

--> Display at 00:00:00:00  
[ The Pointer Sisters' "Yes We Can Can" plays ]  
>> ...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 --  
--> Display at 00:00:10:18  
>> You're an organization, right?  
--> Display at 00:00:12:16  
>> Yes, we're a 501(c)(3).  
>> Good morning, Virgin Islands. This is "Ability Radio" with Julien Henley and Archie Jennings for the Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands.  
This is a show about abilities, you and life, sponsored by the Lottery commission -- and yes, we can.  
We're working on our recovery. Things are looking better every day, and we have one of the organizations and a gentleman here who's helped that become a reality -- Mr. Scott Bradley from My Brother's Workshop.  
Good morning, Scott.  
--> Display at 00:00:48:07  
>> Good morning, Archie and Julien and everybody out there.  
>> Good morning, Julien.  
What's up with you, buddy?  
>> Hey, man, everything is good -- looking forward to a great day.  
It rained a little bit this morning, but sun is out, we have a great guest today, and I think we're gonna have some fun.  
>> Great, great.  
--> Display at 00:01:09:20  
Scott, we are now an Andrus award winner from AARP.  
The CEO from AARP came down this week to give Scott Bradley an award, a national award, that's here in the Virgin Islands for outstanding community service.  
How do you feel after that award?  
>> Well, it's truly an honor, but now I guess I'm officially old, so...  
[ Laughter ]  
>> Well, again, AARP dips down into the 40.  
They keep taking -- They keep -- bringing younger people all

the time.

>> Yeah, yeah.

Listen, I'm 40, right?

[ Laughter ]

A few years experience.

>> Well, the audience know --

what is My Brother's workshop.

Let the general public understand what you're doing and how this is helping the Virgin Islands and the youth of the Virgin Islands.

>> Okay.

--> Display at 00:01:56:20

Well, My Brother's workshop is a vocal training -- we have educational training, we have educational training programs, mental health services, just a whole myriad of activities going on.

But it's all geared towards kids who struggle, kids who are at risk.

They maybe dropped out of school, got into a little trouble, maybe they have a learning disability or a physical dis-- anything that makes life a little bit harder for you to get a start.

That's what we focus on, you know, to level the playing field -- everybody gets a fair thing, fair start.

>> You get a fair start.

--> Display at 00:02:26:12

>> And how long -- You know, we've heard of My Brother's workshop, but how long have you been working with the youth and others in the territory.

>> This program's been here now -- this is our 11th year.

Actually, last year was our 10-year anniversary, and it was supposed to be September 29th, and it was gonna be at the

--> Display at 00:02:49:29

Marriott --

[ Laughter ]

They're laughing 'cause it's not there anymore.

>> We are.

Yeah, all those things are gone, right?

It's true.

>> Yeah, 'cause everybody's, like, you know, feeling bad.

It's like, "what do you mean 'feeling bad?'"

You know, people have a celebration.

We had a hurricane.  
So what?  
It's like fireworks.  
>> And you had it in a big way.  
>> Yeah, big time.  
>> You know, when you look at the funding and look at all what you do is there My Brother's Workshops in other territories or in the United States.  
>> Not in the United States.  
There are programs like ours in the United States, and actually we're very close in how we talk to each other and try to share ideas, 'cause we're all out for the same thing.  
You know, this is not the kind of business you get into to make money.  
This is the kind of business you get into because you, you know, love helping people.  
But we have a program that's about a year-and-a-half old over in St. Croix, and it's over in --> Display at 00:03:42:25  
Castle Copley, and we have been working, and we're still working towards getting one in St. John. You know, a few logistical issues, but I think the hurricane has probably put that on the front burner now, because, you know, they see the value of, you know, our program especially after a hurricane, so...  
>> How do you get funded?  
>> Well, it's a three- or four-way mix.  
We get a little bit of local funding, we get -- we have several very generous donors, you know, private-sector people. The community embraces us a great deal.  
We do some fundraising.  
But most of it -- I mean, the bulk of it comes through our social enterprises.  
You know, the work we do with the kids actually helps pay for the program, 'cause traditionally we, you know, we provide services or products.  
We have a café and bakery, we --> Display at 00:04:34:16  
have a workshop, cabinet shop, so there's a large selection of things that we can do, and the kids learn, and then we sell them, and then it goes right

back into the program.  
>> So, when you look at the youth, how do you attract the youth, and how do they know about your program?  
Is there a support force on the outside that say, "Hey, you --> Display at 00:04:56:22 should -- You should go and check out My Brother's workshop?" >> Yeah, well, actually there's -- The program started 11 years ago, and we literally in 11 years have only asked one kid if he wanted to come. >> Wow.  
>> And the first day he brought three friends.  
So, I mean, between from the word on street -- And we do have -- We have 42 agencies that refer kids to us through the court systems, juvenile justice, Department of Education.  
It's just right across the board.  
You know, they recognize the value of it and the hard work that goes into it, and, you know, the results.  
--> Display at 00:05:27:28  
>> So...how long would they stay in your program.  
If they joined up, do they need a skill set?  
Do they need a great attitude? what is the qualifications, and how long do they stay in your program.  
>> well, if you have a really bad attitude, you're a mess, and you're in trouble, and everything else, you get in sooner than what --  
[ Laughter ]  
Yeah, that's still a shock when we take on new trainers.  
You know, the first day they come and say, "This guy's terrible.  
We got to get rid of him."  
Tat's like, "No, that's why he's here.  
We went out and found him for that reason.  
But they're with us as long as it takes, and that's, you know, that's one of our hard-and-fast rules.  
If some kids get through in, you know, eight, nine months -- some kids get ill,

they'll be in and out maybe two years, three years, they can't get it.  
Some will probably, you know, retire about the same time I do, you know.  
>> So it's like a curriculum that you have?  
>> We do have -- we have -- we have several curriculums. We have a curriculum that's called NCCER, which is the National Center for Construction Education and Research. It's a formal program. But we -- Again, all of our programs are delivered in a way that people can embrace them to particular speeds. If you have trouble reading, if you have a learning disability, that shouldn't be anything that holds you back. Everything is hands-on, everything. From the first day you come in, you're gonna be making something or doing something physically, so...  
But we also have online high school and now online college courses, and we have mental health professionals that interact and do counseling.  
>> Then, knowing that you have a workshop, that means that you're mainly catered towards carpentry. Do you have electrical, plumbing?  
Is all of that whole...  
>> Mm-hmm.  
>> ...process within My Brother's workshop?  
>> Let's if I can do this all in --> Display at 00:07:16:17 one setting. We're accredited to teach electrical, plumbing, masonry, carpentry, welding. Now we have laser technology. We have several high-tech programs, carpentry, construction, culinary arts, hospitality, we're looking at having nursing assistance in the near future. We're looking at adding, you know, a few more programs. And it's all giving -- You know, 'cause we don't want to dictate what kids become.

