Achievers, a business development programme implemented locally in high schools since 2004..

Minister Phillip used the opportunity to extend special thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of China (Taiwan), represented by His Excellency Lin, for their ongoing partnership. She highlighted their significant contributions to gender equality, women's empowerment, and the strengthening of families and communities. Minister Phillip also emphasised their role in enhancing economic development and driving social transformation across St. Kitts and Nevis.



Honourable Isalean Phillip -Junior Minister, MSDGA



*We want to be inclusive in our efforts and we can't talk about advancing women and leave the men behind".*

## High School 'Girls of Excellence' Awarded

As a part of activities organized to celebrate Women's Month, the Gender Affairs Department took time to award seven exemplary ladies in high schools across St. Kitts.

These 'Girls of Excellence' were officially recognized during their School Assemblies and were applauded for being positive role models at school and within in their communities, as well as showcasing commitment to uplifting activities that promote personal growth. The Awardees are:



**Ms. Devyne Morris-**  
Charles E. Mills Secondary



**Ms. Cam-Ronn Audain -**  
Washington Archiblad High School



**Ms. Shaynne Thomas -**  
Immaculate Conception Catholic School



**Ms. Soriah Williams-Powell-**  
Verchids High School



**Ms. Junaiha Benjamin-**  
Basseterre High School



**Ms. Zyan James-** Cayon High School



**Ms. Zhanelle Jeffers -**  
Saddlers Secondary





## PCPS celebrates Foster Care Month

The Fostering system took the spotlight in May 2024, as the Probation & Child Protection Services Department celebrated Foster Care Month.

The inaugural Observance was held under the theme, *“Engaging Communities, Building Support and Changing Lives”*, with a full Calendar of Activities including a Church Service at the People’s Evangelistic Centre, Media appearances, A Training workshop for Foster parents, Health Walk as well as a Family Fun Day.

Case Manager in the Out-of-Home Placement Unit and Coordinator of the Month of Activities, Ms. Glentine Wattley, noted that the Department decided to celebrate the Month as the Foster Care Programme formed an important aspect of the Department’s work. Foster parents, who are screened by the Department, provide a temporary home and care for children whose parents are unable to adequately care for them, for various reasons.

According to Ms.



Wattley, the Month’s activities were designed to strengthen bonds between foster parents, children and the community, as well as creating awareness on the invaluable support that Foster Care Parents provide.



Recognition of Foster Parents



Foster parents, who are screened by the Department, provide a temporary home and care for children..

## High Level Workshop held to advance Social Protection in the Caribbean

(SKNIS): The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF Eastern Caribbean, hosted a two-day learning event titled *“Fostering Resilience: Advancing Inclusive Policies and Effective Information Management Systems for Enhanced Shock-Responsive Social Protection”*.

This event took place on March 19-20 at the St. Kitts Marriott Hotel, and brought together Permanent Secretaries and Directors of Social Protection in an exchange of experiences, successes, and challenges in enhancing social protection systems across the region to better support vulnerable populations.



Scenes from Shock-Responsive Social Protection Sessions

This dialogue aligns with the OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Action Plan (SISP), promoting dialogue to strengthen household resilience and foster inclusive policies.

Day one focused on operationalizing contingent rights and inclusive access to social protection during migration and displacement crises, while the second day focused on advancing information systems for social protection, and emphasizing the benefits of digitization and data management.

Information management systems are a critical part of strong social protection systems and programmes and form part of WFP Caribbean's overall focus to strengthen social protection systems to better serve the people of the Caribbean, ensuring no one is left behind.



Community Development & Social Services Director, Mrs. Osslyn Ward-Harris, delivers remarks

## Gender Affairs Celebrates 2024 International Women's Day Awardees & Pioneering Women

Nine illustrious women were awarded at the International Women's Day Award Ceremony, held on Friday, March 8th at the Royal St. Kitts Hotel, and hosted by the Department of Gender Affairs.

Chaired by Mrs. Toni Frederick-Armstrong, the evening ceremony saw keynote address by Dr. Valda Henry, Deputy Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, who gave words of inspiration and admonition under the theme, *"Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress"*.

