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The Act of Parliament


I ASSENT

[LS]
IRA. M. SIMMONS,
Acting Governor.

10th April, 1972.

SAINT LUCIA

No. 9 of 1972.

AN ACT for the incorporation of the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association and for matters incidental thereto.

[10th April, 1972.]

WHEREAS there has been established in the State an Association known as the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Association should be incorporated for the purposes of carrying out the objects and exercising the powers hereinafter set forth:
BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association (Incorporation) Act 1972.

2. The Association known as the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association shall be and is hereby created a body corporate under the name of "The Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association" (hereinafter called the "Association") and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and sue and be sued in all courts of justice by that name and shall have a common seal which may be changed in accordance with the rules of the Association.

3. The functions of the Association shall be;

(a) to provide education and training as well as full placement and social services for blind persons;

(b) to assist, develop, extend and co-ordinate the activities of agencies (public or private), institutions and associations for the blind now operating or hereafter to be established, which may be deemed advantageous and for the welfare of the blind of the State;

(c) to co-operate with any other institution or association having objects similar in whole or in part to those of the Association;

(d) to do all such other acts and things as are incidental to the attainment of the objects of the Association and generally to promote the best interests of the blind of the State.
4. Subject to the provisions of any law (including this Act and any rules thereunder from time to time in force) the Association shall have the powers hereinafter set forth and such other powers as are appropriate to its objects and are from time to time specified in any such rules, that is to say:

(a) to acquire by purchase, transfer, donation, exchange, devise, bequest, grant, gift, conveyance or howsoever otherwise, any moveable or immoveable property or any estate or interest therein;

(b) subject to the provisions of section 8 to take over any moveable or immoveable property at the commencement of this Act vested in the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Committee;

(c) to accept, and enter into contracts, surrenders and reconveyances;

(d) subject to any restraint, reservation or condition contained in the document under which it shall have acquired title thereto, to sell, lease, hypothecate or otherwise dispose of and deal with all property which may from time to time be vested in or have been acquired by it.

(2) The powers conferred by this section shall be exercised subject to the rules of the Association.

5. The Association shall make rules providing for the safe custody and use of the seal.

6. All documents requiring the seal of the Association shall be sealed with its common seal in the presence of the President, or if the President is not available, a member of the Association nominated by the Associa-
tion for the purpose at the annual general meeting and the Secretary for the time being in office who shall both sign every such document, and such signing shall be 
prima facie evidence that the said seal was duly affixed and that the same is the lawful seal of the Association.

7. The Association shall at all times have a fixed address for the service of documents on the Association and such address shall be registered with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies appointed under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance. Any document to be served on the Association may be served by leaving the same at, or by sending the same by registered post to the address so registered.

8. All rights, privileges and advantages and all liabilities that immediately before the commencement of this Act the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Committee were entitled or subject to, are hereby transferred to, and or, imposed upon the Association.

9.—(1) The Association may make rules for the proper conduct of its proceedings and the discharge of its proceedings.

(2) Until such rules are made, the rules contained in the Schedule, shall subject to subsection 1 of section 9 be the rules of the Association.

10. Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of Her Majesty or of any bodies public or corporate or of any other persons except such as are mentioned or referred to in this Act, or those claiming by, through, from or under them.
No. 9.] Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association (Incorporation) Act.

SCHEDULE

1. Interpretation of terms—
   "Act" (in these rules means) the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare (Incorporation) Act 1972;
   "register" (in these rules) means the register of members kept by the General Secretary;
   "Minister" means Minister responsible for Community Development and Social Affairs.

2. Name. The name of the Association shall be the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association.

3. Patron of Association. The Association shall have a Patron who shall be requested by the Council as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act, and at any other time to serve as Patron.

4. Membership. (1) The Association shall consist of ordinary members and honorary members.
   (2) The members of the Council appointed hereinafter shall be Members of the Association.
   (3) Any person desirous of becoming a member of the Association shall apply to the Association at its fixed address.
   (4) Any person who is not an ordinary member of the Association shall ipso facto be an honorary member.
   (5) The General Secretary shall submit to the Council from time to time the names and addresses of prospective ordinary members duly recorded by him for whom qualifying subscriptions have been received at the fixed address of the Association.
   (6) All such persons may then be declared ordinary members and entered into the register of members in a notice approved by the majority of the Council.
   (7) Ordinary members shall subscribe annually the sum of three dollars; provided that a subscription of five dollars annually shall constitute both husband and wife to be ordinary members.
(a) The number of members, not being less than ten nor more than twenty which shall constitute the council for the ensuing and succeeding years.

