Women's Month 2023









Design and Layout by:



Content Prepared by:

Nahym Leiva

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT National Women's Commission





HON.

Polores Balderamos Garcia

MINISTER OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, **FAMILIES & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AFFAIRS**

On March 8th Belize joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day. Since 1911 this day has been highlighted as a day to reflect, recognize and celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political gains that women have made, despite a world that is plagued by gender inequalities and inequities.

In Belize we have designated the month of March as Women's Month. For this month we call on our Government, Civil Society, the Sector as well as institutions such as schools and churches to focus increased attention on promoting the human and civil rights of women and girls.

The theme for this year's celebrations "#embrace equity" acknowledges the need for more urgent and direct action to enhance fairness, inclusion, and the creation of a

supportive environment for the achievement of Gender Equality and Equity. The National Gender Policy is a strategic tool that aims to support the achievement of these goals. Its 6 pillars include Health, Education and Skills Training, Wealth and Employment Creation, Violence Reduction Measures, Power and Decision Making, and Organizational System Strengthening.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2022 Belize has made gains in maternal health. But we must continue to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services that include early screening for cervical cancer and access to family planning information.

In Education: Let us continue to ensure that women have access to continuing education and skills training. Our women and girls must be able to learn and grow in an environment that is safe from sexual harassment in schools, and other learning centers. Let us have zero tolerance towards any form of abuse.

In Employment and Wealth Creation: We are painfully aware that Women in Belize are 30% less likely than men to participate in income earning activities. This number is even less for women once they are married. This reality reflects women's gendered role as unpaid caregivers to children, the sick and the elderly. Let us work to bring about positive change.

For Violence Producing Conditions: Unfortunately, we continue to see a rise in reports of GBV/DV. And many still considered violence in the home a private matter However, we know that GBV is a human rights violation and is a matter for all of us, without exception.

On the bright side we continue to see progress in government supporting small enterprises led by women.

WE are in the process of establishing a Women's Parliamentarian Caucus in our National Assembly.

In addition, we have sterling support on women's issues form our Special Envoy Rossana Briceno

And recently Cabinet have given approval for removing taxes on sanitary pad and products which as we know is gender specific.

Women of Belize let us join in celebrating ourselves and all women under the theme #EmbraceEquity, and, let us join partner agencies and civil society in our communities for advocacy and action for a better Belize.

A HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TO EVERYONE!!!



H.E.

Rossana Briceno

SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

MARCH 8, 2023

Women's Month is an opportunity to recognize the vital role that women play in shaping our world. Let us remember that this is not only a time to reflect on the incredible achievements and progress made by women in different aspects of life, but also an opportunity to acknowledge the work that still needs to be done to achieve true gender equity.

This year's theme #EmbraceEquity focuses on being fair and impartial. This requires us to ensure that everyone, regardless of their gender, has equal access to opportunities, resources, and benefits. It is about creating a leveled playing field where individuals

can thrive based on their abilities, rather than their gender, and most importantly, let us remember that women's rights are human rights.

Creating a more equitable society requires us to challenge our biases and preconceptions about gender. It requires us to examine our policies and practices and make sure that they are fair and inclusive for everyone. It also requires us to actively support and encourage women and other underrepresented groups to take on leadership roles and pursue their dreams. Women need to support other women.

This Women's Month, we are once again honored to recognize some outstanding women who have made remarkable contributions to their communities by following their dreams and passions. These women have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, dedication, and perseverance in pursuing their goals, and have emerged as role models for others, especially young girls.

Let us join together in celebrating these exceptional women, and in recommitting ourselves to continue the work of Embracing Equity.

HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH!





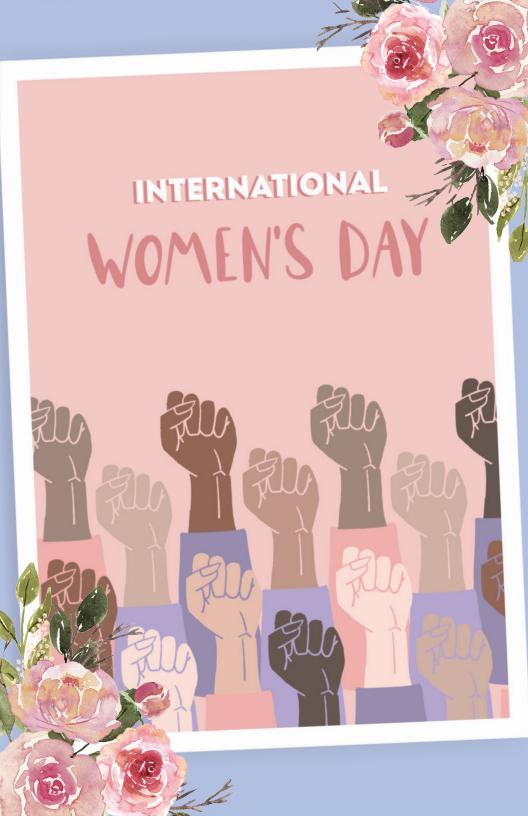
Mrs. Thea Garcia Ramirez

PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMISSION
COORDINATING BODY
FOR WOMEN'S MONTH

Every Year during the observance of the Women's Month we reflect on how far women's rights have come and indeed, how far we have yet to go to achieve equality. We reflect on all the things we are yet to accomplish and this year we especially raise our voices to focus on the need for equity to achieve equality, our theme #EmbraceEquity asks each of us in our own spaces and sphere of influence to reach out and ensure that where we can we must level the playing field so that women are able to participate as equal partners in the development of Belizean economics, academia, politics, civil society, society and in every community at every level. Women have helped to shape and build Belize throughout its short history, and contemporary women leaders continue to blaze the trail for the next generation of women to have the same human rights, and to enjoy the same opportunities as men in Belize.

We take the time to honour and recognize these brave and bold women who continue to transform the lives of other women, their own communities and the entire country through their tireless work, advocacy, entrepreneurship and efforts. They are a true testament of the brave and indomitable spirit of the Belizean Woman. Today and everyday we say thank you for your contributions, your leadership and your example. We salute you!





International Women's Day MARCH 8TH

International Women's Day (March 8th) is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world putting women and women's rights on the global agenda making it the force behind this day. It is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.

The tradition of celebrating International Women's Day represents over a century of struggle for equality, justice, peace, and development. The idea of a day for women, celebrated all over the world, began in America and Europe. The focus was the movement for women's rights and achieving universal suffrage for women. Between 1913 and 1917 women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

The International Women's Day protest that hanged the world occurred in Russia in 1917 (March 8th by Western Reckoning, February 23 on the Georgian calendar). Coming on the rise of long struggle and many strikes, International Women's Day 1917 inspired thousands of Russian women to leave their homes and factories to protest the terrible shortages of food, the high prices, the world war, and the increased suffering they had bitterly endured. The protest inspired the last push of a revolution. A general strike spread through Petrograd, and within a week, Czar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate. After 1917, and in honor of women's role in the Russian Revolution, International Women's Day secured its place on March 8th on socialist calendars.

In the early days of its observance, International Women's Day was celebrated as a socialist holiday honoring working women. With the resurgence of feminism in the 1960s came a renewed interest in International Women's Day. Feminists found it a ready-made holiday for the celebration of women's lives and work and began promoting March 8th as such. In Belize, the first International Women's Day was observed in the late 1970s and was initiated by a strong group of women from various organizations. Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new dimension for women in Belize. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by the global United Nation's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process. Increasingly in Belize International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change, to celebrate the acts of courage and determination by ordinary Belizean women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights. Originally, International Women's Day was commemorated in Belize by planning and executing a week of activities in March. In 2009, to provide more agencies with opportunities to highlight women's issues and the achievements of women in observance of International Women's Day, the Women's Department transformed what was originally Women's Week into Women's Month in March.

Schedule of Events

ON GOING THROUGH THE MONTH OF MARCH

COUNTRYWIDE

TUESDAY - MARCH 8

International Women's Day

COROZAL DISTRICT

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1ST

INFORMATION BOOTH AT SAN NARCISO POLY CLINIC FOR MEN'S FAIR TO PROMOTE PROSTATE TESTING

Organizing Agency: NWC, San Narciso Poly Clinic & NDACC; Open Event

TALK SHOW Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Bahia Radio Station

THURSDAY - MARCH 2ND

WALKATHON Organizing Agency: Police Dept. Venue: Corozal Town

SUNDAY - MARCH 5TH

CHURCH SERVICE Organizing Agency: Police Dept. Venue: St. Paul's Anglican Church

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 8TH

COMMUNITY SERVICE /PAINTING Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Beach Park, Corozal

THURSDAY - MARCH 9TH

WELLNESS AND INFORMATION FAIR

Organizing Agency: Women's Department; Venue: Corozal Free Zone; Contact: Makesha Suazo, 615-9658; **Open Event**; 9:00AM – 2:00PM

FRIDAY - MARCH 10TH

SELF DEFENCE TRAINING Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: TBD

TUESDAY - MARCH 14TH

COMMUNITY SERVICE / CLEAN UP

Organizing Agency: Police Dept. Venue: Central Park

INFORMATION BOOTH AT SAN NARCISO VILLAGE

Organizing Agency: Nery Ramirez; Open Event

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 15TH

MEET AND GREET Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Corozal Town

THURSDAY - MARCH 16TH

SELF DEFENSE CLASS Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: TBD

FRIDAY - MARCH 17TH

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! SELF CARE AND WELLNESS EXPO

Organizing Agency: Women's Department and NGBVC; Venue: Corozal Civic Center; Contact: Makesha Suazo, 615-9658; Namely Rancharan, 621-3109; **Open Event**; 9:00AM – 2:00PM

