

[MUSIC "Yes We Can" by the Pointer Sisters]

Now's the time for all good men  
To get together with one another  
We got to iron out our problems  
And iron out our quarrels  
And try to live as brothers

And try to find peace within  
Without stepping on one another  
And do respect the women of the world  
Remember, you all had mothers

We got to make this land a better land  
Than the world in which we live  
And we got to help each man be a better man

Good Morning, Virgin Islands, this is Archie Jennings along with my co-host this morning, Julien Henley.

Good Morning, listening audience and welcome to Ability Radio. Have you and your life, you always got to say that one.

Yes.

Sponsored by the VI Lottery Commission. We try to bring information for the – not only the disability community but the entire public population in the Virgin Islands about services available in all the government agencies, all the private agencies that help provide services for the health and well-being of people of the Virgin Islands. This morning we have some special guests related to our work as partners with FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency; they're here this morning. I'm going to have each one of the persons available introduce themselves and let us know what they do for FEMA. Good morning. Good morning. My name is Paul Cora, I'm the public information officer for FEMA on St. Thomas and St. Johns. And I've been here about a month and life is going good. We're spreading the word about all the different programs, about what's going on with FEMA and all our federal partners, and what we're bringing in to islands, and kind of update everybody, as an everyday event, about what's going on, because everything changes by the week it seems like. The numbers change, our programs change, the territory has new programs coming in and our job is to spread the word and the wealth around what's going on.

Oh, great, Paul.

Hey this is Rodney Garrett I'm a disability integration advisor with FEMA. And pretty much what disability integration advisors do is we show up to a disaster and just ensure that anyone with access – what we refer to as access and functional needs or some type of a disability receive programmatic, communication and physical access to all the services we're providing.

And we certainly thank you for walking in our door that day.

Definitely, definitely.

Yes.

Good morning, this is Ben Clark, I'm an American Sign Language Interpreter working with FEMA and we are here to provide communication to people here on the island.

Good morning, my name is Cindy Clark, I'm also a Sign Language Interpreter here with FEMA on the islands. I've been here about five months, here to provide access and communication on the islands.

And my name is Julien Henley, I'm an advocate of the Disability Rights Center here in St. Thomas and we have been working as partners with the recovery process over the last five or six months as far as making and creating a conduit between individuals who were underserved or individuals that need service especially in our disabled community. We have made great efforts, and today we're hoping to hear a whole lot more of what is going on with FEMA and the Disability Rights Center as we go on.

Alright, thank you, thank you. Paul, I'd like to start with you, if you could sort of update us on what is going on with FEMA at this point in as it relates to the recovery process in the Virgin Islands. Boy, lots of stuff going on. Good stuff too.

Great.

For example, the EPA is kind of ending their hazard materials collections, actually starting the last day is today over in St. Johns. But they collected tons and tons of hazardous materials throughout this last month. They did a great job. So their mission is ending, so all the EPA people are heading home, which is a good thing for the island. Long term I think they're having some talks with the territory to figure out what they're going to do with hazardous materials in the future, about the landfill, but that is their ongoing discussions. So that part is good.

I heard from the Coast Guard the other day, that the 440 vessels that were sunk for the two hurricanes, they've all been recovered. And that is a great thing, they got all the fuel off of them, the oil off of them and the boats are being recycled. And so their mission is coming to an end.

So we can keep our sea clean around us, that's great.

Absolutely. I just think that's great. So I mean we are getting some progress. The debris cleanup is going well. That mission will be ending March 7. So the debris cleanup is kind of finishing up and they're grinding up as you see all the debris and then hopefully will be taken off the island because the landfill is full. We don't know where it's going to go yet, but we're heading in that direction. The disaster recovery centers that are one on each island, they're going to be closing next week on Tuesday. That's also a good thing because the numbers are kind of dwindling down. So if people have any questions they've got until Tuesday to come into the Disaster Recovery Centers and get some help. But that doesn't mean that we're not going to go away. The Disaster Recovery Centers are actually going to be turned over to the territory, so the Emergency Home Repair Program can get started next week. And that's a great program where upwards of \$25,000 per eligible applicant can come in and get some money and there are going to be contractors coming to your home and inspecting

it. Which I think it's kind of important for this group is that any disability needs that they'll help address. Like for example, if you don't have a working kitchen they're going to come in and install a temporary kitchen for you. But if you have a needs, special needs they're going to address those issues, especially we've got access issues, ramps or -

Ramps, yeah.