(b) The proportion of such number, not being less than half, that shall be elected by the Association.

(2) The term of office of the members of the Council then in office shall come to an end at the conclusion of the said meeting.

(3) The members of the Association shall at the said meeting proceed to the election of the number of members of the Council to be elected. The members of the Council so elected shall retire from office at the next Annual General Meeting of the Association.

(4) The Minister shall appoint to be members of the Council a sufficient number of persons to complete the complement determined upon by the Association. The members of the Council so appointed shall remain in office for a period of not more than three years.

(5) All members of the Council retiring from office shall from time to time be eligible for re-election or re-appointment by the Minister.

(6) In the event of a member of the Council dying or resigning prior to the expiration of his term of office, the vacancy so created may be filled by the Council the person so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the term of office of the person whom he replaces.

(7) The number of members determined by the Association as constituting the Council and the proportion of such number to be elected may be varied from time to time by the Association in General Meeting, provided that the number of members to constitute the Council shall not be less than ten nor more than twenty and the proportion of such number to be elected shall not be less than half.

7. Rules. The Council may make such rules for the general conduct and management of the business, affairs, property and estate of the Association, as the Council may deem necessary or advisable; and may, in its discretion, delegate
any of its powers to any person, department, committee or association upon such terms and subject to such conditions as it may determine.

8. The Council shall engage or authorise the engagement of such officers, servants, agents and employees of the Association as it may think fit.

9. The President, or in his absence the senior Vice-President available, shall call a meeting of the Council as often as the interest of the Association demands, or if requested to do so by any five members of the Council, provided that at least one meeting of the Council shall be held in each half of the Association’s Fiscal Year. At a meeting of the Council seven members shall form a quorum and all matters dealt with shall be decided on a majority vote.

10. No paid official or employee of the Association shall be a member of the Council.

11. Officers. (1) The Officers of the Association shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers with such duties as the Council may from time to time determine.

(2) The Council may, in its discretion, elect an honorary President and one or more honorary Vice-Presidents.

12. Duties of Officers. (1) At all General meetings of the Association and at all meetings of the Council the President, or in his absence a Vice-President shall preside. In the event of neither the President nor a Vice-President being present at a meeting, the meeting shall elect one of their number to be chairman for that meeting.

(a) Notwithstanding what is stated in Rule 12 an Honorary President or Honorary Vice-President may, on invitation of the Council, preside at a General Meeting of the Association.

(2) The President shall be ex-officio a member of all committees of the Association and shall preside at the meeting of any committee at which he is present provided that if a standing chairman has been elected for any committee the latter, if present, shall preside at all meetings of such committee. In
SLBWA INFORMATION SHEET

SLBWA subscribes to and is guided by the mission of the Caribbean Council for the Blind which is preventing blindness and visual impairment while restoring sight and creating opportunities for persons whose sight cannot be restored.

We envisage a society which is inclusive and accessible to all citizens regardless of visual status and different abilities.

We believe that everyone gets affected by the impact of blindness from the individual, the family, the community and the society as a whole. Our goal at the SLBWA is to: 1. Prevent blindness and 2. Promote the best quality of life for all Saint Lucians regardless of visual status. We focus on the areas of Eye Health, Education and Rehabilitation, among other things.

Areas of Focus
- Early Detection, Intervention & Treatment
- Integrated Education
- Rehabilitation and Social Integration
- Employment & Income Generating Activities
- Projects & Resource Mobilization
SLBWA INFORMATION SHEET

Registered Office:  McVane Drive, Sans Souci, Castries
Postal Address:  P.O. Box 788, Castries, St. Lucia
Email Address:  slbwa@candw.lc
Affiliation:  Caribbean Council for the Blind (CCB)
St. John’s, Antigua
(268) 736 7401

Sight Savers International (SSI)
2a Halifax Road
Melksham
SN12 6YY
United Kingdom
01444 446 600

Auditor:  Chelan Boxill
P.O. Box 231
Castries
(758) 722 9550
(758) 485 9074

Bankers:  CIBC First Caribbean International Bank
Bridge Street, Castries

Bank of St. Lucia
Bridge Street, Castries

1st National Bank
Bridge Street, Castries

Bank of Nova Scotia
William Peter Boulevard, Castries
ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

World Braille Day is celebrated on the 4th of January every year in honor of the birthday of Louis Braille, who is the inventor of the Braille system. In 2014, the World Blind Union called on governments to sign the United Nation’s Treaty of Marrakesh. The Treaty is to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind and visually impaired.

