

[The Pointer Sisters' "Yes We Can Can" plays]
I know we can make it work.
I know we can make it if we try.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can.
>> Great gosh almighty.
Yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
Why can't we?
If we wanna, yes we can can.
>> Only try.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
Why can't we?
>> Sometimes it's hard.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
>> I gave the other seven digits.
>> Yeah.
And I think that's a reality for a lot of us.
>> Yeah.
>> So, you know, I do the old-fashioned way, and people laugh at me, but I got the paper and the electronic.
So I have the old-fashioned phone book like your grandmother had.
That's me.
But we do give them a card to have all the emergency contacts, and what we're really hoping that the community take at heart is that they really need to have a communication plan, as well.
And so the kids go home and share that information with their parents.
>> And what's amazing with kids is in those crazy moments as a parent where you're trying to

think on everything and you're flustered, that child is calm and collected and says, "Mom, you forgot to put that.

Oh, Mom, you forgot to turn off the lights."

>> Yeah. Yeah.

>> They plan an integral role when it comes to those tough moments, especially with disasters and so on.

>> And they really get their parents on the ball, you know. They hear all about those programs, like with our pillowcase program in fire, and they go home and they're like, "Oh, do you know that we have to have smoke detectors and we have to have this and we have to have that?

And did you know that we have to be outside...?"

They get it.

>> Right, right.

>> And I know, as a former educator, that they go home, and, oftentimes, it's the kids that really gets the parents --

>> Policing the parents!

>> Yes!

>> Oh, yeah.

>> Yeah, and they'll come back and be like, "What did you do to my child?"

[Laughter]

But that's what we need.

I mean, you know --

>> Right. Exactly.

>> Yeah.

So they feel a sense of responsibility and part of it to get their family safe.

Yeah.

>> And I know, with disasters, you cover all types of disasters, and that falls in place even for tsunamis.

>> Yes.

>> That parent should know if

their daycare -- if their child goes to a daycare -- does that child know what the evacuation is?

Does you as a parent know what the evacuation plan is?

>> Right. Right.

>> Because you might go looking for that child, and that child is already safe.

>> Absolutely, and we've seen that happen.

I mean, I've seen that happen in my personal life as an educator on St. Croix.

It's like, no, parents, stay home, your kids are fine, and then they decide to come and, before you know it, they're needing to be rescued themselves.

>> Yeah.

>> So...

>> So we're gonna be taking a little break, it's 10 minutes after.

Remember, this is a call-in talk show.

779-1079 is your call-in number.

If you have questions for Red Cross, please join us.

>> I know we can make it if we try.

>> Oh, yes, we can.

I know we can can.

Yes, we can can.

>> Great gosh almighty.

>> Yes, we can.

I know we can can.

>> I know darn well we can work it out.

>> Now's the time all the people come together as an equal.

>> Yes, we can can.

Yes, we can can.

I know 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 that we can.

I know darn well.

>> Welcome back to "Ability Radio -- You and Your Life," a communication and community program to assist, and we're very inclusive.

Those who have disabilities know, those who do not have disabilities know what's going on in the Virgin Islands and access resources.

If you have any questions, you can always call it at the radio to our special guest at 779-1079, and our guest this morning is Patricia Swan from the Red Cross.

>> Good morning.

>> You were talking about some of the programs that Red Cross operates here in the Virgin Islands.

I was just wondering, what are some of the other community outreach programs you have?

>> Well, we also have a senior sort of adult program.

It's similar to our Youth Preparedness Program.

It's called Be Red Cross Ready. And so it provides information, sort of the essentials about being prepared for any disaster. And lately we've been doing a lot on earthquakes, fires, and tsunamis.

And as part of the program, the participants then also get a starter kit because there's some in our community that do not have the ability to really purchase those items to put in their kits.

And so this is their disaster bag that they would keep all their information, their pertinent documents, phone numbers that they need -- you know, family members -- their

plan, contacts, medication, in this starter kit so that they're ready.

And we're doing that now.

We've done two locations, mostly with seniors, and so we're calling around the community, but if you are a part of an organization, a nonprofit organization or a church or sort of a community group and you would like to participate in the Bed Red Cross Ready presentation, please give a call.

