

**Barbados Council for the
Disabled**

Annual Report

2004-2005



Directors and Staff

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	Mrs. Rose-Ann-Foster-Vaughan Vice President	Mrs. Dawn Rudder Director
	Mrs. Angela-Smith-Callender Secretary	Mrs. Julie Sealy Director
	Mr. Dorien Pile Treasurer	Mr. Wesley Worrell Director
	Ms. Joy Ann Haigh Public Relations Officer	
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Staff	Mrs. Roseanna Tudor	Operations Manager
	Miss Emily Lynch	Administrative Assistant
	Miss Kerryann Ifill	Research Project Officer
	Miss Gaylene Andrews	Office Assistant
	Mr. Harold Carrington	Bus Driver
	Miss Cheryl	Bus Attendant

Our Mission is...

"To be the premier coordinating organization, working to effect change and champion the rights of all persons with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective integration into society"

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ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

Introduction

In reviewing the activities of the Council for 2004-2005, three questions are in the forefront of my mind. What has changed for NGO's working with persons with disabilities? What has changed for the individual with a disability? And how has the environment that persons with disabilities live in, changed?

Not long ago the needs of persons with disabilities (PWD) were thought to be no more than basic physical care, shelter and clothing. With advocacy from a range of NGO's dealing with disability issues there is a move to seeing PWD as "differently-abled" and therefore having the same rights as any other citizen. Locally, it is evident that some politicians, commentators and members of corporate Barbados have taken on the concept of 'differently able' and finds it easier to include PWD in their deliberations

What has changed for the NGO is a growing recognition of the role they have to play in ensuring good governance. For the Council it is the recognition that we have a contribution to make and generally, there is a better understanding of what we do. This understanding has contributed to a significant increase in our subvention from government and support from International Agencies as well as Corporate Barbados.

Changes for the individual Person with a Disability presents the greater challenge, I see these changes as linked to the absence of appropriate legislation. There is a white paper on disability, which was laid before parliament in May 2002 and a draft UN convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities to which Barbados can make a contribution. In the absence of legislation, BCD and our membership have been working with professionals and Ministries to develop creative responses to protect the rights of PWD.

Government has demonstrated their commitment by establishing a National Advisory Committee on Disability of which I was appointed chairperson. This is a major step for the Government in keeping its promise to consult and recognize the abilities of PWD's and it is hoped that the work of the committee would lead to more meaningful inclusion of PWD in all spheres of policy development.

There have also been some attempts to improve the physical environment to cater for the needs of PWD. But it is clear from construction of new sidewalks and access to public buildings that there has been no consultation or adherence to international standards. On a positive note I am pleased to report however, that Cricket World Cup has consulted with us on the provisions for PWD at the new facilities. We are also being consulted on the building code, which will be laid before Parliament later this year.

HARAMBEE HOUSE

Moving into Harambee House was one of our major objectives this year. Having received a number of requests from our landlord to move we worked feverishly with the various Ministries and the private sector to achieve this objective.

In reviewing what was required to complete Harambee House, we were encouraged to prepare the building to a standard that would meet the needs of PWD. This resulted in major reconstruction, including a new roof, complete rewiring and air conditioning, new floors and bathroom facilities. The resulting cost far exceeded our expectations, the lack of funds led to major delays in completing the work.

However, the importance of having adequate office space and a resource centre to enable our members to function to the best of their capacity was too significant for us not to continue to fight for. After long periods of delay we were successful in our application to Poverty Alleviation for a grant of \$166,198.00 to complete the refurbishment.

With the release of these funds, together with the provision of a workforce from the Ministry of Transport and Works we envisage the completion of Harambee House by September 2005.

It is with a sense of satisfaction that we can report that, our goal of having a base where our members can meet to fulfil their objectives, including training, accessing resources and storing their important documents will soon become a reality.

The acquisition of Harambee House for use by PWD has only been achieved through perseverance of staff and PWD as well as partnership with Government and the private sector. We must thank Mr. Ralph

"Bizzy" Williams, who willingly offered us technical and financial support at a time when we most needed it.

