

- Amelia Headley LaMont to bring you Ability Radio on this Saturday morning. This is a call-in show and part of a call-in show, we have to have certain rules, we request that no use of names, no personal attacks, no unfounded allegations, no product pitches, no profanity, and we don't give medical advice so we won't respond to those type of questions. Our show is about You and Your Health sponsored by the Lottery Commission, and also working with Da Vybe 107.9. The call-in numbers are 779-1079 and 713-1079, and today, for our special guest is Dilsa Rohan Capdeville.

- Morning Archie.

- Morning. Good morning.

- Morning.

- We, Dilsa, to me is like what I call a social enterprise innovator.

- Oh, wow. Okay. I like that.

- And little did I know that she had, she had started three organizations in the Virgin Islands, and...

- That's correct, yeah.

- And she's gonna tell us about some of her organizations, many of it, health-related, we don't think about also physical health and mental health, it all goes together for the holistic approach not only for the individual but for the community as well, and in regard to the Ability Radio, the point is to bring service providers and those who work in a health related field to let you know in a community what's available, what services are available and how you can tap into those services, and ask questions that if you have any, want more information about where you go for health related services. So Dilsa, why don't you give us a little history yourself and the organizations you started?

- Well, I'm from Saint Thomas, I grew up here, my parents, my father is from Puerto Rico but my mom was from Saint Thomas. I wasn't born here only by a fluke but I came here when I was four months old, and my mother shored me, she brought my navel string back from New York and it's buried in my grandmother's yard, but of, I got into social work in 1965, and I've been doing social work, I think this is my 51st year.

- Oh, my goodness, yes.

- And in those years, I was privileged and honored to be involved in starting three agencies. The first one was Women's Resource Center with attorney Edith Bourne who I know, you remember.

- Oh, of course.

- And Dr. Alice Hamilton because you were involved and helped us tremendously in those days as well. And we started Women's Resource Center and really brought to the fore in our community the information regarding domestic violence in our community. And then I worked for the VI government at the Department of Human Services, and I started in 1991, I was getting ready to leave to go and work with Alice at Women's Resource Center, my swan song was I got the--I found moneys and I wrote a proposal for Nana Baby Home, that's still up and running today.

- Great. Great.

- I know a lot of people don't know that. I try not to toot my own horn, and then 22 years ago, because I felt children were falling through the cracks, and we as a community did not have some, a particular agency to totally support and encourage children and families, and deal with the issues of child sexual abuse and child abuse, I started Kids' School.

- Okay.

- Which is a child advocacy center, we do multidisciplinary team approaches, we do forensic interviews, and assist the children and family. So basically in a nutshell, that's it. And whatever else is going to come along with the grace of the Creator for me to get involved with but primarily, that's it, in a nutshell.

- Okay. Well, explain to the community what forensic interviews are about.

- Okay. Forensic interviews, when we have children who have been sexually molested or physically abused, you need to get a array of information from the child, we have found out that it's important and imperative that you talk with the child in a positive, friendly, child-friendly really environment. So we have a special room called, it's a children's room, everything in there is child-friendly, the chairs are of child height. So when I'm interviewing the children, I'm even sitting in a small chair, and we talk to the child and put the pieces of the information together. We also have it taped and I also use a big pad that I have tacked up on the wall to get the information, to write down what the child has says, and if the child is so inclined to draw pictures of anything, I can have the pad right there available for the child to utilize, and we have found our child advocacy center is based out of the original model that was done in Huntsville, Alabama that's now all over the United States. And it has been very helpful, to judges, we work with the detectives, we with work the Aegis Office, we collaborate with them and we get the information we have it both taped, we got into court, and we can use that information and we have used it to get very good prosecution in our territory as is done elsewhere in the United States where these teams are utilized and the concept of the advocacy center is in the forefront of the work with children who've been molested and abused.

- Okay. We, you're talking about childhood trauma which is now a big talk.

- Yes.

- You're sort of, were ahead of the curve at that time, weren't you?

