



Video Transcript for Bernard Warner, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Association for Persons with Disabilities

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For the ABAPD has just recently celebrated 28 years of existence.

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Throughout our 28 years, we have never seen it more difficult than during COVID-19 pandemic.

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And at that height of the pandemic, we realized how important digital technology is for our membership. Where we had to rely on Zoom and WhatsApp, Facetime, we had to go to all of the social media platforms that we would have never used normally. To such an extent that we enrolled five of our members into the University of West Indies Open campus in Antigua and Barbuda.

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We actually do online training. As a result of the pandemic when our members will get comfortable and familiar with things like AI, we started using AI, because we found AI would have helped more members who are not able to write letters.

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Zoom has become significantly important for us where we had countless trainings with regional partners as we embarked on our community-based rehabilitation program.

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What you see here is our heart because the therapy for and we were able to advance horticultural therapy because we were linked via technology on the visual partners as a result of the pandemic where they don't have to leave their home, they can stay at home and work, they can earn income, they can pay taxes, they can pay social Security.



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And this is why we believe that digital technology is so important for us.

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We have Robert Gayle here who is deaf.

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And for the first time in the case of our organization, we were able to know what he's thinking because we had an interpreter buyers who interpret and tell us what he was saying was we were able to use digital technology through the platform to get someone interpret for us and we have to better communicate with him and understand what he would say.

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So digital technology is all about us.

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It's in our gardening; it's in our testers that we use to test the nutrients for our hydroponic or aquaponic program.

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This technology is more important than ever.

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So we're just pleased to be a part of this mandate and to spread the message

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About how important digital technology is in the lives of people living with disabilities, not just in Antigua, but throughout the world.

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And the ABPD after 28 years has finally realized how important it is to empower people living with disabilities with the skills to utilize digital technologies to improve their lives.