Maybe widening doors. There's lots of things that they can do. But just to be qualified you've got to have an applicant with FEMA already, you've got to be the homeowner, and you have to have some damages from the hurricane. So it's -

For those people that are late and a dollar short like me, where are those disability - Disaster Recovery Centers? Because they still have to get in before FEMA turns it over.

At the 22 Center in the Mall there.

Uh-huh.

So just walk, you'll see the yellow signs. And that doesn't - if you still have questions and they're not there after Tuesday, you can certainly call the 800 numbers, 800-621-3362.

I knew the number but, it's always busy.

I know.

[Laughter]

They're open until 11:00 at night.

Okay.

So that's kind of a snap shot of what's going on right now, which I think is all good positive stuff. It's going - you know; some people think it's slower than others but we're moving forward. So, thanks.

Alright. Any more information on the updates?

No. I'll see if I can think of some more, my brain's full.

[Laughter]

Alrighty. Well, Rodney, you've been here since the onset as far as being a part of this recovery process. And what we'd like to do is to get an update from you as far as where you started and where you are today as far as your assistance in the territory totally.

Yeah, as you mentioned, we got down here in September, started off in St Croix. Obviously when FEMA first came down we were just simply trying to sustain life, make sure the people were getting food and water, some of the basic necessities. And so a lot of our energy and effort was going towards that. Making sure that we got out in the community and were finding survivors with disabilities that were not able to get to the pods and receive food, or receive the services that we provided at some of these locations. And so working with Ben and Cindy here to my right; getting out in the community, working with the independent living center, working with disability rights center to identify survivors you guys work with that know or that need. And that's pretty much what took up the bulk of our work in the beginning and then doing the registration events with you guys at the Disability Rights Center which was a huge success.

And now we're kind of shifting gears from response to recovery. So we're thinking a little bit more long-term. And like Paul mentioned,

you know, working on the accessibility of homes and getting out here and doing some inspections for the multi-lease program - excuse me multi-lease and repair program. Where basically we come and check out building owners that have multi-units and see if there's a possibility for accessibility. And if so, getting in there and making some accessibility units available to survivors that still need shelter. We're also kind of getting involved with other cadres that are coming down. So we've got PA Mitigation, NDRF, these are some long-term services that come down from FEMA to kind of project forward and work on infrastructure and things of that nature. And so we're trying to make sure that survivors with disabilities have a seat at that table as well. And so that's kind of where we're at now is making that transition from recovery to - excuse me from response to recovery. Well you got some of those federal acronyms in there. What's NDRF? Oh. I should know this one. Paul can you help me out with this NDRF?

[Laughter]

(Inaudible - microphone inaccessible)

Oh here we go -

[Laughter]

It's - the NDRF is the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

Oh okay. There we go. Ben's always here to save me.

[Laughter]

That's why I keep him around. But it's good. It's all good. And one of the things is as you go in there, I think I mentioned it to FEMA folks before, about the Virgin Islands has a special law for homeowners who make repairs under the Visibility Act, they get a tax break.

But at this point we're going to take a little break to let our sponsors help us pay for this time. And we'll get right back to you.

[MUSIC Pointer Sisters, "Yes We Can"]

The little children of the world

'Cause they're our strongest hope for the future

The little bitty boys and girls

We got to make this land a better land  
Than the world in which we live  
And we gotta help each man be a better man  
With the kindness that we give  
I know we can make it  
I know darn well, we can work it out  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
Yes, we can, can, why can't we?  
If we wanna, yes, we can, can  
I know we can make it work

Welcome back to Ability Radio, You and Your Life. I'd like to remind the public audience that we do have a call-in if you want to ask any of the people from FEMA questions today at 719-1079, that's 719-1079 for Ability Radio call-in.

