

HELP & SHELTER
WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE PROJECT
MONTHLY M&E REPORT- JUNE 2009 - Submitted by Danuta Radzik

Community Educators' Monthly Reports

KANEVILLE

Community Educator: Tessa Greene

Community: Kaneville, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 6 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total 139 Females 123) Males 16

Persons Newly Reached: Total 98 Females 93 Males 5

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 396

Other H&S Handouts - 0

Objectives of Visits:

- To raise awareness on the topics the Needs of a Child and Understanding Self with parents and guardians at the Grove health Centre, Pre-Natal Clinic
- To raise awareness on the topic of Child Neglect with parents & guardians at the Grove Health Centre Post Natal Clinic
- Attendance and participation at Steering Committee Meetings for planning and review of community development activities
- To raise awareness on Domestic Violence with children attending the literacy classes
- To improve literacy among children through the holding of literacy classes for children
- To raise awareness on the topic, Understanding Self, with members of the Den Amstel Restoration A.O.G., Youth Group

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Grove Pre Natal Clinic-The Needs of a Child - 2nd June

- A total of 32 persons, 31 females and 1 male participated in the 4 hr awareness session on The Needs of a Child.

Mothers, mothers to be and others attending the clinic were sensitized about the physical, emotional, health and educational needs of the child. The importance of regular visits to the child's school, attending PTA meetings, teaching children the correct names of body parts and using codes for the safety and protection of children were discussed. The issue of child neglect was highlighted since some mothers did not see their inability to provide meals three times a day as being a form of neglect in some instances.

Evaluation indicated that participation, facilitation and the session overall were assessed as very good while understanding of topics presented was assessed as good.

After the session, two participants approached the CE and CM. One participant became very emotional as she shared her experience of the murder of her mother at the hands of her stepfather in Feb 2001. She also recalled an incident prior to the death of her mother when she had to assume the role of the parent and calm her mother down over a broken cup from a punch bowl set. The participant was sorry that she did not know of Help & Shelter at that time so that she could have encouraged her mother to get help there. She welcomed having session in various communities as she thought that a lot of persons were not aware of services and help they could access.

34 Help & Shelter fact sheets, 33 DVA leaflets and 33 leaflets For Parents were distributed to participants at the pre-natal clinic.

Grove Post Natal Clinic-Understanding Self - 23rd June

- A total of 15 persons, 14 females and 1 male, participated in the 2 ½ hr session on the topic Understanding Self.

During the session participants reflected on the ways they relate to and communicate with their children. They recognized that their own childhood experiences and the ways in which their own parents communicated to them, has helped to shape their own self image as adults and even impacts on the way they relate to their own children. One woman revealed, that due to the stress of dealing with children who want their own way, she resorts to using indecent language when she wants to scold them. She also disclosed that her 20 yr old daughter has been living in an abusive relationship for the past 3 years and regardless of how many times her common law husband abuses her and she leaves, she eventually goes back to him. Her daughter also refuses to press charges against her abusive husband and has even received counselling from Help & Shelter and GRPA. Another participant is in a similar situation where her 34 yr old daughter has her male partner living with her in the home of her mother. The mother feels she is unable to have the man removed because the Police told her that it is a family matter and since her daughter brought him to live there they cannot stop him. The woman's daughter is also an alcoholic who does not take care of her own 2 children. The CE was able to help participants understand the consequences of their own behaviour and how this can shape their own children's self concept just as their own experiences has helped to shape their own view of themselves.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

Leaflets on GBV, the DVA, Child Neglect and For Parents were distributed to participants and the Grove Health Centre.

Grove Post Natal Clinic- Child Neglect - 25th June

- A total of 51, 48 females and 3 males attended this 2 ½ hr session. Feedback from participants indicated that the session was very interactive and open as many of the mothers shared their views on aspect of child neglect. The forms of child neglect -physical, emotional and educational were discussed with parents and then an answer and question activity was introduced. In responding to the question one of the fathers present said that he is both mother and father to his 3 yr old daughter as his daughter's mother has moved on to another relationship and left their daughter with him. Other mothers shared stories of seeing women beat their children terribly, while many fathers are not similarly abusive. One participant witnessed seeing a father beg a mother to stop beating her daughter for seeing a particular boy.