- Yes. I have to say I was, and it's really, you know, I don't think we realized that within our lives, how the Creator and people who can influence and impact our lives, how there is sort of a symphony going on in our lives, and the women that mentored me including my mother and others really geared me towards what I'm doing now. When I was 15, my mother and sister that I have a summer job and in those days, there was nothing like summer jobs and getting paid, I did it on volunteer. But I had to do it for the entire summer, I did it from 8:00 to 5:00, it was within the Department of Social Welfare which at the time was located downstairs of our legislature building, and by my second day when I realized what was happening to children, I just, in my naiveness, as a 10th grader wanting to save the world, and save our children, and families, but during my lunch time, I would go upstairs to the hollow halls of the legislature and listen to Earle B. Ottley, listen to the other senators at the time, Senator Maduro, there's so many of them that impacted our islands and I was a very good listener. So my life has been colored by so many things and my gratitude is overwhelmed that I'm very humbled but I'm very committed to this work, I'm very passionate about this work, and 51 years have gone by so quickly.

- Too quickly.

- Too quickly, yes. Yeah, I know. And, but there's so much that still needs to be done and that's where my focus is at the present time.

- Okay. Well that early exposure, that reminds me when I was in law school, I interned with the juvenile court at the city I was in, in Denver at the time.

- Yes. Yeah.

- And what you're talking about is getting the exposure to how children are treated in society.

- Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

- And how they're almost like the underclass of all, you know, the rest of society.

- Absolutely. We have a lot, a lot of work to do in that era but I remember meeting you, I'm not gonna say how many, how many years and years ago when you first came here. Because we interacted in the same circles, especially as it related to our community and the needs of women, the needs of children, the needs of individuals. And I don't think too many of us have stayed within and pushed on regardless, but we're still here and the work still goes on, and we have a lot to do, a lot to do.

- Well, in that regard with childhood trauma, now that the department education I think is now taken up that issue. Are there any interactions with Kidscope in the Department of Education?

- I interact with them on various levels, I have to be candid and say, "I'm not aware that they have now taken up issue of trauma." I know I'm called to the schools a lot, I know I work within, with the superintendent at times, and for years I did groups, girls groups within some of the schools. But this past school year, we had some very traumatic things go on with the school, for example, within schools pertaining to the use of telephones, and texting, and sexting, and adolescence, and even elementary school children sending their, pictures of their body parts to other kids, and it created quite a stir for us but I'm glad to hear what you're saying Archie that education is now taking this on. It is something that we need to deal with, it's gone on for too long, and in my 51 years, I'm now working with grandchildren that I worked with their parents and their grandparents, in terms of family systems and family dynamics that are still permeating their lives, and their families, and we need to really look at what's happening, and it is my opinion and you know me and you know I have very strong opinions, but it is my opinions that the way, let's say 20 years ago, 30 years ago, we dealt with issues of families and children, we can't do that anymore, and I was thinking as I was driving here what I was going to, asking the creator for wisdom, what I would like to talk about, and I think it is so symbolic that this radio station is called Da Vybe because in essence, we need to change our conscious awareness and our vibrational energy that we are putting forth for ourselves, our families, and these children. What we did 20 years ago is no longer, it's obsolete, and one of the things I prize myself on is the three agencies I spoke about earlier that I developed or helped develop, my model that I use is I wanted to do something that was never done in the territory, something that was innovative, creative, that we could build on, and I'm still doing that, when I started Kidscope as an example, we don't, we still don't have any other advocacy centers in the territory, and for my knowledge and awareness, they're none in the Caribbean. But I like to see what's happening States side, I like to build on that and I attended a lot of conferences and interacted with the people who were in fore of starting advocacy centers, and I knew I wanted it child-friendly, I wanted a Caribbean flair so when you come to my agency, you know, you got Caribbean music, you got Bob Marley pictures on one side of my office, you got the angels that are sent every week. People bring angels to my agency because we need to deal with children on a different level. Our children who are interacting with their families and in systems we have in our community that in many ways are really obsolete. A lot of these children are very bright, they're in the vibe more than we are. And when you sit and you talk with these children it gives you a different perspective but we have an opportunity to help mold them, to help develop them. When I go to court a lot and our young men are in there for crimes they have committed and when I work with them and I look at their history so many of my young boys that I have, have been in jail, so many of them have helped their parents' bury.

