



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 29 April 2022

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

### **Social Development Ministry supports Outreach for Children with Special Needs**

Port-of-Spain --- As the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to collaborate and partner with organisations to help, empower and transform lives, several of its grants, programmes and services were showcased at 'A Day of Fun for Children with Special Needs', hosted by the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation in collaboration with Disables Peoples International (DPI), earlier today, Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Each year during the month of April, World Autism Month is commemorated, focusing on providing opportunities to increase understanding of people with autism, fostering worldwide support. As such, the Ministry was one of several agencies invited to promote its grants and services, in the interest of improving the lives of vulnerable individuals and households within the area. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSDFS Caravan would have been roving across several communities to share information on accessing social grants and services. The Ministry was therefore eager to resume such an undertaking in the community of Sangre Grande.

During the event, the Ministry took the opportunity to showcase some of its core grants offered by the Social Welfare Division and the National Social Development Programme (NSDP). This was complemented by information about the Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme, which is also promoted under the NSDP, and supports the development of entrepreneurs who cannot qualify for assistance at the established financial institutions. Additionally, representatives from the Ministry's National Family Services Division were on hand to provide critical information to address issues such as proper parenting, coping with stress, domestic violence, as well as, counselling and psycho-social support services for couples, children and families in crisis.

Several persons at the event were eager to access information about disability assistance for minors. In addition to information provided by the Ministry, attendees were also able to learn about the services offered by other agencies, including Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago and Osana Foundation. Also in attendance were Anil Juteram, Chairman, Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and Councillors and Aldermen of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services commends the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation, as well as the local arm of the Disabled Peoples International on the success of this initiative, and remains committed to providing the requisite support towards all efforts made to help, empower and transform the lives of persons with disabilities.

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Social Welfare Officer attached to the Sangre Grande Local Board Office (right) provides information about the Disability Assistance Grant to Bernice Jacques of Osana Foundation



Event attendee learns about the Ministry's SEED Grant



Social Welfare Officers attached to the Sangre Grande Local Board Office provide information on the Ministry's core grants to event attendees.



Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation, Anil Juteram delivers the welcome address.



Danelle Marshall-Piper, Alderman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation delivers the vote of thanks



Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Chapter of Disabled People International (DPI) enjoy 'A Day of Fun for Children with Special Needs'