We want to know who you are when you walk in the door, 'cause we're all -- God gave us all a way to make, you know, an identity, a way to make a living at something that we're really good at.

Very rarely walking in the door they know what it is, so if you give them an experience in so many different areas, you'll see them eventually polarize and gravitate towards what they're good at.

>> Right.

If somebody, once they got the exposure, they follow their passion, something within that wide curriculum, and all that's here in the Virgin Islands, all --> Display at 00:08:13:07 those elements are here for them explore.

>> Right.

>> That's great, that's great.

>> And when you look at the birds that's in the nest, and we say "the birds" meaning the students that you get in, once they're matured and they're ready to leave the nest -- you know, leave your program and go out into the world, what -- how do you let them go?

--> Display at 00:08:34:01

what's the exit process for those students?

>> well, we have a team of people, and that team has to agree that that person's ready. That means not just that they have the skill set to be able to get a job and maintain it -- 'Cause they also have to have a job.

We don't just leave somebody -- you know, give them a diploma, shake their hand and wish them well -- we are actively involved, even if -- you know, 'cause most people mess up their first jobs.

>> Right.

>> You know, it's just the reality of things.

--> Display at 00:09:01:23

I mean, none of you were at your first job, right?

>> Yeah!

[ Laughter ]

>> No.

>> So that's just the reality of it.

So, we're there to support.  
But you also have to make sure  
they're emotionally ready.  
>> Okay, right, right.  
So, it's, again, a lot of these  
are at-risk kids, right?  
>> Mm-hmm. Yeah.  
--> Display at 00:09:19:09  
[ Music plays ]  
>> Well, sounds like we're gonna  
have a break here, and we're  
gonna pay some attention to our  
sponsors.  
"Ability Radio" here with Scott  
Bradley, Julien Henley, and  
we'll get right back to you.  
>> Called it.  
>> I know we can can  
Yes, we can can  
why can't we?  
If we wanna, yes, we can can  
--> Display at 00:09:38:22  
I know we can make it work  
[ Indistinct chatter ]  
--> Display at 00:12:46:17  
[ The Pointer Sisters' "Yes we  
Can Can" plays ]  
>> I know we can make it  
I know that we can  
I know darn well we can work it  
out  
--> Display at 00:12:51:28  
How can you sit there like  
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  
>> welcome back, Virgin Islands,  
--> Display at 00:13:04:25  
to "Ability Radio" here with  
Scott Bradley.  
And we wanted to remind folks  
that this is a call-in show.  
We have a number 779-1079, and I  
think 713-1079 for those who may  
have a question for our guest  
this morning, and, again, our  
guest is Scott Bradley from My  
Brother's workshop.  
Just one question.  
Scott, you're here, you got a  
great program going, and from  
what I heard from one of my  
friends in San Diego, the  
Crips and the Bloods shot up  
each other, like eight deaths  
over the last seven days, and  
did your program here start as a  
result of gang-type of  
activity?  
>> I would say yes.  
I mean, that was a big part of

it.

It happened -- Of course, a few -- a little over 12, 13 years ago I retired.

I'm a retired industrial engineer from New England, and...

>> Okay.

>> ...worked a lot of inner-cities, so working with this population of people has always been near and dear to my heart because those are the people that I work with in the factories in the manufacturing facilities and saw them develop and grow and have successful lives, so I know it's possible.

It just takes a little extra, you know, to help that along. But, yeah, when I first retired, I was doing some volunteer work down at the local church, and it was just another one of those bloody weekends when there was, you know, two more young men that get shot, and it's like... And, you know, you stop and think -- It's like, "why is this happening?"

>> Right, right.

>> You have people with no hope, no, you know, directions, you know, and they just fall into this -- this, you know, cavern they can't climb out of it. Has anybody noticed that we have a minimal amount of shootings this year?

>> Well, you brought that up, and I had to think about it. I think -- what did you mention, it was only like, two?

>> Yeah, I mean, just the other day at Carnival we had our first shooting for the year, and last year we averaged, what, almost one a week?

>> Exactly, exactly.

>> Yeah.

But why do you think that is?

>> Everybody's working.

[ Laughter ]

>> Gee, what kind of program should I build?

If we get everybody working, you know --

>> They're busy. That's right.

>> Yeah.

>> The nuns always told me an idle mind is the devil's workshop, so --

>> Absolutely.  
>> I mean, that's who we define ourselves.  
When you go to -- when you first meet somebody, what's one of the first things they say?  
>> "what do you do?"  
>> "what do you do?"  
>> Yeah.  
>> And that defines you.  
If you -- You know, if you have nothing to say, then you become, you know, very self-conscious, very downtrodden, very -- you know emotionally it hurts you.  
>> Right, right.  
>> So we're giving them the ability to be somebody.  
>> Right, right.  
And you mentioned, one of the --> Display at 00:15:41:23  
things they'd even got -- Me, I was going to law school, and I was gonna go into public defender, but when I started doing the work, found out a lot of the guys we're representing had learning disabilities.  
>> Absolutely.  
>> So with that, I got jumped from criminal to civil and started doing work with education and other areas other than -- You know, "An ounce of prevention's worth a pound of cure" approach.  
>> Yeah.  
A lot of people think, you know, having a learning disability is actually, you know, something you can't overcome.  
I have dyslexia.  
>> Right.  
>> I have tow college degrees, and, you know, a successful career.  
But it's harder.  
>> Right.  
>> You know, I needed extra help.  
I needed people in my life to help me with that.  
>> Right, right.  
>> So...  
>> So --  
>> Go ahead.  
>> So, when you look out and you see, with all the construction going on -- and I know we're gonna talk a little bit about all of what you're doing since the hurricane -- But when you look out and you see guys

needing construction workers, do they call Scott Bradley and say, "Hey, I need a carpenter, I need an electrician.