INFORMATION BOOTH AT SAN NARCISO POLY CLINIC FOR WOMEN'S MONTH

Organizing Agency: NWC; San Narciso Poly Clinic, NDACC; Open Event

R&R Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Secret Beach San Pedro

TUESDAY - MARCH 21ST

BREAKFAST MORNING Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Corozal Police Station

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 22ND

REGIONAL WORKSHOP Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: D'Gym Club

FRIDAY - MARCH 24TH

INFORMATION BOOTH AT SAN PEDRO POLYCLINIC WOMEN'S MONTH

Organizing Agency: NWC, San Pedro Poly Clinic, NDACC; **Open Event**

SATURDAY - MARCH 25TH

EMBRACE EQUITY TALK FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF HECOPAB, FREE GLUCOSE AND HYPERTENSION TESTING

Organizing Agency: HECOPAB; Venue: Corozal Public Library; Contact: Mrs. Elena Castaneda, 422-3751; **Open Event**; 4:30PM

MONDAY - MARCH 27TH

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Help Age Home for Elders

TUESDAY - MARCH 28TH

PAMPERING DAY

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Sister Cecilia's Home San Joaquin Village

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 29TH

FOOD HAMPERS DISTRIBUTION

Organizing Agency: Police Dept



REFLECTION ON WOMEN'S MONTH Organizing Agency: Police Dept

FRIDAY - MARCH 31ST

INFORMATION BOOTH AT SAN PEDRO POLY CLINIC FOR WOMEN'S MONTH

Organizing Agency: NWC, Libertad Poly Clinic and NDACC; Open Event

MARCH

INFORMATION BOOTH AT COROZAL POLY CLINIC FOR WOMEN'S MONTH Organizing Agency: NWC, Corozal Poly Clinic and NDACC; Open Event

ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

ENGAGE PRESCHOOLTEACHERS LOOKING AT "BURNING OUT AND DEPRESSION" AND SHARE MECHANISM AND SERVICES THAT ARE IN PLACE TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

Organizing Agency: NDACC Workshop with Community Health Workers on Communication Skills.

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1ST

TALK SHOW DESPIERTA BELICE Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Contact: SGT Marilyn Pate

SUNDAY - MARCH 5TH

CHURCH SERVICE AT LA INMACULADA CHURCH

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Contact: SGT Marilyn Pate

FRIDAY - MARCH 10TH

THE IMPORTANCE FOR WOMEN TO LOVE THEMSELVES FIRST

Organizing Agency: San Estevan Community Library; Venue: San Estevan Library; Contact: Mrs. Mirian Cansino, 632-1719; **Close Event, Invitation Only**; 2:30PM

FRIDAY - MARCH 17TH

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT DAY/INFORMATION FAIR

Organizing Agency: WFSD; Venue: Orange Walk Town Central Park; Contact: Janelie Gonzalez. 614-5662: **Open Event**: 9:00AM – 2:00PM

INFORMATIONAL FAIR ON WOMEN AND HEALTH

Organizing Agency: San Roman Village Council; Venue: San Roman Village

R&R AT SECRET BEACH /SAN PEDRO

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Contact: Sgt. Marilyn Pate



SATURDAY - MARCH 18TH

TEEN TALK

Organizing Agency: Sandy Hunter Library, HECOPAB, BFLA; Venue: Sandy Hunter Library; Contact: Mrs. Shamira Carrillo, 302-2167, Mr. Osorio (BFLA); 629-1006, Ms. Angelique Reyes, 625-3466; Closed Event, Invitation Only

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 22ND

REGIONAL WORKSHOP AT D'GYM CLUB

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Contact: SGT Marilyn Pate, Sqt. Erlene Ferguson

FRIDAY - MARCH 24TH

SELF-CARE /APPRECIATION DAY

Organizing Agency: WFSD: Venue: Lamanai Riverside Retreat; Contact: Janelie Gonzalez, 614-5662; Closed Event, Invitation Only; 9:00AM – 2:00PM

FOOD HAMPER DISTRIBUTION IN ORANGE WALK TOWN

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Contact: SGT Marilyn Pate

BELIZE DISTRICT

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 26TH

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Organizing Agency: Merirhs Ministries International with support from the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE); Venue: Bliss Institute for the Performing Arts; Contact: Roanna Carballo, Secretary@ose.gov.bz; **Open Event**; 3:00PM – 5:00PM

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1ST

"WOMEN TO WATCH 2023 #EMBRACEEOUITY" EVERYDAY FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF MARCH, NCFC WILL HIGHLIGHT ONE WOMAN ALONG WITH A POSITIVE MESSAGE ALIGNED WITH THE THEME

Organizing Agency: NCFC; Venue: NCFC Social Media Pages; Contact: Marcus August, 633-2554; Open Event, Invitation Only

OPENING SPEECH Organizing Agency: Special Envoy; Venue: Virtual

ZOOM SESSIONS FOLLOW UP WITH SMALL BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS WITH

Organizing Agency: Leo Bradley Library: Venue: Online: Contact: Geridene Reneau/ Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; Open Event

TALK SHOW

Organizing Agency: Eastern Division; Venue: Open Your Eyes & Love FM; Contact: Mr. Christopher Noble Sr. SUPT, Ms. Dehanne Augustine, SUPT, Ms. Hortense Hernandez, INSP 613-8637; 6:30AM - 8:00AM

SCHOOL VISIT Organizing Agency: Precinct 3; Venue: Precinct 111 Area; Contact: Mrs. Deborah Galvez: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST TO 3RD

HIGHLIGHT WOMEN IN EDUCATION

Organizing Agency: NHL; Contact: Dr. Carol Babb, Ashley Lightburn, Dr. Judy Diego. 5:00AM

THURSDAY - MARCH 2ND

HEALTH WALK

Organizing Agency: Eastern Division; Venue: Main Streets of Belize City; Contact: Ms. Dehanne Augustine, Mrs. Hortence Hernandez, 613-8637; 5:00AM

LECTURE IN SANDHILL, LADYVILLE, BURRELL BOOM VILLAGES

Contact: Ms. Carol Thompson, Cpl; 9:00AM

LECTURE

Organizing Agency: Precinct 3; Venue: Gwen Lizarraga High School; Contact: Ms. Bernadine Sacasa, Insp; 9:00AM

FRIDAY - MARCH 3RD

DISPLAY ON WOMEN IN EDUCATION

Organizing Agency: BNLSIS; Venue: Turton Library Center; Contact: Shakira Terry, 227-3401; **Open Event; Invitation Only**

WOMEN'S TALK ORGANIZING AGENCY: LEO BRADLEY LIBRARY

Contact: Geridene Reneau/Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; **Open Event**

MOTIVATIONAL TALK

Organizing Agency: Precinct 1; Venue: Precinct One Roof Top; Contact: Ms. Edwina Armstrong, Insp; 10:00AM

KARAOKE NIGHT

Organizing Agency: Precinct 3; Venue: Precinct Three Conference Room; Contact: Ms. Deborah Galvez, Cpl; 6:00PM

SUNDAY - MARCH 5TH

CHURCH SERVICE

Organizing Agency: Eastern Division; Venue: Trinity Assembly of God Church; Contact: Ms. Dehanne Augustine, SUPT, Mrs. Hortence Hernandez, Insp, 613-8637; 10:00AM

MONDAY - MARCH 6TH

WOMEN'S CRICKET TOURNAMENT AND INFORMATION BOOTH

Organizing Agency: WFSD; Venue: Bermuda Landing; Contact: Deann Buckley-McFadzean, 227-3888; **Open Event**; 9:00AM – 6:00PM

LEO BRADLEY LIBRARY

Contact: Geridene Reneau/Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; Open Event

MONDAY TO FRIDAY - MARCH 6TH TO 10TH HIGHLIGHT WOMEN IN POLITICS

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 8TH

THE PROTECTION AND DEFENSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

Organizing Agency: Embassy of Mexico in Belize/Leo Bradley Library; Venue: Leo Bradley Library; Contact: Geridene Reneau/Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; **Open Event**

FRIDAY - MARCH 10TH

LAUNCH OF MRWOO FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM PAGE

Organizing Agency: Mattie Roter Women's Outreach Organization; Venue: Online Facebook & Instagram; Contact: Darlene Morant, 635-5657; 7:00PM

SUNDAY - MARCH 12TH

EMBRACE EQUITY CHURCH SERVICE

Organizing Agency: Mattie Roter Women's Outreach Organization; Venue: Lake Independence Baptist Church; Contact: Veronica Jones, 635-4249; 10:00AM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY - MARCH 13TH TO 17TH DIGITAL LITERACY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

MARCH 13TH - 17TH

HIGHLIGHT WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Organizing Agency: NHL; Contact: Norma Figueroa, Ana Eloisa, Lorena Peralta, Lisel Alamilla, Teresita Balan

TUESDAY - MATCH 14TH

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Organizing Agency: BNLSIS, Port Loyola Public Library; Venue: Port Loyola Public Library; Contact: Mrs. Keisha Zelava. 600-4350: **Open Event**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 15TH

ANNUAL WOMEN'S FORUM "MIND, BODY, SOUL" - ECONOMICALLY EMBODIED

Organizing Agency: PETAL; Venue: UWI Open Campus; Contact: Charrice Talbert; **Open Event**; 8:30AM - 1:00PM

WOMEN & TECHNOLOGY

Organizing Agency: Leo Bradley Library; Venue: Leo Bradley Library; Contact: Geridene Reneau / Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; **Open Event**

THURSDAY - MARCH 16TH

"TIMELESS MEMORIES" MOTHER AND DAUGHTER PAINTING SESSION

Organizing Agency: WFSD; Contact: Elvira Cab, 227-3888; **Closed Event**; 1:30PM – 5:30PM



YWCA ANNUAL TEA PARTY

Organizing Agency: YWCA; Venue: YWCA; Contact: Leah Brown, 223-4971; Open Event

WOMEN OF WORTH RETREAT

Organizing Agency: WFSD; Venue: Burrell Boom; Contact: Deann Buckley-McFadzean; **Closed Event**; 9:00AM – 4:00PM

SUNDAY - MARCH 19TH

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Organizing Agency: YWCA. Venue: YWCA. Contact: Leah Brown, 223-4971; Open Event

MARCH 20TH - 24TH

HIGHLIGHT WOMEN IN LITERATURE/CREATIVE ARTS

Organizing Agency: NHL Contact: Kalilah Enriquez, Lita Krohn, Adele Ramos, Karen Vernon.