World Glaucoma Week was celebrated under the theme “beat invisible glaucoma”. One of the highlights of the week long, 9th -15th March, celebrations was a seminar for members of St. Lucia Glaucoma Association and their families. In 2014 the annual Walk for Glaucoma was held in Canaries.

Blindness Awareness Month 2014 focused on resource mobilization. The theme for the year was “mobilizing our community, building our resources”. A planning workshop for resource mobilization was one of the highlights of the celebration. The church service which has become a staple during that celebration was held at the Odsan Pentecostal Church. Caribbean Regional Day for Blindness Awareness is 31st May.

World Sight Day World Sight Day 2014 October 9th 2014. World Sight Day is celebrated on the second Thursday of October every year. 2014 was the first year that the World Health Organization’s global action plan, encouraged their members and partners to continue with the rolling theme: Universal Eye Health. For the year, the 'call to action' for World Sight Day was: No more Avoidable Blindness.
International White Cane Day was celebrated on October 15th 2014.

Diabetes Month in November 2014

SLBWA continues to be part of the committee seeing after the celebration of Diabetes Awareness Month. Rosemary Compton is the SLBWA official representative.

World Diabetes Day is celebrated November 14th.

International Day for Persons with Disabilities The Dennery Child Development Centre and the Dennery Council of and for Persons with disabilities collaborated on activities to commemorate "International Day for Persons with disabilities" which is observed on December 3rd.

In that regard, St. Lucia’s blind and visually impaired cricketers played against sighted members of the Dennery community, in a day of Blind Cricket Extravaganza. This activity was held on 14th December at the Denary Cricket Field, and was well received by the community.
Warm greetings to all clients, members, staff, officers, benefactors and supporters of SLBWA in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, protector and sustainer of this Association.

SLBWA continues to grapple with the protracted economic problems affecting St. Lucia and the world. Indeed, the current economic and social environment is having a deleterious impact on the Association’s ability to provide needed and basic services, in addition to effectively addressing the varied personal needs of clients and their families. The problem is further compounded by the fact that most of SLBWA’s services [though critical and needs driven] are not finance generating.

To remedy the situation, SLBWA, supported by the Caribbean Council for the Blind [CCB] ,Sight Savers and other partners has successfully established Eye Care St. Lucia (ECSL) which has been operational since 2004 and has been effective in operating as the income generator for the Association. Armed with a dynamic and motivated team, with the assistance of local and international partners, ECSL is providing good quality low costs ophthalmic interventions to meet the eye health needs of children and adults. However, ECSL’s revenue generating capacity is constrained by the Association’s deliberate policy of not denying service to anyone who is unable to pay the cost of the services. Consequently, ECSL on its own is unable to sustain the Association’s multifaceted programmes which require increasingly larger sums of expenditure.

Therefore, SLBWA must continue to depend on donations, the generosity and goodwill of supporters and well wishers, government subvention and project grants by local, regional and international institutions.

The Association’s predicament attracted the attention of the Honourable Minister for Health, Ms. Alvina Reynolds, during her
keynote address to the Regional Vision 2020 and INGO meetings held in St. Lucia in December 2014. She stated: “I noted that 80% of SLBWA’s services are given to the general public free. I call on all stakeholders to invest some energy to create resource generating legs for both national and regional programmes”.

I am fervently hoping that the Honourable Minister’s call represented an expression of the Government’s commitment to proactively lead the quest to create a society inclusive of differently abled citizen. It is envisaged that this new society would be anchored by the following principles:

- It affirms the right of all citizens to live in a safe and secure environment.
- It ensures equality of opportunities for all citizens to access inclusive education, vocational/empowerment training, sports and recreation, decent employment, participation in cultural and socio-economic activities.

In that regard, we call on Government to create the appropriate legislative framework to enable this inclusive society. Moreover, Government should begin the process by ratifying the UN International Convention on Disabilities (St. Lucia signed in 2011) and enact the long awaited National Policy on Disabilities.