Okay we're back and I'm glad that we have also here with us from FEMA Ben and Cindy Clark and they're efforts in interpreting to those

individuals that's deaf or hard of hearing throughout the recover process have been a major help. Especially throughout the territory at the pods at the Recovery Centers and at Disability Rights going out in the community and finding individuals who couldn't have those ways to communicate to others and because of their ability with not being able to hear. So what we'd like from you today is to just give an update on your process here, the challenges that you've seen, things that your relationship that your Kindle made life so much better for individuals who couldn't have another avenue to communicate. And where do you see us for the future as far as moving forward?

Well, thank you again for having us here on the radio show this morning. This is Cindy, by the way, I guess I'm the only female in the room so that's pretty obvious.

[Laughter]

So I guess as a sign language interpreter for FEMA one of the things that we do when we first land on the ground after a disaster is we look for the deaf population, the deaf or hard of hearing population and kind of ferret out how in that particular city or community they get together. How do they find out their knowledge? What is their information stream, if you will? And then that's what we tap into to make sure that we give them the information that FEMA has that's pushing out to the community, that it's also being pushed in that direction as well. So that's one of the things that we do. As sign language interpreters we will also go to the public forums, we call them speakers bureaus or town hall meetings. We go and we interpret that as well to make sure that anything that is public facing has that accessibility piece there, it's the right thing to do as well as the law obligates that. So it's both ways.

We also do sign language interpreting for individuals on a one-on-one basis, whether they are coming into a DRC to register for FEMA assistance. Or whether they are having their inspection done on their home, we go out and we interpret for that as well. So we definitely did, you know, all of those things at the beginning of the disaster here in the Virgin Islands when we landed in September. Ben you had something to add?

This is Ben and yes I wanted to throw in, you may have seen us actually on TV, we also interpret for the Governor's media briefings. So you may have seen us on TV or on the different channels or websites and Facebook pages. In addition to us, there's another FEMA sign language interpreter that's located on St. Croix, her name is Yasmine. So you will probably have seen us there. So if you want to see what we look like and match a face to a voice, that's where you find us.

Okay, so when you look at all the things that you've done and the success stories, and I know learning you way around to say, okay you have to go right down there to this almond tree and make a left; and you found your way around to find individuals that was on the outskirts of major communities. Where do you see us in the future? I mean, you leave out in the next couple of months or weeks and the state of the territory at that point, where do you see that we can - or what we can do to improve some of the things that's being left

behind not totally finished as far as communication to those that's deaf or hard of hearing?

This is Ben, and back to what Cindy was saying in regards to providing communication, a communication stream. If you're deaf and hard of hearing you're not able to get the information off this radio broadcast.

Right.

You aren't able to hear it. How do they get that information? How do they find out that the DRCs are closing? How do they find out that the repair program is opening up on Tuesday? How do they find these things out? It's a lot - I would love to see more information out there that is accessible to everybody, where everybody has the opportunity to be able to receive the information. The only location that they're going to be able to find this out is by watching the Governor's briefing, I guess the other place would be the newspapers. But if you know of any people who are deaf or hard of hearing, excuse me, that may need that information please pass it on, please pass it on. We're here to support everybody and make sure that everybody has access to that information.

What I would love to see is in the future for the Virgin Islands is more accessibility. I would love to see interpreters provided anytime there's announcements made. I think the Governor has done a great job in trying to bring in, since the hurricane, bring in interpreters for his briefings, I think that's great. I would like to see that transition from FEMA over to the islands and allow them to take responsibility for that. I would like to see somehow more information, more information available to everybody on the island. And this is Cindy and I know that Rodney's got something, he certainly wants to add as well. I think that when it comes to preparedness that is probably our strongest muscle in making sure that we recover well and we recover quickly. Preparedness is one of those pieces that it's so easy to not do it, when you know the sky is blue and, you know, the wind is perfect and the beach looks great. Right? So it's hard to keep it in mind and it's hard to think about things like hurricanes and high winds and tornados and, you know, all of those things when the day is a beautiful one. But that preparedness is what allows for shorter recovery times, that bounce back after, you know, something big has happened. Preparedness is a multi-faceted approach to, I guess, really to making sure that all of the pieces are in place for those kinds of disasters when an if they come. And living on an island it's not an if, it's a when. Right? I think we've all talked about that. But it's making sure that the emergency messaging is in place and it's accessible to everyone, that it's not just in one avenue, let's say a radio. For example, it's not just on radio but that there is messaging that can happen via, you know, text through cell phones, it can happen through all kinds of different avenues and exploring those and figuring out which ones are the best fit for the population that live on this island. It's in making sure that every single home has a Go kit, or a kit that is there - a Ready kit, excuse me, at kit that's there that has your water, it has a food source, it