MONDAY - MARCH 21ST

POETRY EVENING Organizing Agency: NHL; Venue: NHL

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 22ND

TEEN TALK (TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF)

Organizing Agency: NWC, Leo Bradley Library; Venue: Leo Bradley Library; Contact: Geridene Reneau | Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; **Open Event**

THURSDAY - MARCH 23RD

ROUND TABLE FORUM – WOMEN IN IT, STEAM AND GENDER EQUITY INCLUSIVE OF WOMEN FROM BELIZE AND INTERNATIONALLY

Organizing Agency: University of Belize via Zoom; Contact Person: Dr. Maxine Mckay; 223-0256; **Open Event, Invitation Only**

WOMEN'S MONTH AWARD CEREMONY

Organizing Agency: NWC. Venue: Best Western Biltmore Plus Belize Plaza; **Close Event, Invitation Only**

HIGHLIGHT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Organizing Agency: OSE; Venue: Virtual; Contact: Roanna Carballo: Secretary@ose.gob.bz

SATURDAY - MARCH 25TH

GBV OUTREACH

Organizing Agency: PETAL; Venue: Mahogany Street; Contact: Charrice Talbert; **Open Event**

"BEAUTY FROM ASHES". WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Organizing Agency: Merirh's Ministries International; Venue: Gateway Center; Contact: Pastor Suzette Massiah, 665-9466; 6:00PM

YWCA ENTREPRENEURSHIP POP-UP: FEATURING LOCAL WOMEN CREATIVE

Organizing Agency: YWCA; Venue: YWCA; Contact: Leah Brown, 223-4971; Open Event

MONDAY - MARCH 27TH

MARCH 27TH - 31ST HIGHLIGHT WOMEN IN VIDEO CREATION/ FILM, DOCUMENTARY/GRAPHIC DESIGN

Organizing Agency: NHL. Contact: Dr Gwen Gonzalez, Suzette Zayden, Felene Gayetano, Amalia Mai, Renee Trujillo.

"BEAUTY FROM ASHES". WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Organizing Agency: Merirhs Ministries International; Venue: Gateway Center; Contact: Pastor Suzette Massiah; 665-9466; **Open Event; Cost: \$30.00**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 29TH

TEEN TALK

Organizing Agency: NWC, Leo Bradley Library; Venue: Leo Bradley Library; Contact: Geridene Reneau | Shaunna Vaccaro, 223-4248; **Open Event**

WELLNESS AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENING

Organizing Agency: University of Belize; Venue: Saint Cecilia Nursing Home, Belize City; Contact: Dr. Maxine McKay, 223-0256; **Open Event; Invitation Only**

THURSDAY - MARCH 30TH

ISSUANCE OF 40 PANTRY BOXES TO SELECTED SINGLE MOTHERS IN BELIZE CITY

Organizing Agency: University of Belize; Contact: Dr. Maxine McKay, 223-0256; **Open Event, Invitation Only**

STAFF WORKSHOP-#EMBRACE EQUITY

Organizing Agency: YWCA; Venue: YWCA; Contact: Leah Brown, 223-4971; Closed Event

FACEBOOK SHOW - LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL PANELIST WOMEN AND EQUITY

Organizing Agency: Mattie Roter Women's Outreach Organization; Venue: MRWOO Facebook Page; Contact: Roxanne Marin, 602-1072; 7:00PM

EMBRACE EQUITY WITH MS. TIFFANY SIMPSON

Organizing Agency: Lake Independence Public Library; Venue: Lake Independence Public Library; Contact: Ms. Eunice Sutherland, 202-5323; 10:30AM – 11:30AM

FRIDAY - MARCH 31ST

LET'S TALK WITH PAINT

Organizing Agency: WFSD; Contact: Elvira Cab, 227-3888; **Closed Event**; 4:00PM - 7:00PM

SATURDAY - APRIL 1ST

HAVEN HOUSE FASHION SHOW Organizing Agency: Haven House; Venue: Belize City; Contact: Marilyn Aspinall, 610-2829; 7:00PM



CAYO DISTRICT

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1 ST

TALK SHOW

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Maximum Radio; Contact: T. Stephens, 613-1590; 10:00PM

THURSDAY - MARCH 2 ND

LUNCH AND LEARN

Organizing Agency: Women & Family Support Department / Police Department; Venue: Welcome Center Conference Room; Contact: Elyne Serano, 615-7217; **Closed Event**

WOMEN'S SELF AWARENESS

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: San Ignacio Police Station Conference Room; Contact: Sheena Jones SGT, 615-8843; 9:00AM

MARCH 3-6

PADDLING TO #EMBRACEEQUITY

Organizing Agency: Galen University & MHD; Venue: La Ruta Maya; Contact: Sylvia Batty, 629-7736

SATURDAY - MARCH 4 TH

WALKATHON

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: San Ignacio Town; Contact: PC Patricia Tzib, PC Vilma Tate, PC Melonie Magdaleno, 660-2417; 5:00AM

SUNDAY - MARCH 5 TH

CHURCH SERVICE

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Roaring Creek Evangel Temple Church; Contact: ASP Arlet Ramclam, 615-6233; 10:00PM

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 8 TH

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Organizing Agency: Women 7 Family Support Department; Venue: MHD Office; Contact: Elyne Serano, 615-7217; **Open Event**

MEET AND GREET

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Belmopan City; Contact: ASP Sherlet Ramclam, 615-6233; 2:00PM

FRIDAY - MARCH 10TH

ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH AND LEARN

Organizing Agency: Women & Family Support Department; Venue: St. Ignatius High School; Contact: Elyne Serano; **Closed Event**

WALKATHON

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Belmopan Ring Road; Contact: INSP Stephanie Grinage; 9:00AM

AWARD CEREMONY BRUNCH

Organizing Agency: Police Dep; Venue: Center of Employment Training; Contact: SGT Sheena Jones. 615-8843: 9:00AM

MARCH - 11TH TO 31ST

LADY EAGLES SOAR

Organizing Agency: Galen University; Venue: Galen University Facebook, Instagram, and Website; Contact: Sylvia Batty, 629-7736; **Open Event**

TUESDAY - MARCH 14TH

ZUMBA WORK OUT SESSION

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Galvez Stadium, San Ignacio; Contact: PC Majorie Revers, 614-7344; 6:00AM

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 15TH

WESTERN REGION WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

Venue: Belmopan; Contact: INSP Stephanie Grinage; 8:00AM

WESTERN REGION WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Belmopan George Price Center; Contact: SGT Sheena Jones, 615-8843; 8:00AM

THURSDAY - MARCH 16TH

GAME NIGHT Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Belmopan Civic Center; Contact: OCDT. Raven Galvez, 676-7624; 6:30PM

A TALK PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. AVELIN MARTINEZ

Organizing Agency: BNLSIS; Venue: Benque Library; Contact: Ms. Miriam Garcia, 803-2294

FRIDAY - MARCH 17TH

FEMALE POLICE MEET WITH FEMALE BDF

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Camp Belizario, San Ignacio; Contact: T. Stephens, 615-1590; 10:00PM

TUESDAY - MARCH 21ST

POETRY EVENING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Organizing Agency: BNLSIS; Venue: Benque Library; Contact: Ms. Miriam Garcia; 4:00PM – 5:00PM

POETRY WOMEN AND GIRLS

Organizing Agency: Library; Venue: San Ignacio Public Library; Contact: Teresita Uloa; 5:00PM – 7:00PM



CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Twin Towns, San Ignacio; Contact: T. Stephens, 613-1590, 6:00AM

FRIDAY - MARCH 24TH

R&R

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Randezvous Caye, Belmopan; Contact: OCDT Raven Galvez, 676-7624

CAMPFIRE / KARAOKE

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: The Bluff, San Ignacio; Contact: T. Stephens 613-1590; 6:00AM

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 29TH

LET'S TALK EQUITY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RSV MEDIA (LOVE FM)

Organizing Agency: Galen University; Venue: Live on Love TV, Love FM, Facebook, and Galen University Facebook Page; Contact: Sylvia Batty, 629-7736

FRIDAY - MARCH 31ST

R&R

Organizing Agency: San Ignacio; Venue: Caye Caulker; Contact: T. Stephens; 613-1590; 5:00AM

TEACH WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMPUTER CLASSES TO EXPAND THEIR SKILLS

Organizing Agency: BNLSIS; Venue: Benque Library; Contact: Ms. Miriam Garcia, 803-2294; **2 times per week for 1 month**

DISPLAY WOMEN AUTHORS OF BELIZE.