Colleagues, as you know, SLBWA is keenly interested in embarking upon a recycling programme to provide employment for some clients and in the process generate much needed finance to assist in the Association's multiple and much needed activities. These goals are achievable but not by investing in the current arrangements. Some local companies are collecting and shipping mainly plastic material to Asia. This system appears not to be sustainable in the medium to long term. We opine that recycling provides great opportunities, but to maximize them, the public and private sectors should invest in the development and establishment of a national recycling culture. The new culture would enable us to
manufacture a variety of goods from waste/scraps, plants, vegetables, fruits and other local material. In so doing this would encourage the development of a module for a sustainable, healthy and clean environment for all of us and generations to come to enjoy.

Fellow members, partners, supporters and colleagues, permit me to commend our Government for the following initiatives.

- An island wide programme to provide care to homebound differently able adults.
- A small disability grant programme to assist needy parents of children with disabilities. Usually the mothers are the ones solely responsible for these children.

May God continue to shower His blessings on St. Lucia and SLBWA. May we keep pursuing the goals enshrined in the shared mission of CCB. “Preventing blindness and vision impairment, while restoring sight and creating opportunities for persons whose sight cannot be restored”.

Dr. Horatius Jeffers
President
PREFACE

The year in review was affected by the following challenges:

1. Serious economic and social challenges continue to have negative impact on the Association’s service delivery capacity.
2. However, it is also true that there were some significant successes in spite of the challenges. Main highlights were:
   - Observance of World Glaucoma Week, Blindness Awareness Month, World Sight and other health/disabilities related days in March, May, October, November and December
   - Hosting the 2014 Caribbean Regional Vision 2020 meetings
   - Kids In Sight visits
   - Preparation for the new phase of the Glaucoma Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty Study
   - Planning the Community Electronic Vision Screening Project
   - Blind cricket and related activities
   - Completing the five year EU funded “Delivering Vision 2020 in the Caribbean Project”
   - Commenced preparation of the Caribbean Diabetic Retinopathy Screening and Treatment Project

This report summarizes the projects and activities of SLBWA during the year in review.
PROGRAMMES & SERVICE DELIVERY ACTIVITIES

Kids Insight 2014

The 7 member team examined 130 children and 39 adults. 29 surgeries were performed. The team also provided low vision aids and eyeglasses. In addition, 2 members of the team held a workshop for teachers of children with multi disabilities. In a second visit, a 2-member team came and examined 23 children and performed 3 surgeries to alleviate the growing number of children for the 2015 visit. The team through funding from Lions International was able to purchase a new ophthalmic microscope to facilitate the Kids Insight and SLBWA approved surgeries. The microscope is kept at the Victoria Hospital.
St. Lucia Glaucoma Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)

The 2-member team of Dr. Tony Realini and Ms. Hilda Curtis continued their quarterly monitoring visits to St. Lucia to follow up on patients in the SLT study. Dr. Realini confirmed that the success of the study allowed it to receive a 5-year grant to continue in St. Lucia and be replicated in Dominica.

The Study Team had four follow up visits and three visits to perform laser surgeries during the year. They treated 66 patients in 2014.
Delivering Vision 2020 in the Caribbean Project (CCB/EU)

The 5-year project which began in January 2010 ended in December 2014. However, a 2-year no-cost extension was granted to beneficiaries to fulfill all outstanding obligations under the project. SLBWA benefitted as follows from 2010 to the year in review:

- 1 new vehicle purchased for use in SLBWA programmes
- 1 ophthalmologist trained and qualified
- 1 refractionist trained and qualified
- 1 optometrists trained and qualified and another in training
- Refurbishment of Eye Care St. Lucia vision centers
- Glaucoma Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Study
- Regional Vision 2020 Committee Meeting
- 150 health care professional including teachers and nurses trained in primary health care and low vision
- Contribution towards salaries of 6 SLBWA employees

**Diabetic Retinopathy Screening and Treatment Programme**

The Caribbean region is identified as having the highest incidence of Diabetes in the world. Consequently, Diabetic Retinopathy is a major concern. To address this growing eye health concern, CCB submitted a proposal focused on Diabetic Retinopathy in the Caribbean to the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund.
The CCB conducted situation analyses in various islands including St. Lucia. This activity included stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, SLBWA, National Vision 2020 Committee and St. Lucia Diabetes and Hypertension Association. This programme is scheduled to begin in 2015.