In response to the question - if neglect by parents can shape how children see themselves; most parents believed that neglect can influence how some children see themselves. Children with loving and kind parents would be less likely to seek out the wrong type of company than neglected children who crave love and attention very often with the wrong people.

The majority of parents also were of the opinion that giving children everything they wanted can lead to trouble as children would become discontented when their parents cannot fulfill their every wish. Instead parents should provide and meet all the basic needs of their children.

Teaching children safety practices was stressed by the facilitator such as the use of code words in case of emergencies, how to answer the telephone, how much information to give over the telephone, traveling tips such as not allowing their children to sit on the laps of strangers or have strangers hold and touch them in the presence of their mother, as this can make children be unafraid to go to strangers. Participants were also encouraged to always listen to their children especially if they claim that someone is being abusive to

them or that they are uncomfortable in the presence of someone as in most cases their instincts are correct and there are telling the truth.

Evaluation of the session showed that that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

Leaflets on Child Neglect, For Parents, Wife Abuse and GBV were distributed to participants and the Grove Health Centre.

Restoration A.O.G., Youth Group, Den Amstel-Understanding Self - 19th June

- *Please see report of this awareness in the following Den Amstel report, even though facilitated by the C/E for Kaneville.*

Children Literacy Group-Domestic Violence - 27th June

- A total of 11 children, 9 girls and 2 boys between the ages of 7 and 13, participated in a 1 hr session on domestic violence. The CM facilitated the session and explained the nature of domestic violence, persons who can be affected by it and forms of domestic violence such as verbal insults, isolation, harassment and lack of access to money. She also explained that illiteracy can make persons more susceptible to domestic violence as they usually suffer from low self esteem and this can lead to problems in accepting violence or initiating violence in relationships. Children were encouraged to listen to persons who were trying to guide them in the right direction. Children shared their experiences of being verbally abuse by both parents and their peers.

Steering Committee Meeting - 9th June

- A total of 14 persons, 9 females and 5 males, attended the meeting. An overview of the project was done by the CE who also stressed the need to invite persons with integrity to be a part of the steering committee. The chair man discussed the rules of meetings and the group adopted its official name which is Kaneville Development Group (KDC). The official mailing address of the KDG is 704 Kaneville, the address of the CM. In addition the secretary suggested that each street in the community be represented by a steering committee member so that the KDG can know what is happening in each street and in the overall community. It was further agreed that the KDG meet twice a month. A date for the next meeting was agreed on.

The CE is of the opinion that the Group has the ability to function as an efficient and effective manner as some members have previous experience in the functioning of such groups.

Steering Committee Meeting - 16th June

- A total of 17 persons, 10 females and 7 males were present at the meeting as was the project coordinator and the M&E officer. The street representatives were also introduced to the meeting. The project coordinator in her remarks stressed the need for the males to ensure that they assist in the reduction of GBV. The M&E consultant also stressed that the Steering Committee build on their skills while working in collaboration with Help & Shelter on reducing GBV as they had the power in their hands to make a change in their community.

The following issues were discussed:

- **Naming of streets-** it was agreed that the names of local birds & fruits be used and each member to come with suggestions for these at the next meeting
- **Registration of the KDG-** the registration form is to be completed by the Chairman and given to the CE to complete the process with Ministry of Culture
- **Statutory meeting dates-**it was agreed that the steering committee meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- **NDC-**it was agreed that this body be approached for assistance

- **Street Signs**-a member volunteered to donate the galvanized material for the street signs and pledged to also paint the signs
- **Community Notice Board**-the CE is still to obtain paint for the Notice Board (quotation already given to the accountant).

Literacy Session - 27th June

- A total of 13 children, 11 girls and 2 boys participated in the session. It was observed that while some children still need help with their phonics, some have been showing signs of improvement in phonics, spelling, and writing. Most of the children however do not do their assignments given as homework. The children were placed into 2 groups for this session and given words to spell.

The CE and CM have decided to make some changes to the way in which the programme is being implemented such as including more awareness sessions for students and meetings and awareness sessions with parents.