Our number at the Red Cross office is 340-774-0375.

>> So, now, I know in the past that the Red Cross participated in getting people sort of ready, as to learning CPR and different things.

>> Yes.

>> Do you have classes like that?

>> We do.

The way the classes work is a little bit different than we had in the past.

So we get a lot of requests, and as we get enough individuals for a class, it's about 20

comfortably that you can do a CPR/First Aid, and we also do AED, the defibrillator,

training, and it's an all-day training, and it's for anyone.

It's \$150, and we do that almost monthly, depending on the need.

And so right now we're getting a lot of the young people who are working at camps, who are gonna be working at summer camps who want to get certified, some teachers who are going into camps and need to get recertified.

So call us.

We have our trainer that will help you with scheduling, when

you can get that done.
But it's an eight-hour course,
and it's a live-saving measure
so we take it seriously.
And we love when the community
comes out, and especially young
people because that's a skill
they can have for life.
>> Yeah, and I guess as we
change course to talk about
shelters...
>> Shelters.
>> I know this week has been
really busy with the Senate.
>> Yes.
The legislative hearings, yes.
>> You know, doing presentations
about shelter readiness.
>> Mm-hmm.
>> Share with us.
>> So, the shelter for the Red
Cross, we are sort of the
organization that helps manage
the shelter.
So do we the registration, we
make sure that we have a nurse
on-hand to help those who need
it, the cares of the residents
in the shelter, and the feeding
for the first two days.
So that's our responsibility,
but, of course, we don't go in
just without permission.
We do work along with other
agencies, and we have an
understanding and agreement with
those agencies to do so.
So the Red Cross doesn't have a
shelter.
We don't own the shelters.
Those are owned by the
Department of Human Services.
But we are happy to help manage
the shelters and provide
trainings and the likes for the
community.
>> Have they designated the
shelters for this upcoming
season?
>> They have.

So, there's on in St. John that's an evacuation shelter. There's the Stride location at the Department of Human Services, and also the Head Start building that's on -- what is that? -- Third Avenue -- at Sugar Estate for St. Thomas. For St. John, it's a Calabash Boom, and they have sort of a community center that's there, and so that's for evacuation. So that means that you're coming to the shelter to wait out the storm.

So there's not the usual cots and blankets and all of that. It's just to weather out the storm until it passes and it's safe enough for you to go back home.

>> We went over and did look at that location.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> There's minor things that they have to do to bring it up to ADA compliance.

>> Right. Right.

>> And that's something that you make sure of, that all shelters are complying.

So I'm actually assisting as much as possible.

We are looking at some other locations on St. John.

>> Yes.

>> And once those are completed, then it will be announced.

>> Right.

>> But there's still efforts looking for shelters.

>> Right, so we don't want the community to think that these organizations and our governmental organizations are not doing their part.

It takes a process with inspection.

There's different guidelines.

There's a six-page requirement

to ensure that a property passes and is able to be chosen as a shelter.

So it's not without thought or review, and so we're looking forward to hearing.

I'm hoping that some other places will come to par so that we can provide more services to the community, and once the Red Cross gets the go-ahead from Department of Human Services, then we're there.

We're there to help out in the shelters.

>> And outside of shelters, I know there's programs where we're encouraging family members to adopt a family member.

>> Yes. Yes.

So what we're really asking the community -- because there's so many individuals that are living alone and may not be physically fit and have the ability to really move or organize themselves, we're asking the community to help each other by making sure that if you know a neighbor's gonna be by themselves, have them come over to you.

Family members, make sure you check on your uncle, your grandmother, your auntie.

Even if you haven't spoken to them since before Irma and Maria, make it happen.

Have a communication plan if something happens to you guys that other family members in the States --

I have to say that I get lots and lots of calls and conversations with folks who are in the States and they're worried about their families here.

So while we're thinking that we're going through the worst of

it, family members away, who are so worried about their loved ones, they go through a process, as well.

You know, the minute we hear "hurricane season," they also get really anxious.