The 2024 Awardees and their area of recognition are:

**Ms. Juliette Caines - Women in the Service Industry**

**Mrs. Keimon Archibald-Lake - Early Childhood**

**Mrs. Marissa Hobson-Newman - Law and Enforcement**



International Women's Day Awardees

**Ms. Joycelyn Patricia Farrell - Charity and Volunteerism**

**Mrs. Glenda Warner-Bassue - Communication/Entertainment**

**Ms. Brenda Clarke - Women in Small Business**

**Mrs. Ethel Bowen - Empowerment Award**

**Ambassador Rosalyn Hazelle - Legacy Award**

**Ms. Shorna Maynard - Prime Minister's Award**

The Award ceremony was graced by the presence of the Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Terrance Drew and wife, Mrs. Diani Prince-Drew, as well as the Honourable Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, Minister of Social Development & Gender Affairs and the Honourable Senator Isalean Phillip, Junior Minister of Social Development and Gender Affairs, as well as Awardees, well-wishers and staff of the Ministry.



Pioneering Women Inductees





## STAFF MOVEMENTS

### Employment

Mr. Chittin Garnette—Driver, New Horizons

Mrs. Onita Samuel-Warner - Child Protection Officer (part-time)

Ms. Sonia Worrell - Child Protection Officer

Mr. Shelton Benjamin - Community Development Officer, Community Development & Social Services

Ms. Vanessa Gaskin - Cook (temporary), New Horizons

Mr. Jermaine Pemberton - Cook (temporary), New Horizons

### Transfers

#### Internal

Ms. Shinnel Charles - To Ag. Director, Gender Affairs

#### External

Ms. Donarette Sharry - to Executive Assistant, Ministry of Youth, Ageing & Disabilities (from Administration, Ministry of Social Development & Gender Affairs)

Ms. Sherizan Williams - to Junior Clerk, Administration  
(from Ministry of Youth, Ageing & Disabilities)

Mr. Virgil Jeffers - to Ministry of Education (from Dept. of Gender Affairs)

### Resignation

Ms. Jennelle Henry—Cook, New Horizons

## Birthday



### May

1 May - Ms. Dorn Henry

2 May - Mr. Stephan Joseph

12 May - Ms. Sonia Tyson

15 May - Mr. Sheldon Isaac

20 May - Mr. Janon Stapleton

## Celebrations



### June

2 June - Ms. Idona Walwyn-Matthew

3 June - Ms. Glentine Wattley

4 June - Ms. Fabianna Gumbs

12 June - Ms. Isis Nisbette

26 June - Ms. Nadia Rawlins

27 June - Ms. Shaneze Sam

27 June - Mrs. Jeweleen Woodley

### July

4 July - Mrs. Sharon Warner

10 July - Ms. Adele Williams

16 July - Mr. Haniff Charles

26 July - Ms. Vernice Doyling

27 July - Ms. Khisma Lewis

27 July - Ms. Pauline Ward

# CHRISTMAS DINNER 2023

The Ministries of Social Development & Gender Affairs and the Ministry of Youth, Ageing & Disabilities held a joint Christmas Celebration in December 2023, during which several staff members were awarded for good service during the year.







Community Development Officer Mr. Haniff Charles participates in mentoring programme for students



Staff get ready for the launch of LIFT SKN with a Customer Service Training Session



Honouring our Heritage with Black History Month wear!



*Project Viola* Self Care & Mental Health Workshop and Boys Mentorship Easter Kite-Making Session



The Ministry celebrates its Administrative Professionals!



The Probation & Child Protection Services (PCPS) hosts a meeting for prospective Foster Parents



Counsellors facilitate Workshops for PCPS & New Horizons

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU.,

**Name:** Mr. Sheldon Isaac

**Position:** Office Attendant

**Favourite colour:** Blue

**Favourite snack:** Wafers

**Favourite type of music:** Soca

**Favourite hobbies:** Dancing

**Favourite time of year and why:** December. I love to party!



## What's the Difference between Foster Care and Adoption?



- Adoption is a *permanent* arrangement in which a child is legally and permanently placed with a family other than their biological parents, whereas foster care is a temporary *arrangement* intended to provide care for a child until they can be reunited with their biological parents or placed in a permanent home.
- Foster carers never have parental responsibility for a child that they care for, whereas adoption is a legal procedure in which all the parental responsibility is transferred to the adopters.
- Fostered children are likely to have an ongoing relationship with their parents and family members, whereas adoption means you become a child's permanent legal parent.
- Foster carers receive allowances whereas adopters generally do not.



