ISSUE NO. 10

YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023

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FEROZIA & ZAHRA HOSANEEA

FOREWORD



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we bring you the latest edition of our newsletter, we extend our warmest greetings and heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. We are excited to share the incredible journey of empowerment, inclusion, and creativity that our members have been striving for.

In this edition, you will find a collection of inspiring stories and updates over the last six months that reflect the dedication and resilience of our members. From creative ventures and sports days to culinary adventures and environmental initiatives, the pages of this newsletter are filled with the remarkable achievements of our members. We understand that this newsletter may feel a bit overdue, as we typically share updates on a quarterly basis. However, the absence of our director for a month and the temporary closure of our training center meant that we missed a quarterly update. We appreciate your understanding during this time and are grateful for your continued support and patience.

In the face of challenges, our community has shown remarkable strength and unity. We believe that empowerment is not just about achieving goals but also about embracing the journey, no matter how winding the path may be. It's about celebrating every milestone, no matter how small, and finding inspiration in every moment. As you peruse the stories in this newsletter, we invite you to reflect on the power of empowerment, the importance of inclusion, and the impact of creativity. Each article represents a step forward in our collective mission to create a more inclusive and equitable world.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our members, supporters, and partners who make these initiatives possible. Together, we are crafting hope, fostering change, and empowering lives. In particular, we are immensely grateful to the MOL Charitable Trust and the I61 Foundation for their unwavering support and generous sponsorship of our various projects. Without their invaluable contributions, we wouldn't have achieved the remarkable progress we have made so far. Your support has made a profound impact on our community. It has been a journey filled with hope, empowerment, and positive change, and it wouldn't have been possible without your belief in our mission.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates, and thank you for being part of our journey. With your support, we are shaping a brighter future for our members and the world.

Empowerment knows no bounds.

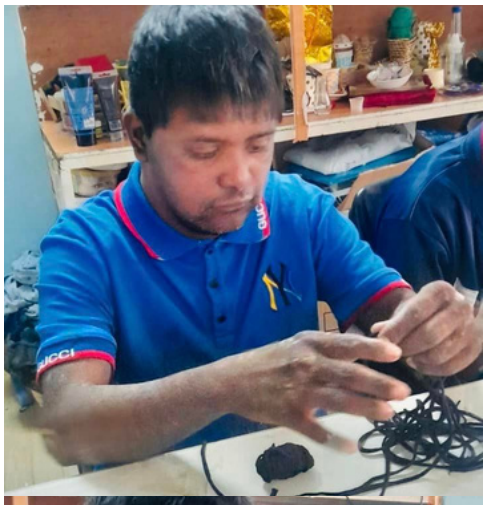
Warm regards,

Ferozia & Zahra Hosaneea

CRAFTING HOPE: CELEBRATING THE CREATIVE VENTURES OF OUR MEMBERS - 100% ECO FRIENDLY!









Crafting hope, one creation at a time.

In the spirit of creativity, empowerment, and sustainability, our members have, over the last few months, been hard at work, producing an array of handcrafted items that are not only beautiful but also meaningful and which embody the spirit of sustainable artistry.

1. Crochet Creations: Our members have become skilled crochet artisans, fashioning a wide range of items that include baskets, bags, cat beds, and custom creations upon request. What makes this initiative even more remarkable is that the scraps of textile used in these creations come from **CDL Textile.** Their generous donations have been a game-changer, helping our members transform scraps into works of art and opportunity.

2. Diwali Lamps: Our members are currently embracing the upcoming festive spirit of light by crafting beautiful Diwali lamps that radiate the warmth and brilliance of this special occasion. Each lamp is a testament to their creativity and dedication to cultural celebrations.

3. Jewelry: Our members have delved into the art of jewelry making, producing unique and eye-catching pieces that reflect their individual styles. From bracelets to necklaces, their creations are more than adornments; they are expressions of their artistic spirit.

4. Decorative Items: The artistic talents of our members extend to crafting decorative items that breathe life and color into any space. Whether it's vibrant wall hangings or intricately designed centerpieces, these creations add a touch of elegance to any environment.

5. Eco-Friendly Bags: In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, our members have been hard at work creating eco-bags that are both stylish and environmentally responsible. These bags represent their dedication in reducing waste and promoting a greener future.

These creative ventures are not just about crafting beautiful items; they are about crafting hope for a brighter future. Each creation represents the skills dreams, and empowerment of our members. We are immensely proud of their achievements and grateful for the support of all those concerned.