So the more that we communicate and get the information to them, "Okay, if this happens, then we're gonna be here.

If it comes in the daytime, if it's a tsunami, if it's a hurricane..."

At least with a hurricane, we have five days.

We have three to five days, we know it's coming.

With a tsunami, it's, you know...

>> Instantaneous.

>> Yeah. Yeah.

And so, the community, please don't wait to hear the sirens. There's other ways to find out if it's a tsunami.

One of the basic -- if you feel an earthquake, and it's a long extended earthquake, and then you hear the waves and the pullback of the waves, then you know it's a tsunami.

You need to get to higher ground.

Have your phones.

There's lots of alerts.

Red Cross even has an emergency alert system, Alert VI, you know, the one from WAPA.

All of those are very handy, and now we get those notices when there's an earthquake, and it says, "No tsunami threat."

[Laughter]

You know, because we're knowing that a tsunami is possible.

We get quite a few earthquakes.

Some we feel and some we don't.

So when you get those alerts, I'm always going, "Oh, my gosh,

we do get a lot of earthquakes,
don't we?"
>> Yep. Yes.
>> Mm-hmm.
Oh, we have a caller.
>> A caller.
>> Hi, good morning.
>> Caller, you're with "Ability
Radio."
>> Hi. Can you hear me?
>> Hello?
>> Hello?
>> Well, that took --
Hi, Iris.
Hey, good morning!
Good morning, Iris!
>> I just wanted to thank you so
much for being on the show.
You know, really, your
information is really, really
valuable and very important, and
communication is so important
because we need to share all
this information, especially
given what we just went through
not even two years ago.
I too am in the process, after
this show, because the
information you provided was
awesome, I'm getting ready to go
out to the Department of Health,
who's hosting a Disaster
Preparedness Expo both on St.
Croix and St. Thomas.
This is part of our agency
providing -- even though we're
not sponsoring it -- but we're
participating in it because we
all need to be at the table to
provide all the information that
our residents can have,
especially --
Like you just finished saying,
you know, everybody has to be
involved.
We have people in the States
that call, that are concerned.
Their anxiety levels go up when
we're getting ready for
hurricane season, and I know the

anxieties are going up again,
but providing all this
information is really, really
awesome so that we can help
prepare our residents, and you
guys are doing a really great
job.

I really appreciate all of you
for providing all of this
information that's helping
people go to where they need to
go to learn more about what they
have to do in the event of
another hurricane.

Thank you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

>> No, thank you.

Thank you for calling.

>> You're welcome.

>> All right, Iris, have a great
day, and we're coming to the
expo next week here in St.

Thomas.

>> Yes. St. Thomas, yes.

Bye-bye.

>> Please say hello to the guys
at the Red Cross.

>> I will, I will.

I certainly will.

Thank you.

>> All right.

>> Thank you, Iris.

>> Bye.

>> Bye.

>> And it's so true.

You know, the information --
We want you to get this
information and react to the
information.

>> Absolutely, right.

Not just hear and read it and
not act on it.

I remember one of our young
students who went through the
Pillowcase Project, and so he
had gone through the Pillowcase
Project I think a year before
the hurricanes.

So, at the shelter, one of the
Red Cross volunteers who had

done the presentations and remembered this kid -- because he really stood out.

>> Yeah.

>> Very precarious, just a sweet boy.

And she said to him, "Where's your pillowcase?"

And he says, "Oh, my mom told me to leave it at home because it had my toys in it," and we were like, "Okay, we need to get on the parents."

[Laughter]

That bag is not for toys, although, with anyone, we always say, if you have your disaster bag, to have something that's comforting to you.

So, for kids, sometimes it's a stuffed animals.

For the young boys, we know it's an electronic device, but we tell them, "Hey, you're not gonna have to enough juice or power for that, so maybe pick a book or something."

>> Right.

>> Right.

>> But, yeah, so we have to remind the parents to use the materials that are given to them for the kids, especially, and teach them how to prepare, and do that now.

Do the practice drill.

If they're at school and you're at work, what are you gonna do? If it's at night and you decide that you're gonna evacuate your home to go elsewhere, do they have their own --

And each kid, each individual should have their own disaster bag with all their materials, and some parents would say, "Well, I don't want them to have their Social Security Card and their birth certificate with them."