Organizing Agency: Library; Venue: San Ignacio Public Library; Contact: Teresita Uloa; **Entire Month of March**

STANN CREEK DISTRICT

MARCH

WOMEN HIGHLIGHT

Organizing Agency: Independence Public Library / Belize National Library Service; Venue: Independence Public Library; Contact: Renee Lozano | Yesenia Whyte, 503-2257; **Open Event**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1 ST

MEET AND GREET IN DANGRIGA WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; 2:00PM

THURSDAY - MARCH 2 ND

MEET AND GREET IN PLACENCIA WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY Organizing Agency: Police Dept Talk Show, Dangriga; Venue: DIFA; 7:00PM

FRIDAY - MARCH 3RD

BEACH CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Seine Bight Village; 6:00AM

SUNDAY - MARCH 5 TH

CHURCH SERVICE ST. JOHN ANGLICAN CHURCH ALL FEMALES
Organizing Agency: Police Dept

CHURCH SERVICE

Venue: Christ the King Parish Church; Organizing Agency: Police Dept; 8:00AM

CHURCH SERVICE IN SEINE BIGHT

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Calvary Church; 8:00AM

CHURCH SERVICE

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Independence Nazarene Church; Contact: SGT #502 L. Lambey

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 8 TH

TRAINING WITH CITCO ON STRESS MANAGEMENT, ANGER MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL LITERACY ETC

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Lighthouse Chapel, Placencia Village; 8:00AM

FRIDAY - MARCH 10TH

HEALTH FAIR/INFORMATION DAY

Organizing Agency: Women's Department; Venue: Human Development Office Yard; Clinic will be upstairs in the 3 vacant offices; Contact: Gloria Mejia, 615-5209; **Open Event**; 9:00AM – 2:00PM

LUNCHEON

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Conference Room; Contact: PC 2267 S. Caballero

FOOD HAMPER DISTRIBUTION Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Seine Bight/Riversdale Village; 1:30PM

TUESDAY - MARCH 14TH

FOOD HAMPER DISTRIBUTION / MEET AND GREET TO ELDERLY SHUT INS IN PLACENCIA Organizing Agency: Police Dept

SESSIONS WITH MRS. JOAN BURKE SKEEN

Organizing Agency: Seine Bight; Venue: Umaya Resort. 1:30PM

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 15TH

WOMEN'S MONTH EVENT GUEST SPEAKER MS. LAUREL DIEGO WILL BE

Organizing Agency: Allan Arthur Public Library. Venue: Allan Arthur Public Library. Contact: Ms. Kiara Montero, 505-0208; **Closed Event, Invitation Only**

MINI HEALTH FAIR Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Triangular Fair; Contact: Cpl 1787 A. Pop.

FRIDAY - MARCH 17TH

OPEN DAY Organizing Agency: Police DVU Department; Venue: Police Station Compound. Contact: Sgt. Larren Arzu, 625-9565

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER Organizing Agency: Seine Bight. Venue: Naia Resort; 6:00 nm

BOOTH DISPLAY IN DANGRIGA TOWN AT THE BTL PARK

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; 6:00 AM

SATURDAY - MARCH 18TH

WALKATHON Organizing Agency: ISF. Venue: Swasey Bridge to Bella Vista Village

TUESDAY - MARCH 21ST

COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST

Organizing Agency: Seine Bight. Venue: Bistro Resort. 8:00 AM

LAYING OF CROSS FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Bella Vista and San Juan Village; Contact: PC 1269 J. Fstrada

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 22ND

BEACH CLEANING UP IN DANGRIGA AT THE DANGRIGA BEACHOrganizing Agency: Police Dept 6:00 AM

SPECIAL FEMALE BRUNCH AT ITZANA RESORT Organizing Agency: Police Dept

MEET AND GREET

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Independence; Contact: Cpl. 1787 A Pop.

THURSDAY - MARCH 23RD

FEED THE ELDERS DAY

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Independence; Contact: Sqt. 502 L. Lamby; 11:00 pm

FRIDAY - MARCH 24TH

OPEN DAY Organizing Agency: Police DVU Department. Venue: Police Station Compound. Contact: Sgt. Larren Arzu, 625-9565

HEALTH DAY Organizing Agency: Seine Bight; Venue: Seine Bight PolyClinic; 9:00 AM

SATURDAY - MARCH 25TH

WALKATHON Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Dangriga Town 5:00 AM

REST AND RELAXATION AT AYALA'S POOL AND ADVENTURE

Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Belmopan Area

R&R Organizing Agency: ISF. Venue: Independence. Contact: Sgt. 502 L. Lambey.

TUESDAY - MARCH 28TH

COMMUNITY SERVICE BEACH CLEAN UP

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Placencia Talk Show in Dangriga; Organizing

Agency: DIFA. 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 29TH

FOOD HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Independence Village; Contact: PC 2267 S. Caballero

THURSDAY - MARCH 30TH

SPA DAY ALL FEMALES

Organizing Agency: Police Dept

FRIDAY - MARCH 31ST

R&R Organizing Agency: Dangriga; Venue: Catamaran Hopkins; 8:00 AM

PARK CLEAN UP

Organizing Agency: ISF; Venue: Triangular Park; Contact: PC 1930 L. Ordonez

TOLEDO DISTRICT

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY

Organizing Agency: Women's Department WDO; Venue: Annex Building P.G Hospital; Contact: Loraine Johnson. 615-5219: 8:00am – 1:00pm

SELF - CARE DAY FOR WOMEN

Organizing Agency: Women's Department WDO; Venue: Donna's Beauty Saloon, PG. Town; Contact: Loraine Johnson, 615-5219; 7:30am – 5:00pm

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 1 ST

TALK SHOW Organizing Agency: Police Dept. Venue: Toledo

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 2ND

BINGO EVENING WITH ELDERLY Organizing Agency: Police Dept.

FRIDAY - MARCH 3RD

WOMEN'S WELLNESS WALK Organizing Agency: Police Dept.

SUNDAY - MARCH 5 TH

CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. PETERS CLAVER CHURCH Organizing Agency: Police Dept



REGIONAL SEMINAR CELEBRATING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCEOrganizing Agency: Police Dept

FRIDAY - MARCH 10TH

HEALTH FAIR

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Punta Gorda Police Station

TUESDAY - MARCH 14TH

AEROBICS EXERCISE BY OCTOLEDO

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Welcome Plaza PG

THURSDAY - MARCH 16TH

MAKEOVER AND DINNER TREAT FOR TWO SINGLE MOTHERS FROM THE COMMUNITY Organizing Agency: Police Dept

FRIDAY - MARCH 17TH

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Central Park

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 22ND

BABY HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Punta Gorda Hospital

FRIDAY - MARCH 24TH

FUNDRAISER Organizing Agency: Police Dept

TUESDAY - MARCH 28TH

FEMALE CONFERENCE Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Toledo Sporting Complex

FRIDAY - MARCH 31ST

R&R Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Tentative

CAYE CAULKER

THURSDAY - MARCH 2 ND

WOMEN'S HEALTH WALK

Organizing Agency: BFLA, NWC, Police Dept. CCGGBVC; Venue: Begins at Air strip. Open Event $5:00\,\mathrm{AM} - 8:00\,\mathrm{AM}$

WOMEN AND GIRLS CONFERENCE

Organizing Agency: BFLA, NWC, Police Dept. CCGGBVC; Venue: Community Center. 9:00 AM $-\,12{:}00~\text{pm}$

LECTURE Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Caye Caulker Little Star PreSchool. Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp. 9:00 am

FRIDAY - MARCH 3RD

DINNER Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Caye Caulker Village Council. Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp. 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 8TH

OPEN DAY BOOTHS

Organizing Agency: Police Dept, Ocean Academy High School, BFLA and Women's Department; Venue: Central Park 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

OPEN DAY

Organizing Agency: Police Dept; Venue: Caye Caulker Village Basketball Court; Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp; 10:00am

THURSDAY - MARCH 9TH

POLICE DEPARTMENT OUTREACH

Organizing Agency: BFLA, NWC, Police Dept. CCGGBVC Venue: CCRC and OA

LECTURES Organizing Agency: Police Dept. Venue: Caye caulker Roman Catholic School. Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp. 9:00 am

TUESDAY - MARCH 14TH

BEACH CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

Organizing Agency: BFLA, NWC, Police Dept. CCGGBVC Venue: Begins Next to Ocean Ferry Beach Area. 5:00 am – 10:00 am

CLEAN UP

Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Within Caye Caulker Village. Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp. 5:00 am

THURSDAY - MARCH 16TH

SELF DEFENSE CLASS

Organizing Agency: BFLA, NWC, Police Dept. CCGGBVC Venue: Community Center. 7:30 pm.

SATURDAY - MARCH 25TH

WOMEN'S EXPO Organizing Agency: BFLA, NWC, Police Dept. CCGGBVC; Venue: Central Park; 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

R&R Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: Hopkins; Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp; All Day

FRIDAY - MARCH 31ST

SITE VISIT Organizing Agency: Police Dept Venue: San Ignacio Town. Contact: Ms. Christine Avila, Insp.

Outstanding Women's

Once again, several women have been chosen for their outstanding contribution to their communities and for being role models to girls across the country. The National Women's Commission continues to spearhead this event by recognizing one woman in each district and have chosen five women in recognition that we all must take to be the change we want to see in Belize. These women clearly demonstrate that they were willing to be the change they wanted to see in Belize. Each of them deserves our admiration and respect because they have served Belize well. They have opted to share their gifts and skills so that their communities could benefit. They have opened their hearts to those around them and have gifted them with their own lights. Other agencies and organizations have been invited to honor and acknowledge women for the outstanding contributions they have made to the organization or to the community as a whole. It is because of these women and the many others like them that we celebrate this Month.

It is important that we take note of all their contributions and use this momentum to re-energize our efforts in the path that leads to women's empowerment and the respect of their human rights. This year's theme, "#EmbraceEquity" provides us the opportunity to recognize that we can all break barriers by advocating for women's rights and gender equality, and also challenge gender stereotypes and discrimination. It also celebrates the tremendous efforts by Belizean women and girls in breaking barriers in the health, education, public and private sectors.

These **27** women will be honored at the **18th Annual Outstanding Women's Awards Ceremony** on **March 23**, at 9:00 a.m.

Congratulations

TO ALL 2023 AWARDEES!

