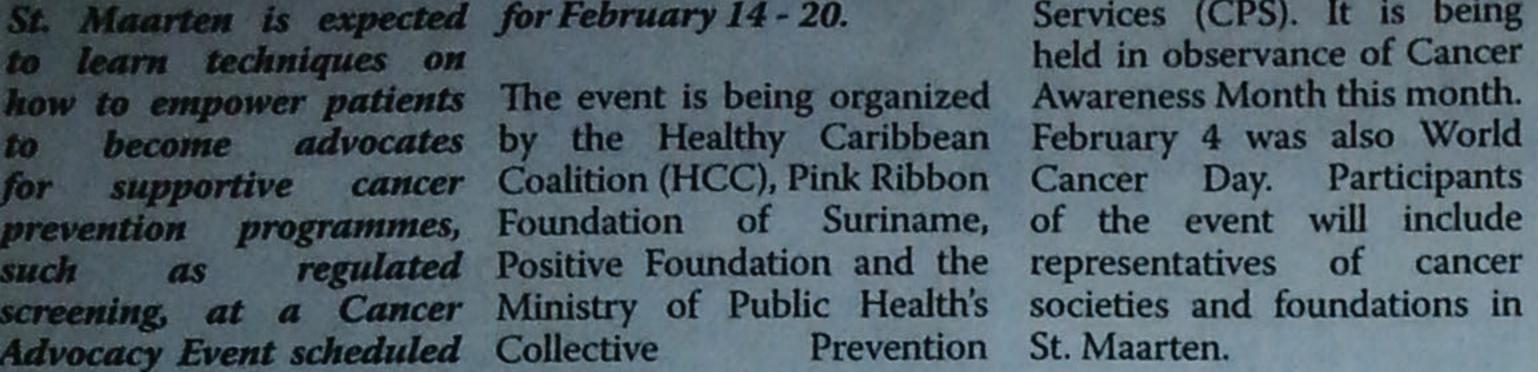
## St. Maarten to sharpen cancer advocacy skills

By Judy Fitzpatrick St. Maarten is expected for February 14 - 20. to learn techniques on Advocacy Event scheduled Collective

Services (CPS). It is being







for event.

promoting the development of civil society networks, HCC Director Dr. Virginia 2008. It is a live network strengthening will feature activities such articles are also planned. as presentations, facilitated dialogue and discussions and Refos will also pay a courtesy HCC has grown into a officials.

awareness and prevention. Directors. During the event a visit will be made to at least one high Asked how this event will strategic areas of advocacy: school, where information will

Foundation President Karin will also be made to Rotary with supporting pictures Refos will be a special guest Club of St. Maarten Sunrise, will be submitted to HCC Rotary Club Mid Isle and following the event. Rotary Club of St. Maarten to The event is geared towards expand advocacy capacity.

increasing media involvement, Asin-Ootsburg said the of non-governmental and giving information sessions to information sessions with civil society organisations youth, sharing best practices the Rotary Clubs were very from across the Caribbean between Pink Ribbon and important. The intention is Region that has a remit to Positive Foundation and not to "dictate" to them, but address non-communicable advocacy rather to "make them aware of disease (NCDs). As a result around cancer their advocacy role and aware of a Heads of Government prevention and treatment of the role they can play to Summit of Caribbean between St. Maarten's and strengthen and promote" the Leaders, the Suriname's non-governmental message of early detection. Development organisations. Participating "We need make people supported a conference NGOs will discuss the critical understand how important to address NCDs in the value of an empowered patient it is to screen," she stressed. Caribbean region and this who can advocate supportive Several radio and television was the starting point for programmes. The event interviews and newspaper HCC.

courtesy visits to government call on Health Minister formal network over the Cornelius de Weever and meet last four years. It effectively with American University shares The event is expected to of the Caribbean (AUC) though a Website and result in a proposal to HCC, School of Medicine and CPS opportunistically meetings with marketing ideas for representatives. An e-meeting at NCD-related regional the promotion of cancer will also be held with HCC events. The HCC has

> benefit the average woman and man in the street, Positive Capacity Building; and Foundation President Shelly Promoting m-health and Alphonso said the country is e-health, which will inform expected to learn techniques its functioning over the next on how to empower patients four years. to become advocates for supportive cancer prevention programmes such as regulated screening. For example, giving society, in collaboration persons notification at age 40 with government, private that they must get their first enterprise, academia and mammogram and making an international appointment for them to get as appropriate, in the it done.

> between the two organisations management of chronic may also lead to larger and diseases among Caribbean more impactful awareness people. Its vision is the campaigns, getting "early detection is your disability from chronic best protection" message to diseases among people in members of the community the Caribbean. the cancer awareness groups have not (yet) been able to The HCC works closely with reach.

Asin-Oostburg and Alphonso were among the many persons society by strengthening and who played key roles in supporting membership organising this event. Sponsors in the implementation of include Positive Foundation, programmes, aimed at and Pink Ribbon Foundation reducing the morbidity and Suriname, the government

Pink Ribbon be provided. Presentations detailed report of the visit

The Healthy Caribbean Coalition was formed in Caribbean Bank

With little funding, the information more recently developed a strategic plan with Enhancing Communication;

HCC's mission is to harness the power of civil partners, development implementation of plans Exchanging best practices for the prevention and the reduction of death and

> regional and international leaders in NCD prevention to leverage the power of civil



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