has flashlights, it has the medication that you need. You know, all of those pieces that will get you through those first days of a disaster. It's preparing from the bottom up and then preparing from the top to bottom. It's going both directions. It's the local authority or the government putting certain things in place that they can push out quickly in times of disaster. But at the same time it's every single household realizing that during those first hours and days after a hurricane, the first responders, your police, your fire, things like that aren't going to be able to get to you right away; they can't get to every single household right away. So it's the responsibility of every single household to make sure that they've got what they need to get through those first few days as well. So preparedness is one of those huge key pieces that I think would be of the biggest benefit to the Virgin Islands.

Rodney.

Right, so I think Cindy really touched on some really good points. I also think it's important that the disability community notices that, you know, this is a time where the spotlight is on the Virgin Islands. They are looking to see, wow here's some of our shortfalls as far as access and functionality and we need to improve because we had survivors with disabilities that weren't able to evacuate, they weren't able to get to resources, they weren't able to get this information. And so these are certain things that may be in blue sky times would go underserved or just under the radar and you're not necessarily seeing the need for it. But when it's brought to the forefront like this I think it's just a great opportunity for the disability community as a whole to take advantage and to keep the momentum going as far as the improvement they want to see. It's kind of the silver lining in this disaster, is the fact that you kind of see the underbelly of things that maybe weren't being handled to the best of their ability. And so there's opportunity for improvement on it definitely. And also just as far as what I'd like to see is maybe a move from the more informal support system to some more structured, formal supports in place for these different folks with whatever the range of disabilities may be. Because there's a huge grassroots movement to support individuals with disabilities on the island, but as far as the formal support, I think that's where there could be a lot more improvement for sure.

Cindy I'm going to ask you a question, with your extra comments also, is how do you see us empowering the individuals with disabilities in the territory? I mean, what advice do you - to those that's listening today to say, how could we as individuals with disabilities be empowered to not just wait in services to be get, but to be more demanding of the things that you need as a citizen with a disability in a territory like this?

I think voices are important. Getting involved is hugely important and getting involved can look like a million different ways. You know, everyone has their strengths, everyone has their weaknesses. So you know, building on the strengths, building on the method or the avenue that you do have, and using that. You know, for instance, if mobility

is something that you can do with ease, then be that body that's in the audience, that's up front, that's making action happen. If your voice from home is your strength, call into the radio show, make your voice heard, be a part of the idea. Right? Be a part of that brain. Push that forward. Use whatever your strength is, but become involved, whatever that might be, become involved. It's not good enough to just complain. Right? We all have to do something. It has to be actionable. So I think that the biggest strength is to come together, not to function in a silo, but to work hand-in-hand. That's a huge one.

When it comes to – and I think it's that, going back to what Rodney was saying earlier about the grassroots, because if you can build strength in that grassroots it is really, really hard to ignore. Right? So, a strong grassroots community that really pulls together and makes an effort towards something happening, that's where it gets attention, that's where the light is going to happen, it can't stay in the dark when that kind of movement starts. Coming together and coming up with a plan on what does response look like for the disability community? What does recovery look like for the disability community? Disasters are the perfect time for change to happen, the perfect time. Anybody who's ever made something, whether that's, you know, building a house, or making a dress knows that it's much easier to start from scratch and do it right the first time. Then it is to have to go back and retrofit something. Right? So, disasters by way of what they are destroy. But there's a positive and a negative to everything. Because what is destroyed has to be rebuilt and rebuilding you can do it right. So you can make it better. So use the time that we're in right now and look at it as a positive as well as what it is, which is, you know, something that is extremely difficult to get through and my heart goes out to everyone on the Virgin Islands that was impacted. But I think this is the time, as Rodney was saying, to really grasp that and to really get involved and make the changes that I think everybody really wants to see. Right.

Go ahead.