KANEVILE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN- July 2009

Date	Activity	Time
3/7/09	Awareness Session-IPE School/Grove	1 pm
4/7/09	Literacy Session	3 pm
5/7/09	Awareness Session-Pentecostal Church, Women's Group	4 pm
7/7/09	Steering Committee Meeting	5 pm
9/7/09	Awareness Session/Meeting-Full Gospel Women's Group	7 pm
11/6/09	Awareness Session-Parents of Literacy group	3 pm
21/7/09	Awareness Session/Meeting-Steering Committee	5 pm
25/7/09	Awareness Session/Literacy Session	3 pm

DEN AMSTEL

Community Educator: Ebeth McIntosh

Community: Den Amstel, West Coast Demerara

Activities: A total of 8 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total 190 Females 140 Males 50

Persons Newly Reached: Total 66 Females 55 Males 11

H&S leaflets Distributed: 250

MLHSS DV Posters: 0

GHARP Booklets (Super Gang & The Player): 0

Empowering Women Booklet: 0

HIV Leaflets & Booklets: 0

H&S Posters: 0

Objectives of Visits:

- Attendance and participation at Steering Committee Meetings for planning and review of community development activities
- To conduct an awareness sessions on Child Neglect with the Congregational Youth Group
- To conduct an awareness session on Teenage Pregnancy with Restoration Assemblies of God, Women's Group
- To conduct an awareness session on Child Neglect with the Kingdom Connection Youth Group
- Enhancing road safety for children and other residents of Den Amstel through the painting of a pedestrian crossing

- To conduct an awareness session on Teenage Pregnancy with the Christian Brethren Youth Group
- To conduct an awareness sessions on Emotional Abuse of the Child at the Milder Cox Young, Den Amstel Health Centre

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Steering Committee Meeting - 3rd June

- A total of 7 persons attended the first steering committee meeting. After the meeting was called to order and minutes read a discussion was held on the painting of the agreed on community pedestrian crossing. It was agreed that this activity would be implemented on the 20th June at 9 am and all of the other plans for this activity remain the same such as dress code, sharing of leaflets and posters.

Steering Committee Meeting - 10th June

- Pedestrian Crossing-A total of 11 persons attended this meeting, the discussion revolved around the painting of the pedestrian crossing on the 20th June. It was agreed that both steering committee members and peer educators would be involved. The meeting was informed that a representative from the Road Works Division would be on hand to mark out the areas to be painted. The Road Works Division also promised to give the steering community 3 Pedestrian Crossing road signs but presently they do not have any in stock. The project coordinator also promised to have media coverage available for the activity. Concert-The proposed date for the Concert was fixed for August 8th. Steering Committee members reported that they have spoken to some artistes about performing at the Concert and they have agreed. Possible venues identified for the concert were-Den Amstel Primary School and Community Centre. Cost for hosting the concert and fundraising (snacks on sale) Other activities for the Steering Committee Agenda were also identified:
 - Debate Competition on GBV for youth 14-16
 - Poem Competition
 - Drama Competition
 - Story Telling Competition

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Congregational Youth Group-Child Neglect - 7th June

- A total of forty eight (48) young people, twenty three (23) females and twenty five (25) males between the ages of 16-34 participated in a 3 hr awareness session on Child Neglect.

At the start of the session there was a power outage in the Den Amstel area. The youth leader, however, insisted that the session would go on in spite of the black out and candles were lit and preparations were made for the start of the session.

Feedback from the participants indicated that they enjoyed the session and information was presented in a way they could understand. Most of the participants said that they learnt for the first time that there were three main types of child neglect and also learnt about the signs of child neglect. None of the participants identified themselves of having been a victim of child neglect. The participants said they would share the information given with other youth, family members, friends and anyone else they come into contact with.

An evaluation of the sessions indicated that participation, understanding of topics presented, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

Restoration Assemblies of God, Women's Group-Teenage Pregnancy - 9th June

- A total of 12 women participated in this awareness session. Participants shared what they would do if their teenage daughter told them she pregnant or they found out through other

means. This included abusing them emotionally, physically, even going so far as to put them out of the home and neglecting them because of the embarrassment their teenage daughter would have brought to the family and themselves. Other risks of teenage pregnancy identified by participants were health risks, inability on the part of the teen to maintain a child or themselves, loss of being able to complete their secondary education, loss of their independence as a teenager by having to assume the responsibility of being a teenage parent.

It was pointed out to participants that being abusive emotionally or psychologically to their pregnant teenager would not solve the problem. After discussions, participants agreed that they would handle the situation differently and with love as they recognized that if they did not do this they would be further hurting their teen and the unborn child. Participants said that they would share the information received with family, friends, students, Church members and other persons they come into contact with. They also disclosed that they enjoyed every moment of the session, found it to be a learning experience and were grateful. Participants also said they would make a special effort to continue to have on going awareness sessions.

