

# SERVOL

# News

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## Times and Seasons



Building Communities

Over time and seasons, we find opportunities for growth at every stage of life. This process of development contributes to the maturity required for our progress.

Over the past three years, Servol has encountered periods of heightened productivity, catalyzing a paradigm shift that has challenged the existing norms, all within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this period, we continually reminded ourselves of the necessity to align our actions with a shared purpose. This commitment was imperative, as it ensured the continuity of our mission after 53 years of dedicated service to our nation. *Servol's contribution during these times, as envisioned by its founder, Father Gerard Pantin, underscores a poignant truth: "History has a way of repeating itself, and these days are no exception."* (Cont'd Page 2)

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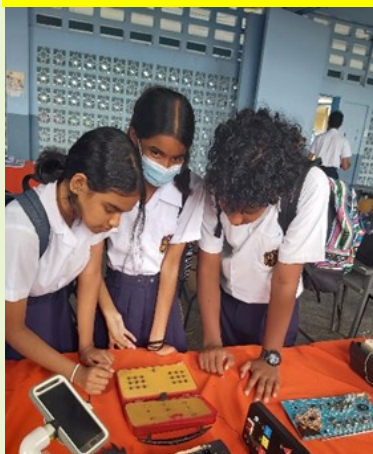
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PROGRAMME (P.O.P.)**

# Times and Seasons



Ms. Allison Haynes Basalo,  
Executive Director Servol

**I**t is during these seasons that an organization's successes and failures are determined. These seasons significantly influence our lives, prompting the need for constant reflection and evaluation of the relevance of our daily actions.

This assessment extends to our activities at the various centres where we operate, our interactions with trainees and parents in our communities, and most importantly, our treatment of one another.

We currently find ourselves in a season marked by challenges like the COVID-19, ongoing global conflicts in regions like Russia and Ukraine, rising crime rates in Trinidad and Tobago, and the far-reaching effects of global warming.

The consequences of these issues include the displacement of communities due to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, disruptions to economic development, threats to food production, escalating water crises, and heightened public health risks.

As articulated in an online article, the impacts of climate change will not be evenly distributed, with the most vulnerable communities, including small-island states, facing the brunt of these challenges. These communities often bear the burden of environmental hazards, rely heavily on resource-based livelihoods such as agriculture, and possess limited resources to cope with the consequences of climate change. Many of these impacts, whether on wildlife, land, water, or people, are often irreversible once they occur.

If these events do not compel us to embrace the principle of being our brothers' keepers, how can we truly appreciate the significance of the times and seasons in our lives? In anticipation of this critical juncture, we have chosen the theme "*Times & Seasons*".

As stated in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "For everything, there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." This timeless wisdom reminds us that life unfolds in a series of phases, each with its unique character: birth and death, planting and harvesting, joy and sorrow, building and tearing down, embracing and refraining, gaining and losing, and speaking and keeping silent". These verses resonate with everyone in the Servol family as we recognize our shared experiences.

Now, we embark on a journey through the "*Times and Seasons*" we have encountered and will continue to face united. Let us carry forward the legacy of Father Gerry Pantin, the visionary whose spark continues to illuminate every Servol Life Centre across Trinidad and Tobago. With inspiration and unity, we commit ourselves to uplifting lives and forging a future where every individual can flourish.

*By Ms. Allison Haynes Basalo, Executive Director Servol*



#### 25 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Janelle De Four, Hazel Ann Morris, Onise-gun Skinner-Sandy, Thessa Thomas, Cheryl-Ann Waldron and Dianne Reuben

**On** September 1st, 2023, the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA) burst back to life, ending a two-year hiatus and placing Servol's Day of Solidarity at centre stage. It was a "*Fantastic Friday*" marked by warm embraces, friendly reunions, joyful greetings, beaming smiles, and the ubiquitous posing for photographs. The theme, "*Times and Seasons*," matched the anticipation surrounding of Day of Solidarity's

return. The programme underwent revisions to capture the essence of the event and establish the mood for the opening acts, featuring Mr. Wendell Lucas and Mr. Damien Hannuman.

The Executive Director Mrs. Allison Haynes - Basalo, delivered her opening address, and Mr. Douglas Camacho, Chairman, shared his thoughts with the nearly **500** Servol employees.

*By Renrick Daniel, Marketing Dept. Servol*



#### 10 YEAR SERVICE AWARDEES

(L to R) Heidi Brown, Tressa Charles, Tricia Collins, Melisa Phillip Kirton, Natasha Lee, Amira St. Clair, Renrick Daniel and Jason Rolle.