HEALTH

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

The CBR programme continues to be a strategy within the Council to develop a programme of activities that would respond to the needs of PWD at community level. In March 2004, therapists, both public and private, joined 6 therapy students and a professor from Quinnipiac University, USA; for a week of activities, which included training for caregivers and professionals as well as home based assessment for PWD who had difficulty accessing hospital, based therapy.

Continuing our drive to fully implement CBR, in March 2005, the Council again hosted occupational and physiotherapy students as well as a professor from Quinnipiac University. The Council's objectives were to offer training to caregivers in our residential and day care provision.

The need for discharge planning was identified and this was facilitated with service providers from QEH, PWD, caregivers, teachers and Rehabilitation Technicians.

Training was also provided on feeding techniques, movement and play, as well as the use of adaptive devices and skills in lifting and handling.

The partnership with the Albert Schweitzer Institute and Quinnipiac University has resulted in a substantial donation of equipment that will assist our membership with their therapy activities, as well as several boxes of books for the Council's new library.



In order to sustain the CBR programme, the Council submitted a proposal to government for a Rehabilitation Technician post. The application to fund this post was successful; we will shortly be advertising the position.

Disability Nurse Specialist

In collaboration with the MS Society, Barbados and Dr. David Corbin, Consultant Neurologist QEH the Council was successful in its application for a grant from the Lasco Schering, Drug Company to fund a part time MS Nurse Specialist post.

Subsequent negotiations with the Director of Nursing and the Director of Human Resources, QEH, has resulted in the post being converted to a full-time Disability Nurse Specialist post with 20 hours per week allocated to persons with disabilities for community based activities. Queen Elizabeth Hospital is committed to the establishment of the nurse specialist post however there has been challenges recruiting nurses.

EMPLOYMENT

Job Expo 2005

In March the Council participated in "Job Expo 2005" hosted by the Labour Department. Staff and two residents from the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home supported the initiative by mounting an information technology display, which demonstrated to potential employers that with the use of Assistive technology PWD can be an asset in the workforce.

Several employers with booths at the expo took the opportunity to interact with PWD, which led to the offer to them of work experiences.

Employ-Able Experience

The employable experience offered PWD an opportunity to experience a work environment of interest, at the same time the programme sensitised employers to the capabilities of PWD. The desire to work was reflected in the strong, positive response from PWD. Thirteen employers offering a variety of experiences signed on to the concept.

Mrs. Rosalind Jackson, formerly of Ernst & Young Caribbean, supported the initiative by promoting the project and facilitated a preparation

session for job seekers. Participants were challenged to identify their own abilities in order to market their skills to employers.

To date, some of the participants have experienced a work environment of their interest.

FUND RAISING

OPA!

For the third successive year OPA! Restaurant hosted their annual charity golf tournament. This event included dinner and an auction in support of the Council's bus, which transports children with disabilities to and from school.

OPA! began this venture with the Council the first year they opened the restaurant. The Council is heartened and encouraged by the continued relationship we have developed in keeping our commitment to work along with the private sector in support of PWD.

Cruise

The cruise continues to be a valuable source of income for the Council. It is also a social event, to which members and supporters look forward. This year, to ensure good weather the cruise was held in April.

Barbados Community Foundation (BCF)

The Council was successful in our application to the BCF for a grant to assist with the maintenance of our buses. The grant was in recognition of the work that the Council is undertaking for adults and children with disabilities.

Hurricane Ivan Relief Efforts

There was no doubt that the community of persons with disabilities in Grenada was greatly affected by the destructive force of Hurricane Ivan

With support from UNICEF and Contributions from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Alison Chapman-Andrews and the Medinah Foundation the Council was able to offer support to PWD in Grenada during their times of greatest need. The items sent included radios, batteries, water, milk candles, clothing and pampers. These were transported with the support of UNICEF free of cost. The Council

extends our heartfelt thanks to all those who assisted in this worthy cause.

