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THE WIDEST CIRCULATION IN TCI

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Ripsaw band raises awareness of ALS

ONE of TCI's top ripsaw bands jetted off to exclusive island retreat Martha's Vineyard this month where they showcased Caribbean music while raising funds for charity.

The five-piece band named 'Eat Mullets and Play Music' from Grand Turk joined members of the Turks and Caicos Cultural Group for the benefit gig.

Funds raised from the one-off event went straight to Compassionate Care, a non-profit charity that supports men and women with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

The debilitating disease is caused by the degeneration of nerve cells that control voluntary muscle movement – one of the best known ALS patients is renowned physicist Stephen Hawking.

July's charity event was organised by well-known real estate developer Tom 'Dilly' Walsh.

Since contracting ALS a few years ago, Mr Walsh has been a champion for the cause - putting on benefits and fundraisers to assist other ALS patients and their families.

As well as being a resident of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, he also owns a home in the Turks and Caicos Islands and has a passion for the country's culture and music.

Mr Walsh invited TCI's top ripsaw band to make a special guest appearance at the benefit gig.

Cultural group's Shanika Stubbs, Indera Harris and Cultural Director David Bowen performed a medley of TCI folk songs and dances.

Later in the programme the group participated in a jam session with the Vineyard's top band, 'Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish.'

Mr Bowen said: "Dilly was the consummate host. He welcomed us in to his home, heart and community, and we are thrilled to have exposed the Martha's Vineyard community to TCI culture.

"I have never met someone who is so positive and full of life. It brings joy to my soul knowing what he is able to do, and we too should do likewise."

Mr Walsh arranged a number of activities for the group while they were in Martha's Vineyard including lectures and demonstrations on TCI culture at summer camps, hospitals, senior citizen's homes and local radio and television appearances.

Mr Bowen added: "Thank you to Lyndon Gardiner of Air Turks and Caicos, Mark Durliat at The Grace Bay Club, Stan Hartling at The Sands, Edith Cox at

Grand Turk, Turks And Caicos Islands

86°F
Partly Cloudy

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the IGA, and Donna and Martin Seim for the assistance they provided.”

For more on Compassionate Care ALS (CCALS), log on to www.ccals.org.

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- 24.JUL.09 Broadcasting countrywide

17.JUL.09 Ground broken on site of new children's home

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