- Yeah. Yeah.

- I spent a great deal of my time back in the '80s and early '90s going to the morgue with Dr. Latelle would call me, he was a pathologist at that time. I can't tell you the number of dead children I've seen who should today be doing something in this community, who should be in somebody's college, who should be creating their own life experiences to help the rest of us. And it is something when I, people say, you never give up, I can't because I remember those children, I remember going to their funerals, I remember burying a lot of them and this is a cause that's passionate, we have to do, we have to change and it is my hope and my desire that we in the Caribbean can be in the fore of this because a lot of our families here come from other Caribbean islands and they need some help, guidance, and direction as well but we

have to be honest, we have to be truthful, we have to be humble and kind. My mother always said "Dilsa, no matter what be humble and kind." But to help these children and I try and do it at Kidscope with the limited staff I have to the best of my ability.

- Very good, very good.

- And my children are always coming, their families are always calling but we have to step out of our comfort zone and we have to say, because our children are the legacy we are leaving behind and if we don't mold them, you know, I remember years ago, am I talking too much?

- No, that's what we're here for, because, to have this conversation.

- All right. Because I got passionate then I start to talk. But years ago I heard a definition that was attributed to Abraham Lincoln about children. It touched me and he said, "Our children are going to take over where we adults have left off, they're going to take over and be in charge of our governments, our schools, our churches, and the faith of humanity lies in the hands of our children." And if we do a wide focus especially today of the way of the world we are leaving quite a mess for our children to clean up, and clear up, and eradicate. And we, if we don't prepare those children, if we don't prepare ourselves and realistically look at our mistakes and things we should be doing that we are not doing and standing in our truth and speaking our truth and getting our families together, and ourselves, and our communities we are going to be lost.

- Right, right.

- We are really going to be lost. And, you know, the vibe we are putting out is very, very negative, very bleak, and we have to change that. And I, and I was so impressed when we came in, the song that the gentlemen here was playing about the Pointer Sisters that when I was a young social worker in my hay day and I was out being a revolutionary, that was my song.

- I think that's our theme song.

- So, that, well, that was my song, so to come in here today because I, coming down the hill, I said, "Oh, Lord, Creator God. I don't get up and be anywhere for 8:00." Number one. So this is your directive and this is for whatever reason I'm doing this let me do it to the best of my ability.

- Okay. Well, that's a good lead and while we take a short...

- Break?

- ...break for the advertisements and we'll get right back to the story.

- Great. Just give me a...

- Back on the air, Ability Radio this morning. It's You and Your Health. And we were speaking with Dilsa Rohan Capdeville about some of her social enterprises that she brought to the Virgin Islands. Dilsa, you were speaking about one of your programs, Kidscope, you wanna...

- Yes. Well, at Kidscope and right now we as other non-profit, because we are a non-profit, we're having some financial challenges, and a lot of my staff, three of my staff actually, I couldn't afford to keep anymore but so, they moved to the states but my staff right now is very limited. It's myself as the executive director, I have an office manager and financial person, Ms. Ranona Tutman, and I also have a psychologist, Angelina Prince, who did her field placement at Kidscope and then we kept her on. But our focus still continues to be children and their families, we work as I said a little earlier with public safety, detectives, and we do the initial interviews with them, we have a multi-team approach so we utilize public safety, we sometimes have doctors sitting in, other social workers. The therapist that work at my office and while I'm doing the interview they're in another room where they can see the interview and we tape it