EDUCATION

Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP)

Having developed links with SJPP the Council has continued to consult with the institution with a view of having them offer On-Line Courses tailored for PWD. This will be a tremendous opportunity for persons who find it difficult to physically attend classes, or who may not have a computer at home, but can access one at a centre.

Offering the latter facility at our own resource centre is what the Council is working towards. We feel sure that the links, we develop with SJPP will benefit the educational needs and offer individual choices to our members and many PWD in Barbados

TVET

In collaboration with the Centre for the Blind and Deaf, the Council has successfully applied to TVET Council for funds to conduct a ten week Train the Trainers course. The objective of the course is to train three blind and visually impaired trainers who would in turn offer IT training courses at the beginners intermediate and advance levels to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

The course will take place at the Centre for the Blind and Deaf and would be facilitated by a member of the Council's staff team.

The Council in partnership with New Life Deaf Club is developing an IT course for submission to TVET Council. In addition, we are in collaboration with New Life Deaf Club and Challenor Creative Arts and Training Centre to provide skills training for the deaf community.

Parent Empowerment Project

The Parent Empowerment Project (PEP), which was in collaboration with OPOD and BAMRC, continued during the period under review. Two further successful workshops were facilitated on behaviour modification. A jingle of encouragement to parents was launched and a poster has been produced for distribution.

UNICEF solely funded this project; the Council's responsibility was to

ensure that reports were submitted and that the financial guidelines were followed in its implementation.

CAMRODD Biennial Conference

This year the Council applied in our budget for funds to jointly host the Biennial General Meeting and Conference of Caribbean Association for Mobilizing Resources and Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities (CAMRODD). Co-host BAMRC took the opportunity to recommend the Council and OPOD for membership to CAMRODD.

Sixteen representatives from around the region as well as three representatives from a Norwegian funding agency participated in the three-day activities. Of particular benefit was the workshop on inclusive education and contributions put forward to the draft UN Convention on the Rights of PWD

ADVOCACY

T-Shirt Campaign

The Council marked the international day of the disabled with a T-shirt campaign which promoted the United Nation theme "Nothing About us without Us" The promotion challenged individuals and employers from both the private and public sector to address the inclusion of PWD.

Employers and individuals demonstrated their acceptance of the challenge by purchasing an **"I accept the Challenge"** T-shirt. They ordered T-shirts for their staff with the company's logo accepting the challenge. The Nation Publishing Company ran a series of promotional advertisements free of charge. CBC, SJPP, Hill Milling Co. Ltd, Rotherley construction, Events Unusual and Chickmont Foods" wore their specially printed T-shirts on International Day of Disabled Persons. Others wore their "I accept the challenge T-shirt.



Overall the Council printed 500 T-shirts. UNICEF supported the project by donating 629 "Nothing About Us Without Us" T-shirts to children with disabilities.

A Voice of Our Own

The Council has continued to enjoy the support from both the electronic and print media. Reporters often seek out comments from the Council on a variety of issues and responds to our request for media coverage.

The monthly article "**A Voice of Our Own**" continues to be a valuable opportunity to put to the public views that are from the perspectives of PWD. The article is published once a month with the compliments of the Nation Newspaper. The articles covers issues, which inform, educate and advocate and have been used by some of our members to highlight their particular challenges or to advocate for better services for all PWD.

Healthy Lifestyles

Most of our members are by now aware that the Council is annually invited to participate in Healthy lifestyles Extravaganza. This year, after offers to our members to join us, only two organisations indicated their interest, NUSB and BAMRC, the latter unfortunately had to withdraw the day before.

As part of our public awareness drive, the Council issued Parking ID's and distributed disability information brochures on behalf of some member organisations.

NUSB had tremendous support from their membership, and utilised the majority of the booth. Their exhibition consisted of a presentation on "how to take care of your eyes", which was facilitated by Dr. Highland and Dr. Chase, supported by an assistant from Dr. Reifer's office. Dr Don-Eyre Beckles, an ophthalmologist provided free eye tests to many persons until he was relieved in the afternoon by Dr. Bannister.