## ***A VERY SPECIAL VISIT***

Servol was privileged in 2023, to welcome two old friends and Servol workers from the 70's. Fondly known as ***"Bumper" and "Corps"***, Leading Seaman David Grant (Bumper) and Corporal Reynold Henry (Corps) happened to be in Trinidad at the same time and visited our Administration Building in Oxford Street, Port of Spain. These gentlemen were two of the early Servol workers back in the day.

***"Bumper"*** was one of the sailors who were among the 12 Army and Coast Guard personnel assigned to work with Fr. Gerry in 1970. While others were given work among the communities in East Dry River, Beetham and Sealots, Bumper was assigned to work with the Community in St. Barb's, Laventille and worked alongside Dr. Michael Camps and Nurse Marilyn Stollmeyer in the Servol Clinic on the top of the hill. He organized the visits and supplies for the clinic. He was always there to welcome the medical staff and chat with the patients, who appreciated his jovial and happy personality and his willingness to help far beyond the call of duty.



*(Left to Right) Corporal Reynold Henry (Corps), Sister Ruth Montrichard, Director Emeritus, Servol, & Leading Seaman David Grant (Bumper)*

***"Corps"*** came on the scene when, in 1975, Servol's first Women's Training Programme was established in Laventille Road, where the Moravian Church Hall was shared with the Servol Special School in those days. When the children left at 3:00 pm, the young women arrived to begin their course from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Being an experienced Chef, Corps came on board in his free time twice a week to work with the young women.

There was no state-of-the-art kitchen like we now have in Servol: a small stove with an oven, an old table, and a few donated pots and pans were all we could afford. In those days, funds were none existent, so everything that was made had to be sold.

So cakes, pastries, bread and party snacks were the main produce. Learning to do this, they began in small ways to produce items at home to sell in their communities, giving them some income. Corps was very proud of his students as they were also trained to work in hotels and restaurants and were able to get jobs. Corps was always a pleasure to work alongside. He was happy but serious about his work and always went the extra mile to ensure his students were on-top of their game.

These two foundation members of Servol will always be remembered with affection and gratitude for their many years of service in what was at the time a very 'New Programme'. Their contribution set the tone and the path for what Servol has become today. With some 200 Centres spread across Trinidad and Tobago Servol **offers over twenty (20) Skill Training Programmes in Geriatric Nursing, Catering and Hospitality as well as, in Construction Skills and Auto-mechanics, Hi-Tech courses and Computer Programmes.**

Servol administers Day Care Centres, Early Childhood and Junior Life Centres as well as two Special Schools for differently-abled children. With a staff of some 500 persons at all levels, Servol continues to quietly serve the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thanks to those who came in the early days, with some help from the Government and local fund raising, the organization has grown and developed over the years.

***We continue to be grateful to "Bumper" and "Corps" to all our staff, and to all those from the business and local community who continue to give their support and help.***

*By Sister Ruth Montrichard, Director Emeritus*

## DAY CARE WORKSHOP ON MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health is a crucial aspect of overall well-being, fostering the ability to navigate life's challenges, recognize personal capabilities, engage in effective learning and work, and contribute positively to one's community. It serves as an essential foundation for individual and collective decision-making, relationship-building, and shaping the world we inhabit.

On Friday, October 27th, 2023, the participated in a workshop led by Mrs. Irma Bailey-Reyes, a School Psychologist from the Developmental Assessment and Intervention Unit (SSSD). The workshop covered key topics, including the recognition of burnout, stress management, and self-care strategies.



The workshop yielded several benefits, including enhancements in learning, creativity, productivity levels, social relationships, physical health, and life expectancy. A paramount advantage of maintaining good mental health is the capacity to cope with challenging times in both personal and professional spheres.

Even during moments of pain, confusion, or anger, such as dealing with the loss of a loved one, facing setbacks at work, or encountering relationship issues, good mental health empowers individuals to address these challenges constructively and in a timely manner.

**Thank You ! Mrs. Irma Bailey-Reyes.**

## Exciting Updates from the Marketing Department!

**T**his year, we took on a '*Special Task*' to introduce the concept of "*Alternative Education*" to specific groups of parents and students during Secondary School Career Day events.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with a notable increase in '*at-risk students*' choosing Servol for skills training.

Following the closure of the Trinidad and Tobago Hotel School (TTHI), we've experienced a surge in requests for our Hospitality and Food Preparation Programme. In response, we conducted presentations at select career opportunities, generating considerable excitement.