Can I hire one of your staff members?"

Do you get those kind of --  
>> We get those calls all the time.

But also, you know, we have to be good stewards and good protectors of our children as well, because not all those places are good places to work. You know, some -- not everybody's conscientious and safe, so we want to make sure it's a good fit, and we will even get involved after the fact if there's -- if it's --

You know, if there's some tension going on, we'll go in there, and we'll talk with the employer and the kids, or if there's extra training that needs to happen, then we'll provide that.

But, you know, this is like family.

You know, we need you in the --> Display at 00:17:22:15 program, and that's kind of why we called it My Brother's Workshop, 'cause many come in and your family, and what do you do?

You take care of family.

>> Right, right.

want to give a contact number?

>> Sure.

You can call -- Call us at 340-715-2769 or 340-715-2765.

>> So, when you look at the hurricane that came upon us, the first one, I remember we were --

--> Display at 00:17:50:27 we like, "Oh, wow, we have a lot of work."

Then Maria came and followed and that work schedule increased.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> You know, there's so much demand for carpentry, there's so much demand for construction right now.

What is your role in that process as far with the youth, or do you have a program that's really out there enforcing some of the destruction that happened in the residence?

>> Right.

well, from the first day, if you

want to roll back the thing,  
we've always been a program  
that focuses on kids and helping  
them, and one of the blessings  
of the program -- and we didn't  
realize it, 'cause we never had  
decided -- It was never a  
conscious idea to get involved  
with disaster relief or  
anything like that.  
That was just something that was  
thrust upon us.

But, you know, from day one  
right after the storm it was  
like turning a light switch.  
We were able to take the  
training that we do with the  
kids and turn it outwards  
towards the community and, you  
know, our café and bakery  
provided, you know, over 40,000  
meals, you know, and it turned  
that when nobody else could --  
Salvation Army.

Everybody else is, you know, had  
damage, and they couldn't do  
that.

Workshops were in the field  
three days after the storm  
clearing debris and, you know,  
helping people secure their  
homes, and we're still doing  
that.

We have -- we have three crews  
that are available.

We go out, we board up windows,  
we're fixing roofs, we're fixing  
whatever it takes to get people  
back -- their lives back, and we  
focus -- You know, just like  
with our kids.

We always focus with the people  
that need the most help -- the  
elderly, the disabled, and  
it's, you know, it's a huge  
problem, but we're taking it one  
at a time.

>> Yeah.

>> You were telling me the other  
day where all the food come  
from, how the community came  
together and brought the food to  
your place.

>> Yeah, it was amazing -- I

--> Display at 00:19:42:01

would -- A few other things.

FEMA showed up, all these other  
people showed up, but it was  
actually the community that made  
the difference.

It was...

--> Display at 00:19:49:16

First day after the storm, all

the restaurant were, you know, were unloading their freezers, 'cause they didn't have power and they're bringing us food that we could -- You know, 'cause we could cook for the community.  
Puerto Rico was sending nonstop boats over.  
I mean, dive boats, day sailors, anything that could float with food, and a lot of people don't realize that.  
>> Right.  
>> It was just everybody coming together.  
>> It was good community response...  
>> Absolutely.  
>> ...right from day one.  
>> Yep.  
>> So right now you have a young man that's doing -- I know you said the vulnerable, and since the hurricane a lot of individual left the territory who was on dialysis or had injuries or different things, and when they return now they're in a wheelchair.  
>> Mm-hmm.  
>> Do you find that you're getting a lot of requests to open up those 24-inch door, --> Display at 00:20:39:10 bathroom doors now?  
[ Laughter ]  
>> We're getting so many requests, and one of the things that we tell our crews when we go out there, you know, "why not spend an extra day, make things ADA compliant?  
why not make that -- I mean, you're there, you know, it's broken.  
If you're gonna fix it, let's fix it right.  
Let's get it back to -- Let's get it to a point where it's gonna work for the residence, and, yeah, we -- we have a long list of people who have disabilities that need help, you know, that came back that -- You know, I don't like to -- I would never divulge people's stories, but, you know, people are suffering out there still, and it's a quiet suffer.  
It's not like, yes, Puerto Rico's suffering.

They have a tremendous amount of damage, and it's terrible, but they're still in the limelight.

You know, I'm afraid that we're gonna lose a lot of our people with disabilities or our seniors are gonna get lost once the -- You know, once the -- you know, we're not on the front page of the news anymore.

>> Right, right, right.

And with that in mind, we wanted to make sure that people know about our disaster prepared meetings on May 22nd on St. Thomas at the WICO administrative building, and on St. Croix May 24th at UVI Great Hall, 'cause we're gonna talk about the elderly and disabled getting prepped for the next season.

Even though we're still in recovery, we want them to understand certain basic measures.

Red Cross will be there, and we'll be trying to make sure VITEMA and other representatives from human services should all come together.

If you got questions about certain things, certain aspects, or good ideas, like -- we had a little outing with the writers from Parrot Transit Services, and

he was saying that basically they should use the established community centers and fix those up now for distribution points, because they're closer into the neighborhoods then, everybody having to get in the car 'cause everybody doesn't have a car to go to a distribution point.

>> Yeah.

I mean, all of all these housing communities can be made into substations for communications, for food preparation, for everything.

I mean, we just have to look outside the box.

>> Right, right.