I say make a copy, put it into their bags, and then some sort of identifier so in case they get lost or anything happens --

>> Separated, yeah.

>> Separated, that they can have, and then you, as a parent, have the original documents. But to make sure that you're communicating, you're having those conversations.

I've also heard many folks say, "I am so tired of hearing about hurricanes."

Well, guess what, it's our reality, and you really should listen because there may be information that you weren't even aware of that's new.

Not because we went through an experience do we know everything about hurricanes, right?

There's always new information and new ways of looking at things.

>> And the reality is a whole threat of the earthquake more so than the tsunami, but it's still one of those possibilities.

You live in an earthquake zone.

>> Right. Right.

Yes, we do. Yes, we do.

>> And I've always wondered about that -- on the far end of Puerto Rico, they get a daily report for earthquakes.

>> They do?

>> So now this alert system is sort of catching up.

The VI is starting it, but, yeah, for years, I had those, as well.

There was a hotel over there I would visit just to get away, and you would get daily reports starting in the morning.

>> Oh, wow.

>> Well, that makes sense for there, though, yeah, for the Mona Passage.

>> And I know we have another very sensitive topic, it's pets.

>> Oh, my goodness.

>> We have service animals and pets, and I know that you're a pet lover.

>> I am.

>> I am.

>> I have a 14-year-old dog.

>> I just lost my 11

1/2-year-old.

>> I feel that.

I feel that in my soul.

>> Yeah, but it comes down to where people -- the same thing with adopting a family member --

>> Right.

>> We need to have that conversation about "What is your game plan for your pet?"

>> Absolutely.

And folks have -- we look at pets totally differently.

There are some that look at animals as livestock outside, and some that really are their pets and part of their family and have been with them for a long time, as you and I both have experience.

And so, for us, and when we manage the shelters, someone who has a service animal is welcome to the shelter.

Of course, we'd like to get information because, depending on the size, we have to get a separate section because there may be someone else who has some type of allergies to the animals and the like who are in the shelter.

So there's a lot of planning for that to happen.

But as far as comfort pets, we haven't gotten to that point yet.

>> Right, and that's one of the reasons why it's important.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> If you know that you might want to go to a shelter and your dog is not -- or cat, which cats are not service animals, but your pet is a cat or a dog...

>> Yeah.

>> Then you need to be at this point, having that conversation. Even if you change your mind because it ended up being not a Category 1, at least you know that this is where you're gonna be able to take your pet and be able to have it be safe through the storm, or whatever.

>> Right.

With medication.

Just like the kids, just like you, just like your parents or family members, the pets also need their disaster bags.

So if they're on special medication or they have specialty food, something that's comforting to them -- you know, just like with kids, if you've got an old t-shirt that has your scent, put it in the bag for them so in case something happens, if they have to stay somewhere that's separate from you and the family that they still have a sense of comfort because animals experience trauma, as well.

>> Oh, yeah.

>> And so, you know, I know my little guy, during the hurricane, he was underneath the table the entire time because he can hear what was going on, whereas I --

>> Right?

>> I mean, they hear better than we do.

>> Right?

And, plus, they feel your anxiety.

>> The fear and anxiety, as well.

Exactly. Exactly.
>> And just to distinguish
between a service animal...
>> ...and a pet.
>> Or a comfort animal.
>> Comfort animal.
>> A service animals performs a
certain task, and that's the
difference.
You will see persons who may be
hard of seeing or visually
impaired who may have a service
animal that leads them around.
So that's the issue.
They perform a certain task.
With ADA guidelines, it's always
a big issue across the nation,
as well.
>> Right.
>> But that's the distinguishing
aspect.
>> Right.
>> And that's why we're coming
up with this conversation
because in Texas and New
Orleans...
>> New Orleans, right.
>> They end up where there was
all this massive flooding.
>> Right.
>> And there were no places to
then house the volume of pets
that were pets, you know?
And these areas had never
flooded before.
>> Right.
>> So they weren't prepared to
say, "Let's make a plan for our
pet, or even for ourselves."
And once you're in the middle of
that type of flooding, you can't
do but stay at home.
So then they were able to
create shelters...
>> Right, for the pets.
>> ...here in the Virgin
Islands.
It's hard for us to find
shelters for humans.
>> For humans.

