

- Good day. You're listening to Ability Radio, You and Your Life. My name is Amelia Headley LaMont. I'm the executive director of the Disability Right Center of the Virgin Islands. And I'm joined this morning by my co-host, Iris Bermudez. Good morning, Iris.

- Good morning. Good morning, Virgin Islands.

- We are privileged today to have a very, very special guest. His name is Dale Mason, and he is the president of the Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club. That's quite a mouthful. Good morning, Dale. How are you?

- Good morning, Amelia, and good morning, Iris. I'm fine.

- We are pleased to let you know that this program is brought to you by VI Lottery, making a difference. And if you miss any portion of the show today, please be reminded that this interview, as well as our others, are posted on our website, which is located at [drcvi.org](http://drcvi.org). Well, Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club, let's say that 50 times real fast and see how we do. Welcome. And tell us about the organization. What does it do?

- The Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club was founded in 2008. It was a idea that came to me just driving through the area in Bethlehem. And I realized that the other Virgin Island or Saint Croix community clubs, and I decided or think that we needed to have one from Bethlehem. I'm talking clubs like [ inaudible ] those three organization or clubs that I know of is community-oriented. And I figured, "Well--hey, we used to live in Bethlehem. We could have one from Bethlehem too." So, hey, Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club was born. The idea came, like I said, as I was passing through, and is no more than, whereas the club, my idea for the club was to be, to teach kids 10 to 12 how to cook. Because, you know, you drive around here in a good weekend and you see all these fast-food areas with the drive-through with a lot of cars. And the generation for today, they are not cooking. They just take the children or the kids to the fast, these fast-food place and, hamburger, Kentucky, pizza, name it, they do it. This club was supposed to bring children from 10 to 20 in Bethlehem and show them how to prepare breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and how to prepare your foods by, well, like seasoning meats and stuff like that. The [ inaudible ] for the place Bethlehem, we had a sit-down talk but the president or, slash vice president have passed away, and they didn't have a quorum at the time, so we could continue or finish our talks. My idea was to get one of the houses in Bethlehem, put out a roof or build it out, and that's where we would have been, this academy for culinary arts. And now it didn't pan out but our club is still in existence. And what we do for our fundraising is we go down at the racetrack and we sell food. The moneys that we recover from that fundraising activity is, we give to organization that need help. Other organization that is really receiving money from the government or whatever, we kind of like to help the people from the bottom up. And to that, the [ inaudible ] group which, where I'm sitting right now has been our first recipient of our donation to the club. And a project that they had with that, Ms. Bermudez, not Iris, but Ms. Bermudez, the other one, was doing a video or DVD project and we were able to help fund that. Our second one was with the Queen Louise Home, whereas, when we invite the director to give us [ inaudible ] she came with a list. Trust me, she had a, she had a list. And it was like 20 items. We say, "Ms. Director, we just need one of, one of, one of the item on your list so we could help you fund it." So take the priority, the most priority one. And she told us that she had this young man who was [ inaudible ] his wheelchair and, so, okay. So she gave us the details on it, and we were able to help fund them, we're getting the wheelchair for the individual. At that time, he was like in ninth grade in a wheelchair, and really [ inaudible ] when he saw the wheelchair, he wasn't [ inaudible ] he was really [ inaudible ] it. So with our donation to them, was able to help fund with the balance, with the person that they had to give this wheelchair. And so we went from there. And we started, we had a couple of function where we feed the homeless in Christiansted, we feed the homeless in Frederiksted. And when nobody will respond to our request, what we did is, at the end of the year, we would do a donation to a club or activity. And since, when they had any, what we had was, I tell them, "Let's do this." We had the function. We had like five members in the club that were from different denomination or church. So what we did is we went to their church. We've

