

HELP & SHELTER

AVON FOUNDATION DONATION OF US\$10,000 FOR ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE

PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2011

1) CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

- In-house meeting was held with project staff on Tuesday 11th October 2011 at 1:30pm, next meeting scheduled for 8th November 2011.
- Management meeting to be arranged for November.

2) OTHER MATTERS

- Poster addressing the impact of domestic violence on children is in the design stages. Also working on a parenting booklet.
- Sessions with youths and other community members to be arranged for Good-hope community. Arrangements being made. October again proved to be a difficult month to work in the schools, partly due to athletics season. However we're in contact with schools for earliest available opportunity.
Facilitation training of trainers: new dates to be agreed upon by facilitator and trainers.

Details of Public Education work done for October 2011

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
01.10.11	Hague community	4 females	Reporting session	Areas discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• mobilizing of more parenting and CP sessions in the community.• Alcohol use and children's exposure to it.• Working through the PTA to reach parents• The creation of a stakeholder group that addresses issues affecting the welfare and protection of children and also lifting the awareness of parents on the alternative parenting model that encourages more

				<p>interaction with the children and non- violent ways of discipline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches to expand the reach of the project in the community
01.10.11	Kaneville Community	6 males	Sex & Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session was done to educate persons on the differences between sex and gender and to look at gender roles and how these roles affect relationships. Definitions for sex and gender was shared with participants, • We looked at expectations within relationships and how society determines the roles of men and women. • Participants were allowed to share their views and experiences. • Participants were able to identify role differences in their own socialization and how these have benefitted or affected their relationship • Participants were reminded that gender roles are created by society and can change and that they need to start the change process as their actions can pass on the wrong messages to the younger generation as children are modeling adult behavior. •
04.10.11	Lusignan Assembly of God Church	19 females	Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on domestic violence • The previous week the group viewed the movie “Provoked”. The session was about discussing feelings, ideas and experiences based upon the movie. • The women shared their feelings regarding the movie and were able to point out many important facts relating to domestic violence. • Several of the women recalled similar experiences with their partners. • Persons also spoke of individuals they know who are in abusive relationships • The women were given information related to their observations such as: understanding the cycle of violence • Reasons for entrapment, signs of abuse and the different forms of abuse. We spoke about reporting abuse and seeking counseling. • We looked at the importance of young people indicating their expectations in relationships and the benefits of effective communication
06.10.11	Zeelugt Nursery School	7 females	Child Abuse & Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session was done with the teachers • We explored the issue of gender socialization and the impact of a

				<p>fatherlessness or absence of a good male role model also, the environment in which the child is socialized and the effects of violence on the child and their ability to learn/function in the school environment whether a witness or victim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also looked at the five dimensional stages of development in early childhood allowing teachers to understand the varying behaviors of the child during their development. • We also discussed methods of discipline, how teachers should deal with disclosures, referrals and reporting cases of abuse (actual or suspected). One teacher disclosed her personal experience with regards to reporting such issues to the police. However at that time the CPA was not functional. Teachers were reminded that they can know refer cases to the CPA. • Teachers were given handouts, posters and numbers for the CPA.
07.10.11	Mother's Action Group	11 females	Domestic Violence – types & forms & cycle of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session was a continuation of a previous session held, here we looked at the different forms of abuse; physical, emotional, sexual, intimidation and psychological. Each participants was given a victim abuse checklist where they were able to identify behaviors that are considered abusive. Persons were able to point out at least one behavior under each category that they have experience. We examined each form of abuse, definitions were given and examples were shared. We then looked at the various stages of the cycle of violence providing a clear understanding to participants of how this occurs. • The women said they gained a lot from the sessions and will share the information with relatives and friends and express the desire for more sessions. • The founder of the group was present at the session, she expressed thanks for the information shared and requested we do work with her other groups.
12.10.11	Herstelling Health Centre	13 females	Services of H & S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants were told of assistance available to them at H & S and how they can access the services
13.10.11	Leonora Health Centre	9 females	Abuse and Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of previous session • Covering abuse upon conception and during the pregnancy