NAME OF AWARDEE & DISTRICT SUBMITTING AGENCIES

Bridget Vincent | Department of Youth Services

Deborah Sanchez, Stann Creek | The Women and Family Support Department

Doreth Denise Pascascio | Special Olympics Belize & Women of Worth

Doretta Valerio | The Office of the Special Envoy

Dr. Gwen Nunez Gonzalez | National Commission for Families and Children

Erna Evadney Jones | Youth Enhancement Services

Georgia Herron | Belize National Library Service

Guellermina Rosaura Mendez, Toledo District | Women and Family Support Department

Kylah Ciego, Belize District | Women and Family Support

Kristina Romero | San Pedro Town Council

Myrna Manzanares | Mattie Roter Women Outreach Organization

Seidi Quetzal | Office of the Special Envoy

Sheena Jones | **Belize Police Department**

Tiffany Swift, Cayo | Women and Family Support Department

Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird | Galen University

Francisca Assi Che | Office of the Special Envoy

Phillipa Sebastian Cadle | YWCA

Shantell Yearwood, Belize | Special Olympics and Disability Desk

Maureen Lavern Bevans Leslie | United Women's Group

Ana Carrillo | Belize Family Life Association

Enid Dakers Castillo Martinez, Orange Walk | Women and Family Support Department

Dr. Carol Babb | United States Embassy

Margaret Magdalene Terry, Corozal | The Women and Family Support Department

Pamela Fitzgibbon | Hon. Minister Dolores Balderamos Garcia

Maria Erlinda Constanza nee Gamero CSC | Thea Ramirez Garcia, NWC President



Ms. Bridget Vincent

Youths are one of the most important stakeholders in any country and as such our commitment to youths must never cease. One such person who has committed to growth, progress and empowerment of youths is Miss Bridget Vincent, a long standing Youth Officer. Miss Bridget Vicente has been with the Youth Department in Belize District for over 8 years as a Program Assistant. She assisted consistently with in and out of school youths to ensure that they are getting the support they need and keeping on the right path. What makes her unique is that she is a youth officer with a disability, but that has not limited her abilities, her work ethics and more. Miss Vincent ensures that youths are the center of her day and all she does. She has helped to build programs that have and continue to change the lives of those she works with. We at Special Olympics Belize in collaboration with the Department of Youth proudly nominates Miss Vincent for this most deserving award.



Ms. Deborah Sanchez

"Much of everyday life has changed, and many of us in our community have experienced hardship or health issues we never ever imagine," said Deborah Sanchez. Deborah Sanchez is the daughter of Ms. Dora Ramos and the late Wilbert Sanchez. She is a single mother with two (2) children: Tiana Fernandez and Aronel Nolberto. She holds a Diploma from Stann Creek Ecumenical High School. She enjoys cooking, football, traveling and empowering our women and young people.

She has a welcoming personality, and she always keeps a beautiful smile on her face. Deborah Sanchez has developed a passion for healthcare in her community. Therefore, she has volunteered and worked as a community health worker in the beautiful town of Dangriga. She has been working as a community health worker since 2018. She has received certificates in basic first aid from 2017-2020, diabetes self-care management, mental health training and participatory hygiene and sanitation just to name a few. She also took a home healthcare giver course in 2022. Ms. Sanchez partake in trainings for Tuberculosis (TB) care, covid patient care, HIV pre-counselling and much more. She has partaken in community outreach with different mobile clinics in Dangriga Town and Surrounding Villages.

Ms. Debby as she is commonly known, is a respectable woman, who is always willing to give her time and knowledge to people within her community. She is a very hard-working individual who gives of herself selflessly. For her work, the Women and family Support Department awards her as the 2023 Stann Creek Outstanding Woman.

SUBMITTED BY: WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT DEPARTMENT STANN CREEK



Ms. Doveth Pascascio

As an educator, she is passionate about helping students and nurturing their abilities, exploring their potential and ensuring their success. These qualities and challenges are what she thrives on, and is set on transforming Orange Walk Town using that same drive. She has been a teacher at St. Peter's Anglican School for the past 10 years, and her education has included attending Muffles College, St. John's College, and the University of Belize; this has taught her about transforming others through leadership. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Emerging Technology, Michelle Obama once said, "There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish." This fearless, charismatic, creative, inspirational, and committed educator is a councilor Woman, serves in the Women's Division of the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALAGA) where she assist in addressing issues and concerns of women serving in local government, while providing a regional platform to increase the voices of the women in Caribbean local government, a member of the Municipal Disability leader team and National Special Needs and Disability team. She is also a member of the Charitable Roots Foundation for the past 10 years where she offers financial and moral support to children with illnesses. Ms. Doreth Pascascio knows all about working hard with a team and volunteering to do hard tasks. She assists MAMA's Group in her community who are committed at empowering women and children to be self-sufficient in their lives.



Ms. Doretta Valerio

Mrs. Doretta Denese Valerio nee Palacio is originally from the City of Belmopan. She is married to Mr. Aaron Valerio and is the mother of three children Tevin, Linda, and Floyd. She a registered nurse by profession since the year 2000. She holds a bachelor's degree in Nursing and a diploma in professional nursing. Short studies in disaster preparedness, the abused individual, time management, management, counseling and conflict resolution. She is currently the Supervisor of the Golden haven Rest Home a elderly facility within the Human Services Department. She has served in both the public and private sectors since the year 1997. Mrs. Valerio loves to serve and share her blessings, time, knowledge, and efforts. She has volunteered at several institutions to include the HelpAge Belize and Haven House San Pedro Town. She is a multi-sectoral individual. She presently an executive member of the Oueen of the Bay Belize District committee since 2016. Mrs. Valerio also serves as a justice of the peace since 2005. She has been nominated to become a Senior Justice of the Peace later this year. Nurse Valerio believes in service, setting attainable realistic goals and getting it done. She does not measure time and effort, sacrificing her family time in some cases, but God has blessed her with an understanding, supportive family that has accepted her and her calling. A 24 hour day is not enough for Nurse Valerio as she is a self-driven person with a go getter spirit. She strives to learn from her mistakes, do better, do good for my people and use best practices and listen when cautioned.



Dr. Gwen Nunez Gonzalez

Believing that "service to others" is her call, Dr. Gwen Nunez Gonzalez lives a life of empowerment of others. Her early childhood days were spent between Hopkins Village and beautiful Dangriga. In 1982, Dr. Gonzalez won the national title of Miss Garifuna Belize. Her passion for service and community development was flamed when she became a member of the SEARCH Youth Organization. She along with her peers assisted the less privileged in her community, did a lot of voluntary work in Dangriga, engaged in women empowerment training and stage as mistress of ceremonies for a tremendous number of events. She also did media awareness to keep the Garifuna movement and language alive. She was the radio correspondent who coined the phrase "beautiful Dangriga". In her early years, Dr. Gwen worked with her grandmother with the Belize Rural Women's Association. She supported youths especially young women by personally funding their education whether it was books, uniforms, or fees. Additionally, as a member of the National Garifuna Council and Garifuna in the Catholic Church serving as Vice President, National Secretary and Executive Board Member, Dr. Gonzalez supported young women through counseling and mentorship. Dr. Gwen Nunez Gonzalez is presently an Education Officer at the Stann Creek District Education Center, Co-Chair of the Garifuna Language Commission, Operational Manager of the Yurumein Project Organizational, Founder of Furendei Garifuna and GNG Publications, and member of the National Garifuna Council Queen's Committee, Dangriga Branch. To this day, Dr. Gonzalez continues to represent Belize abroad for many more conferences, symposiums, and youth activities.

SUBMITTED BY:
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



Ms. Ema Jones

Erna Evadney Jones is a Belizean veteran hairstylist, barber, nail technician, cake decorator, dramatist, radio personality, and domestic creative artist. Her passion for craft began at Cottage Industry, followed by hairstyling at Ms. Rosita's and Pino's Barber Shop. She is an evangelist, humanitarian, and Justice of the Peace. As a Christian, Mrs. Jones nurtures the guidance given to her by her mother-in-law, Revd Ann Elizabeth Jones Myvette, to share the gospel through villages, towns, cities, and internationally. During her travels, Mrs. Jones' heart embraced better living conditions for people, so she is the founder and president of Unity Outreach Ministries, sharing food, clothes, and in some cases housing, by way of her spiritual motto: Matthew 25:35-36. She was born and raised in the village of Grace Bank, she met and married Selvin Jones of Lucky Strike Village. She is a mother of three and a grandmother of 13 and great grandmother to four, and the guardian to two children. With a guest about caring, sharing in life and love, she was instrumental at the Young Women's Christian Association. Mrs. Jones became instrumental as one of the founding members of Youth Enhancement Service, where she taught teen, young, and older women handicrafts, cake decorating, cosmetology, and hairdressing. Several of these ladies became successful in life. She did not stop there she went on to teach and work at the Belize Youth Hostel, Mrs. Jones continues to work her creative craft, catering and cake decorating.



Mrs. Georgia Herron

Mrs. Georgia Herron has contributed significantly to Belize through consistent volunteering in Toledo, especially at the Punta Gorda Public Library since 2003. Mrs. Herron resides in Yemeri Grove Village, Toledo District where she is a self-employed married mother of three children. She attended Toledo Community College and Saint Peter Claver College Extension. She raises and sells organic produce and cleans houses for several families. Mrs. Herron has assisted in special education reading programs for students at Julian Cho Technical High School and at Forest Home Methodist School, assisting Elizabeth Cardines, PhD, who is founder/director of CD Light Ministry and a retired educator. While her children attended Forest Home Methodist School, Mrs. Herron was an active member of the PTA and judged the zone eliminations for the spelling bee competitions at the school. Mrs. Herron participated in the Punta Gorda Library Eco club and assisted during multiple Punta Gorda Public Library summer programs. She has worked part-time at the Punta Gorda Library helping in whatever area was needed, from assisting people to find books, shelving books, checking books in and out, or cleaning. Her other volunteer activities include clean-ups around Yemeri Grove Village, on major highways, along the beach coastline, alongside youths, with TIDE, and with the Forestry Department. Currently, she assists with the Punta Gorda Public Library's after school reading program.