An obstacle course was set up for the public to participate. Persons were guided on how to use a cane and how it felt to confront obstacles that the blind daily encounter. Feedback was, that the experience made participants more aware of the need to take care of their eyes.

Overall the experience for staff and members who participated was excellent. It was however, disappointing that other member

organisations did not grasp the opportunity to enlighten the public on issues pertaining to their services or disability.

Weekly Bulletin

The Weekly Bulletin continues to be a major source of information sharing for the Council, our membership and the wider community of PWD. The bulletin is emailed to over one hundred and sixty individuals and organisations throughout the Caribbean. The circulation of the bulletin has resulted in an invitation to join Disabled People International North American Region, as an associate member.

We encourage all members to make use of the bulletin to keep colleagues informed of activities within their organisations.

ACCESS

Building Code

From the early stages of reviewing the building code personnel from both the Barbados Building Authority and the Barbados National Standards Institute (BNSI) have worked to ensure that new buildings address the needs of PWD.

Although the Building Standards Authority does not as yet have statutory powers, the Council has grasped the opportunity of the collaborative relationship to request an assessment of Harambee House by the Building Standards Authority. This assessment was the first of its kind for the new Authority and was used as a training session for 6 building standards officers. A comprehensive report has been submitted which will guide the Council and our builders on the required standard.

Parking ID's

Three years ago, as part of our commitment to end discrimination of PWD the Council in partnership with Pan American Health Organisation, implemented Parking ID's for PWD. Since then parking permits have been issued by the Council to persons who meet the requirements. The holders of these ID's have since played an important role in helping to sensitize the public to the need for designated parking bays to be available exclusively for PWD.

The Council will continue to advocate for the legislation of parking ID's and designated parking bays for PWD.

TRANSPORT

Accessible Public Transport

Transport remains a major challenge for PWD. The present public Transport system does not offer a service that is comparable to that provided for people without disabilities. To address this issue the Council and a number of our member organisation have been advocating for a public transport system that addresses the needs of all PWD.

In 2004 The Transport Board acquired five adaptable buses, intended to be part of an integrated service and for use by PWD. Our initial response was one of relief, but this was short lived as on inspection we realised that there was a number of safety issues with the specifications of the buses.

In addition there were concerns about an integrated transport service using only five adaptable buses island wide. This service would not offer assurances that a severely challenged passenger or an individual using a wheelchair will be able to access a bus when he or she needs one. Nor will an integrated service address affordable transportation for groups of PWD attending community events, or the challenge of transporting children with disabilities to and from school.

As an umbrella body that advocates for PWD, the Council is committed to representing the interest of **ALL** PWD. In so doing, we bear in mind our ultimate goal, which is the provision of a range of transport services that meet the diverse needs of PWD.

We are also mindful of the general principles of the White Paper on Disability, which seeks to "ensure the availability of appropriate transportation for all PWD".

BCD Accessible Transport Service

Having lost the valuable financial assistance of the now defunct Multinational Women's Group, and a grant from Poverty Alleviation to assist in the transportation of children with disabilities to and from school the Council had to stringently manage its transportation service.

In December 2004 the Council received a fully accessible Ford Transit bus donated by The Lord Taverners (a British Charity). The donation was made possible through the intervention of His Excellency John White the British High Commissioner. This bus will provide services to our members for recreational and sporting activities. Our LDV bus will continue to offer transportation for children to and from school.

It is with deep regret that we will be losing the services of Mr. Carrington, our driver for four years. We have however employed a new driver and to ensure smooth continuity Mr. Carrington, is presently orientating him with our transport service.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Feeling Pretty

This Year's "Feeling Pretty" project was an expansion on last year's programme. The students of the cosmetology department of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) and those of the "Whisperssss" salon of the Learning Centre facilitated their services to our members.

A total of thirteen participants enjoyed the hospitality; refreshments and personalised attention by SJPP cosmetology students, where they were treated to a range of hair care services. Six clients from our member organisations also supported their colleagues at the Learning centre where they were treated to a highly professional service.

