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# COMMUNITY

**Williams refuses to lose his way despite loss of speech, hearing at age six**

# Great Scott!

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**HE HAS GONE through a traumatic experience that could have seen him give up on life, but instead Scott Williams has turned "defeat" into victory.**

At six years old he received an MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine at school that changed his life.

The former Bayley's Primary School student was an energetic and fun-loving child, but hours after receiving the vaccine, Scott's world made a drastic and permanent change.

He lost his speech and hearing.

During the afternoon of that day 21 years ago, Scott started to feel unwell, complaining of headaches.

So, his sister went for him at school and as they were leaving, she realised that he could not stand or walk as every time he tried he would fall.

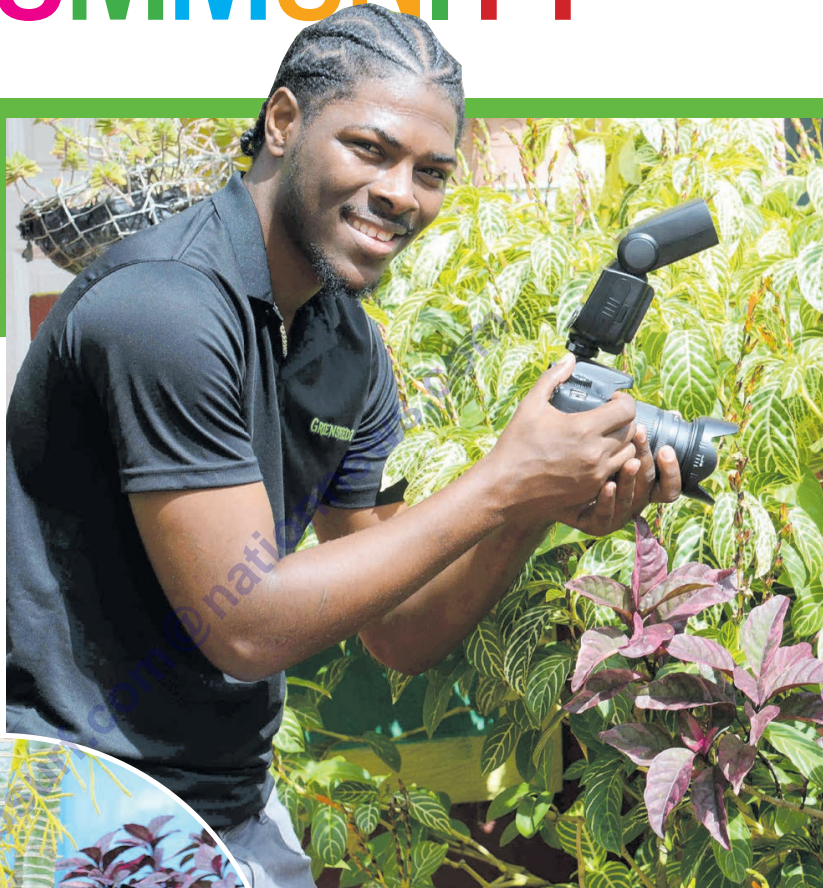
An ambulance was summoned and the six-year-old was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) where drips were administered.

His mother, Sandra Yearwood, told the **DAILY NATION** that as he lay on the bed he vomited a lot regurgitating "brown specks" that caused doctors to rush him to intensive care.

While there, Sandra said they were talking to Scott and he was asking for his sister, who was at school.

A short while after, Scott told them that he could no longer hear what they were saying.

"When the doctor looked into Scott's ears, they were red and I was told that the inner ear was



**SCOTT WILLIAMS lost his hearing and speech at six years old, but has risen against the odds to become a professional photographer.**  
(Pictures by Lennox Devonish.)

damaged." His mother, who related the emotional story to this newspaper from their St Michael home, as her son sat beside her paying rapt attention, said she broke down in tears at the QEH.

Sandra "lost it" at that point, because she knew that her son went to the QEH talking and hearing. She was told by medical staff that he had developed meningitis and would have to be sent to a special needs school.

After several weeks in the QEH, Scott still could not walk, write or even say the alphabet, things that he did before. He was transferred to the Irvine Wilson School.

The mother of four said that the therapist at the QEH along with her daughters Asha, Ashley and Robin have brought Scott back to where

he is today.

"They made up a 'bed' in the hospital and worked incessantly with Scott, 'rooting' him in the bed, pushing him about and exercising him to the point

that he can write and walk again . . . they love their brother."

When Scott was discharged from hospital, his mum said it was a very difficult time for him and the family.

She said on arrival home, in a fit of anger and confusion he struck the table several times questioning why he had to face the dreadful ordeal.

Though she said they were assured that his hearing would come back, it never did.

"Despite all of the promises and talk about assistance and going to Canada, nothing ever happened."

It was at this point that Scott in a **WhatsApp** message, typed: "One thing. Want to ask Barbados people: What did a deaf person do wrong that not everyone look at us the same. We are human beings and want a better chance."

Though Sandra said she was told to seek legal advice about the situation, she said: "It's only my one and I cannot do it alone."

Now 27, and a bar steward, Scott has a great passion for music, dancing and basketball, and his family is grateful to Minister of Sport Charles Griffith for giving Scott a chance to get into the game, which eventually led to him playing competitively for Wild Cats.

Today, Scott is a qualified professional photographer with a registered business doing wedding shoots among other types of photography.

He is also a licensed driver, qualified baker and jewellery-maker and aspires to one day open his own café.