>> And we find that -- You know, as we look back, and we see all that happened, and now we're looking forward to say, "Okay, this is the" -- we're doing all the stuff to prepare for this season that's days away, maybe

20-something days away or less, and when you get to a home, what is -- I mean, do you -- Someone calls and says, "Okay, I need a door in," and you go in and do an assessment?

>> Mm-hmm.

>> Maybe they might have other problems that you might be able to fix.

How do you do that assessment and communication to the homeowner?

>> well, see, that's a good question, because it's kind of, like, most of these people that we're dealing with are still in shock.

I mean, they're still -- You know, they'll call.

It's like, "I just need a door." well, you go and realize they need a door and the water pump doesn't work.

Then you fix that.

Then you -- Then what we do is, you know, after a few weeks or a month goes by we'll call them up and see how they're doing, and then it's like, "Oh, yeah, I forgot to tell you," I have this other problem."

So, it's -- You know, we're not here to see how fast we can get through and how many accolades we can get, and how many -- You know, we live here.

You know, you're gonna have all these other people come and go, but, you know, these are our neighbors.

>> Right, right.

>> We have a few that make sure they keep us busy on a weekly basis.

[ Laughter ]

>> That's everywhere.

>> Yeah. But...

No, but it's also teaching these kids, you know, what community's about.

>> And how much do you charge if someone wanted to pay you?

Do you have a fee that people...?

>> No, no.

well, we have the social enterprise in what we're doing, work for people, and it wasn't a disaster, and we would charge based on the projects, the material, and everything, but now that we've had this, you

know, we've gotten some grants  
--> Display at 00:24:36:00  
that are particularly -- so  
all this work is free.  
If you wanted to make a  
donation, because you want, you  
know, to feel like you're a  
contributor -- We don't want to  
--> Display at 00:24:44:07  
take somebody's...away, you  
know, if they really want to do  
something.  
We'll just take that, we'll just  
do one more house, you know.  
So we'll just keep going till we  
run out of money, and then we'll  
figure out a way to keep going.  
>> Okay.  
And, you know, I know, even  
being a person with a  
disability, the mental aspects  
of preparing and things you  
think you might want to help you  
to prepare, but physically you  
can't get out and do things.  
Sometimes you don't have the  
financial means to do that.  
So you would encourage them to  
call directly and speak to you,  
or do you have other staff  
members that --  
>> We have staff, but everybody  
in the world has my personal  
cell number, so I'll be happy to  
even give it out today.  
I mean, it's 340-514-8303.  
And, I mean, it's -- You know,  
we're not that big, I'm not that  
important.  
It's just -- It's neighbors  
helping neighbors.  
You know, you think about these  
kids that -- when I started this  
program, everybody's like, "You  
know, that's not worth it.  
Those kids, you know, they're  
lazy.  
They don't want to anything.  
They don't" -- It's like -- But  
who was the first one that  
showed up?  
>> Yep, the kids.  
>> The kids, yep, yep.  
>> You know, and we look at --  
You know, we did some training  
at the Disability Rights Center  
for some of your staff members  
and you -- and what  
conversations, or have they been  
using that skill set or  
the things that they learn you  
find that that was helpful for  
them learning about

accessibility  
and the different things that --  
--> Display at 00:26:18:26  
projectiles or different things  
in the wrong places that you  
might think is in the right  
place, but now with that  
training you find that they're  
making adjustments in some of  
the things that it does?  
>> well, absolutely.  
They start thinking in terms of,  
"what can be better?"  
I mean, 'cause some of these  
houses are extremely challenging  
just because of the way they  
were laid out and designated.  
--> Display at 00:26:40:22  
Unfortunately, I'm of the  
school just because you can  
doesn't mean you should.  
>> Right.  
>> You know, they just make it  
because they think "This  
is my house, I'm gonna live  
here."  
But what happens if a  
family member becomes disabled?  
what happens if they sell it  
to somebody that -- You got to  
think down the road.  
You have to think, you know,  
"How can I make this better?"  
You should always be -- We have  
--> Display at 00:27:00:18  
a rule about plus 10%  
especially now that we're doing  
repairs is that -- Let's leave  
and make this thing 10%  
stronger or 10% better.  
>> And how about accessibility?  
One of the things -- We have so  
many hills here, and driveways  
that are long and windy.  
Do you guys also offer advice on  
design, so it's more accessible  
to get to the location, and go  
through the doors, the  
bathrooms, and --  
>> Absolutely.  
You know, assisting bars and  
--> Display at 00:27:34:15  
things like that...  
I mean, they're cheap.  
It takes, you know, just a few  
minutes to install, you know,  
opening doors if the door's  
already broken, it's easy just  
to --  
>> And one of the things I just  
learned, I always tell people,  
"Make sure you have grab bars in  
--> Display at 00:27:49:23

the bathroom, tub, and shower...

[ Laughter ]

...'cause when you go through,  
and maybe -- Especially if  
people  
go in the tub.

If you have a leg problem, you  
know, you need somebody to help  
you get up, or you have a grab  
bar.

So there's a lot of little  
designs that I think people  
should -- Even if they can call  
and ask questions or have  
somebody come by and make an  
assessment of what they may  
need?

>> Oh, absolutely, and if we  
can't figure it out, we'll call  
one of you guys.

[ Laughter ]

We're not afraid to ask for  
help.

I get -- we're working.

We have a lot of architects and  
engineers who've are giving free  
advice right now.

>> And they have ADA,  
guidelines, architectural  
guidelines, but it's essential  
that people take the time now  
while we're rebuilding to assess  
your -- Like, 'cause you can  
become disabled.

Anyone can become disabled at  
anytime, and therefore you got  
to remember the knees go, the  
hips go.

So everything -- At some point  
in time, you want to make sure  
it's an accessible home.

>> Absolutely.

And, you know, now that I'm  
officially an old person, I got  
to think of these things.

Yeah, yeah.

>> Well, same here, same here.

And a lot Virgin audience don't  
know they have a visibility act,  
the Virgin Islands, that if you

--> Display at 00:29:04:13

do make your home accessible,  
there is a tax incentive,  
and the Virgin Islands actually  
was one of the first  
jurisdictions for, like, a state  
that has that law in effect,  
'cause of the other ADA  
guidelines and ADA regulations  
go to public and to private  
businesses.

