



# WindReach

celebrating all abilities



# COMMON GROUND 2020

## 1-DAY FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2020 | 9AM-2PM

# AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VOICES

This conference is for anyone who is differently abled, supporters, educators, health care professionals and anyone who wants to help enrich the quality of life of individuals living with special needs. We hope to engage a large cross section of Bermuda as the needs of People with Disabilities touch all areas of our community.

Sponsored by:



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**#CommonGround2020**  
**#WindReachBermuda**  
**#CelebratingAllAbilities**



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

December 3rd, 2020

# COMMON GROUND 2020

## AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VOICES

### Facilitated & Moderated by Alyssa Frick, Life Skills Occupational Therapist at WindReach

Due to COVID-19, but even before, the needs and voices of People Living with Disabilities were often not made a priority in our social world, in our work places, in our schools or even in their own care and goals. Focussing our main topics of understanding on the history of disability, employment, accessibility, stigma, people's misperceptions, and encouraging self-advocacy, we hope to address many of the issues facing Bermudians living with disabilities. This conference is meant to shine a light on the disability community as a whole, give space for their voices to be heard and to work on solutions to better the lives of all individuals.

Everyone benefits when we collectively move towards a more inclusive society.

#### 9.00am WELCOME - Sarah Outerbridge

#### 9.10am HISTORY OF DISABILITY IN BERMUDA - Phyllis Harshaw

By examining how disabilities were treated in the distant, and not so distant, past we can begin to understand how we got to where we are now. Attendees will gain an understanding of what People with Disabilities may have faced while living in Bermuda.

#### 10.00am DISABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY IN BERMUDA (Panel)

Chris Bulley, Vince Godber, Daniella Jade-Lowe & Keith Simmons

A discussion between Panellists on the state of accessibility in Bermuda. What are the issues facing individuals accessing public and private establishments, transportation, and health care? Examine what laws are in place to address this, how they are used and how we can move forward to create a more accessible Bermuda.

#### 11.00am DISABILITY: INSPIRATION OR TRAGEDY - Jessica Lewis

Media often portrays Individuals with Disabilities as needing our pity due to their disability and the obstacles they face. The alternative is often portrayed as inspirational by overcoming obstacles to live a 'normal' life. Both of these views can be detrimental to Individuals with Disabilities as it does not move society forward towards equality and inclusion.

#### 12.00pm DISABILITY & EMPLOYMENT (Panel)

Minister Tinée Furbert JP, Ahmani Peets, Tanya Simmons & Re'Chai Young

A discussion between Panellists about the lived experience of looking for employment in Bermuda with a disability, the laws in place to protect or assist, the potential benefits of hiring someone with a disability and how employers can create more equitable workplaces in Bermuda.

#### 1.00pm SPEAK WITH ME, NOT FOR ME

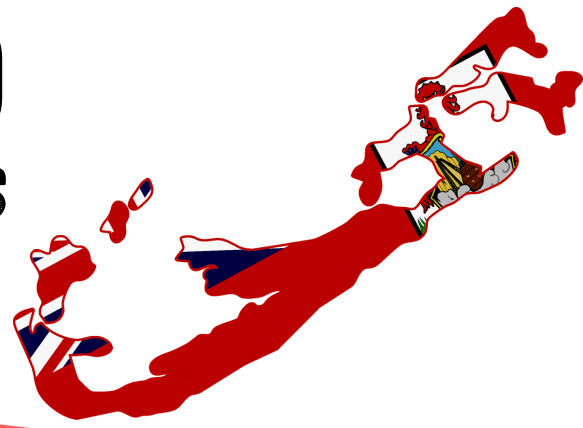
An in depth look at the lived experiences of young adults with disabilities and how having their voice heard in their lives can make an impact.

#### 1.30pm CLOSING REMARKS - Alyssa Frick, OT & Solay Thomas

# COMMON GROUND

## AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VOICES

Thursday, December 3rd, 2020



### Phyllis Harshaw

Client Services Assistant, Vision Bermuda  
Master's Degree in Management and Human Resource Development  
Master's Degree (Learning Disabilities)  
Bachelor's of Science (Education)  
Special Education & Learning Support Teacher for 36 years (retired)



### Jessica Lewis, Paralympian & World Champion

Bachelor of Recreation and Leisure Studies (Therapeutic Recreation)  
Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist  
2-time Paralympian, 2019 Bermuda Female Athlete of the Year  
ParaPan American Games Record Holder in the T53 100m  
Triple ParaPan American Games Gold Medallist

## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



**The Hon. Tinée Furbert**  
Minister of Social Development  
& Seniors

**Ahmani Peets**  
Owner Ahmani's Cookie Company



**Vince Godber**  
Vision Rehabilitation Therapist  
Vision Bermuda

**Solay Thomas**  
Special Olympian  
Silver Medalist, Dubai 2019



**Daniella Jade-Lowe**  
Accessibility Consultant

**Re'Chai Young**  
Disability Advocate



**Chris Bulley**  
Department of Planning

**Keith Simmons**  
Government of Bermuda

**Tanya Simmons**  
The Berkeley Institute



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