This is Ben and I just wanted to add something to that. And that is that nobody knows your need and what you need better than you. Nobody will know what you need unless you tell them. So I want to encourage you out there that nobody will know unless you tell them, so stand up, get involved. Get involved. I think the Disability Rights Center, the Independent Living Centers are two fantastic organizations that you could give a call, get in touch with. They're doing some fantastic work here on the island and they need your support. Here's Rodney.

Yeah and just to kind of end on that, I would just say organization is huge, the synergy is much needed on these islands. I mean, it's three different islands with three different, you know, motives, agendas, and things they need to get done. But making sure that everyone on all three islands with disabilities, without disabilities is in tune to the needs of survivors with disabilities and citizens with

disabilities as we move forward. And I just think it's a really cool opportunity to come together, create some synergy and coordinate with each other. I know we were on your guy's partners' call yesterday and you know we'd love to see more agencies, advocates, and the organizations join that partners' call and work together and talk about – and brainstorm about different things that we want to see for people with disabilities on islands. So I think organization is going to be one of the biggest pieces as far as to give, like we mentioned survivors with disabilities a voice. I think organize is going to be one of the major steps.

Alright thank you guys. Paul I know that, you know you have a wealth of information and knowledge as far as the recovery process. You've been here just a month, but when you look into some of the services that individuals with disabilities need to get to, some of that involve businesses or government agencies that's not totally accessible. Would your efforts and your programs are they going to be touching on some of those areas? Is that – those federal funds being able to use to help some of these agencies that's not accessible to be a little bit more accessible?

Yes and no. The Federal Government can only do so much for businesses. But we also brought in a small business administration that can help with those possible loans. But I think you touched on a little bit is money. And how do we attract money? How do we get federal dollars to this territory to make it useful for everybody? The good news is that yesterday they had 16 staffers – congressional staffers come in to the territory, we met them at the airport and they met with the local officials yesterday and then the local officials did a great job of explaining what the needs are of these islands. And they came here and looking around and well it's all green and tourist ships are here and people are happy and things are good, then we drove them around the island.

[Laughter]

And then we got to show them what the real issues are. And how people are suffering from here. They look around, look at all the blue roofs and it's going to take a long time to recover. And those people thanked us over and over again that they came. They went to Puerto Rico before, they were thinking about not coming out here to the Virgin Islands, but they did. And I think they went – I think they came away with an appreciation of this territory that they need help. And I think it's a, you know, it's a great thing. I have a family member who's disabled and I know one of the programs that we've been pushing all this past month is medications. Most people who I know who are disabled are on lots of medications for a variety of reasons. And they have emergency prescription program that's coming to an end March 1st. And thousands and thousands of people from these islands have signed up for it already. So I just want to make sure that I want to remind everybody that if you have a prescription that needs to be filled, this program will give you a 30-day supply for free. And that number is 1-855-793-7470, that's 1-855-793-7470, get a prescription from your doctor and call it in and let's get some medicines that you

need, that's just one of many programs that we're trying to push out for people with disabilities.

Thank you Paul. And actually that was one of the questions that I was about to ask you. Because we don't have single pair insurance coverage, whereas if you're even an individual without a disability who've lost your job and your insurance was through your job, that you can't just go out and say, you know what, I have part-time job, I can buy insurance to be covered at least until I find a job again. So presently you have almost 2,000 individuals in the territory who don't have any insurance and have medication needs. What's the focus and what can be done moving forward to assist those individuals if any? What will the government need to do, if any, to address that great need knowing that people need medication? Some every day.

Well recognize that before the hurricanes there was a great healthcare need here in the Virgin Islands. Health insurance is expensive, and you don't have very many providers and that's a whole other issue before the hurricanes. Health and Human Services came in to this island, they're here now, and they're learning as we go. The Centers for Disease Control is here they're learning from the hospitals and the clinics, what's going on with people, how we help the most people. So we're in talks with them right now. We're at the hospital yesterday we brought the 16 delegates up there and showed them around, what their issues are. We're going to bring in some temporary hospital facilities here in the next six months. Long-term health that's a concern of the Health Department and they're here and they're going to try to figure it out. I don't know the answer. It's expensive, if you lost your job, you may have three months to buy insurance. But now we're at the five-and-a-half-month mark and what are you going to do? And how do we get providers here? We don't have enough nurses that serve up the hospitals. We have to bring in nurses from the states. They're here, they're staying at my hotel. They're working 12-hour shifts. They're doing great. But pretty soon they're going to have to go home. So we have to figure out some long-term solutions to these issues. And I wish I had somebody from the Health and Human Services here that can help address it. But I can just tell you that it's not going unnoticed, and it's a very important issue for everybody who lives here on the Virgin Islands. And I just hope - healthcare is a big issue with me, I think everybody should have it and it's just an issue that I think we're going to have to embrace and - but I think people are listening. We're bringing people here and that's step one is that they're here listening. See if we can get somebody.