Once again the programme was an overwhelming success, it provided opportunities for PWD to spend some time together and enjoy services at an affordable rate.

CandoCo

As part of International Day of the Disabled, the Council accepted an offer from CandoCo Dance Company to perform in Barbados at a special lunchtime concert.

CandoCo challenges the preconceptions surrounding dance and disability and have succeeded in opening up the whole area of dance exploration, giving a new perspective to what can be achieved by PWD. This fearlessly innovative dance performance was a first of it's kind in Barbados.

In addition, the company participated in a number of workshops for children with disabilities, introducing them to endless possibilities and opening up their minds to what can be achieved despite a disability.

Special thanks must be given to Yolanda Briggs who worked tirelessly along with the staff to introduce another opportunity for PWD. The Council also gives thanks to the **Peter Moores Foundation** for their financial support, which made the event possible.

New year's luncheon

As a result of the huge success last year, we once again, held the new years luncheon at the Barbados Yacht Club. This year, we catered for more persons than ever before.

The festive meal was as usual delectable and wine topped off a truly enjoyable luncheon. Again, donations of turkeys, ham and wine helped to offset the cost to the Council; the savings was reflected in the cost of the tickets to everyone.



Thanks once again to Johnny Tudor who performed his usual spontaneous entertainment and audience participation. Everyone left with a taste for more and greater anticipation for an even bigger event next year.

SPORT

Wheelchair Tennis

It is gratifying that the Council has created history by introducing a new international sporting activity for PWD in Barbados. This year with the generous support of the British High Commission and assistance from the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association we launched wheelchair tennis at Sandy Lane tennis centre. The management of the Lawn Tennis Association has provided a coach and is currently negotiating to fund the necessary adaptations to make the centre fully accessible to PWD.



Practice is currently held twice a week at the Barbados Lawn Tennis Association, Wildy. It is envisaged that Barbados will soon have an international wheelchair tennis player. We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the players and coach.

Blind Cricket

The Council wishes to congratulate the Barbados Blind Cricket team on the launch of the Association and their successful tour to Trinidad. We are committed to supporting the endeavours of all PWD, and to this end we have offered to assist the blind cricketers with transportation.

Special Olympics

We must acknowledge the hard work of our young Olympians who continue to achieve in their area of sport. It is important to encourage the dedicated special Olympic Committee and team members by supporting their activities.

RESOURCES

The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CLFI)

The Council was successful in our application to Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to purchase 5 IBM desktop computers, one IBM laptop

computer, an InfoPrint Printer, a video camera, a Risograph Digital Duplicator, an Epson Multimedia Projector and JAWS screen reading programme for the visually impaired.

The equipment was purchased as part of our objective to equip a fully functional office with a state of the art networking system at Harambee House. Some of these items are already in partial use; the multimedia projector was on loan to a couple of our member organizations, resulting in considerable savings to the organization.

Braille Embosser

In keeping with its goal of achieving the highest possible standards for and by PWD the Council recently purchased an embosser that produces high quality Braille as well as graphics, spreadsheets and tables.

The accompanying software makes the translation of print to Braille extremely easy rendering the process very practical for non-Braille readers. This of course means that anyone, with minimal training can produce Braille copies.

The Council is proud to report that for the first time in the history of the Council our staff has been able to produce our very own Braille reports in house. We anticipate our members will shortly be utilizing this facility to their advantage.

Telephone

In preparation for our new facility, we purchased an Opentech OP 201 Mirafone.

This telephone was designed to enable individuals with hearing loss to use a telephone with ease.

The Miraphone supplements conventional telephone transmissions with a second auditory method – through the skeletal structure of the head.

It offers a visual ringer, which flashes when the phone rings. In addition, the Miraphone has other features that the entire family can use and enjoy.

The Council anticipates the expansion of our communication system even further as we prepare to accommodate members of our deaf community.

OGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Barbados Organization of Parent of the Disabled (OPOD)

This year the Barbados Association for the Parents of the Handicapped which was established in 1977 launched their new name OPOD

OPOD has continued to offer activities as well as provide support and advice to their members. They also continue to host an annual summer camp for children with disabilities.

Autism Association Barbados

The Council's newest member, the Autism Association Barbados was launched in March 2004 The Association has been working feverishly to educate the public about autism as well as offering support to their membership. They have already established their intentions by hosting a very successful week of activities, culminating with an oversubscribed luncheon.

Administration

The new restructured administration will include an Operations Manager, an Administrative Officer, a Finance/Administrative Officer, a Research/Project Officer, an Office Assistant, a caretaker, a rehabilitation officer, a part-time Nurse Specialist and a driver for the second bus.

Having recently undergone a selection process with the assistance of Catalyst INC, a Human Resource Consultant Company. We have appointed our new Administration team, which are Mrs. Roseanna Tudor, Operations Manager, Ms. Emily Lynch, Administrative Officer, Ms. Kerryann Ifill, Research/Project Officer and Ms. Gaylene Andrews, Office Assistant. We will shortly be advertising for a Finance Administrative Officer.

As stated earlier we will be losing Mr. Carrington in early July; however we have appointed two new drivers. The positions of Rehabilitation Technician and Caretaker will be advertised shortly before we take

possession of Harambee House.

In closing, I remarked last year that the Council will maximize all of its resources to benefit all PWD. I am confident that in the past year, the efforts and commitments of the Board and staff working together have channeled us in this direction.

As in our mission we will work with all sectors of the community to effect change, at the same time we are aware that change is never an easy option, but I feel sure that inevitably, the result will progress the full and effective integration of PWD into society.

I would like to thank the Board of directors and members for their contribution in keeping the organization focused on our strategic plan and the support offered to me when situations were the most challenging. I would also like to thank our tireless volunteers for whom no tasks seem too demanding.

Very special thanks to our staff team, without your contributions none of what we have achieved would have been possible.

Boneta Phillips

President

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following during the last twelve months.

Airlines Association (B'dos) Inc
Albert Schweitzer Institute/ Quinnipiac University, USA
Barbados Community Foundation
Barbados Defence Force
Barbados Lawn Tennis Association
Canadian High Commission
Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation
Catalyst Inc.
Charmaine Sargeant
Chickmont Foods
Consumers Guarantee Insurance
Dacosta Mannings
Ernst & Young
Events Unusual
His Excellency John White, British High Commissioner
Hotel Foods Ltd.
JAYCEES
Medina Foundation
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Housing and Lands
Ministry of Public Works & Transport
Ministry of Social Transformation
Mr. Anthony Waterman
Mr. Ralph (Bizzy) Williams
Mr. Stephan Mayers
Mrs. Mary Mahabir
Nation Publishing Company
National Disabilities Unit
OPA Restaurant
PAHO
Peter Moores Foundation
Rayside Construction Co. Ltd.
RDH Transport
Rotherly Construction
Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic
Sandy Lane Hotel
S C Johnson
Schering Las Americas
Sir Wilfred Wood
Stokes & Bynoe Ltd
UNICEF

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

- Association Aid for the Physically Handicapped
- Association for the Advancement of the Deaf
- Association for the Blind and Deaf
- Autism Association of Barbados
- Barbados Association for the Correction of Learning Disqabilities
- Barbados Association for the Mentally Retarded Children
- Barbados Association of Persons with Downs Syndrome Inc.
- Barbados Cheshire Homes Association
- Barbados Organisation of Parents of the Disabled
- BARNOD Inc.
- Children's Development Centre
- M S Society of Barbados Inc.
- Myasthenia Gravis Association of Barbados
- National Children's Home
- National United Society of the Blind
- New Life Deaf Club
- Paralympic Association of Barbados
- Special Olympics Barbados Council for the Disabled

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2004-2005

The core of our revenue this year was a government subvention for operational costs and three grants from international agencies which was ear marked for special projects. In addition, fund raising activities continued to be a much-needed income to support transportation costs. The total Revenue for the year 2004-2005 was **\$391,458.00** as compared to the previous year of **\$240,724.00**.