Ms. Guellerminia Mendez~

Ms. Guellerminia Rosaura Mendez was born in Punta Gorda Town on June 18 th. 1969. She is the sixth child of Mr. Fausto Mendez and Mrs. Cupertina Alemman. She attended San Isidro R.C. Primary and Big Falls R.C. Primary School in Big Falls Village. She pursued her education at the Toledo Community College and thereafter the University of Belize obtaining a degree in Primary Education. She embarked into the teaching profession at Crique Sarco R.C. Primary School in 1991 and worked in other primary schools for the next 19 years. Affectionately known as Teacher Gia she serves in many capacities in her community, serving as President of the Cancer Society Toledo Branch from 2012 - 2020 and as assistant treasurer presently. She was the treasurer of the Big Falls Water Board from 2009 - 2016. She was also a scout leader and continues to give of herself selflessly in the community. Since her diagnosis with breast cancer in 2010, she continues to struggle with severe side effects and treatment of advanced stages of cancer. However, she maintained her core principles of contributing positively through volunteerism in all communities and schools by promoting awareness on early detection and prevention of cancer. She is an internal optimist with strong spiritual conviction. She motivates and inspires others, to hold on to their faith and trust in God. Her favorite scripture that has always guided her life's work, is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, he is the ultimate healer."

SUBMITTED BY:
THE WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT DEPARTMENT
TOLEDO



Ms. Kylah Ciego~

Ms. Kylah Ciego is from Dangriga Town involved in youth work from as early as age sixteen as the President of the Student Council for Ecumenical High School. Ms. Ciego is a trained advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights through the GOJoven Program. She has managed a sexual health awareness campaign in Dangriga to raise awareness to sexual health needs and access to services for youth. She is a trained social worker with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of Belize and a Chevening Alumna with a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Portsmouth, UK.

Her interest in governance led her to work closely with the Department of Youth Services during the youth policy consultations of 2012 to support youth involvement in the development of the National Youth Policy of Belize. Her service to youth in Belize continued through her appointment as CARICOM Youth Ambassador in 2017-2020 an opportunity that she utilized to promote the CARICOM skills certificate to youth in Belize and represented Belize in regional youth forums. In 2020, with the support of other young people in Dangriga and under the name Citizen's for Good Governance, she organized a political debate for the candidates garnering over 25,000 views on social media and provided a platform for discourse on the development plans of the prospective area representative. This brought much pride and became the impetus for a greater desire to enhance community civic engagement and development. She Works as Director of Education and Programmes for the Belize Family Life Association responsible for their youth program and community outreach initiatives.

SUBMITTED BY:
WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT
BELIZE DISTRICT



Ms. Kristina Romero~

Kristina Romero is the Director of Operations of Hope Haven Children's Home and Empowerment Center, a non-profit organization that provides a home for abused, neglected, or orphaned children. Through the empowerment center, Kristina organizes outreach programs for the community. Some of these programs include Positive Discipline Sessions, Teen Dating Abuse, and STEM programs for children. Under her leadership at Hope Haven Belize, the first A Domestic Violence Outreach Center in San Pedro was established. This outreach center is designed to provide a place for girls and women to access services to protect themselves and their families.

In 2021, having identified a gap in the community, Ms. Romero established the learning center at Hope Haven where out of school children learn to read and write. Kristina's passion to work with children began twenty years ago when she was hired to work at Edward P Yorke High school as a Literature and Language teacher. The various social issues that hindered her students from being their best selves made her realize that more than being an educator, she wanted to help These young men and women thrive in all areas of their lives. Ms. Romero uses her voice to advocate for the most vulnerable in our community having Survived gender-based violence herself.





Ms. Myrna Manzanares

The Mattie Roter Women's Outreach Organization is a community-based organization that advocates for women. Myrna Manzares was a member of the Mattie Roter Women's Outreach Organization since 2017. She was involved with our Aunty's Place program when it was just an idea inside the prison. Aunty's Place is a home for women out of incarceration that are habilitated to return into mainstream society. When visiting the prison Myrna's contributions was sharing Belize's culture through song, dance and drumming. As a girl from Manatee she was vibrant in continuing the creole Culture. She started the Kriol Kouncil in Belize. Her greatest share was the Sambai dance. A dance of infertility that is demonstrated in jumping and dance around a ground fire. Myrna beat drums and sang folklore songs with us. Sometimes with bucket when drums were not available. Her favorite songs were: "Freetown gal" and "kant walk da mi plantaish". Her music is a unique blend of traditional Belizean rhythms and modern influences.

Myrna Manzanares was a Belizean cultural activist and educator. She was the founder and director of the Kriol Kouncil, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Belizean culture. She is greatly missed by the women of the Mattie Roter Women's Outreach Organization. Myrna Manzanares was laid to rest in Belize on August 8, 2020.



Ms. Seidi Quetzal

Optimist, advocate, entrepreneur, and humanitarian- Seidi Quetzal was born on July 13, 1994, to Mr. Emilio and Guadalupe Quetzal and is the youngest of five children. Seidi is known for always smiling and helping others. During her Bachelors degree at the University of Belize, she participated in an exchange program to Canada. Seidi's enthusiasm for

International Relations was piqued and she lobbied for funding to a much-needed playground at El Shaddai SDA Primary School. With her passion for diplomacy and creating international friendships for the development of her country, she took the leap and financed her Masters Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at Ming Chuan University in Taiwan.

Seidi's interest in politics and gender made her realize that Belize has a low number of women elected to office and this motivated her thesis, "Barriers Women Face Entering Politics: A Case

Study of Belize." After graduating in 2021 Valedictorian of her class, Seidi launched OnPaper consultancy virtually from Taiwan on March 31 st, 2022 at the "First Research Conference on

Belizean Women" convened by the University of the West Indies Open Campus. While doing her research Seidi observed that the cost of sanitary products for girls/women was too high. She started a campaign "Don't tax my femininity".

This year for Women's Month, OnPaper consultancy collaborated with the Government of Belize to remove taxes on sanitary products making them affordable to families in Belize. Seidi continues to advocate for gender equity and states, "gender inequity is not a myth it's real and it's time for a change!"

SUBMITTED BY:
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY



Ms. Sheena Jones

Sheena Elizabeth Jones, Sergeant 353 a member of recruitment squad #78, has served in the Belize Police Department for the past 20 years and has never been dealt with for any disciplinary complaints. She is currently posted at San Ignacio Police Formation and is in command of the Domestic Violence Unit. A very diverse but humble, very passionate, dedicated, altruistic Officer are only a few of the great descriptions to soothe her personality. "WHERE WE HAVE THE WILL, WE SHALL FIND OUR WAY," is her favorite quote and she utters these words daily amongst her colleagues. Sergeant Sheena Jones is the kind of Officer that would go an entire day without a meal especially if she is dealing with an investigation, however, she will ensure to purchase a meal from her own pocket for a victim/ child or even her work colleagues and for absolutely no fame or favor simply because of her kind charismatic personality. Apart from pouring her heart out to battered Women and Children, Sergeant jones has a very high passion for educating young children in school by doing school presentations in San Ignacio, Santa Elena

and its surrounding villages without being tasked to do so because she highly believes that awareness talks can bring a safer and brighter future. She believes that to lift humanity and empower each other we must be willing to give of out time and attention.



SUBMITTED BY:
BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Ms. Tiffany Swift

Tiffany Swift is a 31-year-old, born and bred Belizean living in the beautiful Twin Towns, Cayo. She is a full-time real estate agent with RE/MAX, a world-known real estate franchise where she ranked #100 of 733 members in the RE/MAX Central America and Caribbean region in 2022.

This is an accomplishment in and of itself. Tiffany's community service and contribution includes giving back to the children in various San Ignacio and Santa Elena neighborhoods by hosting summer programs annually. These programs aim for children to have an enjoyable and meaningful summer break through play time. A few of the activities throughout the program include shirt tie-dye, bracelet making and sporting activities. She also encourages these young people to coordinate with community professionals specializing in medicinal plants, gardening, and mental health unit to deliver motivational speeches. Ms. Swift also hosts "spaghetti day" throughout the year, where she caters to a large number of children in need with a bowl of spaghetti. As she continues her community work, she donates clothing, food baskets, school supplies and more to the neediest families. She has been making these donations anonymously to avoid recognition and being photographed. M. Swift is a mom to a 4-year-old daughter. She believes that children are the future of Belize. This has become her drive to mentor and become a role model to them by maintaining a good reputation, high standards and displaying the character of a well-disciplined person.

SUBMITTED BY:
WOMEN AND FAMILY SUPPORT DEPARTMENT
CAYO



Dr. Cynthia Flird

Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird is a transformational and visionary leader in tertiary education in Belize. Dr. Aird has spent over 25 years working in higher education in Belize, specifically in teacher education and quality assurance at the University of Belize, Sacred Heart Junior College, and Galen University. She earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction and Administration with a minor in Higher Education from Boston College in 2001 where she was a Fulbright scholar. She first joined Galen in 2003 as an assistant professor (English and Education) and Quality Assurance Officer. In 2008 she left to take up the post of President at Sacred Heart College but returned to Galen University in 2014. She served 3 terms (six years) as the Chair of the Association of Tertiary Level Institutions in Belize. two terms as the Co-chair of the Consortium of Belize Education for Cooperation, and three terms (six years) on the Belize Board of Teacher Education (BBTE) with one term as the Vice Chair of that Board. Dr. Aird research interests are quality assurance issues in higher education in developing countries, and, as a member of ATLIB, advocates strongly to develop a National Higher Education Policy that addresses sustainable financing and national development priorities. She has presented on these themes locally and internationally. Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird currently serves as the Provost of Galen University where she continues to expand access to quality tertiary education, as she champions education for sustainable development, innovation and transformation.