Yes.

Yes, I wanted to go ahead and announce the call-in number which I made a mistake the last time. The number is 779-1079, that's 779-1079 to call-in to Ability Radio. And I would like to thank Paul for some of the information that's being given because of course healthcare was a big issue. And one of the gaps is - that's been in the paper, of course, I even had a couple clients where the evacuees, an identification that I lost two patients during that period of time as

well, as to try to find out where they were, and getting them hooked up with their families again. So hopefully that's on the plate as well. How do they develop a system before they are evacuated to identify them? I remember being in the hospital just in the last couple of months I had a little tape around my wrist, before. So I couldn't figure out why we couldn't make sure people are properly identified before they are evacuated. But, again they're looking at it, that's good. That's a good sign in regard to short of filling in some of the gaps here on the Virgin Islands.

Again, speaking to some of the issues on recovery, I would like again, Ben and Cindy were talking about communications. One of the things we were looking at as far as the recovery team, we tried to develop a long term recovery group is it came up during – even during the storms when Puerto Rico was going through Maria, communicating with people during or shortly after the storm were radios. So I'd like to touch upon that so people understand that there are emergency radios that are out on the market and we're with our long-term recovery group looking at how we can bring some of those items here for the Ready kit that Cindy brought up. Would you speak to some of the information you know about? So people – and describe the type of radios that are available?

Sure, I'd love to, Archie. And before I get started on the Weather Radio, I appreciate you talking about the long-term recovery. One of the things that FEMA does when we do come into a disaster and we've gotten through the response period, and I think Rodney explained that well. The food, the water, the shelter side of things, is we try to get the community itself to stand up a long-term recovery group and that is standing on St. Thomas and St. Croix. So get involved, that's one of the great ways – oh and St. John, excuse me, so sorry. St. John, St. Croix and St. Thomas all have their own long-term recovery groups. So that is a great way to get involved in the community and make sure that your voice and your needs are heard.

As far as the Weather Radios are concerned. Weather Radios are a phenomenal way to be forewarned of a disaster that's impending, whether that is a hurricane that's headed your way or a tornado that's coming, you know, that is either a watch or a warning. Anything that the NOAA, which is the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, I always have to stop and really think hard on that one.

[Laughter]

Puts out as far as impending dangerous weather conditions. They come through on a weather radio. I know that in my home I use a Midland which is one of the brand companies that make a weather radio. Weather radios can be something that is just audible, it can be something that's visual and audible, it just depends on what your needs are. They make all different types of models. You can have them where, you know, they can hook to a strobe light so that if you have hearing loss and the weather radio goes off, it sends out a very bright flashing light that gets your attention and you know to go over to the radio and then you can read on a screen on the radio what that impending weather condition is. They also for those who have hearing

loss, they have something called a pillow shaker, which is a little disk that you put under your pillow and it vibrates, like let's say the weather happens during the night and you're sleeping, so it vibrates your pillow, it wakes you up so that you can go and see what that impending weather condition is so that you can be prepared just like any of the other members of your community. So they make lots of different models of a weather radio but they are a vital piece to your ready kit. The Ready kit is not going to do any good if you are injured and were completely unaware of that weather condition that's coming. So it gives you that forewarning so that you can go and get your ready kit and then get in position of wherever that might be of safety for that weather that's headed your way.

Oh, thank you. Thank you. And one of the issues with regard to other aspects of recovery is disaster preparedness like Rodney was speaking of. And we're actually working with a couple of partners to prepare - to have a disaster preparedness training generally speaking through May and before we went into the hurricane season in June. Because we're like six months on and six months off. So, we've got to do the training and I have to get it in earlier this year. Was there any other comment?