been in Moravian, AME, Saint Anne's, [ inaudible ] and it is the one right there in Upper Love. I don't remember the name of that one but, and we went to those churches and we give a donation from the club for the amount that we usually give out for the year. And then we had another year where we have five members of the club had family that have passed away and we, the, at our end-of-the-year party, we donated a little token to each of the members as, you know, where you could help yourself to cover your expense. It was not big, but at least it could stop a hole. And what we do, we did that. And then at the end of each year, we keep Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated party where all the members who work, participate in any other fundraise and cleaning, we drop a party. What we did before was every six months, from January to June, all those members who had [ inaudible ] from January to June, we will go Hotel on the Cay. And those from July to December will go to the Hotel on the Cay and partake in a, in a dinner. That's appreciation for a job well-done for the year. We've been doing that. From there to get to the club where we were speaking about the culinary arts was, like I said, to bringing kids with my members now who is so into cooking from that childhood system, we are losing our Crucian culinary arts fast. And I think with this club, we could maintain it while you bring these kids into, to cook, learn to cook, prepare a breakfast, a lunch and a dinner. At the end of the six weeks, they would have been able to prepare their own food or even help at home. But they would have gotten the basic, how to fry, boil, season meat, bake, you know, the different things. What entails in the culinary art, cleanliness, the preparation, your table, your ingredients, from the cupboard to the table, from the icebox to the table to the stove.

- Well, this conversation is making me very hungry. We'll take a short break, and we'll be right back. You're listening to Ability Radio, You and Your Life. We're back on the air. This is Ability Radio, You and Your Life. My name is Amelia Headley Lamont. I'm joined this morning by my co-host, Iris Bermudez. Our special guest today is Mr. Dale Mason. He's the president of the Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club. Tell us a little bit, in addition to the culinary arts, which is very important because we all have an interesting eating, who are your members? Who's involved?

- Okay. The board of directors from president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, PR, and sergeant of arms. The sergeant of arms is Rubos Samuel, the PR is Barnes Cornelius, the treasurer is Bordelle Simmons. Secretary Denise Mason, vice president is Kevin Henley, and yours truly is the president. To be member is, been born, live, raised, moved, and worked in Bethlehem. And I like the last one because back in the day when Bethlehem was Bethlehem with a sugar factory, people from Christiansted, Frederiksted, and the surrounding areas in the country work in Bethlehem. So if you have a father, brother, uncle, nephew, niece, auntie who work in Bethlehem, you could be a part of the club. Or are you a member of any other families that live in Bethlehem, you could be a member of the club. Requirements is easy, \$25 registration. You get two t-shirts, for working. You get a polo shirt, for outing. And that outing is either for dinner, a funeral, or any kind of activities that require a formal dress that the club attends, so we make ourselves known and present just by our uniform. Meetings are held every third Wednesday. I mean, sorry. Every third Sunday, unless there's recess. So unless there's [ inaudible ] then we have a meeting, from 4:00 to 6:00. Sometimes you got a little snack at the end. So our mission for this year is we took up three initiative for Bethlehem. One is to power-wash two buildings in Bethlehem. If you drive by there now, you will see that they're pretty clean, because we power-washed them this, last weekend. It's the first house coming from the west in front of the National Guard and the first house coming from the east next to the church. We are going to paint them in their original color when Bethlehem was Bethlehem, and we are gonna put up a mural of the families that live in Bethlehem. And our third one is to put in the name plates in the houses of the family, how do, occupied when, in Bethlehem.

- More or less, how many families lived there when you were growing up? Because you were raised there.

- Yeah. In the south side the houses are duplex. And each, I think, the building, there's 28 of them. And just about everybody who, in my, in my time, 0knowing Bethlehem, I know everybody

that lived there. And the opposite side where the National Guard is at, there was some duplex and there was some single. And I think the houses in that side would have been close to like 20 houses. And like I said, I know just about everybody that lived in them. And then you have where, if you are living in one of those one, single house unit and you have a [ inaudible ] family, they would have move you into a duplex. Kind of, make things more comfortable for you. The house there was two-bedroom and three-bedroom on the south side. And on the north side you have a couple houses that were duplex. That was two, they were mostly two-bedrooms. And then you have the single houses. Like, just for like bachelor or a, or a lady living by herself, it was there. Bethlehem, as far as sugar cane is concerned, was where people from Christiansted and Frederiksted will come with their [ inaudible ] to sell. In a, in a payday or just about every payday you will have this merchants coming to sell clothes. They will sell food, ice cream. Like for instance a van ice cream used to come. [ inaudible ] used to come there. There was some, at the time, they will march but there was some, people used to come. They used to walked with a suitcase.