**Caribbean Glaucoma KAP Study**

St. Lucia was one of 4 Caribbean countries selected to take part in this study funded by the European Union under the Caribbean Vision 2020 Programme implemented by the Caribbean Council the Blind. SLBWA, as a partner in the programme, managed the study. 150 St. Lucians were interviewed and the data collected were pooled with those from Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados. The result of the study is expected to give stakeholders better understanding of the issues affecting glaucoma patients and affect public health policy and clinical strategies in the management of the disease in the Caribbean region.

A second KAP study focused on Diabetic Retinopathy is expected to begin 2015.
International Internship for University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI Canada)

SLBWA in collaboration with Ministry of Health came to an agreement with the University Of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) to host nursing students for a 3-week internship. The project is coordinated by Dr. Janet Bryanton, Associate Professor at the University Of Prince Edward Island School Of Nursing. The first pair of nursing students arrived in St. Lucia in late May and completed in June. SLBWA made logistical arrangements of day to day assignments for the students and provided general supervision for the duration of the 3 weeks, while the University was responsible for the selection of students as well as all financial obligations. The UPEI has requested to continue the arrangement with SLBWA since the experience proved to be valuable for the students.

Volunteers

Aaron Richmond, visually impaired instructor from USA, spent 6 weeks, 3rd July to 17th August, teaching clients of SLBWA computer skills. He was understudied by Yohan Alexander, one of the SLBWA’s
clients who is being looked at to become the new SLBWA IT instructor.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)/Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Mr. Kazuki Yanase has been assigned to SLBWA for two years by JOCV/JICA. Mr. Yanase is assigned to the Administration and Projects Department to assist with project development and implementation, and community interventions.

Recycling Programme

In its committed effort in finding sustainable, income generating opportunities for its clients, SLBWA continues to pursue this programme. Two significant developments were achieved for the year.

SLBWA visited and met with representatives of the Antigua and Barbuda Waste Recycling Corporation. This exposure allowed SLBWA representatives to observe the facilities and operation procedures of the recycling plant. SLBWA also initiated consultation with St. Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority in further exploring this project.
Blind Cricket

Blind cricket continues to play an important role in the rehabilitation process of our clients. In 2014, representatives of SLBWA met with the new President of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to discuss submission of a proposal seeking collaborative support to the West Indies Cricket Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired (WICCBVI). The proposal was submitted in February 2015.

Due to financial constraints, the Windward Islands were unable to participate in the Regional Blind Cricket Tournament in Jamaica in July 2014. Similarly, the West Indies Blind Cricket Team was not able to participate in the 2014 Blind Cricket World Cup in South Africa November to December.
SLBWA and the Windward Islands continue to pursue sources of funding to promote and support blind cricket.

**SLBWA Building Facelift**

SLBWA embarked on a facelift activity to improve the exterior look of its building. M & C/Goddard Group of Companies was the main sponsor for the materials. The Seventh Day Adventist Community Relations Group provided labour for the first phase of the activity. This project is expected to be completed in 2015.
STUDENTACTIVITIES

Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS)

SCIVIS Space Camp 2014 was held from 20th to 28th September in Huntsville, Alabama, USA. Two students from St. Lucia participated; Tevin Joseph and Arthur James, along with their chaperone, specialist itinerant teacher, Mrs. Shermie James-Darcheville. Four other students were chosen but were denied American visas by the US Embassy in Barbados, which would allow them to travel to USA.

Christmas Party

Students of the Multiple Disability with Vision Impairment (MDVI) programme from Castries and Dennery centers were treated to the annual Christmas party jointly hosted by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition at the Prime Minister’s residence in Vigie, Castries.
Water Therapy

The Water Therapy programme for children with multiple disabilities and vision impairment was launched on 28th February at the Rodney Heights Aquatic Center.

Digicel’s Fun Sport Fiesta

Blind and visually impaired students participated in the annual fun sports hosted by Digicel in collaboration with the Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education.

25 children accompanied by their teachers and parents attended the activity at the Beausejour Cricket Ground indoor facility. The event was a success.
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Disability Grant

The Government of St. Lucia through the Ministry of Social Transformation launched a grant programme for children with special needs. Each child approved will receive a $200.00 monthly stipend to assist with care and supplies.