By supporting our members and purchasing their handcrafted items, you not only bring creativity and beauty into your life but also contribute to their empowerment and independence. Your purchase helps them achieve their dreams and build a brighter future.

We encourage you to explore our collection of handcrafted treasures, knowing that each purchase represents the skills, dreams, and empowerment of our members. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community and the world.

EMPOWERING ARTISANS: OUR MEMBERS' HANDCRAFTED CREATIONS NOW AVAILABLE AT KUANFU RIPE BLACK TEA FACTORY



Empowerment through creativity and craftsmanship.

We are thrilled to announce a significant milestone in our entrepreneurship program. The creative talents of our members are now on display and available for sale at the remarkable location of Kuanfu Ripe Black Tea Factory. This achievement marks a significant step in the empowerment of our members, who have been crafting a stunning array of decorative items and handmade jewelry. From bracelets and chains to keychains and eco-friendly bags, their creations show their dedication and artistic flair. Each piece is a work of art, reflecting the unique perspectives and talents of our community.

What makes this achievement even more special is that tourists visiting Kuanfu Ripe Black Tea Factory have been captivated by our members' creations. Their enthusiasm for these handcrafted products has not only supported our members' journey to entrepreneurship but has also fostered a sense of connection between our community and visitors from around the world.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to MauriceBay Tea and Kuanfu Ripe Black Tea Factory for their unwavering support in making our mission a reality. Their collaboration has provided our members with an opportunity to showcase their talents and earn a living through their craftsmanship.

As we move forward, we are excited to see our members' creations reach even greater heights and touch the lives of more people. This achievement is a proof to what can be accomplished when we come together to empower and uplift one another.











Eid Celebration with Blue Ocean: Unity in Festivity

This Eid, our members joined hands with the Blue Ocean Senior Citizens Association for a day filled with joy and togetherness. The celebration was a vibrant blend of traditions and shared experiences.

Feasting and Merriment: We began with a delightful feast, savoring the flavors of Eid that brought smiles to every face.

Mehendi Artistry by Rushda: Rushda, our talented deaf member, adorned our hands with beautiful mehendi, bridging communication through art.

D**ance and Birthday Joy**: Our dance floor came alive with music and laughter. We celebrated the birthdays of Begum, Vikessen, and Rushda, embracing the spirit of unity.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the Blue Ocean Senior Citizens Association for making this day possible. Together, we celebrated diversity and created lasting memories.

GOING GREEN

Embracing Change Through Education and Art: Our "Refuse, Reduce, Repair, Redesign, Recycle, Rethink" Initiatives

At the Youth with Disabilities Empowerment Platform, we are committed to fostering a sustainable future through our "Refuse, Reduce, Repair, Redesign, Recycle, Rethink" movement. Here are two exciting initiatives that showcase our dedication to positive change in May 2023:

Inclusive Education Session with OMEP Students: We joined hands with OMEP students, offering them a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in an inclusive education experience. For a day, they walked alongside our members, sharing knowledge and experiences. This collaborative effort not only enriched our members' lives but also helped OMEP students gain a deeper understanding of inclusivity and diversity. It's a small step with the potential for a big impact on future educators.

Slam Workshop on Environmental Preservation: Our commitment to the environment extends beyond words. We set out on a remarkable journey with Biodiversity Preservation. Our members participated in a Slam Workshop that not only educated them about the importance of environmental preservation but also honed their literacy skills through the art of slam poetry. This creative initiative empowers our youth to express their thoughts and feelings about the environment, using their voices as catalysts for change.
These initiatives are more than activities; they are stepping stones toward a more sustainable and inclusive future. We believe that through education and art, we can ignite passion and drive positive change in our community and beyond.
We extend our gratitude to all participants, partners, and supporters who make these initiatives possible. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to "Refuse, Reduce, Repair, Redesign, Recycle, Rethink."



Empowering Youth through Collaboration with Precious Plastic Mauritius

We are also excited to share a meaningful collaboration that's making a significant impact in the lives of our members in equipping them with the skills and opportunities they need to thrive. One remarkable partnership is helping us achieve just that.

Our collaboration with Precious Plastic Mauritius is all about empowering our members through hands-on training and environmental stewardship. Every week, our members participate in training sessions that not only enhance their skills but also contribute to a greener, cleaner planet.

Through this initiative, our members are gaining valuable skills in plastic waste management and recycling. They actively participate in cleaning and sorting plastic waste. This hands-on experience not only empowers them with practical skills but also instills a sense of environmental responsibility.