>> Let me ask you a question.  
Is somebody working on a

registry right now so we know where everybody's at when we need to go look for them?

>> well, that's come up, and that's one of the things we're gonna follow up.

>> I know Senator DeGraff had a law.

I think they passed it. I'll have to double check on that, right, Julien?

>> Yes.

They actually was voting on that on Thursday of this week in the Rules Committee with Senator DeGraff and Senator Blyden actually is doing a registry for individuals that live alone or if you're an individual with a disability or, you know, just really trying to locating, create a map of where and how to find some of the individuals if we do have a disaster, and they're hoping that once you register, if you move, that you update your registration.

With that being said, that -- You know, we saw after the storm FEMA was here, and they were -- You know, they know where the Lucinda Millin is, they know -- But then all these individual who live by themselves, and when they went out in the field, it was really not a nice sight.

And because sometimes your neighbor that you think gonna look out for you -- that person had damages, and they left...

>> Right.

>> ...the area, and now they're thinking, "Okay, Ms. Lu has a son or someone else that's gonna -- and the sun is sinking or, well, does she have a neighbor, 'cause I'm gonna try and do this," and that person is there all alone, because we didn't have a plan.

And I think it's really nice to see all the efforts that's being done, and I know that you're playing a major role within the preparation, because when you still drive out, you see all these blue tops.

>> Oh, yeah.

>> So what...? How do you...? I mean, do you see us being -- at least some of that being corrected, knowing that we're right here getting into

hurricane season before it gets really deep into it?  
>> We're really not prepared for hurricane season right now, I mean, as a whole.  
I mean, we still have a lot of blue tarps, a lot of  
--> Display at 00:31:32:14  
compromised houses, a lot of people living just with, you know, some string and bubble gum holding their houses together, and it's sad.  
I mean, we don't even need a hurricane.  
We got a good tropical depression through here, and you're gonna -- You know, peoples' houses gonna -- I mean, the tarp's already starting to fail.  
I mean, that was only temporary.  
>> Right.  
They're not supposed to --  
>> That's like a 30-, 60-, 90-day fix.  
That's not that --  
>> Right, right.  
>> But people haven't got their insurance payments.  
I mean, even the people who have the ability to fix them, they don't have them, but what's gonna happen it everybody's gonna get them at the same time, and you're not gonna have a contractor.  
>> Right.  
>> Or you're gonna have a bunch of gypsies roll in and do, you know, substandard work, and then you're gonna have bigger problems.  
>> And that was one of the reasons why the question was asked earlier if someone needs to hire one of your staff members or hire someone who you knew when through your training and, probably, they're not working in a particular field. Can someone contact you to contact those individuals for work?  
I mean, do you have -- find that you have some youth hanging around?  
>> Right now, none of my youth are hanging around.  
I'm having a hard time holding on to the ones that -- because it's just so much work out

there.

I mean, it's...

But, you know, I don't want kids to leave before they're ready, but they're getting job offers every day.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> But that's all temporary work, and they're not gonna teach them anything, and they're just use them as grunt labor and they're -- But, you know, as best we can we'll help anybody, but it's gonna -- There's just so much work.

I mean, we're talking about years of recovery.

We're not talking about, you know, see if we can get it done by November or something.

>> So, do you have an idea of how many students have gone through your program from 12 years to present?

>> We've worked with 1,200 kids so far, in the main program, and that's -- and of those, we average about 75% to 80% success rate.

I've had to -- Unfortunately,

--> Display at 00:33:32:17

we've had to bury 23 from getting violence and such, and we have 14 that actually went to jail.

I mean, they were already headed that way when they came to us, but we couldn't help them.

But of that, even the kids that didn't finish successfully, they all come back.

I mean, it's not like --

progress is not a straight line with us, just like your kids --

>> Right, right.

>> You know, they really good, they mess up, they do it again, but once they get it, they get it.

>> Right, right.

>> So, if there's a person out there that's listening to this program today and say, "You know, I'm a carpenter, I'm an electrician.

I'll be glad to come over and do a lesson with you," can they reach out to Scott Bradley and do that?

>> Absolutely, yeah.

>> Are you welcoming that kind of --

>> Yeah, yeah.

You know, we look for any kind of support.  
You know, anybody that decides that you want to become a trainer, I'm always looking for good trainers.  
Just to be qualified, is that you  
have to have the patience of Job to be up training with us.  
[ Laughter ]  
You have to have Herculean patience, but --  
>> 'Cause they will test you.  
>> It is a process.  
>> [ Laughs ]  
>> Remember, the guys we go looking for are not the ones who said, "You want to teach."  
But it's great.  
It is a Christian program.  
It is a program where, you know, God has played a big part in our work.  
You know, we don't make people, you know, convert or anything like that.  
It's not that kind of a  
--> Display at 00:35:03:22  
Christian -- It's that our standards and our morals --  
You're not even allowed to swear, even the trainers.  
I'll send you home if I catch you swearing on the job because we want to set a standard.  
We want to, you know -- For that time you're with us in that day, we're gonna show you what life can be if you, you know, if you follow a simple rules.  
>> And when we started you said, you know, hopefully in the future you'll look at, you know, maybe starting a program with individuals with other types of disabilities who have that desire  
and fortitude, and that would be something -- I know that even with, like you said, there's learning disabilities.  
It's different type of disabilities that actually come through your program.  
>> Mm-hmm.  
>> But there's still others that want to, and they're not having that opportunity in our territory.  
>> Oh, absolutely.  
I mean, it's -- I spent a lot of time over the years working with

groups like developmentally disabled, you know, people with physical, blind -- and everybody deserves a fair chance at life, and everybody can have a chance at being productive and not a job where we're just doing this to make you feel good and make us feel good --

A job of value, a job that they can be proud.

You know, I do see us in the future designing programs expressly around those things, 'cause we take -- we have --

>> Okay.

Listener, do you have a question for us?

Good morning.