and if necessary get me information that I might have neglected that would be critical in our getting a complete picture of what has happened to this child. I have to tell you, Archie, for about the last two years, I took a look at my program and periodically I feel we have to assess ourselves in life, in our relationships, in our marriages with our children, and I felt I needed to do some tweaking, I wasn't sure what but I for two years continued to do the work but I did not go on the radio a lot. I did not, I would speak at schools if I were, was invited but I did more work within myself, within my organization. I even prayed a lot, I even did some fasting, and I asked to be shown, and this is me, show me, show me Creator what needs to be done, give me some signs. And I said I would do two years of introspective work. During that time I talked with children, talked with families, part of my program, it's not part of my program really but it's something I've added. We have a lot of adolescent boys on this island that not living at home, they're living in cars, they're living on the beach, they don't have money. So whenever I have an opportunity and people say, "What do you need?" We have a group of Virgin Islanders in Atlanta that has helped us out every year. So they sent toys for the kids at Christmas but I always say send me toothbrushes, toothpastes, t-shirts, towels, wash cloths, and I keep them in my office because when my boys come and they don't, they haven't had a bath in days, I said, "Okay, here's your towel, here's your wash cloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, go in the bathroom. If you need a place to sleep for the day I have an extra room." That's my room where I do groups, but I have a sofa, a lot of pillows. And I said, "Go take a nap." We, my staff and I pull our little pennies together, go up the street, get something to eat. "You need to wash your clothes, we have a clean t-shirt for you, go around the corner to the laundry." And we work with them. They're not going to come forth and I really wish that that program could be expanded in one form or fashion. But children come and we listen, we don't make judgment. I've never met a bad young person, I mean, knock on wood, but when I get referrals from schools or parents I've given up, this, nothing is going to become of this child. I try and help them to change the way of looking at their children because as I said before, our children are our hope. But we need to continuously look at innovative, creative programs that are working. And I just this year and in my two year whatever you wanna call it, I know I went in like the caterpillar, went into my cocoon, did some metamorphosizing and now I've come out, my agency have come out and we're rearing to go again.

- Okay. That's very good, you pointed out something to me, I went to a national conference on child advocates and one of the group that was there were prior foster children and California has probably the best program. And what they made people do is, said, "Okay. Everybody stand up, I want everybody to sit down who's ever, never slept on the streets at night." This is, this was led by kids from about 18 to 25. And unfortunately I was one of the ones who slept on streets at night because I landed to law school too late and had to spend some nights at a car. But what they were pointing out is that foster children are cutoff at 18. And they are basically have no home unless they have some, I'm still trying to investigate today whether UVI allows them to go to school for free. People have said that, I never seen it in writing. And whether or not they have a job, you know, like, and they're just basically, that's it, once they reach 18 they're cutoff, so you have that group which a lot of people don't realize happens.

- Absolutely.

- And the other aspect is those who are having interfamily conflict. If they don't have any other basic family or support systems, you're right, they're in the street. Maybe that's why we hear about the guys racing up and down either Bovoni or 1st Avenue at night, all night, they have nowhere else to...

- No, they have, they don't.

- ...go.

- They don't. And, you know, one of my boys and I call them my boys just got out of, he was incarcerated couple, for, he got out a couple of months ago. And I came back to my office from a meeting and he was sleeping on my couch. And, oh, I said, "Oh, what are you doing here?" He said, "Well, I just got out." I said, well, "Why did you came here? Did you call your mother?" "No, I came here first." I said, "But, let's call your mother." "Well, you're my other mother." And I said, "Okay, well, let's us call your mother so she doesn't worry about you." But then I said, you know, because I did go to court and speak on his behalf, and I said, "We have an outline we have to maintain. We need to help you get a job, you have to come

here regularly for counseling." And I said, "You got to go look for a job. And if you need a recommendation or me to talk to somebody, call me up, I'll go talk to them." And he came in there one day and he was sitting on the couch, and he said, "I'm on my lunchtime." I said, "Well, let's go get something to eat. Let's go up the street." But he said, um, "I got a job and it's around the corner from here." I said, "What?" He said, "I wanted a job that would be close to you." So, he said, "I'm doing a little construction but I needed a place that I know every lunchtime I could come over here to sit in your chair in the back, chill, get something to eat, and listen to some good music." A lot of times, I'm playing my Bob Marley and other things, but I said, "Okay, you know, but we got to stay on the straight and narrow."