SUBMITTED BY: GALEN UNIVERSITY



Fiancisca Aszi Che~

Francisca Assi Che was born in San Antonio Village, Toledo District to Mr. Adolfo Assi (deceased) and Venicia Salam (deceased). She attended Primary School at San Luis Rey Roman Catholic School in San Antonio Village. At the age of 16 she got married to Mr. Alfonso Che and then moved to live with him in Arena Village. She later had two lovely children. She began to work at the San Antonio Health Center as a caretaker in 1985. During her work at the Health Center, she was given another opportunity to train as a Traditional Birth Attendant. After her training, she became certified on June 23, 1993. During her work she became a Community Health Worker in the year 1999. She dedicated her time to her community members and also to those around her village. She is a hard-working woman that has shared many late evenings and weekends to serve her community voluntarily. Between working as a Community Health Worker and a Traditional Birth Attendant, she is also part of the Toledo Maya Women Council. She

continue to serve her community as an advisor and a community activist.



SUBMITTED BY: OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY



Ms. Phillipa Sebastian Cadle~

Phillipa Sebastian Cadle is a stalwart member of the YWCA (Y) since joining the organization in 2016 as a volunteer contributing to the works of the organization. Ms Phil, as she's fondly referred to, is an exemplary member of the Y. She appreciates and demonstrates the active role members must play in achieving the goals of the organization. She gives of herself, her time and her resources to the cause of empowering women and improving the quality of their lives. Her caliber of membership led her to be an elected member of the Board of Directors a few years later.

One of the beneficiary groups the Y serves is older women. Perhaps subliminally brought on by the deep love and admiration she had for her two grandmothers, Mary Diaz and lanthe Sebastian, (having lost her mother Magdalena Rowley), Ms Phillipa has devoted quality time to our Senior's Programme, and the Ms Y "Seenagers" Pageant. She meets with her Seniors on a weekly basis administering to their many needs.

Born December 13, 1967, she is married to Richard Cadle and has one son, Olajuwon Cadle. Ms Phillipa lives life one day at a time, trusting in God's guidance. She feels humbled and blessed that, together with the help of family and friends, she can contribute to uplifting the lives of others. Her motto in life is expressed by the words "appreciate and give me flowers while I am alive".



SUBMITTED BY: YWCA



Ms. Shantell Yearwood

Born and raised on Freetown Road in Belize City, to a hard-working single mother there is no doubt that Miss Yearwood can give a firsthand account of the struggles of single parent household. Miss Yearwood understands what it means to struggle, she understands the debt of a mother's love because many times she had to watch her mother go hungry so they could have eaten. Miss Yearwood was raised by a strong woman, Miss Allison Henry, and it is because of her mother's tenacity, unwavering faith and courage that has helped to make Miss Yearwood the woman she is today.

To add, Shantel, wears so many hats these include, sister, cousin, aunt, friend, mother, educator, social activist, counselor, and wonder woman to name a few. Miss Yearwood is no stranger to the Belizean society.

Furthermore, her academic accolades include a Bachelor's Degree in English Education from the University of Belize, where she graduated with the highest GPA in her program, a Master's Degree in Education with a Concentration in Special Education from Bridgewater State University where she graduated with a 4.00 GPA. The latter are only a few of her outstanding academic achievements. Her academic excellence is only a snippet of what makes her outstanding. Shantel's is not only brilliant academically, but she is one best and most committed special education educator in the country of Belize.. To end Miss Yearwood, loves life, she loves her two children, her family, job, community and God and we all love her back, it is with the greatest honor is that we recognize her as one of our Outstanding Women.



Mrs. Maureen Lavern Bevans Leslie

Mrs. Maureen Lavern Bevans Leslie attended St. Johns Primary School on Albert St. and the former St. Hilda's College on Regent St, both of Belize City. She enlisted in the then Belize Police Force in June 1973 with regulation no 544 and remained in that career for over 35yrs of continuous service to government and country. She worked in most branches and units of the department except for maritime and maintenance. She attended numerous trainings at local, regional and international level, covering over 23 countries. She was the first female officer in the following positions:

- Crimes Intelligence
- Force Statistician
- Sgt i/c District Head Station
- Commandant Police Training Academy
- Commander Personnel, Training, Welfare and Sports at The Police Headquarters.
- First Deputy and Commander Eastern Police Division (Belize District)
- First Female Assistant Commissioner of Police and
- First female Deputy Commissioner of Police.

She became involved in party politics in 2009 under the PUP banner. She was elected and served as Chair of the Constituency Executive from 2009 to 2011, when she participated as a candidate in a PUP Convention. Thereafter, she was openly involved in campaigning in Belmopan, at a time when supporters were frustrated and reluctant to participate. She worked in every election cycle and her home was always decorated with pup flags and banners. Sometimes, she worked in both Cayo South and Belmopan constituency, starting at 8 am and finishing off late in the night.

SUBMITTED BY: UNITED WOMEN'S GROUP



Ms. Ana Carrillo

Ms. Carrillo was raised in "Sugah City" -Orange Walk alongside her three siblings with their supportive and loving parents. Ms. Carrillo attended and was educated at the Roman Catholic Primary School and High School, but later relocated to Belize City to attend Junior College and started her family. As unprecedented as life would have it, she became a young mom to her first daughter. In this process she learnt much about herself and her body. This prodded her to search for information on how to best take care of herself and that is when she discovered BFLA, and her new mission arose. She joined BFLA as a Youth Officer in 2002 and realized she loved the task at hand but most importantly she enjoyed learning whilst educating others, especially young women on how to best take care of themselves and to seek their true potential. She found herself to be a passionate ally and advocate for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Ms. Carrillo is best known by many for hosting and facilitating countless educational sessions and training around Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and addressing gender rights across the country. In her continued career Ms. Carrillo remains steadfast in promoting healthy families and children. As a parent of three daughters and one son she, with the support of her partner, believes in positive parenting and seizes every situation as a learning experience. Ms. Carrillo remains committed to continuing to make every effort to implement strategies and acquire resources to channel the SRH and gender equality in the right direction.



Ms. Enid Dakers Castillo Martinez~

Enid Dakers Castillo Martinez born in Belize City, graduated from Gwen Lizarraga High School and the University of Belize with an associate degree in business management. She also has training in leadership, alternative to violence, coaching, conflict resolution and communication. She worked at the Traffic Department in Belize City for 15 years. Enid's passion has always been working with young people and in 2012, she landed her dream job as a youth officer at the Department of Youth Services. At the age of 14, Enid started to play basketball where she excelled fast, winning three National High School Championship consecutively. Enid played on the Belize National team at CARICOM and Central American games. She also played professionally in Cancun for two years and in Peten for three years. Her passion grew for coaching females in basketball where she is presently training young girls at primary, high school, and college levels. Since 2008, Enid serves as an executive committee member on the Belize Basketball Federation. Enid works at the Orange Walk Department of Youth Services for the past 11 years and as the senior Youth Development officer for the past 6 years. She loves engaging with people on and off the streets. Enid spends most of her weekends volunteering at sporting events and assisting in her community. She believes in giving back through volunteerism. Enid believe everyone should be respected, treated equally, and can do all things through Christ



Dr. Carol Babb

Dr Carol Babb became the Executive Director of Peacework Belize in August 2021. Dr Babb is a career educator, she served as a classroom teacher, principal and General Manager of all Anglican Schools. She has held one of the highest office in the education sector as Chief Education Officer in the Ministry of Education. In her time at the Ministry of Education, she established a Literacy Unit as she is aware that literacy is the basis for all other forms of learning. It was under her leadership that Financial Literacy was included in the Primary School Curriculum and at the secondary level. As Executive Director of Peacework Belize she continues to support the various forms of literacy: Financial Literacy, Media Literacy and Social Emotional Literacy, She has partnered with the US Embassy to deliver training in Financial Literacy and Media Literacy. She has also partnered with the Taiwanese Embassy to deliver a women's empowerment program for 50 single mothers on South-side Belize City. Dr Babb holds a Master's Degree in Secondary Education form the University of North Florida and a Doctorate in Education from Oklahoma State University. She is the author of two children books that is intended to teach the value of financial literacy. She believes that financially literate persons can lead productive and meaningful lives.



Ms. Margaret Magdalene Terry

Nurse Margaret Magdalene Terry was born on February 9, 1965, in the village of Libertad, Corozal District. She attended Libertad Roman Catholic School. At the age of fourteen, she commenced working as a primary school teacher for four years, but her dream was to become a nurse.

In August of 1984, she attended the Bliss School of nursing in Belize City, and graduated as a practical nurse. After graduating, she was posted at the Corozal Community Hospital as a bedside nurse. She worked at the hospital for four years., before furthering her studies as a Rural Health Nurse. In 1990, she attended the Bliss School of nursing again and pursue her studies in Midwifery. Upon successfully completing this course, she was posted to work in a remote rural village in the Toledo District for two years. Nurse Terry has helped countless women in every area that she has worked. She was able to assist women in gender-based violence situations and refers them for further care and treatment.

Nurse Terry has worked as a senior Public Health Nurse and served both the Orange Walk and Corozal Districts. She retired in 2020 but is presently posted temporary at the San Narciso Polyclinic in the Maternal and Child Unit. Nurse Terry passion for humanity allows her to give selflessly to others and everyone who meets her cannot help but love her.