SLBWA is responsible for vision assessments of these children. Application forms for the grant are available at SLBWA.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

The Government of St. Lucia is embarking on a Universal Health Coverage initiative which intends to make health care more accessible. The goal is to improve the health status of the population. The Ministry of Health is charged with defining the guaranteed package of health services.

Eye health and disabilities is listed as one of the 12 priority areas under this initiative. SLBWA and stakeholders made the following recommendations:

- Need to include low vision in the template
- Need to include living with blindness issues (education, employment, etc.)
- Need to address free glaucoma medication
- Need to address accessibility when planning infrastructure (i.e. hospital)

Sustainable Development of Small Developing States (SIDS)

The Government brought together a wide cross section of civil society organization, to work on St. Lucia’s report to be submitted at the 3rd international conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

SLBWA’s focus at the meeting was education, capacity building development and technology.
COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Health Fair and Community Screening

SLBWA engaged in numerous health fairs and community screening island wide. In 2014, 1,838 persons were screened in communities. In addition, a total of 394 students were screened from 9 different schools.

Calypso

A partnership was formed with the Spectrum Calypso Tent for part proceeds of gate receipts for all their shows during the calypso season.

SLBWA for its part organized press briefings, assisted with advertising of shows and assisted on show nights.

In spite of good intentions, the venture with Spectrum Calypso Tent failed due to the lack of sponsorship and support. In fact, Spectrum withdrew from the competition.
Newsletter

SLBWA launched the *Eye Opener Newsletter* to disseminate information to members and the general public regarding eye health, SLBWA activities and projects. This task was spearheaded by a public relations committee formed to enhance SLBWA’s capacity in sensitizing and educating the public.

Courtesy Visit

SLBWA welcomed Lion Izett McCalla, Governor of Multiple Districts 6B on 11\(^{th}\) April 2014.

Lion McCalla paid a courtesy call on the Association. He was impressed with the Kids Insight Project and offered to get involved with Jamaica Society for the Blind in his homeland.
CLIENT SUPPORT

- Dana Collymore and family were recipients of a home in Paix Bouche, Babonnean, built by Good News Team. Dana and her husband are parents of 2 year old Nikki Collymore who is totally blind and is a client of SLBWA. Good News is a Roman Catholic organization based in USA headed by Dr. Chuck McCarthy.

- $15,854.22 was expensed in direct support to SLBWA clients in 2014.

- Twenty families are received food vouchers during the Christmas season. The vouchers are part of the St.Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF) Koudmein Ste. Licie programme.

- SLBWA received 2 water tanks donated by NEMO.
**PENDING PROJECTS**

**National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC)**

In 2014, SLBWA submitted a proposal to the Universal Service Fund through NTRC with the following objectives:

1. To upgrade communication technology services to address issues relating to capacity and ageing technology
2. To align with technological trends
3. To increase wireless coverage throughout SLBWA programmes in Castries and Dennery
4. To provide ICT access to Dennery Child Development Center (DCDC) to facilitate teaching and training

To date many site visits have been facilitated. SLBWA awaits the commencement of the project. The total cost of the project is US $39,950.00

**Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme (CARCIP)**

SLBWA presented a proposal totaling $19,312.00 to the Government of St. Lucia through the Department of Planning and National Development under the Business Incubator Grant (BIG) of CARCIP for the development of a website and database for the Association. The BIG programme ends in December 2017.

**Mop Head Production**

SLBWA continues to produce mop heads for resale to the public. In 2014, 5,782 mop heads were produced by 3 totally blind and 1 visually impaired person. The total revenue (actual receipt) from the sale of mops during the reviewing period is $41,355.65.

A comprehensive review of the mop head production will be undertaken in 2015 by the JOCV volunteer assigned to SLBWA.
STAFF ENGAGEMENT

The year proved to be a year of change especially in the area of human resource. We said goodbye to Dr. Edem Jongue-Gutierrez who joined SLBWA in 2009 as Optometrist, and welcomed Ms. Marlynn Lendor, a fresh graduate of Optometry from University of Guyana who was a recipient of a scholarship from Delivering Vision 2020 in the Caribbean Project.


Mr. Manasseah Philip joined the staff of Dennery Child Development Center as teacher.

During the year CCB appointed three SLBWA officers to fill in part time positions for some of its projects. Eye Health Officer, Mrs. Denise Godin, facilitated low vision training and Dr. Edem Jongue-Gutierrez lectured two curriculum courses at the School of Optometry, University of Guyana. Adjustment to Blindness Officer, Mrs. Winnifred Weekes, facilitated an Adjustment to Blindness workshop in Trinidad and Tobago.