- [ inaudible ]

- And they will sell or they'll credit you, you know? So we had, we also had a clinic in Bethlehem with a public health. People will come and service the people in Bethlehem, as far as vaccination, cuts, laceration, anything like that. If you have a problem that requires a medical and the, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday when they come in. Public health will take care of your problem, or service you, or recommend you to a doctor or something like that. But we had our health taking care of in Bethlehem. Some physician, like I remember my dad and my mom, Dr. Evans, which is the governor, he used to come to Bethlehem, take blood pressure, or give you a shot, you know, whatever the case maybe. He, I remember him coming by mother's house and doing the high blood pressure thing or pressure works or all the other stuff. And he will visit each house in the area and have a record or correct a menu if you need to go to either the hospitals and, me, myself being born and raised in Bethlehem. I'm number eight of nine. I was born in Frederiksted, in the clinic. I raised up in Bethlehem. Bethlehem for me was, we're family, the village, as we have said. The village is who raised the children. Every family or household in Bethlehem that have children, the parents from other family would take care of them. Whether it's eating, you can say babysitting, [ inaudible ] mannerism in Bethlehem, or manners in Bethlehem was one of the number one key thing in Bethlehem, where, if you met an elder, the greeting of the day was very important whether it's morning, afternoon, or evening. You pass an elder without even complimenting them or saying one of those things, they have the right to beat you and complain you, so when you get home again you will get beat again. So Bethlehem was like in the day. The families raised the kids. I for one, I know myself good, just about every house in Bethlehem I eat food from each of those families. So they know me and they know my mom, and I was like a household guest. At one time, I know when you had breakfast. I know, well, it wasn't so much breakfast, it was lunch or supper. That is, you know? You're all playing with one of [ inaudible ] and you go home with them. He, if, you're gonna solve him, you're gonna solve them, you gonna solve, then you'll solve me or solve somebody who [ inaudible ] so everybody, if I was go, if I was gonna get, so Bethlehem was a, where the village raised the children. And I tell you if Bethlehem could be Bethlehem, I'll go back.

- That's a very interesting story. And I know you have some more exploits to share with us so we're gonna take a quick break. We'll be right back. This Ability Radio, You and Your Life. We're back on the air. This Ability Radio, You and Your Life. My name is Amelia Headley Lamont. I'm joined by my co-host, Iris Bermudez. This show is brought to you by VI Lottery, making a difference. Our special guest today is Mr. Dale Mason, president of the Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club. Now, Dale, you talked about the community and how important community was in your growing up years. Can you share with us, and I'm intrigue that the health services that you got came to Bethlehem and rendered those services and, you know, merchants. What was the mode of transportation, and tell us a little bit more about your comings and goings as a youth.

- Well, we had husk and cat. I grew up around that. Then we had cars and we had trucks and everything else, but food, just a general era in Bethlehem was like husk and cats. We had grunges. What we call nigga grunge, where they, just like what they're doing now in the government, that I've given you property and you could plant. So you have that. You have your animals which, goat, horse, sheep, pigs, and everybody had a dog in the property. But if you wasn't driving a car or a truck, it was in a [ inaudible ] cab being, going somewhere. And that was the mode of transportation at the time. And to that, walking, you walk wherever you, if you want to go, you will walk. If don't, if don't got a mode of transportation, you will walk. Yet our health, it was limited to just Monday, Wednesday, and Friday when the public health come. Anything after that, if you got really sick then you have to go the hospital. Growing up in Bethlehem also, with the sugar factory and the cane, was, when the canes where cut in the different cane fields and come to Bethlehem, they will come by mode of transportation of a bagoon pulled by tractor or a truck, what do call it? But a truck, bringing cane from a private or personal-owned property that have cane on it that they used to sell to...

- Okay. So other people that had plantations would harvest their sugarcane and then they would take it to Bethlehem...

- Right, yes, right.

- ...to convert it to molasses?

- Yeah. They will, they will bring their cane and sell it [ inaudible ] like for, I could give you for a example like, Mr. Rajesh, those guys that have the plant, you know, in [ inaudible ]

- Yes. Uh-hmm.

- ...is that whole area used to be cane. Just so that, just give everybody a idea of the, a person who had property. We will cut his cane and transport it by his truck to Bethlehem.

- To Bethlehem.

