

Trinidad

Goodwill Industries® of the West Indies (Trinidad)

Founded in 1955

National Centre for Persons with Disabilities

Founded in 1964



International Development

Goodwill Industries® of the West Indies (Trinidad)

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National Centre for Persons with Disabilities

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Goodwill Industries® of the West Indies (Trinidad) offers exceptional and effective services within its employment training program to people with disabilities. Its key areas of operations include work adjustment, occupational skills training, job placement and work services.

Participants enrolled in the program are exposed to an array of specific trade courses to enhance work skills. Courses available include basic remedial education, independent living skills and work behaviors, printing, bookbinding, hair styling, food preparation, furniture refinishing and production, and textile sewing. Additionally, the organization fulfills a variety of employment contracts that allow hands-on training in a real work environment.

Goodwill West Indies generates 40 percent of its revenue from its retail store. The revenue helps fund business services, along with job training, in the field of culinary arts, woodworking, and hair and beauty to people with disabilities.

Fast Facts for 2008:

- Staff: 22
- Number of people served: 150
- Number of people placed in competitive employment: 30
- Revenue: \$950,000

The mission of the **National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)** is to provide persons with disabilities with effective and efficient training and rehabilitation services that enhance the quality of their lives and promote their integration into the wider community. The agency has four areas of operations: vocational rehabilitation and skills training, light manufacturing, community outreach, and consultative services.

The organization offers a comprehensive training and rehabilitation program that provides individuals the certification, experience, guidance and self-confidence needed to become job ready and employable in today's competitive labor market. Additionally, the NCPD operates a cafeteria, called Paradise Plum, in a local hospital, providing both training opportunities and revenue for the organization.

Graduates are channeled into an apprenticeship program, which allows the trainee to gain work experience in a real world environment, internally at the agency or externally at community-based employers. Job placements are sought in the open labor market for suitably qualified individuals, with support provided from the centre. Sports, recreation and cultural events also play an integral part in the holistic development of the trainees.

Fast facts for 2008:

- Staff: 60
- Number of people served in 2008: 700
- Number of people placed in competitive employment: 35
- Revenue: \$4 million



Success Snapshot:

Darren Ali



Darren Ali is a 30-year-old man with a physical disability. He received his primary education at the Princess Elizabeth School for the Physically Handicapped and successfully completed his secondary education at the Princess Town Junior & Senior Secondary School. There he obtained passes in Mathematics, English, Office Procedures, Principle of Business and Social Studies. Darren later pursued training in Microsoft Word and Industrial Relations with the Public Services Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1997, Darren gained admission to the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities, where he obtained training in the areas of office administration and information technology. Through the Centre's apprenticeship program, he was also able to gain valuable work experience.

In 2000, Darren gained employment in the Trinidad and Tobago Government Service as a Clerk I in the Office of the Attorney General, a position he held for five years. He was later transferred to the Ministry of Local Government, Siparia Regional Corporation Office. Darren is currently working at the Princes Town Regional Corporation Office and was recently promoted to the position of Clerk II. He is also an active member of the Public Service Union.

Darren enjoys his work and the level of acceptance he receives from his colleagues. He is a good example of how persons with disabilities can be effectively integrated into the open labor market.