Evaluation of the session showed that participation, understanding of topics presented, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as excellent.

Kingdom Connection, Youth Group-Child Neglect-14th June

- A total of 17 young people, 10 females and 7 males participated in this 3 hr session. Activities included small group discussions on definition of child neglect, behaviours of physical, emotional and educational neglect and presentation of an original song, poem and skit on child neglect.

Participants described the session as great, enjoyable and excellent. They were enthused that they were given the chance to come up with their own definition of child neglect and the signs of neglected children. Many participants were unaware of the three main types of child neglect, and even though none of them disclosed any personal experiences of child neglect, they knew of children from outside of their community who were neglected by parents and other family members. Participants disclosed that these children beg for money and food, most of them steal, their appearance is unkempt, hygiene poor and some of them don't attend school.

Participants committed to reducing child neglect by educating parents and children about child neglect through informing them of the dangers of child neglect and its effects on children.

Participants said they enjoyed putting together their original poem and song on child neglect and found it brain teasing, creative and fun. They said they also enjoyed working together on a theme and enjoyed the skit and group presentations.

Evaluation of the session indicated that showed that participation, understanding of topics presented, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as excellent.

Christian Brethren, Women's Group-Teenage Pregnancy - 22nd June

- A total of 10 women participated in this 3 hr awareness session. Feedback from participants showed that they gained new knowledge about teenage pregnancy and what to do if they are faced with such a situation in their own lives. They said they learnt that being abusive or violent in a situation such as this would not solve the problem. One woman shared her experience of coping with teenage pregnancy. Two of her daughters got pregnant as teenagers however she did not abuse them but gave them the support they needed and her daughters thanked her for that. She told them that being pregnant as a teen is not the end of their life. As a result her teen daughters saw life in a different way after their pregnancy and are pursuing their education now that they are married. She said that she loves her grand children and her family.

Participants said they would share the information they received on the effects and causes of teenage pregnancy with both youth and parents in and out of their community so they can bring about change.

Evaluation of the workshop indicated that participation and understanding of topics discussed were rated as good while facilitation and the session overall were rated as very good.

Milder Cox Younge Health Centre- Child Emotional Abuse - 24th June

- A total of 26 persons, 21 mothers and 3 fathers participated in this 1 ½ hr awareness session on child emotional abuse.

The mothers shared how they were emotionally abused by their parents, teachers, and family members. Because of this abuse some of the women said they developed low self-esteem and couldn't perform well at school or at Church or at whatever else they were involved in. Some of the mothers experienced depression and feelings of worthlessness due to the emotional abuse. The women were of the view that emotional abuse hurts very much and is wrong. However even though they know this they still find it hard not to abuse their own children because this is the only way they know. At the end of the session they were grateful for such vital information and the chance to re-examine their lives as children. They also said they will try not to abuse their own children.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics presented were rated as good while facilitation and the session overall were rated as very good.

Restoration AOG Church, Youth Group-Understanding Self - 19th June (facilitated by C/E of Kaneville, see reference to this in Kaneville report above)

- A total of 28 young people, 20 females and 8 males, participated in a 2¾ hr. session on Understanding Self.

Feedback from participants indicated that participants were very open to learning. Participants were asked to give a definition self-concept and self-esteem which was reinforced by the standard definition. The Johari Window and the Seven Shaper model were used as teaching tools to facilitate the discussion on the topic. Participants were placed into 5 groups and asked to discuss who and what shaped their self-concept. Some of the responses as to who influenced them were God, Jesus, parents, spouses, partners, religious leaders, pastors, Church members; as to what influenced them responses included the Bible, good/bad experiences, compliments, acknowledgements, pets, poverty, money. Presentation and feedback from other participants to presentation was lively and interesting. The Seven Shaper model allowed participants to explore aspect such as their environment, past, future, self motivating factors, feelings etc and the importance of interactions and how these can affect individuals and other around them. The C/E emphasized the need for everyone to be careful on how they can raise or lower others self esteem.

Evaluation of the session showed that participation, understanding of topics presented, facilitation and the session overall were all assessed as very good.