Staff members represented SLBWA in various conferences, workshops and meetings hosted by various ministries of government, CCB, other NGO’s and civil society organizations, locally, in the region and internationally; some of those include:

- World Suicide Prevention Day Symposium hosted by Mental Wellness Center
- Launch of St. Lucia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey hosted by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Transformation
- Increasing Caribbean Advocacy through Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- SIDS consultation on Sustainable Development of Small Island States by civil society organizations hosted by St. Lucia National Trust
- Seeing Beyond the Horizon conference in Halifax, Canada hosted by Canadian National Institute for the Blind
- Consultation for Universal Health Care in St. Lucia hosted by Ministry of Health
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ST LUCIA BLIND WELFARE ASSOCIATION which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2014, and the statements of changes in equity, comprehensive income and cash flows for the year then ended.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors’ Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors’ judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal controls relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ST LUCIA BLIND WELFARE ASSOCIATION as December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

[Signature]

[Stamp: Chartered Accountant]
CONCLUSION

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is to promote, protect and ensure the full fundamental rights and freedom for all persons with disabilities and promote respect for their dignity.

CRPD continues to impact persons with disabilities in St. Lucia and the rest of the world.

St. Lucia signed the Convention in September 2011 (it is one of the eight countries in the region) SLBWA continues to advocate for the ratification of the Convention.

Dr. Aubrey Webson, former Director of the Perkins International Programme, in Boston, USA and has been appointed Ambassador to the United Nations by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Dr. Webson is an astounding reality that everyone can make a contribution regardless of visual status. We offer heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency.

In 2015, SLBWA would like to call for the recommitment of all members to assist the Association in its quest to campaign the right to sight and equal opportunity for all.
SLBWA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President         Dr. Horatius Jeffers
1st Vice President Mr. Rodney Maxius
2nd Vice President Ms. Jessica Jacobie
Treasurer         Mr. Johnson Cenac
Secretary         Ms. Ashlene Melius
Assistant Secretary Ms. Rosemary Compton
Senior Advisor    Mr. Anthony Louis
Public Relations Officer Ms. Claudia MonLouis
Representatives for Mr. Yohan Alexander
   Blind Men     Mr. Orlando Alcide
Representatives for Mrs. Juliana Alexander
   Blind Women  Ms. Stacia Jules
Representative for Mr. Philip Charlery
   St. Lucia Glaucoma Association
Representative for Mrs. Monica Felix
   Lions Clubs of St. Lucia
Representatives for Mr. Mervyn Charles
   Government of St. Lucia
   Nurse Juliette Joseph
Floor Representatives Mrs. Carolyn Simmons
   Ms. Natalie Remy
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Governor General of St. Lucia
Auberge Seraphine
Bank of Nova Scotia
Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Caribbean Council for the Blind
CCB EyeCare Guyana
Consolidated Food Limited
Courts St. Lucia Ltd.
Choice Television
Daher Broadcasting System
Digicel
Disabled Persons International
1st National Bank
Government Information Service
Governor General of Saint Lucia
Hilton Perkins School for the Blind
HTS
Jamaica Society for the Blind
LIME
Lions Clubs of St. Lucia
M&C Group of Companies
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Ms. Alphia Felix
Ms. Karleen Edwin
Ms. Claudia Henry
Mr. Justin Small
Ms. Kedia Daniel
National Council Of and For Older Persons
National Community Foundation
National Council Of and For Persons with Disabilities
National Insurance Corporation
National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Pawasol Pour Ti Mamai
Rise St. Lucia Inc
Child Development and Guidance Center
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)/
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)
Sightsavers International
The Voice Newspaper
St. Lucia Electricity Services Ltd
St. Lucia Red Cross Society
St. Lucia Social Development Fund
Sterling Insurance Services Ltd.
Sunswept Resorts
Think Caribbean Television
Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport
Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations
Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment
Ministry of Youth Development and Sports
Customs and Excise
All individuals who wish to remain anonymous
Staff of SLBWA
Members and Friend of SLBWA
Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association

EYE CARE SAINT LUCIA

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Resident Ophthalmologist

Fully Equipped Eye Clinic

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✔ Diabetic Retinopathy screening
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✔ Counseling for all eye problems