Well, I can jump in a little bit, Archie. This is Julien. One of the things that we want to definitely get information and this is from the territory, as far as the needs that you might have and so we're working on a survey that's going to be circulating and once you - and where to return that survey. Because what we want to do is to start letting individuals in the territory know the importance of preparing, like Cindy mentioned, having supplies for 72 or more hours. Food, and different things that you might need for that period and we'll get right back to you right after this break.

Again, Ability Radio; You and Your life.

[MUSIC "Yes We Can" Pointer Sisters]

I know darn well, we can work it out

Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can

Yes, we can, can, why can't we?

If we wanna, yes, we can, can

I know there's so many poor

But love and understanding is the key to the door.

I know we can make it

I know that we can

I know darn well, we can work it out

How can you sit there like there's nothing to do

Just like you don't care what the World's coming to

Lord

Welcome back to Ability Radio; You and Your Life. And we have a caller.

Hi good morning.

Yes, ma'am.

Hi good morning.

Good morning.

How are you doing (Inaudible)?

I'm pretty good. I hear we're very well represented in the north, which is wonderful. I just want to thank really, all the first responders for the phenomenal work that is being done by FEMA, by SBA, by the Coast Guard, it's been so - you know, appreciated and I know that is very minimal in my expressing it. I frankly was here during hurricane Hugo I do not recall the same level of presence with respect to the first responders. Maybe because I was in postpartum mode. But it has just been overwhelming and appreciated greatly.

[Laughter]

What I would love to - and I can also say that the Disability Life Center has been also very active with their long-term recovery group that's been a wonderful, I think, entity and it's just so - I'm empowered by the group that's there. It's just a great cross section of people and I'm very hopeful that we'll get a lot of work done. We've developed committees, there is for example, a mental health or a wellness committee is what they're calling it. And it's just got started this past week. So I'm really excited about that possibility and that's just one of a number of committees that, you know, at least in the same core as the long-term group is doing. One thing I would appreciate, and Archie I had also received the survey and we're going to post, (inaudible - technical difficulties).

Well, losing you here.

Yeah.

Hello?

Alright Emilia you may have to call back. Maybe we just completely lost you. But again, I think as Rodney had brought out and backed by Cindy, out of chaos comes opportunity. And so with the long-term recovery group that's a good opportunity to bring a lot of synergy and focus on a lot of gaps in communications, services, that we have, you know, spotted over the years. Including, you know, we have --- we're taking the opportunity now to make comment on the recovery of the airport and make some requests that we've been making since the year 2000 to make sure that the airport is fully accessible. So again, 779-1079 for other persons in the community. And we wanted to follow-up on the survey?

Yes, and you know, we talked briefly on the survey. One of the great things for this survey it's going to be what you let individuals know, you know what you experienced and what was missing. So now this time around, you should be experiencing the exact same great need. You know, if you start to plan and start to see where you're going to get your resources from. If it is that you need government assistance, if you need certain things, you can start being more proactive and when you look at the survey this will even be able to let you communicate back to one solid group that probably can give your assistance based on some of those needs that you might need. So you will have communications throughout the process. In May we will definitely be bringing everyone together and doing a complete assessment and workshop, forum setting to really make sure that everyone is prepared for this upcoming hurricane season. It's been 22 years since we've had a major disaster. And so, you know, like Cindy was saying, you get

up every day and you look outside and the sky is blue and it's like, okay and it rains a little bit and then it's another year and we haven't even been worrying about hurricanes or anything like that for the last couple of years. And here we are in that mood, and starting from the ground up, you know, this is a time for us to be more responsible because we have the time. If it is that you're in need of something, you need to say something and don't wait until after the fact. So, you know, this survey is going to actually encourage everyone in the community who has service needs, you know, to then respond and put your information down to see how assistance can come. And Cindy was going to expand upon the ready kit, you were saying some of the items you were going to talk about as far as going into the ready kit.