Painting of Pedestrian Crossing- 20th June

- Ten (10) persons from the steering committee including peer educators took part in this activity plus three (3) police officers. After some initial difficulties with one of the police traffic officers assigned to the activity and weather conditions the activity went well and concluded at 11.30 am. Besides re-painting the pedestrian crossing 50 leaflets on domestic violence, 50 on child sexual abuse, 50 on the DVA, 50 on child abuse and 50 on child neglect were distributed to pedestrians, drivers and passengers in vehicles. A donation of \$1,500 was received and from this \$500 was given to the police officers for refreshments. The police officers indicated that the activity was a good experience for them also.

DEN AMSTEL COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN – July 2009

Date	Activity	Time
2/7/09	Awareness Session-Domestic Violence-Pre-Natal Clinic/Health Centre	
5/7/09	Awareness Session-Child Abuse- Congregational Youth Group	
7/7/09	Community Project-Painting of Pedestrian Crossing-Steering Committee	
9/7/09	-Steering Committee Meeting	
12/7/09	Movie Night-Film of Domestic Violence-Kingdom Connection Church	
14/7/09	Awareness Session- Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships	
16/7/09	Awareness Session- Child Abuse-Willing Workers Women's Group	
19/7/09	Awareness Session-Child Neglect & Emotional Abuse-Christian Brethren Men's Group	
20/7/09	Awareness Session-Child Abuse-Christian Brethren Women's Group	
22/7/09	House to House Visits & Distribution of Leaflets.	

GOOD HOPE

Community Educator: Montgomery Chester

Community: Good Hope, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 3 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total 70 Female 47 Male 23

Persons Newly Reached: Total 67 Females 45 Males 22

H&S leaflets Distributed: 86

HIV/AIDS Brochures – 0

Brochures on Condoms – 0

Objectives of Visits:

- To continue relationship building with young men in the community through participating in cricket games
- Attendance and participation at Steering Committee Meetings for planning and review of community development activities
- A community walkabout to promote awareness about the project and project activities among residents

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Engaging Men through Cricket Game - 10th June

- After a game of cricket the C/E spoke to one of the senior members of the cricket team who indicated an interest in the project and offered his residence as a venue for project activities including a movie night in Phase 2. He said he had heard about the first movie night in Phase 1 but did not attend as he was not sure what it was about. He also informed the C/E that his daughter would be interested in being part of the project during this long holiday period.

Steering Committee Meeting - 24th June

- A total of 10 persons, 8 females and 2 males, attended this meeting with five of these being new members. Matter discussed were:
 - **Village March-** Most of the persons present agreed that the march would be a good vehicle to promote community awareness however a few expressed the fear of being laughed at by other community members. The reluctant members were advised that being faced with opposition is a part of life but one must be able to stand firm in his/her beliefs. The group was also encouraged to take pride in the

fact that they are change agents in the community and should serve as motivators to others in the community to stand up and speak out for what is right. All the persons present were tasked with mobilizing their neighbours to join the March. One member was put in charge of soliciting donations from local shops for food and drink refreshments for marchers. It was also agreed that marchers would wear white and blue.

- **Holiday Activities for Children**-Activities suggested were day camps, literacy sessions, and arts and craft
- **Responsibilities of New Steering Committee Members**-Three new members joined the steering committee. Responsibilities and expectations of steering committee members were outlined to the potential new members.

Village Walk About-Phase 2 Good Hope - 28th June

- This was the second Community Walk About organized. The CE, CM and one Peer Educator took part in the activity. A total of 50 persons, 39 females and 20 males were reached during this activity. During the activity the team stopped at various households, spoke to persons about the project and project activities in the community and distributed brochures. Residents reached were receptive to the team and information shared and the majority indicated an interest in the project even though some residents said they would be unable to attend activities because of time constraints.

At one household reached, a group of men who were engaged in a discussion on domestic violence were of the opinion that men were abused just as badly as women through psychological abuse. The men responded positively to an offer to participate in an awareness session.

A practical example of the need for this project was highlighted when a domestic violence incident occurred in which a wife ran to a neighbour's house to seek safety from her abusive husband. The husband who pursued his wife had to be restrained by the neighbour's family from further inflicting violence.