- Right.

- And call me, he has to call me every week. When I was out last night with some friends out in Red Hook and all of a sudden, this guy was in my window and I was getting ready to react and it was him. So, he said, "I didn't call you this week but you're seeing me in person." I said, "Okay, that's cool. That's cool." But we have to help these kids initially where they are.

- Right, right.

- We have to help them. We can't, we can't forget about them. We can't give them up because they've angered us, but see, part of that problem, Archie, is these children's parents, a lot of them that I've worked with, you know, when you're doing this work 50 years, I mean, you interact with generations but a lot of their parents got pregnant early. They had no parental skills. They had no stable relationships. Oftentimes, the child's father did not interact or, he ended up in jail, or he got killed, and it was grandparents that stepped in in some form of fashion to help raise these children. So, there was a disconnect. There's been a disconnect.

- Right. Right.

- We need to go back and to try and bridge the gap of that disconnect. And I think in us as professionals, in our approach must be honest. And a lot of children come in to my office and they said, "You know, you adults, the teachers, you adults want us to be righteous, do the right thing but a lot, they said, a lot of our people in high places, in our government are corrupt. They're stealing the money, they're not being honest. The politicians have taken a lot of bribes and they're not looking out for us. They're not looking out for the elderly people." And I listened and said, "Well, you know, some of that might be true but we need to get a plan where everybody is involved to help." The issue I spoke off earlier, last year with the sexting and texting on the telephones, the cellphones. Our schools have a policy, no cellphones in the school. I got involved and I was helping the principal at [inaudible] School, Ms. Lisa Ford. Her and her staff did an excellent job and were doing an excellent job but they confiscated one day because somebody came and showed one of the students, an honest student had took nudies of herself and had sent it all over. So, when they did a check, they were able to confiscate over 370 cellphones on campus. Parents who don't come to PTAs were up in arms and Mrs. Ford had a meeting with them and I was asked to come and speak. And I said to them, "You parents I know have never come have a report card day but you're here in such mass tonight in this cafeteria, the standing room only."

- Because they're taking the cellphones away from their children?

- Yeah, because the school took the cellphones away which they had the right to do and I said to them, "How many of you know that you're not, kids don't have, not supposed to have cellphones in school?" While the principal was speaking, two young parents behind me were on their cellphones, so I turned to them and said, "But you're listening to what is being said." They chups their teeth at me and I'm, like, "We have a problem." Then, I've been working with Charlotte Amalie High School and last year, I met with one of the principals and we were trying to get a grasp to do some work with some of the children who were in crisis. And she also had said that an honest student, she had to confiscate her phone because she also had put some nude pictures of herself on the phone, so she took her phone. And she said to me, the next day the mother came in irate, cursing her out, and I mean, you know, okay, you're upset with the teacher. This was the principal. You don't go to school cursing the principal. And the mother said to her, "I don't

know why you're so upset because my child has nudies on her phone. My man and I have nudies in our phone, and all over the globe." And I'm, like, get out of here. We have sure come full circle.

- Right, right. And what's acceptable was community behavior, right?

- Right, and what are the vibes that that is putting out with our children.

- It's okay to do that.

- And these children don't understand when you do that and you're stuff goes into cyber space, 10 years from now, you might be the top lawyer in your field and you want a job, and when you go look for this job and they're able to pull up stuff and say, well, 10, 15 years ago, you had a lot of nudies all over the place. We can't hire you.

- Right, right. The other problem with phones and we do some workshops along this way is cyber bullying or using...

- Yeah, bullying, absolutely.

- Using that phone for bullying purposes and that's another issue there.