15.10.11	Help & Shelter Volunteer Orientation	4 males 34 females	Understanding Self, Understanding Sex & Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics discussed Domains of Development We examined the following aspects of development Physical, Social, Cognitive and Spiritual Participants were engaged in identifying how interruptions in each area can pose challenges for the individual. Everyone was allowed to share experiences. Some visually impaired persons spoke of their challenges with physical disability; others expressed social and emotional deficiencies. We discussed the importance of addressing same and looked at how important these are in attaining a balanced life. • Anatomy of the Mind We looked at the various areas of the mind, specific emphasis was placed the subconscious which stores all our previous life experiences, our belief system, memories, situations you've been through and images you've seen. This was done to show persons the effects of past experiences on our life and how these might contribute to certain behaviors. • Sex & Gender An activity was done that distinguished gender roles after which definitions of sex and gender was given. We discussed early socialization practices and the contributions to our expectations as it relates to our sex and gender.
17.10.11	Leonora Health Centre	5 males 14 females	Socialization & Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session was done with parents attending the infant clinic • Discussion focused on socialization placing emphasis on the environment in which the child is raised, there exposure to violence or abuse • We examine the disciplinary measures that parents use. It was found that most of the parents still use physical punishment as the main form of discipline. Parents were given a number of reasons why they should not beat and were told of both short and long term effects of abuse. • They were challenged to examine their reasons for beating and whether it is warranted, upon examining their reasons many confessed that they do so when they are angry. The facilitator was then able to show the parents how their actions are based upon personal feelings or frustrations and not necessarily on the behaviors of children.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents expressed thanks for the information and promised talk more and to be more patient with their children. • Parents received handouts of alternative punishment and effective discipline
18.10.11	Interview with TVG			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview address H & S work, what we are doing about the increase in violence, help available from H & S and violence and its effects on children. Part of the interview was aired, more to be shown in November.
19.10.11	Hague Primary School	8 females	Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation sheets were filled out with teachers and parents
20.10.11	Help & Shelter		Workshop-Managing for results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-house training. It was informative.
22.10.11	Sophia Community Centre	30 males	Domestic Violence	<p>The session Work was done with two groups, one in the morning and the other afternoon The sessions took the form of an open discussion, this was done to facilitate the participation of the various age groups represented and to offset literacy challenges. Participants were briefed on the present statistical information available through help & shelter to date which set the stage for the discussion which followed. Based on the discussions most participants showed an awareness of the subject. Here are some examples of stories shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One participant shared an experience which he is presently witnessing with his neighbors and expressed disgust in the behavior of these adults, he said the man beats his wife every day and no one tries to stop him, he feels that the woman has a responsibility to report but doesn't because she likes it. • Another participant disclosed that he knows a teenage girl who presently lives with an adult male that is very abusive (physically) to her but she would not accept help. He disclosed that she has left him many times before only to return. He feels she remains because of the sex and the financial security. • One young adult spoke of growing up in an abusive home, he told of