The North Zone Hospitality team, supported by informative Servol Hospitality videos, played a crucial role in these successful endeavors.

Moreover, we reintroduced the highly popular Secondary Schools' Forms 4 & 5 Hospitality Friday visits, with some schools making repeat visits, bringing groups of up to sixty students at a time.

During our presentations this year, the highest demand skills remain consistent: Welding, Hospitality, ICT, Beauty Culture, Nursing, Electrical, and Auto Mechanics. These fields continue to draw significant interest from prospective students and their parents.



*By Valerie Remy ,Marketing Officer*



## Beautiful You Season 2 Fashion Tour

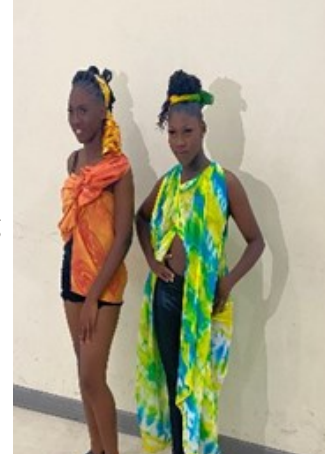
On June 3rd, 2023, the enchanting International Beautiful You Fashion Tour graced NAPA in Port of Spain, Trinidad. This spectacular event illuminated the talents of three local designers from Trinidad and Tobago, alongside The University of Trinidad and Tobago's esteemed Fashion Design Program. The true star of the show, however, was the captivating diversity of models who took the stage, proudly representing various shapes, sizes, races, genders, ages, and abilities. Each model showcased garments that celebrated inner beauty, challenging conventional external beauty standards.

The event was orchestrated by the charismatic Mr. Dewayne, also known as Mr. Debonair, who served as the Executive Producer and host. With over 21 years of global show production experience, this marked his second visit to Trinidad. Mr. Dewayne's motivation extended beyond the runway, as he harbored a genuine desire to personally connect with the **"Special School Students"** who had participated in the previous year's show. During his visit, he took the time to tour their facility and express gratitude to both the students and instructors. Our Marketing team was delighted to facilitate this meaningful interaction, enabling Mr. Dewayne to engage with both the Special School and the San Juan Junior Life School.



In a heartwarming turn of events, fifteen children from these schools joined the modelling cast, delivering an impressive performance after just one day of practice. Their confident presence on the NAPA stage resonated with the audience, eliciting enthusiastic applause. To acknowledge our significant contribution to the event's success, the organization honored us with a certificate of appreciation. Furthermore, we have been extended an invitation to participate in the upcoming Season 3, a testament to the positive impact we've made on the International Beautiful You Fashion Tour.

*By Valerie Remy, Marketing Officer*



### Help us to help them

**WE BELIEVE  
IN HUMAN POTENTIAL**

SERVOL has impacted over  
250,000 lives.

**We are Dedicated to Our  
Mission of Saving our Young people**

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to enable us to sustain our vital work.

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**We look forward to your support!!**

## Thank you.. For your donation

The St Andrews Regional Life Centre, ADP Department express our gratitude to the generous contributors for their donation of much-needed chairs. Special thanks to Kenneth Boodhu, President, our dedicated Board of Education and Mr. Kumar Hardath, a member of the Sangre Grande Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of Sangre Grande has maintained a longstanding and fulfilling partnership with the Life Centre. Throughout the years, the club has actively supported various projects at the Centre, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to empowering the youth of our nation.

*By: Wendy Lyons Coordinator of the St Andrews Regional Life Centre.*



*(L-R) Kenneth Boodhu, &  
Wendy Lyons, Servol*



*(L-R) Kumar Hardath &  
Wendy Lyons, Servol*



# SERVOL SPECIAL SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY

Thursday, October 26, 2023, is a date that will forever hold a special place in our hearts, marking an auspicious occasion for SERVOL Special School as we celebrate our **FIRST** Graduation Ceremony in our fifty-one-year history. This significant event unfolded at the Barataria Community Centre in Barataria, carrying the inspiring theme, **"BE GREAT: FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS."**



Of the fourteen students who graduated, twelve bravely undertook the School Leaving Examination, which paved the way for them to pursue their dreams and aspirations. The atmosphere was euphoric as these young individuals basked in the sense of accomplishment that this momentous day brought. Now, they eagerly await their examination results, looking forward to the next steps on their journey. Among the distinguished attendees were key figures from SERVOL Ltd., including the Executive Director, Ms. Allison Haynes Basalo, Executive Director, Ms. A. Wilson, Deputy Director, Public Relations Officer, Mr. R. Daniel, Ms. E. Courtney, Programme Coordinator for Special Schools, and Ms. A. Brewster, Principal of Happy Venture, graced the event with their presence.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Valerie Remy, Marketing Officer, Servol Ltd, delivered an inspirational address to the eager young graduates. She emphasized the importance of setting and pursuing their goals and urged them to keep their dreams alive. Ms. Remy encouraged them to dare to dream the seemingly impossible dream, reinforcing their belief in their capabilities.