- It's happening. Issues we have in schools too and this is one of the reasons we went out to Kent School and did some work with girl's group. And the school is very receptive but we said that, how are we going to get these girls who are really in crises? And I said to the counselor we were working with, we're gonna tell these girls that we came here and asked for the creme de la creme. So, the first meeting, they're about 20 girls and I said, "Anybody who don't wanna be here, now is your time to get up and exit. No hard feelings." I said, "But before you go, I want you to understand that we asked for the creme de la creme." And some of them said, "Well, what is it?" I said, "Well, you know, when you have milk and they separate the milk from the cream, the cream rises to the top. They're the elite, they're the go-getters, they're the brilliant students that you know are having a future." And one of them said, "So, that's us? You think that's us and that's why we in here?" I said, "Absolutely." I don't think I know. None of them walked out.

- There you go.

- None of them but we realized that there were schools for example now, you know, we have, we have a lot of challenges. We have a lot of gay students within our school systems that they don't think they fit in and they're wanna be controlling their relationships and all that, so we dealt with a lot of that within the confines of the group but the kids were wonderful. They all came and I found out from talking with them, there were 15 of them and we had a conversation one day on violence. And I said, "Just off the top of my head, how many of you has a, had a brother, siblings, father, mother killed?" Every one of them raised their hands. Every single one of them and they said, "It happened in front of us."

- Yeah, that's the saddest part about America, they inherit in violence. That they see, they're exposed to, and that's made acceptable and that's...

- Absolutely.

- ...and it's build over to the Caribbean.

- Absolutely. Absolutely, yes.

- It's build over to Caribbean, right.

- But I, but I think, I feel, I know that we need to address this in a different vibration. We need to change and that's one of the things I'm, I've focused on, change the trajectory of how we deal with our kids, what programs we need to develop right now. For about five years, I had a Grandmother's Mentoring Program

because of funding I had to let it go. I ran groups for girls within the schools but within our office but we're getting ready now. In fact, we have had meetings all last week to start our groups again. A lot of my girls that I dealt with when they were 12 and 13 within the last two months have been calling me. "Ms. Capdeville, we, we're now 19, 20, we have young children. We don't know what to do. We miss coming to your program. You gave us direction, guidance. We need to come back. Can you do a group for us?" I said, "Absolutely, absolutely. We're gonna do it." And when I know I wanna do things like that, I look for creative people who are of like mind and willing to go out on the limb with me. A lot of times, I always seem to be out on the limb but I remember, my mother would tell me, "Dilsa, you got to go out on a limb. It's lonely out there but that's the only place in the tree where the fruits are. It's safe in the trunk but you got to go in the limb."

- Okay. Let's talk about that support group idea, just so, and expand it when we get back but we're gonna break off. Oh, we got a phone call? Oh, okay.

- Oh.

- Hi, good morning. It's Amelia.

- Oh, good morning, Amelia.

- Hi, morning, Amelia.

- It's, this has been a remarkable show I must say. You are such an inspiring person. Your work is inspiring, and I'm willing to go out on a limb with you, Dilsa.

- Thank you. All right. That's what I like.

- And we'll [inaudible] one of the things we're thinking about or what we're planning is trainings and Archie, is the one who really peaked my curiosity with our trainer, PhD individual by the name of Natalie Williams, who has done some training for the university. And we're doing, the Disability Rights Center is doing some collaborative work with her on sexuality and healing. We're talking about recognizing that, you know, individuals with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities are also persons who would, you know, be interested in building relationships, having relationships, and not be in a situation where they, or don't have, you know, the right to say no, or, you know, so it's something I can speak and talk about at some point.

- Oh, I'd love to. I love, I love collaboration. And, well, I've known you and Archie for so long, and I, one of my little girls that I'm working with you who was, who was incredible, Lessandra LaTore. Yeah, she and I have done a lot of work together. But I, we also at Kidscope and I think it's something for us really to look towards and for. But I'm excited about making with you on, doing some things together, but we'd like to utilize a wraparound holistic healing modality. One of the things for example we had a lot of good work with the girls group is exposing them to yoga. We had a yoga teacher come out and do work with them twice a week. And one girl that was selectively mute for five years, after her second yoga meeting started talking, and it blew me away.