## **WHY DO PEOPLE CUT?**

### **Making Sense of Self-Harming Actions**

*(in observance of Self Injury Awareness Day, March 1st)*

Every year, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, communities worldwide come together to observe Self-Injury Awareness Day. This day serves as a reminder to increase education and support for individuals grappling with non-suicidal self-injury, a prevalent but often misunderstood issue, particularly amongst adolescents and young adults.

Self-injury, also known as self-harm, is the deliberate act of causing harm to one's own body, by using cutting, burning, or scratching. While it may temporarily alleviate emotional pain, it is not a solution and can lead to further physical and emotional distress. Just escaping the feeling of mental pain is more pleasurable than the physical pain endured. Simply put, the intention of cutting is just to release the emotional pain that is sometimes so unbearable. While it may momentarily alleviate emotional pain, it is not a solution and can lead to further physical and emotional distress. Self-injury is distinct from suicidal behaviour, although both warrant serious attention and support.

Some signs of self-injury include:

- ◇ Scars, often in patterns
- ◇ Fresh cuts, scratches, bruises or other wounds
- ◇ Keeping sharp objects or items used for self-injury
- ◇ Wearing clothing to conceal injuries, even in warm weather
- ◇ Emotional and behavioural changes, such as impulsivity and intense mood swings
- ◇ Expressions of hopelessness or worthlessness



If you suspect someone you know is engaging in self-injury or experiencing thoughts of self-harm, it's essential to reach out and offer support. Encourage them to speak with trusted individuals, whether friends, family members, or professionals like healthcare providers, spiritual leaders, teachers or counsellors. Initiating conversations about mental health can be difficult, but it's a crucial step towards getting the help needed.

Seeking help is not a sign of weakness but a courageous step towards healing and well-being. By offering understanding, compassion, and resources, we can create a supportive environment for those struggling with self-injury. Remember, no one should face these challenges alone.

As we commemorate *Self-Injury Awareness Day*, let's re-affirm our commitment to spreading awareness, fostering empathy and providing assistance to those in need. Together, we can break the stigma surrounding self-injury and ensure that everyone knows they are not alone in their journey towards healing and recovery. Let's stand as advocates for mental health and well-being, promoting understanding and support for all.

Mrs. Noline Blanchard

Head Guidance Counsellor, Cayon High School



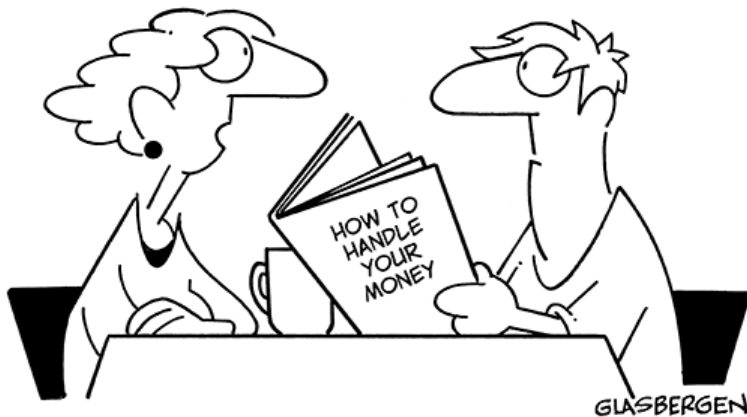
## Women's Day Quotes

As quoted at the International Women's Day Award Ceremony  
Feature Address by Dr. Valda Henry