The valedictorian, Mr. Richard Cummings, took a trip down memory lane, reminding his fellow graduates of the challenges they've faced and the progress they've made. He passionately encouraged them to maintain their focus and dedication as they embark on their journeys toward realizing their dreams.

Each graduate was awarded an award recognizing their exceptional academic achievements or outstanding social skills. Notably, Taye Oliver received the Principal's Challenge Trophy for exceptional leadership.

On behalf of the dedicated staff, appreciative parents/guardians, and supportive stakeholders of SERVOL Special School, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed special guests for their unwavering support and encouragement. To our graduates, we extend our warmest congratulations and inspire them to pursue their dreams relentlessly.

*By: Geraldine Martin-Roberts, Principal, SERVOL Special School*



Drumology by the Graduating Students.



Sign language done by graduating students



Student receiving Certificate of Completion



**Congratulations**



Graduation Dance



## Servol Junior Life Center, Cascade

***“Ah not goin’ in dat hot sun!”*** commented a student as we moved into the garden to plant. With a mixture of a bag of emotions ranging from nervousness, eagerness, boredom, distracted looks we began our first day at **Servol Cascade Life Center, Cascade**.

It was not easy to capture the attention of 15- to 16-year-olds especially when we had to dig **‘nests’** to plant our **‘baby’** root crops, but slowly with ‘growing’ enthusiasm, their love of planting bloomed.

They were amazed after returning from their Christmas break to see the different range of flowers, taller ornamental plants and fruit trees, pumpkin, and sweet potato vines etc., that they planted along with a wide variety of butterflies, bees and other insects.

Aside from the garden planting We do a mix-tasting of various fruits, introduce them to various animals to hold and talk about, survival techniques eg de-husking a coconut without tools, stretching and breathing exercises, drawing , games, helping them to build positive relationships.

More excitement rose when we would brought a **‘surprise’** animal. Some ran as we brought out a 4 foot rainbow boa , baby iguanas, or a 4 foot caiman but they all came back, including the teachers, and the most students proudly touched or held these creatures.



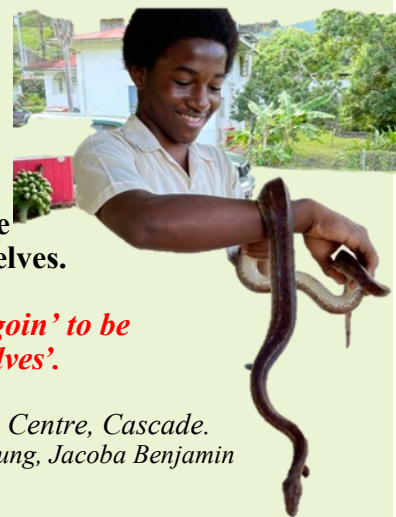
### Why are we doing this?

***Our Knowledge:*** We can learn how to grow our own food and minimize dependency.

***Our Wealth:*** We can feed ourselves and reduce our food import bill.

***Our Health:*** We can grow without chemicals.

***Our Ecosystem:*** Instead of ‘fearing’ our environment we can come to love God’s Garden of ‘Eden’ for all creatures including ourselves.



One student prayed, ***‘Let us appreciate wat we learnin’ now because we not goin’ to be in school all d time and someday we will be out there and we can feed ourselves’.***

*By: Charlene Woo Ling, Volunteer Junior Life Centre, Cascade.  
Contributors to the Project also include: Joshua Benjamin, Daniel Young, Jacoba Benjamin*



## **SERVOL'S MISSION STATEMENT**

*Servol is an organization of weak, frail, ordinary, imperfect yet hope filled and committed people seeking to help weak, frail, ordinary, imperfect, hope-drained people become agents of attitudinal and social change in a journey which leads to total human development.*

*It does so through respectful intervention in the lives of others and seeks to empower individuals and communities to develop as role models for the nation.*



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