Do we have someone on the line?

>> Can you hear me?

Hello? Good morning.

>> Hello.

Yeah, go ahead.

>> Okay, good morning.

--> Display at 00:36:51:28

First of all, I wanted to congratulate Scott Bradley on his recognition.

--> Display at 00:36:55:27

[ Audio feedback ]

Can you hear me?

>> I don't know if it's your phone or our system, but there's something coming back.

>> Is it better now?

>> Can you hear, Scott?

>> Well, thank you for the compliment.

>> Go ahead.

>> Was there something else?

>> I'm curious --

>> I think is Amelia, right?

This is Amelia?

>> Yep.

Yes, it is.

>> Oh, I think we lost her.

>> Uh-oh.

>> And, you know, I'm really glad that we have you here with us, because one of the things that, you know, as we go through this process, and like you said, this is gonna take some time to --

[ Audio feedback ]

Hello? Caller?

>> Hello?

>> Caller, you're still on the line?

>> I guess not.

>> Okay.

And, you know, we're looking

at -- we have X-amount of individuals that went into shelters.

--> Display at 00:38:04:01

We, you know, with Irma and Maria, and those who was trying to leave, then Maria came back and came along, and then they went back into shelters. And now that we have some many blue tops, and maybe some of the other places have been compromised.

Is there conversation within that construction world to say -- You know, where different heads come together and say, "This is what we need to do, because if we have a storm or any type of disasters that come through our territory, where would we houses the volume of people who're still going through reconstruction or still in need of someplace to live, and knowing that you're gonna have the seniors, the individual with disabilities, different people that don't have --

>> All righty.

>> Okay, caller?

>> Yes. Hi.,

Can you hear me a little better?

>> Oh, much better.

>> Much better.

>> Oh, good.

--> Display at 00:39:02:07

I won't move!

[ Laughs ]

I had a question.

I'm curious as to whether you've gotten much in the way of participation from young girls, young women, in the, you know, carpentry and such?

>> In the carpentry program right now, we have two.

We have a lot at the café and bakery.

We have a lot in our -- we have an office technology program, and we have a large amount there as well.

We don't' dictate -- I've never been one to be gender-biased.

If you want to be, you know --

If you want to be a big guy and go cook, or if you want to be a tiny girl --

Actually, the foreman that built -- 'Cause we had a student foreman that ran the project down at -- when we

built the café and bakery, and she was a young lady of probably 110 pounds, and about five feet tall, and she's the one that designed the cabinets and build them and ran the crew down there, so, you know, I'm a big advocate of letting people be who they are.

>> Fantastic.

No, that's great to hear.

Thank you.

This has been a wonderful show, and, again, I want to commend you for the great work that you're doing.

>> well, thank you.

It takes a community.

That's why I hope at all these meetings that we have -- 'Cause Julien just asked me a question of these conversations going.

We should be making those conversations happen.

We should be telling these people what we need.

I mean, everybody in this community, young, old...

>> Right.

>> ...we should be telling what they need, so we can address it.

>> And actually, that's what we do when we do some of the training exercises we have on VITRAN riders.

We do have a disability special-forum that we're asking people to complete, because we're gonna gather all that information and make VITEMA has it, FEMA has it -- especially with FEMA.

I think they're leaving this month.

>> Yeah.

>> And we're getting all these visitors at the last minute, so their deployment must be running out.

>> Yeah.

>> Right, right.

>> But we're gathering a special-needs survey, and I don't know -- Amelia, are we still doing it over the Internet, too?

>> I believe so.

I think -- I think there was a cut-off because of the service that we used, but we've already gotten some pretty good preliminary results.

--> Display at 00:41:25:03  
I think shared that with Julien.  
>> Yeah, they did.  
>> And what surprised me was --  
And, again, this is not final at  
all -- but preliminary, the  
biggest, biggest concern was  
lack of communication.  
That came in, like, around 64%.  
>> Mm-hmm.  
>> All right, all right.  
>> That's very preliminary.  
>> Yeah.  
>> But is anybody asking the  
hard question like, "Oh, what  
are we gonna do to" -- You know,  
"what kind of systems are we  
gonna put in there, so we don't  
have this problem again?" or  
"what are we going to" -- those  
hard questions.  
I mean, we're all people that --  
we're all children of the '60s  
and stuff.  
We used to complain about  
everything.  
[ Laughter ]  
You know, too many fish sticks  
in the cafeteria, we're on  
strike.  
>> Well, that's true.  
We did a student strike of our  
cafeteria when I was a senior in  
high school...  
>> Yeah.  
>> ...and wanted to wear  
sweaters instead of coat and  
ties.  
>> Yeah.  
[ Laughter ]  
>> You know, that dress code --  
that was tough.  
Yeah.  
>> Well, I'm gonna let you  
guys --  
>> All righty.  
--> Display at 00:42:29:07  
Thanks a million, and we're  
gonna carry it forward.  
Take care. Thank you.  
>> Take care. Bye-bye.  
>> And as we look into, you  
know, the things that's going  
on, and even with the  
preparedness, there's a lot of  
groups that's coming together.  
And you said you fed so many  
individuals after the storm.  
--> Display at 00:42:49:25  
Are they...can your efforts  
that happen in cafeteria and  
that into part of their recovery  
process?

Are you a part of those conversations, at least to say, "Hey, I fed X amount of people within 30 days, and this is how I got it done?"

>> Yeah, we're not really being asked the question.

I mean, I'm sure there must be people that they're much smarter than us at the table, and that's fine.

We -- You know, we don't talk about what we do, we just go out and do it.

You know, so far after the recovery -- You know, as we're recovering we worked on over 200 homes, and a lot of these groups are just getting to start the home repairs and stuff.

You know, we reacted to human need, and now we're looking at building even a bigger industrial kitchen, you know, so we can bring food processing to the Virgin Islands, you know, for fruits and vegetables, but also be able to -- You know, if we ever -- God forbid, we ever get put in that position again, or if our neighbors are put in that position in other islands -- we can produce, you know, larger quantities of food. We can make an even bigger impact, not 'cause it makes our lives any better, but because it gives our kids more training, and that is our goal.