- Wow.

- And the other thing I think we need to look at is a lot of girls that I'm seeing now that have been sexually molested, their parents was sexually molested, and their grandmothers, and until you work with them collectively or collaboratively as a family system you don't get that information. And oftentimes the mother never told anybody, the grandmother never told anybody. So because of their victimization that was never brought out and dealt with, they can't help this child.

- Uh-hmm.

- And so it's like the onion we have to peel back, but, and we have to do it. And I keep telling people the time is now. When you look at the larger picture of government, and their systems, and what's happening in the United States, what's happening here, what's happening in the world as it pertains to our children, and the victimization that has permeated their lives, we have to say, "It stops here." And we can make a difference, and communities coming together, in my opinion, is the answer. And, you know, agencies working together, I don't like and I, that one agency, oh, you stepping over in what I'm doing and you can't do this because I'm...

- No, right.

- You know, that's passe.

- Right, right.

- We have to collaborate because there is strength in our conscious awareness and our power going forth to say, "We can do this." It's important enough because as I was sharing with Archie, we've lost so many of our children.

- Right.

- So, yes, I would enjoy some collaboration, and sharing, and seeing what we could do for the children.

- That would be great.

- Thanks so much and thanks for calling in.

- And thanks for your participation. Thank you so much.

- Oh, you're quite welcome. You're quite welcome.

- All right. Okay.

- Quite eye opening.

- Be well.

- Okay. You too. Take care.

- Talk to you later, Amelia.

- Yes, sir. Bye-bye.

- All righty. Then, we'll now take a short break, and get back to the support group idea.

- Okay.

- Yeah. Welcome back to Ability Radio, You and Your Health. And we're here this morning and I think we got a call that's coming through right now.

- Good morning. Archie, can you hear me?

- Yes.

- Hi, this is Iris [inaudible] Dilsa.

- Oh, okay. Another co-host.

- Oh, hi, good morning, Iris. How are you doing?

- Oh, I'm fine. Listen, you are, you deserve a humanitarian award for staying in the trenches, you are a die hard, and I really, really appreciate, like a social worker to a social worker, I appreciate everything you've done for this community because you stuck it there when a lot of us [inaudible]

- Thank you.

- ...you stayed there. And so I wanted to talk about...

- Thank you for saying that. It humbles me.

- I wanna mention the last statement you were talking about, how we all, everybody has to work together. And, you know, so like when you need to get rid of the Silo Mentality. We work as individuals who require services from different entity, so that should be something that to say we all need to work together.

- I agree.

- We have to be with children from a psychological, social, emotional, whatever basis. So we need to, we need to work together. It's not just about your agency doing this, and then you, we can't, you know, get in there because your agency is handling it. No, it's like you said, it's a village, it's a community, and long as we're together, again, I truly respect you. I can't wait for you to work with us on this training, and other training, so...

- Absolutely. I think we're gonna get together because, you know, we can't, it's my feeling that when children are involved, communities involved, it's no place for ego tripping.

- No, not at all, not at all.

- And it's no place to say, "Well, this is my, this is my control. This is my box." I've never been in a box. I don't deal with boxes.

- Right.

- And, you know, I remember one time years ago I was trying to help this little girl and I went to her school to talk with her teacher, and the teacher said, "You know, this child leaves the classroom and she, the child needed some special attention, but." So I said, "Well", I asked her, if she was like I think in third grade, I said, "Well, where do you go?" She said, "Well, I'm bored in here and they put me to sit in the back of the room, so I go in the bathroom, I wash my hair, and then I go sit out among the flowers, and let it dry." I said, "That's cool." So when I asked the teacher to tell me what's going on with the child, she said, "She doesn't color within the lines." I said, "Miss, I'm 50 and I don't color within the lines. So what's the big deal? You know, is that why this child is being penalized?" I was so irate. I said, "We have to change vibrational stuff."