[Laughter]

>> And I think a little of our perspective about animals need to change, as well, you know?

>> Right.

Because I still encounter folks who are like, "But that's a dog."

>> Yep.

>> "That belongs outside tied up on a chain," you know?

And it's like, "No, not at all."

It's a living creature.

>> And it makes a difference.

It really makes a difference.

I am still grieving.

It's been a little over a week.

>> Mm. Oh, my gosh.

>> And, you know, you go through the same emotions...

>> The same emotions. Exactly.

>> I mean, it is tough.

And so we encourage you, when these decisions are made, they're not made with the intent to separate family members from their pets or comfort animals.

>> Right.

>> But there's policies that need to be adhered to.

So we're asking the public, even if you contact a humane society...

>> Mm-hmm.

>> They might have programs that might be able to hold on --

But they have a limited amount of space.

>> Space, right.

>> And first come, first serve, I guess.

>> Right.

>> You'll have to find out what the policy is.

But if there's other places who feel like they can house pets...

>> Right.

>> ...they should contact Human Services and say, "You know what, if I get the whatever to

put the dogs in, then I can house 10, 20 -- whatever."
If that's something that you fee you want to get involved with, call Human Services and see if that's something --
>> I sure hope we have a community member
>> Or humane society.
>> Or humane society.
And shout-out to the St. Thomas Humane Society.
>> Right.
>> And all the wonderful work with Ria and her crew.
Love you guys!
>> Mm-hmm.
>> Miss you.
>> And it's one of those things about communities coming together.
This is a common problem.
>> Yes.
>> So maybe with a couple organizations coming together to assist the humane society...
>> Yep.
>> ...to figure out a way to expand their space capability...
>> Right, that would be awesome.
>> This is what it's all about, trying to become one and help each other overcome some of these limitations we have here in the Virgin Islands and help everybody be able to cope and come through these disasters...
>> Right.
>> ...as close as we could before the disaster.
>> Oh, my goodness. Right.
>> But it's one of those issues that's essentially, as Julianne was saying, it's very dear to a lot of people's hearts.
>> Mm-hmm.
That makes me think of another disaster -- fire.
The Red Cross does a home fire campaign where we go out and

canvass and we install smoke detectors into homes.

It's free, but there's documentation that we need to fill out as directed by our donors.

And this helps us get another life-saving device to our community.

And so we're looking for volunteers to help do that. We're looking for individuals who are interested in being a part of that project, like, partnering with us.

So any other businesses.

And this is another way for us to make sure that we're prepared because part of that is the installation of the smoke detectors, but we also talk about coming up with a plan.

>> Mm-hmm.

>> And we do have lots of homes here that have one entrance and one exit, and it's really important, in that situation even more so, to have the conversations about, you know, electrical fires, cooking fires. Do you have a smoke detector in the right places?

Do you have the contacts?

Do you have a plan?

Are there kids?

Do they know what to do?

So we really --

We're looking for partners and organizations.

If you're interested, please give us a call.

We would love to have you included in our smoke detector home fire campaign.

Like I said, it's free.

>> And it's one of those issues, especially when you brought it up -- because I participated on one Saturday about those smoke detectors.

Some people have them.
They also will check your old
smoke detector to make sure that
there's a battery in there and
make sure it's operating.
But I'm always very concerned
when I see a senior in a place
where there's one entrance and
one exit.

>> Oh, my gosh.

Heartbreaking, right?

>> There might be some other
devices, as well.

Other people in the community
should, again, contact and work
with the senior and make sure
that just in case of something
like that that they can assist
them in evacuating from that
premises because sometimes those
are tight situations for folks.

>> Oh, yeah.

>> And some of the buildings,
the steps are very narrow.

>> Or uneven, mm-hmm.

>> Yes, so there's situations
within the fire protection area,
and perhaps bringing in the fire
department.