That is always our main -- We're not political, we're not gonna get into disaster relief business or anything, but we are gonna help our neighbors.

>> Great, great, and the "they" is "we," really, so when you're saying, "I think considering," no, it's "us," and we have to try to come together as a community to address these concerns like the obvious one that the gentlemen brought up yesterday, why you're gonna do temporary disaster stations, take those community centers and revamp them and get them ready for the season.

>> Yeah.

Don't get me wrong, I have a lot of ideas, but, you know, if they come we'll --

>> Right. Come together.

>> Yeah.

>> And as -- also, I think we have to give credit to -- Housing Authority did give us a listing for persona that were isolated -- seniors and disability -- and now we just have to -- try to graph, and I think the Department of Human Services and that Housing Authority list should be the basis of an overall registry on both on all three islands.

>> Let me give you a hint, and I've learned this from one of the groups that we work with, the All Hands people, 'cause they -- They didn't know the island at all, but they were going out -- They were doing a lot of the clean-ups and sanitation and helping people as well -- great group. But when they went to house -- They finally the house -- I talked to the people for the assessment, and they gave a GPS location.

>> Oh.

>> Huge difference.

>> Right, right.

--> Display at 00:45:28:02

>> After the storm, we were taking a lot of calls -- "Can you go," you know, from people stateside. It's like, "I haven't heard from my uncle. Can you go find him and see if he's okay?" It's like, "Okay, well, where does he live?" Well, you go down Megan's Road, and in that fir-- You know, but all those things were blowing away.

>> Right, right.

>> All those landmarks were gone. But if you, you know, take the time, and anybody with their cellphone could find that location, anybody, you know -- and they're very accurate. They'll put you within a foot or two where you need to be.

--> Display at 00:45:55:04

>> And that's one of the things that you mentioned, you know, when you started as far as, you know, the difficulty you had, and just the communication.

--> Display at 00:46:05:22

And, like, a caller called in

and say within that server that's being done. You look at people want to know -- They want to know what's going on, what's gonna be next, where I'm gonna get food from, and all the different things that happen naturally after disasters.

Is there anything that you could encourage people at this point -- knowing that we're getting ready to get into hurricane season -- is there any advice that you have for the general public -- St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John -- as to things that they should start doing as far as construction-wise, that they're not totally rebuilt at this point.

>> If you're not totally rebuilt, that's -- You really should at least get somebody to come look at your house and give you some input.

Make sure your electrical's secured, make sure your -- You know, you're not really -- you know, your hazards aren't gonna really gonna be dangerous, because that's like a lot of things.

We look at some of these -- --> Display at 00:47:01:11 I've looked at some of these less-than-reputable people who have done, and it's like, "we got to take this completely up and redo it," because -- you know, people think it's, "well, it's a roof, it's keeping me dry."

It's like, "No, that's a projectile for the next time." That means somebody inside the house is gonna get hurt or somebody down the street. You know, call these people out. Don't let --

>> Let them off the hook.  
>> Yeah, don't let them off the hook.

I mean, yeah, I know how you feel. You feel safe, because you have something over your head, but it gonna stay and, you know, is it, you know, is it the right thing to do?

>> Right.  
>> Or just because the power

company mis-pulling your meter doesn't mean your electricity's safe.

You know, we have a lot of those blue-tarp roofs.

I mean, that's --

>> Yeah, yeah.

>> There's a fine line for being safe with that.

And still a lot of neighborhoods don't have power yet.

I drive through them all the time.

You see the meter's still missing.

>> And I still see people running

some lines from that power pole to their home.

>> Yeah.

And generators, they're very dangerous if you don't know what you're doing.

>> Doing -- right. Exactly.

>> But, you know, we're willing to help with that, too.

I mean, you know, if you don't think something's safe, give us a call.

We're all -- I have trained people to go out there, I have master electricians.

>> And now's the time, people, to have an assessment made.

Don't sit back and wait until it's over.

It's the same thing we tell people about getting to the shelter -- the storm is in within 24 hours, there's no first responders that are coming to get you out of your home, you know.

We're gonna talk about that, hopefully, and have the police department and other people -- emergency responders -- talk about it on May 22nd and May 24th.

>> Yeah.

Maybe some of these church groups or somebody could come up with people to go and visit and help you come with a disaster plan.

Like, if your house isn't 100%, where can you go to ride out that storm?

Where can you go to -- you know, who do you have?

All the organizations have got to step out, and a lot did.

A lot did a great job...

>> Right.  
>> ...but a lot more could've done a lot more, too.  
>> Right, right.  
>> These are your neighbors. These are people that -- You know, next time you may need them.  
>> Mm-hmm.  
>> Because our previous guests that we've had on "Ability Radio" -- they did discuss --> Display at 00:49:09:00 about having a CERT program and being certified in your community, because we could get hit from -- not just hurricanes. We could get hit from other -- You know, you look at the earthquakes in Hawaii, and volcano flow and all the different things that's happens that's affecting individual's lives, and right now I will say just from talking to the group that we met with yesterday with VITRAN that use VITRAN Plus service -- if there are accidents, if we could please be there if there's a disaster, because they want to hear from --> Display at 00:49:43:09 us...them, to know what to do. I mean, that's how honorable peoples' mind is, to the point how much this storm has affected them, that, you know, when you're an individual with disabilities, you say, "Okay, you can go to the shelter, but then if your home is compromised, then after the shelter, then what?"  
>> Yeah, you're stuck.  
>> Right, a person -- You know, and sometimes we don't think what that person -- what's going through their mind while they're just sitting on that bench thinking, "My house was already designed for my comfort."  
>> Yeah.  
>> "Now it's been compromised. where do I go and how do I get back to that?" and some people just can't go through it.  
>> Yeah.  
And I think it's also a good time to just encourage people to just turn the TV set off -- You