- Yeah. The regular [ inaudible ] land that where cane used to be is, we walk by the Eastern Caribbean. People coming and put a [ inaudible ] to cut the cane. They would put, load them in the bagoons or truck and deliver it to Bethlehem. When the bagoons come with the cane to Bethlehem, each bagoon will be individually weighted and tagged. The scale man use to pull out, let's say if you have cane coming from a river, what he will do is pull out five cane from the bagoon and tag them. At the end of the day, those cane that he has tagged all to the different location of the, of the estate, the cane come from, will go to the la. And the lab would squeeze those, make juice, not to drink but to, for testing. And so that's, you, or I think that, what they did is to test the sweetness...

- The sweetness?

- ...of the content, or sugar, the cane juice. So they will have a idea. Like when the rain in the area that, well, with the growing of the cane with the, with the rain, it would, the sweetness, you could tell like river cane. When river bagoon come to Bethlehem, was one of the bagoon that a lot of us who use to wait for. Yeah. It was sweetest cane. Out the river because, as you can see, you know, when, whenever it rain, it goes over to Carambola side because of the mountain. So that used to be the sweetest cane. And then they had [ inaudible ] I mean, cane's sweet regardless of how you put it, but, I mean, that, they were like sugar. So in the transportation of the cane to the factory, [ inaudible ] they used to have a stringent area for the cane during the day. And they will take them up to the eastern part of the National Guard, use to have a [ inaudible ] right up there. So we park them there during the day, and then at night, they will bring them in, so the cane apparatus could take them out, so they could go through the process of washing, squeezing, collecting the juice, and everything else.

- So that, that's the only time they did at night.

- Yeah. Yeah.

- Any reason why?

- During the, during the day was, they were cutting and weighing. And then they park them. And at night, is when they bring them in. They had, they had three shift, 8:00 to 4:00, 4:00 to 12:00, and 12:00 to 8:00. It's a regular shift. But from 4:00 to 12:00 and 12:00 to 8:00 is where they would start bring in the sugarcane [ inaudible ] so you could have the bagoon emptied for the, I mean, next run. So it was a process.

- Tell us what a bagoon is.

- A bagoon is a cart that use to transport the cane pulled by tractor. And there will be like five of them. The tractor will pull five bagoons that have the cane in it.

- That wouldn't be wagons or something?

- No, no. These are made from steel.

- Oh.

- Yeah. As a matter of fact there's one in Bethlehem right now. There's a bagoon right there in Bethlehem, on the side where they [ inaudible ] they have it. Well, I'll take a picture and bring and show you guys, but there is right one there. Monday, this coming Monday, I have another interview with some people from Maryland, so I'll, I had one last week, Friday, they have a have a continuation. So they're like you, getting a [ inaudible ] history of Bethlehem.

- Oh, yeah. This is so excellent.

- If you drive on Queen Mary Highway and you get to [ inaudible ] stoplight. If you look to your left from west or you look to your right from east, you will see the chimney stack and you'll see Mount Eagle Hill. That's in the general location where Bethlehem factory is located at. In there we had, we had a church. We had three stores. The main one being pass the [ inaudible ] shop. No. It's one [ inaudible ] then one we had at Bethlehem. You will have to go by [ inaudible ] which is the two-story building and the Midland [ inaudible ] Road headed towards Grove. This two-story building, it is green in color right now. And that was Antonio Figueroa [ inaudible ] that was his shop. And you could get all-you-can goods, bread, even get your kerosene for your, for your stove. The same thing with pasta [ inaudible ] you'll get your boxed cheese, you'll get your bread. I don't know if you will remember [ inaudible ] who was a baker. Okay. [ inaudible ] were located in Campo Rico or, no, not in Campo Rico. I think that is Concordia. You're your down Queen Mary headed west and you, if you know the [ inaudible ] for Good Hope, that you could take that road and go to town. After you pass that [ inaudible ] there's two, or two main store on your right-hand side if you're going west, was Concordia Grocery and [ inaudible ] Supermarket.

- Yes, I remembered. It was...