Ms. Pamela Fitzgibbon

The words vibrant, cheerful, and selfless spring to mind in trying to describe Ms. Pamela Fitzgibbon of Lord's Bank Village. She was born to parents Norma Retreage and Ruben Flowers on February 19th, 1957, in Belize City. She was unable to complete her educational journey due to family issues. However, she believes strongly in education, and along with her husband Chester Fitzgibbon, they raised eight wonderful and successful children. Family is very important to Ms. Pam, and they support her in all her endeavors. She started working at the Williamson Sewing Factory at the tender age of 19. Later on she worked at the International Hotel, as a bartender at Celina's, and then as a school warden in the Ladyville community. She also sold healthy snacks to the school children at Our Lady of the Way Primary School, Volunteering is in her DNA, and she has found several ways to give back to her community by joining women's groups, the Red Cross, and NEMO. She has become a pillar in her community, where the name Granny Pam is synonymous with friendly service to all with whom she comes in contact. Her love for sport triumphs all, especially softball both male and female. While living in Ladyville, she played with and coached the famous Ladyville Wailers back in the 1980's, and she led them to various championships. After she and her family moved to Lord's Bank Village that is when she started to play and coach with Lord's Bank Sunrise women's team. She is still actively coaching and managing this team.



Ms. Maria Erlinda Constanza

NEE GAMERO, CSC

Maria Erlinda Constanza nee Gamero CSC, was born on March 29, 1947 in San Roman Rio Hondo Village, Orange Walk District, Belize. At the age of two she was brought to Orange Walk Town as her father wanted his children to receive an education. She dedicated her time to her studies and received a scholarship to study in Guatemala City where she completed her high school. When she returned to Orange Walk she started working at BSI then moved on to The Northern Fishermen Cooperation in the city. She then received the opportunity to study in Miami Dade School to complete her Sixth Form. Upon her return, she started teaching in Muffles College as a teacher for Spanish, Typing, Literature and Art and Craft. After several years of dedication to the school, Maria took the opportunity to work at the Refugee Department in Belmopan as a Senior Social Worker. As part of her job training she was sent to several countries in the Caribbean and Central America to receive training in Social Work, Human Rights, and Women Development. All these trainings and accomplished qualifications, empowered Maria to hold job positions such as: Women's Officer at Help for Progress, National Coordinator at the Human Rights Commission of Belize during which she participated as President of the Network of Human Rights of Central America for two years, Senior Social Worker at the Refugee Department with the Government of Belize, among others. For twelve years she worked as a Counselor/Guidance Officer at the Belize Central Prison. This position involved counseling and rehabilitation of youths and adult female inmates.





In Belize, many government and non-government organizations are working together to improve the lives of Belizeans.



BELIZE FAMILY LIFE ASSOCIATION (BFLA)

BFLA is a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation which offers family life education and organized family planning. Through the dissemination of information on family planning, BFLA assists Belizean women and men in making healthy, well informed decisions about their sexual reproductive health.

CONTACT: 203-1018; bfla@btl.net

FAMILY COURT

The Family Court was established in 1898 to keep pace with the ever growing social and legal needs of the family. It plays a vital role in keeping society together. It is responsible for the administration of justices for family and juvenile justice matters. The Family Court has dealt with thousands of cases over the years ranging from domestic violence, legal separation, custody, maintenance, and juvenile offenders.

CONTACT: 227-4107; 227-4114

HAVEN HOUSE

Haven House is currently the only safe house for female survivors of domestic violence and their children in the Belize District. Opened in 1993, the shelter provides temporary housing for up to 21 days, counseling, and legal advocacy for residents.

CONTACT: 222-4947

HOUSE OF DORCAS

House of Dorcas is owned by a Women's Group of Patchakan Village. The group of ladies uses the house as a training center for women and youth. They teach arts and crafts, sewing, earrings making, among others. Beside skill training programs conducted, they also provide spiritual guidance to its members and members of the community. They are able to sustain the house through donation from abroad church members and other community organizations.

CONTACT: 602-5859

MARY OPEN DOORS

Mary Open Doors is a shelter for battered women and their children. It is located in the Cayo District. It officially opened in 2008 but had functioned informally prior to that. The Mary Open Door office provides basic counseling, skills training, and job placement for its clients.

CONTACT: 626-5780

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

National Committee for Families and Children is a statutory body that is set up to oversee Belize's compliance with its international, regional, and national commitments to children and their families.

CONTACT: 223-0059; www.ncfc.org.bz

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGEING (NCA)

Established in 2003 The National Council on Ageing advocates for and facilitates the development and implementation of plans and programmes geared towards the protection of basic human rights of older persons through an integrated life cycle approach ensuring improved quality of life. This is achieved through the implementation and monitoring of the Belize National Policy for Older Persons. The Council is attached to the Ministry of Human Development and works as a coordinating mechanism for service providers working with and for older people across the country.

CONTACT: 822-1546; www.ncabz.org

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMISSION (NWC)

The National Women's Commission was established in 1982. Over the years, the commission has been instrumental in creating and supporting a wide variety of programs for women. The National Women's Commission has conducted in-depth research regarding women's issues in Belize and has published several major documents including the National Gender Policy and Women in Politics.

CONTACT: 227-4284; 227-2694

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The Office of the Special Envoy champions Belizean families and children, working primarily to advocate for and influence the development of social policies and legislation; advocate for the implementation of programs and initiatives that benefit children and families and promote their rights; collaborate with government and quasigovernment bodies to present projects seeking financial resources to support programs and initiatives and engages in public awareness and education activities designed to sensitize the general public on issues affecting families and children.

CONTACT: RoannaCarballo.specialenvoy@opm.gov.bz

OUR CIRCLE

Our Circle is a legally registered NGO which has been engaged in numerous community-driven initiatives aimed at mobilizing, educating, informing and supporting the LGBT community and LGBT families in Belize. From since 2013 we have been focused on: establishing an LGBT safe space, LGBT family education and awareness, organizational networking, and institutional capacity building.

The Our Circle Resource Center provides a true home for the LGBT community, where all are welcome and all can access an ever-growing variety of programs, support services and ways to connect.

CONTACT: 623-6062

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO)

PAHO was established in 1902 and is the world's oldest public health organization. It serves as the regional office of the World Health Organization and works with all the countries of the Americas to improve the health and quality of life of their peoples.

PAHO is dedicated to working with governments of the Americas primarily, Ministry of Health, in addressing public health issues such as Gender-based Violence.

CONTACT: 224-4885; www.paho.org

PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AWARENESS FOR LES/BI WOMEN (PETAL)

PETAL is a not-for-profit organization incorporated on December 29th, 2015. PETAL's mission is to achieve social and economic justice for all women in Belize, especially lesbian and bi-sexual women through advocacy and empowerment. PETAL offers a safe and brave space through its signature "Conversations" that brings women together to discuss issues that impact them. PETAL has made its mark utilizing the approach to advocacy nationally through movie nights, peer empowerment and education, personal and professional development, couple's wellness, familiarization meetings, family wellness, conversations and gender-based violence outreach to name a few.

CONTACT: 607-4865; petalbze@gmail.com

PRODUCTIVE ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN IN ACTION (POWA)

Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA) is a community-based organization that began in 2003 in Dangriga Town. It grew out of the need for women to support other women in areas of Gender-based Violence, HIV/AIDs, Gender and Economic justice. In 2011, its youth arm called Girl POWA was created to focus on girls who are vulnerable to issues such as HIV and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). POWA girls participate collectively in POWA's activities and along with members of POWA, receive extensive training in several areas, including HIV/AIDS and SRH education; community outreach; self-esteem; and assertiveness, and negotiation skills. They serve as Community Ambassadors in their neighborhoods and the wider Dangriga community. Since February 2013, POWA manages the "Dangriga Cares" Center which serves as a safe place for community members to interact. Activities and services provided by POWA include Women Empowerment Sessions, Peer Leadership Program, Counseling Program, Legal Advice Services, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Child Abuse Prevention Program

CONTACT: 502-3002/622-8671 powa2grow@gmail.com

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

UNICEF is an international organization dedicated to meeting the needs of women and children around the world. It places emphasis on health, education, social services, legislation, and outreach programs aimed to enhance the national development of Belize

CONTACT: 223-3609 www.unicef.org



UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man, and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmers to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

CONTACT: 223-1644; www.unfpa.org

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The Women Department, continues to be one of the leading organizations in Belize dedicated to improving the lives of women. Since 1978, the Women's Department has worked to empower women through a wide range of progressive initiatives including training classes for women, the promotion of public education in the schools, facilitating support groups and organizing community events to raise awareness about Domestic Violence and women's issues.

CONTACT:

Belize City, 227-3888/ 227-7397; sec.wd@humandev.gov.bz

Corozal: 402-2120 Orange Walk: 302-2058 Cayo: 804-2098 Stann Creek: 502-0038

Toledo: 702-2021

YOUTH ENHANCEMENT SERVICES (YES)

Youth Enhancement Services is a non-government organization that provides training, support, and education to teenage girls. YES, was founded in 1989 by the National Children's Home in London and Barbados.

CONTACT: 225-2315

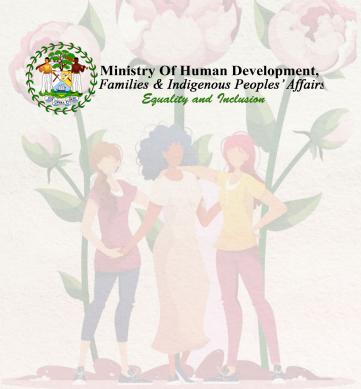
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA)

The Belize YWCA opened in 1956 and has consistently provided a wide variety of services and programs to women of all ages. The facility currently offers a long list of programs including the Helping Early Leavers Program, a daycare, ESL classes, aerobic and community education classes.

CONTACT: 203-4971



The National Women's Commission and the, Ministry of Human Development families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs would like to thank its partner agencies, civil society, the business community, international agencies, our volunteers, and the public for the support that continues to be given to the multi-sectoral effort to put women at the forefront of our agenda.



Special Thanks to:

Grace Kennedy Belize Limited

for continued support during Women's Month



GraceKennedy (Belize) LTD.