But it doesn't stop there. This collaboration is also an essential part of our empowerment program, which prepares our members for entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. It's a training placement that goes beyond skill-building; it's a platform for personal growth and development.

We are incredibly proud of our members' dedication and hard work in this partnership. Their commitment to both personal development and environmental sustainability is inspiring and shows the potential within each of them.

Together with Precious Plastic Mauritius, we are not just shaping a greener future, but also nurturing the potential of our youth with disabilities.

FOODIES WITH DISABILITIES

Cooking and Bakery Sessions with Le Tablier Cooking Class

We are delighted to share highlights from our recent cooking and bakery sessions in collaboration with Le Tablier Cooking Class.

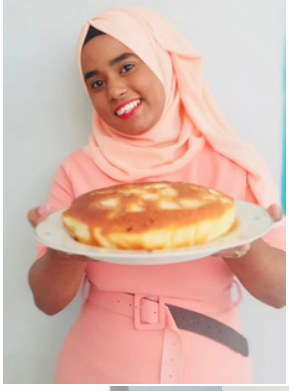
In May 2023, our members had the opportunity to delve into the world of culinary creativity with a delightful Vermicelli cake session. Under the guidance of Nafizah Bholah and her experienced chefs, our participants explored the art of crafting this unique dessert. From mastering the techniques to blending flavors, it was a hands-on experience that left everyone with a taste of accomplishment.

In August 2023, we continued our culinary experience with a session on creating a delectable Yogurt cake. It was a delightful twist that showcased the versatility of baking, and our members embraced the challenge with enthusiasm.

These cooking and bakery sessions are all about nurturing creativity, building confidence, and fostering a passion for culinary arts. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Nafizah and Le Tablier Cooking for their partnership in making these sessions possible.







Our Members Taking the Lead in the Kitchen and Garden

In a recent initiative that's part of our self-sufficiency activities and empowerment program, our members stepped into the kitchen with enthusiasm and creativity. They took the lead in baking their own delectable banana tart, showcasing their culinary talents and determination to master new skills.

But it didn't stop there. As part of our gardening and agricultural project, our members have been cultivating and harvesting lettuce in our garden. And what's more impressive is that they used this homegrown lettuce to prepare their own lunches, crafting delicious and nutritious sandwiches.

This initiative is all about self-sufficiency, empowerment, and fostering a love for food that's both sustainable and delicious.

Our members have demonstrated that with dedication and the right opportunities, they can excel in various aspects of life, including the culinary arts.

Empowering through food, sustainability, and determination!





Strengthening Bonds through Baking: A Heartfelt Lesson in the Parent Empowerment Program

In September, our parent empowerment program witnessed a beautiful and heartwarming moment when one of our parent members joined us to share her skills and create lasting memories. Farah, proud mother of a daughter with Down syndrome, came forward to share her delicious date cake recipe. This special moment not only strengthened the bond between parent and child but also exemplified the essence of empowerment within our community.

In our parent empowerment program, we believe in the power of shared experiences and skills. It's a space where parents can come together to learn, grow, and support each other. The addition of baking as an activity not only enhances culinary skills but also creates meaningful moments that foster love and connection. This heartwarming experience shows the strength of our community and the unwavering dedication of parents who champion the well-being and growth of their children.

We applaud Farah for her participation and for being a shining example of the spirit of empowerment. Moments like these remind us that together, we can create a brighter and more inclusive future for our youth with disabilities.

SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

A Day in Sports at Hybrid Pro







In September, our members enjoyed a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and sports at Hybrid Pro, thanks to the generous invitation of the Bhalan family, with the support of the Blue Ocean Senior Citizens Association. This memorable day was not only about having fun but also about prioritizing the health and well-being of all our members.

The health and happiness of our members, regardless of their abilities, are paramount.

The sports day at Hybrid Pro organized by our gracious hosts, Salim Bhalan and Narmeen Bhalan provided the perfect opportunity for all our members, including those in wheelchairs, to engage in physical activities, promoting fitness and overall well-being. It was a day where they could showcase their talents and enthusiasm on the field, reminding us all that determination knows no bounds.

The importance of keeping our members fit and healthy cannot be overstated. It contributes to their physical strength, mental resilience, and emotional well-being. It's a vital part of our mission to empower our members to live their best lives.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Salim Bhalan family and the wonderful members of the Blue Ocean Senior Citizens Association for their generosity and dedication to our cause. Your support not only provides our members with moments of joy but also underscores the significance of community and inclusion.