I don't know how extensive that
program is, but that's one of
the things on the national
program.

>> Yes, yes.

>> P&As.

The Disability Rights Center has
a memorandum of understanding
with Red Cross.

>> Yes.

>> So we work together in all
communities across the nation
between our organization and Red
Cross in addressing disasters.

>> Right.

Preparedness, number one.

[Laughter]

>> You know, so we really want
to say that right now, you have
X amount of volunteers.

>> Yes.

>> What percent?

I mean, do you have a goal as to areas in which you would want more volunteers to be in?

>> We have so many positions in the Red Cross, nationally and locally here, that can probably --

You know, any person that walks in can find something that they're interested in doing, that's different than what they've done before, or something that's closely related to their career, and I would like for us to have at least 200 additional volunteers so that when there is a disaster, the folks that are in the lead position are local volunteers who know the community, who know the area.

Part of the benefits of being a Red Cross volunteer is that you can be deployed, depending on your skills.

So we do have folks nationally that, if there's a disaster, as there was with Irma and Maria, and they have certain skills, then they are deployable, and they come down and visit.

But we would like to have a lot more of our own people in those positions and the visitors -- We'd welcome Red Cross visitors and volunteers from elsewhere, but, man, I'd love for us to do for ourselves a lot more.

So I'm really pushing to get a lot more young people, young professionals, as well.

We're looking for some pretty strong folks to work in the warehouse.

[Laughter]

Lifting some boxes.

All we ask is that you serve with a good heart and with the right intention.

>> You know, and because we know each other so close, we open up the show, and we never give you an opportunity to say what is your position at Red Cross.

>> Oh! Oh, my goodness.

I am called the Disaster Program Manager for the St. John St. Thomas, and Water Island chapter, and our chapter office is, as we said earlier, in the Frenchtown area, but, really, closer to Waste Management and the warehouses back there.

>> Okay, so we're gonna be taking a short break.

Remember, this is "Ability Radio."

If you have any questions or concerns or things you would love to add, please call us. 779-1079.

This is "Ability Radio -- You and Your Life."

>> I know we can make it work.

I know we can make it if we try.

>> Oh, yes, we can.

I know we can can.

Yes, we can.

>> Great gosh almighty.

[Instrumental music plays]

>> "Ability Radio" back at you.

St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix.

We just had an off-air discussion regarding -- what are some of the other things that Red Cross does?

>> That Red Cross does?

>> Yes.

>> Oh, yeah, so during the storm, of course, we're in the shelters, managing, help.

After the storm, we help with distribution of goods, and we have the Red Cross --

Everyone loves the Red Cross buckets.

[Laughter]

>> Right. Right.

>> When they look for those and

they complain if it's not delivered to them.

[Laughter continues]

"I did not get a Red Cross bucket at the last storm."

I hear it all the time.

[Laughs]

So I'm like, "I can't give you the bucket.

It's not a disaster right now, but..."

>> Just in case, we're preparing.

>> But the bucket comes with -- We have our clean-up kit, which helps families.

It comes with all the things that you need to clean your house or even to just sweep down or clean mold or the likes.

We do distribution, as I said, of food.

We have nurses that help families and help individuals, and also we have started a disaster spiritual care program where we are working with local religious leaders to be able to provide a service to the community after a disaster.

So not everyone goes through a church, not everyone feels comfortable going to counseling or is able to afford counseling. So this is another way that the Red Cross is working to help the community so that they have another voice that they can speak to.

And it's important after a disaster if you're feeling stressful to really look at the signs, care for yourself, and if someone wants to help, and you speaking with them is gonna help you to just relieve that stress, sometimes you just have to vent, we'd rather you do that than keep it bundled up because we're all experiencing the same things