- Yeah.

- I'm really freaking out in a good way that this is Da Vybe. I never knew about this place.

- Okay.

- You got to invite me back.

- All right.

- I got to come back to Da Vybe. But, this is exactly what I'm talking about, raising conscious awareness.

- Yes.

- Right, right.

- If you tell me and people have, when they say, "Ms. Capdeville, we can't do that." I said, "We can't do this? Watch me." And years ago in the '80s when I got a group of people together and we started task forces in the territory, people said it couldn't be done.

- Uh-hmm.

- When I said that Atty. Bornn, Dr. Alice Hamilton, and I were gonna start Women's Resource Center, there was no money, it can't be done. The three of us marched up to the Governor Alex Farrelly and said, "By 5:00 this afternoon, we need \$200,000." And I said "Just so there's no bitching, give St. Croix the same amount because there are battered women and children over there." Doctor, Governor Schneider was Commission of Health back then. We called him up from Governor Farrelly's office and I said, "By 5:00 today, I need a battered woman's shelter." He said, "I'm getting on it as I get off the phone." He took his men up behind the house where our shelter was. He had it painted. He helped us get beds. [inaudible] was present and the legislature, he called a friend at the Reef, we had bed sheets, everything. We opened at 5:00. They all came out. My point is it can be done.

- Exactly.

- It can be done and we need to do it. I was sharing with Archie, the time is now. Our children are hurting. Our parents are hurting because they don't know what to do. We have to rescue them. It doesn't care, it doesn't matter, we work together.

- Right.

- We learn from each other. We support each other. We encourage each other. We stand together. Empower each other. And that's what I do every day that God gives me breath and we need to do it. So I'm so grateful that I was asked to come here today because this is a piece of the puzzle that I can now put in place for us to really do the work that needs to be done. So, Iris, thank you for calling.

- Oh, you're welcome. Thank you for being on the show. We really, really appreciate [inaudible] you take care now.

- Take care, Iris.

- Take care. Have a good day.

- You too. Bye-bye.

- On a national level, we work with the National Disability Rights Network and they put out a report, the seclusion and restraints, how the schools systems are hurting the children, and basically it's what we're seeing is endemic, and they're trying to work, like you said, raise the consciousness of how we're treating, and how our children are being perceived, and mainly let's treat them in a loving, kind way, not punishing, not punishing children.

- Absolutely. Absolutely. No.

- But to give them positive behaviors or emulate positive behaviors.

- Absolutely.

- So then they'll, what they'll do, I mean if you, I got a new grandchild and...

- Uh-hmm. Oh, you do?

- Yes, yes.

- I didn't know that. Congrats.

- About two months old.

- Oh, my goodness.

- And her father, he's always around the house. He's into computers and stuff. He has his little dumbbells that he's always picking up. He showed me a picture of her crawling over and trying to pick up the dumbbell, and that just said it so well to me, kids emulate what their parents do.

- Absolutely.

- When we talked about all these killing and violence, that's an, they're re-mirroring what they see in society. So if we change, we can get other people to be conscious of how they're reacting to things and how, what's going on...

- And, you know, then I remember, I'm working on a case right now. It's a little 10 year old girl and it's having some problems at home. They're having problems at home and...

- Okay. And we got to...

- Well, I just wanna say this quickly, so when the mother came in, the police brought it, and then we're trying to do a forensic interview with the daughter. And the mom, she's 46, so I said, "I do not work with children in a vacuum. I work with children in a family, so you're gonna have to come too." She said, "Ms. Capdeville, that ain't a problem." She said, "I'm 46, but when I was 15, you rescued me from being abused and molested." And she said, "I know you're tough."

- Well, Dilsa, we definitely have to get you back on.

- Okay.

- We're out of time this morning.

- Please, please, please, have me come back.

- But again Ability Radio, and You and Your Health. Thank you, Virgin Islands. And thank you, Dilsa. And we'll be back.

- And thank you for having me.