The last financial year, Barbados Council for the Disabled sought an increased subvention from the Government to support our work programme and our administrative restructuring. The Minister of Finance approved our proposals, but unfortunately the funds were only released to us on the 31st March 2005, and therefore could not be included in 2004-2005 budgets. The release of these funds also included \$26,250.00, our final quarter subvention which was due from 2003-2004.

Because of the magnitude of our proposed programmes, including our new accommodation at the Garrison and administrative restructuring, the Council sought increased funding from the Government. I am happy to report that we were again successful in having our operational cost fully met. This speaks volumes for the confidence that Government has in the results and programmes of the Barbados Council for the Disabled.

Unfortunately we were unable to implement some of our plans because of the late release of funds from the Government. We have however; in part implemented our administrative restructure and employed an additional full time driver since the acquisition of a new accessible bus.



The bus account incurred a major expense this year as a result of an accident to the lift. Though the majority of the cost was reclaimed through insurance, it resulted in a higher premium for insurance coverage and an additional cost to the Council of \$2,145.18. Overall the maintenance of the buses this year was \$28,931.00.

The unpredictable cost of repairs to the bus is a major challenge to the

Council. The rental income from the LDV bus this year continues to be moderate in the amount of \$11,565.00, which covers the cost of the insurance and license, but is insufficient to cover the cost of maintenance and parts. A reduction in fares for school children has affected our income.

Our annual **Fundraising Cruise** realized a sustained net profit of **\$14,256.00** even though this year the cruise competed with major events.

It is encouraging to note that we are still receiving financial support from the **Annual OPA Fundraising Golf Tournament, as well as a renewed covenant from the Airlines Association and two other private individuals.** In addition we continue to receive pledged assistance from the private sector whom we have developed and nurtured relationships with.

With advice from the **Ministry of Social Transformation** we successfully applied to Poverty Alleviation for \$166,198.00 to complete Harambee House. In addition, we purchased some material and received contributions of building material from the Ministry of Housing and the continued labour support from the **Ministry of Public Works & Transport.** Other funds donated for our new accommodation are being spent on the acquisition of furniture and fittings.

The **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives** project, which received a grant approval of \$56,219.41, has been completed within the approved budgeted cost. The Council has been commended for the astute management and implementation of this project, which has some final networking elements to implement when the Office/Resource Centre is completed.



The **Parent Empowerment Project** was funded solely by UNICEF; the Council's responsibility was to ensure that the financial guidelines were followed in its implementation. This year the second half of the approved funds was received to complete the final elements and is well within budget.

The implementation of **Community Base Rehabilitation** continued this year with another visit from the Quinnipiac University. Initial proposed expenses for the students visit had to be cut, as the Council was mindful of the limited resources at the time. Some donations were

received from the Albert Schweitzer Institute to partly fund this project and the Council funded the balance with a contribution of \$3,811.00.

The **CANDOCO** Dance Company's visit to Barbados was entirely funded by the Peter Moores Foundation with a grant of \$20,000.00. The activities coincided with the celebration of International Day of Disabled Persons.

Another project of the Council, which was implemented to celebrate IDDP as well as to generate awareness, was our **T-Shirt Project**. This realised a profit of \$1,371.50. The sales of these shirts will continue for as long as the need arises.

Our **Annual New Year's Luncheon** which saw an increase in the number of persons attending this year was again subsidized by the Council as well as a number of donations, thus our expenses increased by \$700.00.

As a result of a short fall in our subvention of \$26,250.00 from the financial year 2003-2004, the Council's budget for 2004-2005 had to be carefully managed, particularly as we had the responsibility of conducting an increased work program and the cost of managing an additional bus.

Ernst & Young continues to audit the Council's finances and has prepared an audited financial report for 2004-2005.

Dorian Pile
Treasurer