- Okay. The road that take you to Villa Morales. The [ inaudible ] and the cannery there is [ inaudible ] he used to bake, he use to bake [ inaudible ] bread, johnnycake, and black bread. To this day, everybody like black bread. But that was, that's original. All the other bread, what they call black read is fake. Take it from me. I could tell you. And he used to bring his bread to Bethlehem and sell. And then supplied the store past the [ inaudible ] church, I mean, store. He was the pastor for the church right now in Bethlehem, Pastor [ inaudible ] have been the storekeeper. And like I said, and I [ inaudible ] there's everything. If you didn't there in Bethlehem

[ inaudible ] in Saturday, you will venture out to the towns, whether Christiansted, Frederiksted, and you buy your meat, you buy any other thing else, like your celery, your greens, your dairy. I remember my mother used to go to [ inaudible ] in Frederiksted, the meat market. And she, that's where she buy her meat from. If she didn't do that then the families in Bethlehem will kill our pig, [ inaudible ] and the two things that used to happen, they will sell or they will give. When they have the grunges, the nigga grunges, well, they will reap potatoes, sweet potato, pepper, or [ inaudible ] if they have too much in abundance, they will give out to the families in Bethlehem. So we have our [ inaudible ] grunge food and our meat that we raise, being chicken, ducks, pig, sheep, goat, we had it. There was never a want or need for want in Bethlehem because it was there. And if you didn't had, you could go to the neighbor and either to lend a bag of sugar or teaspoon of sugar or a cup of sugar.

- They'd lend?

- Yeah. Because eventually we'll give it back because if we don't give that back, "Hey, when you needed again?"

- [ inaudible ]

- See, [ inaudible ] somebody you used to go to, so it was our repay. And, you know, that's all the reason and the camaraderie and the closeness that a family in Bethlehem was.

- [ inaudible ]

- Just a, an approximation, I mean, about how many families are we talking about who lived in this community?

- Well, if I didn't mention it before, I tell you the housing and this, the south side was duplex. And those duplex would I entail 28 families. What do you had, because like I said it is two-bedroom and three-bedroom. And on the other side with the National Guard, there should be at least 20 units. There was single and some was double. So you had a single house for a man who didn't had a wife or children. And then you have to doubles who had, excuse. Family who had children. That, you know, the double unit was given to the, I got a little bit of history here. The great houses that was on the properties for [ inaudible ] I mean, for [ inaudible ] there are nine of them, nine. And in Bethlehem alone had three. If you're coming from east to west and the road, that is [ inaudible ] Drive or something that's have effect. Where Alfredo Andrew School is at. Right across the street where the road goes to Mon Bijou and the corner right there was a great house. When you leave from there going towards Bethlehem and you take the road to go to Charles Emmanuel, in the corner where you see the AME church sign, that was a great house. And when we're going, the main gate of the [ inaudible ] I mean, National Guard, no. It was like a triangle. The original road that is there, and then when you get to that point, the road will take you to [ inaudible ] once you get in the corner, there was a great house right there. Those great house and those different estate was where the supervisors of Bethlehem used to live. [ inaudible ] the judge, he will live in a one, over in Paradise, right. Slob which is by the [ inaudible ]

- That's used to be a clinic.

- Yeah. Clinic?

- A long time ago. Yeah. Yeah.

- Yeah. A long time ago that was a great house. So have one, two, three, four, five, no. Let me see how I can explain it. It's very easy. It's easy. If you're coming, if you're leaving from the National Guard and you're going in the western road to come out to the, to the stoplight, just before you, let me see how, just before, okay. The [ inaudible ] who have Bethlehem. There's a gate and then there's a fig orchard. If you look on your left-hand side, you'll see they got a

number of fig trees in there. Well, in that general area, there was two great house. The first was, the first one was a great house was, and that was next to the chimney. The, our host was there with a, two-story, and that became a great house after. That's where the post office was, Kingshill Post Office was there. And then, they move it, when you're going on towards the stoplight, they moved the post office out of that two-story and put it right in the side, in the left-hand, in the right-hand side going out. And there was two great house there. It was in between two great house. So after you pass the road that goes to [ inaudible ] before you head [ inaudible ] area there was a great house there also. And then there was two that the post office separates.

- I remember that post office...

- The post office?

- ...a long time ago, yeah.

- Yeah. That was where...

- A long...

- ...everybody get their meals and then when they move from Bethlehem there, [ inaudible ]

- Yes.

- ...is where they end up in Kingshill.

- In Kingshill?

- I also grew up in Bethlehem, my mom was a cook at the [ inaudible ] kitchen which in they had two landlords that will hold a hundred people each. So in that one area, they, she would provide food with her friends or visit a cooks for 200 people because each of them, each bed was double. The bed was bunk, top and bottom. And they did hold at least 200 people in this...

- Now, these were workers in the factory?