but in different measures and different times.
So a lot of folks feel like, "Well, I'm stressed about it, but I don't want to talk about it because no one else is saying anything."
>> Right.
>> And that's not true. We're all experiencing it. Look at after Maria, the first very heavy storm that we got. We got so many calls at the Red Cross because folks are like, "Wait, is this a hurricane?" And they were stressing out.
>> Oh, yeah.
>> They were really stressing out.
And you can understand why. You can understand why.
>> One of the biggest things you did talk about a little bit is that Red Cross also delivers water to those who are isolated.
>> Mm-hmm.
>> And that's something that a lot of neighbors can sort of help out.
With the distribution points, I really noticed it last time.
>> Yeah.
>> A lot of mothers with young children who can't get out...
>> Right.
>> ...and don't have transportation...
>> Right.
>> ...were isolated, just as well as seniors were isolated.
>> Mm-hmm.
>> So, therefore, that's very critical for neighbors to help out neighbors.
>> Absolutely.
>> Or to alert when you see a Red Cross van coming by that you have someone who can't go to a distribution center.
>> Right.

>> So they can be identified and given further assistance.

>> And we also were able to give canned goods and, at one point, some fresh vegetables and fruits, and I still get calls of "Thank you" and cards and donations from community members because they were like, "I didn't think anyone was gonna come up to my neighborhood because I live so far up, and you guys were there, bringing me supplies, and I really, really appreciate it."

So it's one of the services that we do for the community after a storm.

We also do disaster assessments, where we go out, and it helps all the organizations figure out what needs are for the community, what are immediate needs, and that's done by volunteers.

We also have a sort of reunification program where family members may be looking for other members, and so we can't give you all the details about what that family member is because sometimes folks don't want to be found, but we can pass on a message to the family and let them know, "Please, you know, they're looking for you. They're trying to get in contact with you.

Come by if you need to use a phone, or whatever.

Please give them a call so that they know that you're okay."

Last storm, we we were able to get a fabulous donation that provided for folks who were diabetic and were using insulin or the EPAP that we got them small refrigerators so that they can keep their medication cooled and also a generator.

I'm not sure if that's gonna happen again.
Again, it was really a one-time sort of donor event.
It would be really nice if we can, and we're working on how we can make that happen.
>> And it's really important -- I know I touch on individuals that are diabetic, and there's so many little things, gadgets that you can go online and find things to preserve your medication.
>> Right.
>> Because not only they didn't have something to keep the medication cooled, they couldn't find the equipment that they needed.
>> Right.
>> One part was okay, but then they didn't have the other parts that match with those devices.
>> Yes.
>> So it was a really tough time, and we did -- You know, after storms, always you lose individuals.
>> I know.
>> But medication becomes a major player.
>> Right.
>> If you need to call your insurance company, we encourage you to call and say, "Hey."
>> Now.
>> "We're in hurricane season. Can I do, if you can afford it, a three-month supply?"
>> Three-month supply, right.
Yeah.
>> Because it makes a difference.
>> Right.
>> It really --
Before EPAP came online, it took them maybe --
It was almost two months, a month and a half.

>> Right.
>> Before that program kicked in.
And when it kicked in, there still was shortage in certain types of medication.
You can't just find medication.
>> No, no.
>> Right.
>> Those medications are really expensive, yeah, and, you know, it's so much care.
But what we're telling --
For those of you who did receive the generators and refrigerators -- like anything else, like our smoke detectors, when we give it to you, test it every month.
I always use the example, if you had a vehicle and you weren't using it, you would still go once in a while, turn it on to make sure it runs and the engine is okay, yes, and the oils get moving.
So it's the same.
If you have that generator, ask a family member, or if you're not comfortable doing it yourself, just to test it to make sure it's still working, that you've got the supplies to put in it.
>> Mm-hmm.
>> Because they were also given the fuel cans so that you have all of that prepared now.
And if you have a problem with the generator, do you have someone that you can call that can take a look at it?
>> All right.
We're gonna be taking another break.
Once again, we're here with our guest from Red Cross.
If you have any questions for her...
I know everyone is listening,