know, go out and meet your neighbors.  
You know, create a book group or something.  
You know, if you just sit there in four walls and let it eat you up, it's not healthy.  
You know, we've all been through drama.  
We all need some kind of -- You know, I was talking with some people that were looking -- "well, what can we do?" you know, 'cause we have all these people.  
Start a book club.  
>> Right.  
>> You know, make these books positive books, that'll help you process the trauma you've been through.  
Create a family network, if you have none.  
You know, don't try to live like an island all by yourself, because when things happen, that's -- You know, sometimes that's all you have is people that are willing to help you.  
[ The Pointer Sisters' "Yes We Can Can" plays ]  
>> well, that sounds like we have a commercial coming up, and at this point in time, we want to make sure that we give our sponsors a chance.  
This is "Ability Radio - You and Your Life"  
>> And we gotta take care of all the children, the little children of the world  
--> Display at 00:51:43:25  
[ Indistinct chatter ]  
[ The Pointer Sisters' "Yes We Can Can" plays ]  
--> Display at 00:54:02:03  
>> I know we can make it  
I know that we can  
I know darn well we can work it out  
--> Display at 00:54:04:26  
Yeah, so many...and 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...  
>> Yes, we can, yes, we can.  
Again, "Ability Radio" here with Scott Bradley, My Brother's workshop, and you just brought up a good idea with regard to preparedness for the next

hurricane.

One thing would all those people who need to register.

Register with someone.

Register with the Department of Human Services, or use the registry that's coming out of the legislature.

If you're in Housing, contact the managers of Housing.

But also he talked about the food, the expansion of a program with regard to feeding people after this -- a disaster.

It could a hurricane or an earthquake.

>> Right.

I mean, we learned -- 'cause we have the feeding program after the storm.

A couple days after the storm, we were feeding people, we're up and running, we're delivering food to some of the shelters that -- they couldn't provide their own food, we're having people from the community come to say, "There's 10 seniors in my neighborhood," you know, "can I get meals for them?" I said, "Sure, we'll box them up every day for you."

And now from that, you know, wisdom tells you that you just have to build a bigger kitchen, you know, so the next time it happens or something happens to one of our neighbors that we can provide even more services.

But if you have that -- If you have a directory of people, you know, then you can set up a network where you can deliver these, like, Meals on wheels post disaster.

>> Right, right.

>> So, you know, people don't have to suffer if they think about it as much.

>> Right.

>> And I was thinking for one of the things that churches should tap into it, 'cause they already have a membership, and one of the people from the church can pick up and bring it to the church...

>> Yeah.

>> ...you know, for their members as well.

>> Oh, absolutely.

A lot of churches did step up. I'm not here to knock churches.

You know, a lot of them did some great work and everything, but like with anything let's take our lessons and do more next time and do it better, and take the lessons we learned and be better at it, you know?

>> And there's the long term recovery groups, people who want to -- should get in contact with those folks, and we're also trying to get VITEMA talk about CERTS.

That's "Citizens' Emergency Response Teams" as the first responders.

All those things can be localized so that you're not waiting for FEMA, you're not waiting from someone on that outside, because, again, even when FEMA came this time, everybody was somewhere else, so they really didn't know where to go.

They sort of fell at our doorsteps at the Disability Rights Center because I was --> Display at 00:56:46:29 walking across Haven Side and I ran into him, so it's one of those things...

So, again, let's plan. Be part of the planning process, give your thoughts, give your input, and let's pull it all together.

Yes, we can.

>> And you know one of the big points to this that we're talking about -- and, you know, I'm not a political person at all, but, you know, just from being a common-sense, you know, trained engineer -- we have so many resources that if you just organize them they could be very powerful.

You have to spend a lot of money, but, you know, if your church is organized, distribution -- You know, most of them have the capacity to cook on site -- you know, take a look at that, and how can we just upgrade that so we know we have power, you know, after a storm, so we can provide food or we can...

>> Right.

>> ...you know, do whatever, or we have people coordinating, you know, letting us know where our

parishioners are or whoever.  
Or, you know, everybody just --  
Not try to go so out out of  
their lane that they get lost  
in the process, but just how  
simple can we be?  
Do we just have a lot of space  
where we can house volunteers to  
come in and help us?  
You know, we have construction  
crew.  
They want to come in, and we  
have a hard time finding them a  
place to stay.  
Can they turn their, you know,  
their function hall into a  
temporary barracks, you know,  
where people can at least sleep  
and help, you know, all the  
things that -- you know, the  
simple things that we can do  
that doesn't really cost us  
anything, that doesn't really --  
But in time of disasters,  
life...  
>> Make it simple, but  
effective.  
>> Exactly.  
>> Yeah.  
>> Yeah, we don't need to  
create, you know, major  
government agencies and  
everything to deal with this.  
What we need to remember is  
we're neighbors.  
You know, in the 1930s, we gave  
up a lot of our responsibility  
to  
the government after the great  
depression.  
We decided that, you know, we  
don't want to be -- You know, as  
a whole, people were like,  
"well, let's create all these  
social services, and we'll take  
the pressure off the neighbors."  
Well, let's put the pressure  
back on the neighbors.  
Let's put the pressure back on  
the people in the community, you  
know, just take care of each  
other, 'cause after the storm  
that's what it was all about.  
>> Right, exactly, exactly.  
>> So, you know, we really  
wanted thank you for sharing  
today with us and with the  
community, because there's a lot  
that we learned that we didn't  
know, and you were just amazing.  
--> Display at 00:59:07:10  
I really hope that the youth of  
this territory take heed and see

that there is an opportunity for a skill set, and hopefully you can come out and join your group of trainers.

>> Well, let's not forget, our kids are amazing.

You know, as bad as, you know, we want to make them sound some days, after the storm, the people that showed up to do the heavy lifting and do the real

--> Display at 00:59:29:29

work were the kids that everybody shunned.

>> Yep.

>> Again, thank you, Scott Bradley, Julien.

Scott, have a great week in the Virgin Islands.

This has been "Ability Radio - You and Your Life" signing off.

Take care.

>> Have a great day.

[ The Pointer Sisters' "Yes We Can Can" plays ]

--> Display at 00:59:49:27

>> This is w--