- Yeah. That they came from Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Nevis, Martinique, name it, Guadalupe, they have Dominique. They come, every week has seasonal walkers.

- Right, right, right.

- Yeah. Right. So they will come in for that time, the 90 days or two months to cut the cane and go back. Backing in the, some are them used to miss the flight.

- On that note, we're gonna take a quick break, and we'll be right back. You're listening to Ability Radio, You and Your Life. Our special guest this day is Mr. Dale Mason from the Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club. We're back. You're listening to Ability Radio, You and Your Life. My name is Amelia Headley LaMont. I'm joined by Iris Bermudez. And our special guest today is Mr. Dale Mason, the Bethlehem Family and Friends Rejuvenated Club. This show is brought to you by VI Lottery, making a difference. And if you miss, if you've missed any portion of the show, we will be posting this interview, as well as others, on our website, which is located on [drcvi.org](http://drcvi.org). Okay. In our last communication, you had indicated that there were seasonal workers who from time to time may have forgotten...

- [ inaudible ]

- ...their reservations.

- Yeah.

- Okay. What struck me was just how many people worked in this...

- Oh, well...

- ...enterprise.

- Just that camp alone, it had at least 200. The different camps and the different estate would have been [ inaudible ] as one, Old Works would have been two, Slob would have been three, and there were also, they have [ inaudible ] in Bethlehem, right in the south side with the National Guard. So they had, the four kitchens. At any given time, those camps, they had, I was, I was ventured to see that one in Bethlehem had a hundred, because there was a landlord. And then [ inaudible ] might had probably a hundred or hundred and fifty, because They had two houses. [ inaudible ] when they had some small ones, so I'd say about 50 beyond and those were the, and right across from where, the one in Old Works is, was where you had the house table which is still there that the mangers that's used to, the timekeepers and supervises in the different areas, that's why they used to host the houses. In Bethlehem, I also and it's still standing, in Bethlehem. The stable. There's also one house that is in the National Guard site that is still up, and that's a duplex, that it's still there. The family for that duplex, they, was the Paris Family. And their mom just passed just the, this weekend. But the daughters and sons, they're still here us. They live right there in Frederiksted. But the house is there. And when, with our initiative, we spoke to the general, a little food is going to her, so that we could also paint that house. So the house table that is there, is there was used as a resident. After the house, they used it as a resident, day care, and a pre-school. And that building, the water supply for Bethlehem, if you look at where the security guard booth is at, if you look right behind of it, you'll see a cemented, like a tank. That's where the water, they had, they had a well in the general area that used to fill the tank for the people in the community. The [ inaudible ] is still there, the landlord that used to be there is partially, but still there. In Bethlehem, it had at least five landlord. And were part of National Guard booth [ inaudible ] if you remember, couple years ago, they were , they were [ inaudible ] to something and they find a graveyard, right? So they had to stop the operation. So when you make that turn to go towards Christiansted, towards the Guard itself, you will see that green area, that's where the graveyard was. But prior to that or after that, they had a landlord that was there. People lived there, there was a landlord that consist of seven dwellings. You live in the landlord, and your kitchen was a [ inaudible ] your yard, excuse me. And that was doubled, one east, one west, so there was two [ inaudible ] use to occupy that kitchen. So there were, like, six of them, six, okay, six, because I mean they had six families living in [ inaudible ] I think I mentioned but the store past the [ inaudible ] then the what? [ inaudible ] and there were [ inaudible ] the church was what we called [ inaudible ] used to be the preacher for that church. That's where the family, another close ties with family, that Easter, or New Years, Christmas, Easter, any, Thanksgiving, big weekends. They had this lady, her name is Ora Estrada. She would get up early, then she [ inaudible ] and get them one line, one line as to say, to recite in church for Easter or you're in a Christmas play with the little Jesus and everybody else. And, you know, you'll do the Christmas play, you sing. But there was another to get Easter that we had in Bethlehem, where you go to church and [ inaudible ] or recite a poem. That was another good upbringing, you know...

- So how can we as a community share some of these? I know we can't turn the clock back, but how can we, I mean you mentioned food...

- Yeah.

- ...as a, as a vehicle. What are some other possible ways in which...