The C/E was also able to meet with the Chairman of the Good Hope Policing Group. He lauded the efforts of Help & Shelter in the area and promised to support the project. A package of H&S brochures on different topics were given to him. His particular interest was in the brochure on the DVA as he felt this would aid him in his role as a community police. While this discussion was taking place the Chairman received the report of the domestic violence incident referred to above and left to deal with this issue. It was said that this situation was a regular occurrence.

Another positive aspect of this activity was the opportunity to speak with some young people who had completed their exams and were on holiday. The Youth were generally enthusiastic about the project and one young woman indicated her eagerness to get involved in activities rather than being home all day.

Brochure on Help & Shelter, Domestic Violence, GBV and Wife Abuse were also distributed to residents.

Community Mobiliser Report - Child Abuse Case

- A report was received about a case of child abuse involving a 13 yr old girl and 11 yr old brother who were living with their aunt, also their step mother, father and their 2 other children. The report indicated that the 13 yr old was kept at home to do all the housework while the 11 yr old was forced to work to pay for their meals. The report also indicated that these 2 children also were lucky to get one meal a day and only after everyone else from the household had eaten. It was also reported that the two children were forced to sleep outside the house in the yard in a zinc enclosed area with a sand floor and just an old rice bag for a door. The C/M reported the matter to the police who advised her to seek help from the welfare office.

Welfare officers accompanied by the C/E visited the home and were horrified by what they saw. The father and the 13yr old girl were bathing the baby boy, while the mother and step mother of the abused children was attending driving lessons. When asked the 13 yr old girls told the welfare officers and C/M that she had not eaten for the day. The father in response to the situation said that the children were bad but he would give the girl something to eat and that the son had gone to the shop. The welfare officers knew this to be a lie as they had already visited the 11 yr old at his workplace and took a report from him. Both father and step mother were given an appointment to visit the welfare office to discuss the situation further.

The result of the visit is that the father was willing to work with the welfare officers but the step-mother refuses to cook or have anything to do with the children. The young children cook and clean for themselves. Both of them are back in school. The welfare officers claim that the children are better off at home than at a crowded shelter with strangers. However, the C/M is not convinced that this is true.

GOOD HOPE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORKPLAN - July 2009

Date	Activity	Time
12/7/09	Village Walk About	5 pm
15/7/09	Steering Committee Meeting	5 pm
19/7/09	Village March	4 pm
21/7/09	Awareness Session-Men	
	Awareness Session-Steering Committee	
	Awareness Session-Taxi Drivers	
	Meeting with Community Policing Group	

COVENT GARDEN

Community Educators: Tessa Greene & Ebeth McIntosh

Community: Covent Garden, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 5 visits were made to this community for the month *

Persons Reached: Total 107 Females 69 Males 38

Persons Newly Reached: Total 102 Females 66 Males 36

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 98

HIV/AIDS Brochures – 0

Brochures on Condoms – 0

Objectives of Visits:

- Raising awareness with secondary school students on the topic of Understanding Self
- Raising awareness with secondary school teachers on the issue of Gender
- To inform residents of Covent Garden through house to house visits about the GBV reduction project, enlist their support and introduce the community educators.
- Meetings with Head Deacon of the Full Gospel Church & Leader of the Full Gospel, Women's Group

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Awareness Session-Students of 2, 4th & 5th Form, Covent Garden Secondary School-Understanding Self -22nd June

- A total of 13 students, 7 girls and 6 boys participated in this 3hr session. Students in sharing their views about themselves and their self-concept spoke about the violence they

see including killings and people being hurt and mistreated and how this impacts on them. Some of the students spoke about the treatment they receive at home and at school and persons who influence their self concept in both negative and positive ways. It was observed that some students need assistance in building their self esteem while others need assistance in channeling their sometimes violent behaviours and thoughts into more positive thoughts and activities.

Evaluation of the session assessed participation and understanding of topics discussed as good, while facilitation and the session overall were assessed as very good.