Yeah, so I mentioned a little bit ago about a ready kit and I thought about it afterwards and I thought, well you know, it might be good to have some resources to refer to figure out what goes in those ready kits. So a great place to go that has, you know, a very comprehensive list, well I say comprehensive, it's a good place to begin and it will really get you started on thinking about what you as an individual and you as a household needs in your ready kit, is ready.gov and that's ready.gov, ready.gov. They go into all the different types of disasters and you know, thinking about the kinds of disasters that you have for your area is an important thing. The islands, you know, obviously hurricanes would be your "A" number one. So looking at, you know, that portion of it; knowing what to expect, looking at even the tsunamis, you know, that's something that you guys face as a threat, looking at that knowing what to expect and making sure that with those in mind, you put a kit together that's going to care for you and your family and your pets. So on ready.gov it talks about pets and how to make sure that you incorporate their needs as well in your ready kit. It talks about disabilities or medical needs and how to make sure that those are incorporated in your ready kits. So just really take your time to go through the entire, you know, website and see if it can kind of help you put all of that together.

That's ready.gov. That's great. Okay well, you know, we've looked at all the challenges that we've had in the territory and as we move forward, we're having a lot of challenges with getting into certain buildings and being more accessible as far as what we would need in the territory. So, these are things that we're looking at now and we're hoping throughout this recovery process and this time period that we will be on top of our game, especially in the disabled community as we move forward.

Again, this has been Ability Radio. I'd like to thank everyone who came this morning and gave information. And of course we will always be available at the Disability Right Center 776-4303; St. Thomas 772-1200 to answer some more questions we welcome anyone else in the disability community to join their long-term recovery group. And you guys have a great day and a great weekend in the Virgin Islands. That's it for Ability Radio.

Thank you.

[MUSIC "Yes We Can" The Pointer Sisters]

Brother we can

I know, darn well we can work it out

Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can

Yes, we can, can, why can't we?

If we wanna, yes, we can, can

Sometimes it's hard

I know we can make it

I know darn well, we can work it out

Yes, we can, can

Yes, we can, can, why can't we?

If we wanna get together, we can work it out

I know we can make it

I know darn well, we can work it out

Yes, we can, can

Yes, we can, can, why can't we?

If we wanna get together, we can work it out

I know we can make it

I know darn well, we can work it out

I know we can make it

I know darn well, we can work it out

I know we can, can

Yes, we can, can, why can't we?

If we want it, yes, we can, can

Now's the time all the people come together

We got to love one another.

I know we can make it

I know that we can.

I know darn well we can work it out.

Show me the need and show me the poor

But love and understanding is the key to the door.

I know we can make it

I know that we can

I know darn well we can work it out

How can you sit there as if there's nothing to do

Just like you don't care what the World's coming to Lord.

I know we can make it

I know that we can

I know darn well we can work it out

It's gonna be hard but like the people say

No matter how hard when there's a will there's a way

I know we can make it

I know that we can

I know darn well we can work it out

[Instrumental Music]

I know we can make it

I know that we can

I know darn well we can work it out  
Everyone help out a little bit around the work is done yeah  
I know we can make it  
I know that we can  
I know darn well we can work it out  
I know we can make it  
I know that we can  
I know darn well we can work it out  
Trying a little hard when we thinking that we oughta  
Don't you know we can work it out  
Now's the time for all good men  
To get together with one another  
We got to iron out our problems  
And iron out our quarrels  
And try to live as brothers

And try to find peace within  
Without stepping on one another  
And do respect the women of the world  
Remember, you all had mothers

We got to make this land a better land  
Than the world in which we live  
And we got to help each man be a better man  
With the kindness that we give

I know we can make it  
I know darn well, we can work it out  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
Yes, we can, can, why can't we?  
If we wanna, yes, we can, can

I know we can make it work  
I know that we can make it if we try  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
Yes, we can great gosh Almighty  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
[Instrumental music]  
And we gotta take care of all the children  
The little children of the world  
'Cause they're our strongest hope for the future  
The little bitty boys and girls

We got to make this land a better land  
Than the world in which we live  
And we gotta help each man be a better man  
With the kindness that we give

I know we can make it  
I know, darn well we can work it out

Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
Yes, we can, can, why can't we?  
If we wanna, yes, we can, can

I know we can make it work  
I know that we can make it if we try  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
Yes, we can great gosh Almighty  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
[Instrumental music]  
I know we can make it  
I know darn well, we can work it out  
Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can  
Yes, we can, can, why can't we?  
If we wanna, yes, we can, can

I know we can