- You see, the community, what we have today, is being destroyed. See like for instance, just an example, Shabbos Project. Now you have, how many times? Jackson, you have Kennedy, but the people here today in those projects is not like that you have in the, in the village, which is

supposed to be, but it is not because the minute you beat somebody child in a project, that's a, that's a call of different host so [ inaudible ] we ain't discussing that. But if they had that Bethlehem village like [ inaudible ] Bethlehem, Coble [ inaudible ] Mon Bijou [ inaudible ] where you had the village that take care of the family or the children in the community. If this project would have been like that, would do like that, the things that we have today, won't be. But the grandmother died, the grandfather died. So you have, you, like, you're second-class generation that they come from old school and they raise their children, and some of them are still around and some of them are gone. Them who had the upbringing from the old school is still around. But then when then when they got to the third generation, everybody gone crazy. [ inaudible ] and then we got this everybody this crazy thing and this where, "Oh, you can't hit my child," and, "Why you hit my child?" When you go to school, when you been in school back in the day, you get beat. When you go home and complain or the teacher put a letter in your short pocket, and you go home and say, "Mommy, the teacher say I must do this," she read it, you get beat again. Parents no going to school to fight. They ain't going to ask what happened or what the child did.

- Right.

- Right.

- So [ inaudible ] so our time has changed from old school to new school. And I think new school are crazy. We don't have that tightness anymore.

- No discipline.

- Yeah. We don't have it no more. Everybody [ inaudible ] well, let me go back to Bethlehem. I totally hope you could. I tell you what our initiative is for this year. I would like if some rich person out there could hear my cry and say, "Hey, I got a building that you could come and do your culinary academy." And I could get my Bethlehem Club membership to start cooking some food and training some people.

- I have a question for you. You mentioned leasees, leasees, leasees or...

- Yeah, the leasees, yeah.

- Those are people that own the buildings or those are people that rent...

- No. They, the leasees for Bethlehem...

- Okay.

- ...is just like any other farmers. They have property from Department of Agriculture, okay? They are the, they entity that lease the farmlands, so...

- Oh, I see.

- ...they would have gotten the lease from Department of Agriculture. They have a plan on what they want to do. The plan that I had is inconsistent with them. But being that I wanted to do, get my own in one of the houses in Bethlehem. They now have constructed that big building where the garage used to be. That's where the building is at, that used to be in the garage. The other building to the south was a storeroom where my father worked, was, and was in charge. It's a big open building that they will cube, do a, put cubicles in it and they doing the same cultural thing, like, whenever they get it started and going, they will be doing cooking, arts, and craft. They will doing cultural dance or [ inaudible ] dance, quadrille. Then they will doing the [ inaudible ] probably making clothes, the...

- The madras.

- The madras thing. They probably will be doing that and, amongst other thing. Yeah, I think there will be planting too, because they don't plant the [ inaudible ] to the west. They got some, they got coconut. And then just before where their original gate was for National Guard, right in that [ inaudible ] they have some cane. There were a cane [ inaudible ] in the [ inaudible ] so they'd been doing their thing.

- Well, I'm very intrigued by the work that you are doing and I hope that if there is a willing ear, that this kind of work that you and the group are doing, will be continued. I'd like to thank you for sharing all of these very rich information with us. And hope that at some point you can come back to our show and tell us what progress the group has made...

- Yeah. Okay. I will.

- ...because I think food is very important. Not only is it, it tastes good, but it's also has to do with your well-being.

- Yeah.

- And so that's, health is a very important aspect of the things that we're trying to promote as well.

- My thing is, I would like to get the food going because we are losing it. And my sister, Budel, she's 12 years older than I am. And that generation, a fall group, they are still here, they're willing, but we got to them now because if we don't get them, the generation after them, ain't gonna be doing it.

- Yeah. Yeah.

- They interested, they willing to gear up, but we don't have a place. So that's why we had move, well, you know, we got a plan A and we got a plan B.

- Plan B.

- We didn't have a plan B but we make one and that's where we, once a month fundraising. We, we'll have a [ inaudible ] agency or, like I said, feed the homeless, those things [ inaudible ]

- Right.

- Yeah.

- Well, I wanna thank you so much for your contributions really to this community. I know that the Disability Rights Center has benefitted from the good works of your organization. We'd like to thank you for taking the timeout in bringing this information to us.

- Yeah.

- This has been Ability Radio, You and Your Life. Have a good day.

- [ inaudible ]