An Inclusive Adventure: YWDEP Joins the Ministry of Youth Empowerment in Carome Activity

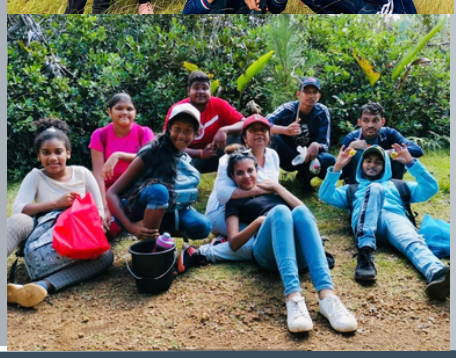
In July 2023, our journey of empowerment and inclusion reached new heights as we received a special invitation from the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports, and Recreation to participate in an initiation to Carome activity at Bagatelle.

This event was more than just a game; it was a symbol of breaking down barriers and embracing diversity. Our members joined other young individuals from various backgrounds to engage in this exciting and inclusive activity. Together, they demonstrated that inclusion knows no bounds, and differences can be the source of strength and unity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Minister, Hon. Toussaint, for recognizing the importance of inclusion and for including our members in this event. It's through such initiatives that we can collectively build a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive.

CELEBRATING ACTIVE ACHIVEMENTS: OUR MEMORABLE APRIL TRAIL AT PETRIN





In April, our members embarked on an exciting journey to promote active living and celebrate their resilience. The picturesque trails of Petrin provided the perfect backdrop for this memorable event. With enthusiasm and determination, many of our members conquered the challenging 10-kilometer trail to Mare Longue, showcasing their commitment to staying active and healthy. The journey wasn't just about physical endurance; it was an attestation of the strength and spirit that define our community.

It was a day of triumph, a day that proved that nothing is impossible when you set your mind to it and a reminder that we are a community that believes in pushing boundaries and embracing new challenges.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Making a Mark on World Environment Day 2023: Our Members Shine at SoFlo and Jumbo Phoenix Stalls

June 2023 marked a momentous occasion as we celebrated World Environment Day with a powerful display of talent, creativity, and unwavering environmental consciousness. Thanks to a collaborative effort with JCI Curepipe, our members had the opportunity to showcase their products at stalls in SoFlo and Jumbo Phoenix.

World Environment Day is a time to reflect on our commitment to protecting our planet, and what better way to do that than by supporting artisans who are dedicated to sustainability and creativity? It was a day when artistry met environmental stewardship.

Our members' products, including decorative items, handmade jewelry, and eco-friendly bags, found a welcoming and eco-conscious audience among shoppers. Each creation was not just a work of art but a statement of our members' commitment to a greener, more sustainable world.

At the stalls in SoFlo and Jumbo Phoenix, our members' eco-conscious creations not only attracted attention but also garnered sales, making it a resounding success in terms of both showcasing their talents and contributing to our mission of empowerment. It was heartwarming to witness the enthusiasm of shoppers who recognized the value of handcrafted, eco-conscious products and chose to support our cause.
We are immensely grateful to JCI Curepipe for their collaboration in making this opportunity possible. Together, we took a significant step towards raising awareness about environmental sustainability while supporting our members in their journey towards entrepreneurship.

This achievement reinforces our belief that small actions can lead to significant changes. It's a testament to the power of individuals and communities coming together to create a positive impact. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue creating more opportunities for our members to shine, inspire, and make a positive and eco-friendly impact on the world.



Spotlight on Empowerment: Interview on MBC's "Agir Ensemble"

In July 2023, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) featured an interview with our founder member, Ferozia Hosaneea, providing a platform to discuss our mission, the importance of inclusion, and the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

In this enlightening interview conducted by Josian Valere, Ferozia shared her personal journey, shedding light on the inception and evolution of the YWDEP. The conversation delved into the heart of our organization, emphasizing the pivotal role of empowerment in shaping the lives of our members. Throughout the interview, our founder member emphasized the significance of inclusion, not just as a buzzword but as a driving force behind societal change. She highlighted the barriers faced by individuals with disabilities and passionately advocated for a more inclusive and equitable world.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to MBC and Josian Valer for providing a platform to amplify our message of empowerment and inclusion. You can watch the full interview on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UX_BwxXjSG8



THANK YOU FOR READING!

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