Awareness Session-Teachers of Covent Garden Secondary School- Understanding Gender - 23rd June

- A total of 20 teachers, 15 females and 5 males between the ages of 17-44 participated in the 2 hr awareness session on Understanding Gender. Feedback from teachers indicated that they found the session informative, interactive, exciting, enlightening, fun relaxing and entertaining. They said that the session helped them to re-examine gender, understand gender bias, reflect on the differences in gender roles of women and men and hear men's views on the qualities they look for in a woman and their expectations of a woman. Participants also said that they got a clearer perspective on the topic, learnt the difference between sex and gender and learnt that men also have breasts. As to how they will use the information they have gained, participants indicated that they will share what they have learnt with students, friends, family, their community and peers. Participants also said they would put the knowledge gained into practice by incorporating it into their family life and applying it to their own personal development. The presentation of topics and facilitation of the workshop were viewed as excellent, well organized, skilled, down to earth, open, fun and considerate. Other comments made in relation to the sessions was, that it helped to ease some of the tension between teachers and brought them together. Teachers also requested that additional sessions be held with them.

House to House Community Visits- Back Street - 24th June

- The CE walked the back street and spoke to 25 residents, 15 women and 10 men informing them about the project and asking them if they would like to be part of the project. The response from residents was very positive as many persons said they would like to be involved. Residents were also spoken to in their homes about the project etc and they were all positive in their responses to the project. The C/E also visited a section of Middle Street and spoke similarly to residents whom she met on the street, in homes and shops. Leaflets on domestic violence, child abuse and GBV were distributed to everyone spoken to

Meeting with the Head Deacon, Full Gospel Church - 24th June

- During the community visit the CE met with Head Deacon of the Full Gospel Church who is also the head of the men's group of the Church and lives behind the Church. He also informed the CE that the Church also has a women's group which meets every other Tuesday in the month at 6.30 pm. The men's group meets every Monday at 6.30 pm and there is also a youth group which meets every Saturday at 4pm. The Deacon also said he would make contact with the assistant Deacon who lives in the Squatting Area and other leaders of the Church to let them know about the project and make appointments so they can meet with the CE. He said he was pleased that H&S chose the community of Covent Garden and his Church to be involved in the project. He said he was looking forward to working with the C/Es and H&S.

Visit to Middle & 1st Streets - 25th June

- C/E visited and spoke to 22 residents, 13 females and 9 males of Middle Street and First Street about the project and asked them to be a part of it. The residents gave their support and promised to get involved. Residents identified drugs, alcohol abuse, theft and unemployment as some of the problems facing their community. Leaflets on domestic violence, child sexual abuse and child neglect were distributed to residents.

Meeting with Leader of the Full Gospel, Women's Group - 25th June

- C/E also visited First Street and met with the leader of the Full Gospel, Women's Group who said that having a project like this is an excellent idea and she is glad that Covent Garden community and her Church was chosen to be a part of it. A date was fixed 7th July for a meeting and awareness session with the Full Gospel, Women's Group.

House to House Visits- Squatting Area-30th June

- The C/E visited the first street in the squatting area which has about 20 houses. A total of 25 residents were reached, 18 females and 7 males. Some of the residents were very frank in their discussions on issues which were of concern to them. At one home a couple was very accusatory towards each other as each tried to explain their situation. The husband, who had been sentenced to 8 years for stabbing another person to death, was convinced that his wife was responsible for having their daughter's 3 children placed in the Joshua Home while he was in jail. He also claimed that his 6 yr old granddaughter was not being sent to school. The C/E was able to speak to the man's daughter who suffers from a mental condition, but who was quite sane at the time.

At another home a mother expressed her concern about her 17 yr old daughter who she felt was suffering from depression over her boyfriend being barred from speaking to her by his parents. Both of them attend the Covent Garden Secondary School and have been friends for the past 3 years. The mother said she will try to get her daughter to attend computer classes and get involved in a work study programme to see if this will help her to overcome her depression.

Another resident complained about her son who is very abusive and threatens her, she is worried that at some time either she will harm him or he will harm her. She also disclosed that her son is encouraging one of her grandchildren to steal from her and abuses the child when he does not do this.

The C/E also spoke to with Ms Hall, a previous contact person in the area and was told that there are quite a number of children who are not being sent to school by their parents. She has promised to call the Probation Office and give them the necessary information.

High levels of alcohol abuse, domestic abuse and children not being sent to school were some of the social problems that the C/E noted during the visit. Leaflets on wife abuse and rape were distributed to households.

COVENT GARDEN COMMUNITY EDUCATORS' WORK PLAN- July 2009

Date	Activity	Time
	House to House Visits	
	House to House Visits	
	Awareness Session-Pentecostal Church	
	Awareness Session-Full Gospel Church	
	Youth Meeting	