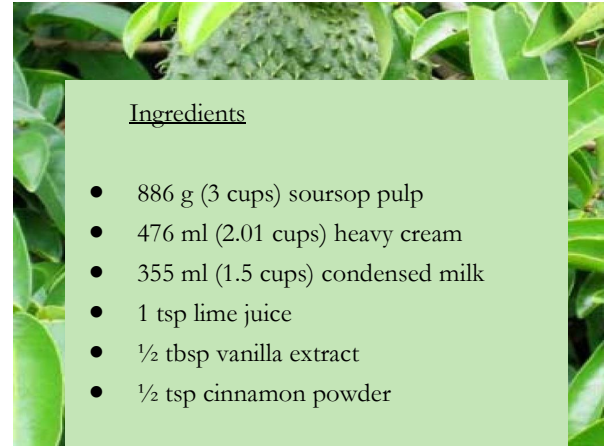
"When we learn, we teach. When we get, we give".

"Preach. And if necessary, use words"

"Behind every strong woman, is herself"



## SOURSOP ICECREAM



### Ingredients

- 886 g (3 cups) soursop pulp
- 476 ml (2.01 cups) heavy cream
- 355 ml (1.5 cups) condensed milk
- 1 tsp lime juice
- ½ tbsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp cinnamon powder

## Which Blood Types are Compatible?

*It takes **all** types.*

TYPE	YOU CAN GIVE BLOOD TO	YOU CAN RECEIVE BLOOD FROM
A+	A+, AB+	A+, A-, O+, O-
O+	O+, A+, B+, AB+	O+, O-
B+	B+, AB+	B+, B-, O+, O-
AB+	AB+	EVERYONE
A-	A+, A-, AB+, AB-	A-, O-
O-	EVERYONE	O-
B-	B+, B-, AB+, AB-	B-, O-
AB-	AB+, AB-	AB-, A-, B-, O-

- ◆ Add the seedless pulp to the blender and the water and puree for a minute or two.
- ◆ In a large enough bowl, beat the heavy cream with a hand mixer for about 10 minutes until the cream is stiff.
- ◆ In another mixing bowl, add the condensed milk and carefully fold in the whipped cream
- ◆ Add the soursop pulp, lime juice, vanilla extract, cinnamon powder, salt, and incorporate well. Careful not to overmix.
- ◆ Pour the mixture into a freezer-safe container and leave for at least 8 hours.



Genie: I shall grant you 3 wishes

Me: I wish for a world without lawyers

Genie: Done, you have no more wishes

Me: But you said 3

Genie: Sue me.



"She needed a Hero. So that's who she became"



## Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

### Women in the Bible

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

MIRIAM  
RUTH  
ABIGAIL  
DEBORAH  
ESTHER  
DELILAH

ELISABETH  
MILCAH  
REBEKAH  
LYDIA  
BATHSHEBA  
MARY

EVE  
MARTHA  
ZIPPORAH  
SARAI  
RACHEL  
NAOMI





## UPCOMING

**May** - Foster Care Month

**May 12th** - Mother's Day

**May 15th** - International Day of Families

**May 15th - June 15th** - Family Month



**May 16th** - International Boy Child Day

**June** - National Child Month

**June 15th** - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

**June 16th** - Father's Day

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.

## CONTACT:

The Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs

Victoria Road

Basseterre

St. Kitts

Telephone number: (869) 467-1275/ Fax number: (869) 466-1552

*Email:* mosdga@gov.kn

*Facebook page:* [www.facebook.com/MCDGASS](http://www.facebook.com/MCDGASS)

*Website:* [www.socialdevelopment.gov.kn](http://www.socialdevelopment.gov.kn)

*Youtube:* MSDGA *Instagram:* msdga\_skn



## Departments

Administration - 467-1020

Community Development & Social Services - 467-2675/762-5539

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

*(PCPS hotline: 662-6833)*

Policy, Planning and Projects Unit (PPPU) - 467-1370

Gender Affairs - 467-1223

*(Domestic violence hotline: 765-5492)*

Finance - 467-1154/1276

Counselling Centre - 465-5000

New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre - 467-1598/762-5624



*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.

To contribute, please contact Ms. Jeweleen Woodley at [jeweleenwoodley.govkn@gmail.com](mailto:jeweleenwoodley.govkn@gmail.com)