but if you have a question,
please do call in.
779-1079.
"Ability Radio -- You and Your
Life."
>> I know we can make it work.
I know we can make it if we try.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can.
Great gosh almighty.
Yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
Why can't we?
If we wanna, yes we can can.
>> Only try.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
>> Sometime it's hard.
>> Yes, we can can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
>> Sometimes it's hard.
>> If we wanna, yes, we can can.
>> Sometimes it's hard.
Oh, oh, oh.
>> Why can't we?
If we wanna, yes, we can can.
[Instrumental music plays]
>> I know we can make it.
>> I know that we can.
>> Welcome back, Virgin Islands.
We're down here with Patricia
Swan and Red Cross.
And you have some more
information, I would think,
for the community to
understand -- how to contact
Red Cross, what are some of
the issues that may be coming
up in the close to near
future.
>> Well, we want everyone to be
prepared, so for organizations
and individuals who are having
events at their churches or the

like, just give us a call if you need materials, if you would like for someone to come and do a workshop, do a training to get your group prepared.

If you want to design that in a the specific way because of the needs of your community, please let us know.

We are aiming to have everyone along with all the other wonderful organizations to make sure everyone is prepared for any disaster, but especially now that we're in the hurricane season, that we can do that.

And if you're interested in helping in the community in some way and would love to be a Red Cross volunteer, give me a call. I would love to meet with you, love to go over the process with you.

If you're someone who would just like to come and help for the event, maybe want to be an assistant in distributing goods to the community because you know your community very well, you know the individuals, give us a call.

We can have you sign up as an event-based volunteer.

Any way that you can help, I can assure you that there's something at Red Cross for you to do.

>> Okay, and main contact is by phone, or do you have another source?

>> Well, I have my phone and e-mail.

The e-mail is patricia.swan@redcross.org.

S-W-A-N. Only one N.

And also 340-774-0375.

So by phone or by e-mail I can be reached, and you can stop by and visit the office.

3800 Gasverks Gade across from

the Frenchtown Post Office
behind the Petro's gas complex.
And you'll see the white stones
and white wall, and there's our
building with the beautiful Red
Cross sign on it.

>> Right on it.

>> Right on the road, can't miss
it.

And we're there from 8:00 to
5:00 Monday through Friday.

>> I want to remind folks on St.
Croix, you've got the expo on
St. Croix today, and for St.
Thomas, it's next week.

St Thomas, at the mall, from
12:00 to 5:00.

Where is it on St. Croix?

>> I thought that was at UVI,
but I may be wrong.

>> Okay.

And for those who are in the
disability community,
especially the deaf and
hard-of-hearing or those with
visual impairment, remember,
we're trying to pass out,
distribute weather radios.

Not a regular radio.

They're weather radios that
tune you into the National
Oceanic Research Information so
that you can know when an alert
is coming.

There are these specialized
radios that we're distributing
at the Disability Rights Center.

The next meeting is Tuesday,
June 25th, at 5:30 P.M.

So you're welcome to come, and
I assume we're gonna have
probably the same number of
folks, but essentially, there's
also going to be persons who
want to do interviews of persons
with disabilities to help
prepare, prepare, prepare.

>> Yes.

>> That's what we're all about
at this time of year and making

sure that you have that information, you have ways to contact.

There's also organization that are trying to help in communities with VITEMA through the SERTs programs. Those are emergency teams. The organization that Mr. Flamone is associated with.

>> Right, and that organization is actually trying to work out the details of going into homes and spending time helping individuals to stay in their homes and ride through the storm.

>> Oh, wow, that is awesome.

>> So they actually created this program, working out all the details to make it more effective, but already registered.

So this is something that is gonna be a territorial effort.

Once again, make a plan.

>> Follow it through.

>> Follow it through.

>> Practice, prepare.

Always be ready.

>> All right.

>> Be ready.

Take care, Virgin Islands.

Have a good day, and be kind to one another.

>> Be safe.

>> Thank you.

>> I know we can make it work.

I know we can make it if we try.

>> Oh, yes, we can.

I know we can can.

Yes, we can.

>> Great gosh almighty.

>> Yes, we can.

I know we can can.

Oh, yes, we can.

I know we can can.

>> We can make it, y'all.

>> Oh, yeah, we can make it

y'all.
>> Yes, we can can.
Why can't we?
If we wanna, yes we can can.
>> Only try.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.
Yes, we can can.
Why can't we?
>> Sometimes it's hard.
>> Oh, yes, we can.
I know we can can.