				<p>his father’s abusive behavior towards the family which led to him making a decision never to hit any woman. However, he also spoke of his personal experience in which he suffered heartbreak and feels that he cannot trust another woman which has resulted in him developing a promiscuous lifestyle which he says he has no intention changing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another young man spoke of constant verbal abuse from his sister which he is becoming tired of. He claims that she stopped him from working to attend school but is really pressuring him. He disclosed that she has a partner who does not work and acts like the boss in the home; and many days he gets no food to eat because of this guy. He says his sister will never accept help to change her attitude because he has suggested it many times but to no avail. <p>Observations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was recognized that for most of the participants their view of domestic violence centered on the physical form of abuse. • Some persons identified unfaithfulness as a main reason for abuse within the community; some felt the abusers were “wicked” while others felt that the abuse was justified. • The youth also felt that the lack of employment plays a major role in abusive behavior within the community • Another important observation was that five (5) of the total number of participants grew up in households where there father was present. Their views of what it means to be a man were/are shaped by their mothers • One young man indicated that he in a relationship with a young woman who would not give into sex unless she was hit. He subsequently ended the relationship but is still friendly with the
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				<p>young woman and wanted to know what can be done to help her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions were raised about age differences in relationships. It was disclosed that at least three (3) of the youths were in relationships with older women. • Constant sex is seen as a tool for maintaining control over /punishment of women, also as a means of avoiding unfaithfulness/problems in relationships e.g. one young declared “ I will chop she up whole day” (“chop” denoting sexual intercourse). <p>Information Shared Participant’s questions were answered and concerns addressed including the reasons why persons may stay in abusive relationships and not report it (fear). They were given information on the various forms of abuse particularly sexual abuse. A great portion of the discussion was attributed to helping them understand how their socialization impacts their views and behaviors with regard to domestic violence especially towards women and girls. Other areas addressed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender socialization • Impact of obstructions in our development and its relationship to abusive behavior • Their expectations of women and girls and ideas of what is expected of them as males • Impact of witnessing violence and being victims of violence and how these translates into adult behavior; the importance of reporting abuse and seeking help especially counseling • Brainstorming root causes of domestic violence • Sharing of childhood violent experiences
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25.10.11	Grove Craft Centre	9 females	Cycle of Violence Signs of abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students were informed of the different stages of the cycle of violence and how they can address issues of violence in their relationship. Three (3) of the young women related that they were in relationships with men older than they. They were told of the signs of abuse and how to recognize same. • Participants were encouraged to communicate their feelings, expectations and desires and not to suppress their hurt which was evident from their disclosures. The young women explained that they were OK in their relationships but their parents are the ones that are abusive. • One participant it was observed cuts her wrist (she uses a surgical blade). She revealed that she often feels lonely and cannot talk to her parents. • She was encouraged to seek counseling, she was told of a number of organizations she can contact including H & S for help and also to get involved in a group where she can socialize and interact with peers or to seek some extracurricular activity she enjoys to help her deal with the loneliness. • In closing the session, participants were reminded of helping agencies.
25.10.11	Herstelling Health Centre			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
27.10.11	Craig Health Centre			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session done with the elderly on the services provided by H & S and recognizing and reporting domestic abuse. Persons were asked to share information with relatives and other individuals who approach them for assistance in these matters. • They were also encouraged to make use of the services if they are in abusive situations
28.10.11	Saraswat Primary School	110 adults 50 pupils	Graduation ceremony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H & S was recognized for its work with the PTA throughout the past school year.
27.10.11	Zeelugt Action Group			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was learnt that some challenges facing the community include gambling, drug abuse (using and selling) and children abusing

				<p>parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms of abuse was explained and linked to the behaviors of children. • Participant were informed of the socialization practices in the community, the violent acts that children are exposed to both in and out of the home and the connections to their behaviors • Members of the group accepted that this is sometimes the case and spoke of a few encounters • They attributed these problems to the conditions in which some persons lived and identified poverty as a great contributor to abuse in the community • The group was encouraged to play their part in reporting abuse they were given information on the helping agencies including CPA along with the hotline numbers • They were also encouraged to in collaboration with the teachers and nurses trained to address and to make use of H & S counseling sites in the community, • The group also received two child protection manuals
29.10.11	Methodist Church			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session was done with male members of the church, the discussion focused on gender roles and expectations and the use of violence in relationships. • Interestingly, in talking about expectations about 80% of the men have never talked about this with their partners. Some men remarked that women know their roles and what is expected. • It was then highlighted to men that many of the previously identified male and female roles are changing. • The aim of this exercised was to get the men thinking of their own expectations and also their partner's expectations of them and what

				<p>happens when either party does not meet the expectations of the other.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help them to identify how the frustrations of not having your expectations met contribute to violence in relationships. • We also talked about the role of the father in the family • One of the questions coming from the session was “What can be done to prevent young men from becoming abusers”. • The men were encouraged to teach their daughters the ways of men and their sons the ways of women which will help to prepare them for challenges in relationships. • The men were also reminded to adopt non-violent attitudes and effective ways of communicating with their family members (wife and children).
29.10.11	Scouts Association			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We address cultural expressions of masculinity and femininity • This session was aimed at helping participants identify and understand their values and cultural norms about appropriate behavior for men and women (gender). • We looked at society’s perceptions of what it means to be a man. Youths participated well, share their views and had a very good grasp of behaviors that are not acceptable. • However they were a few who had concerns about the lack of attention paid to men and felt that too much was being done for women. One young man was very upset by the way his uncle was treated by police and the court in a child maintenance case since in his opinion and based upon what he witnessed in his aunt’s behavior his uncle was actually the victim. <p>Some other areas discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying how our own beliefs, attitudes and values of what it means to be a man influence how we act with others and how we take care of ourselves. • Changing learned behaviors that contribute to harmful behaviors due to certain beliefs and actions. • Understanding the right and responsibility to challenge harmful messages and help people change the way they behave and do things.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The session concludes with participants examining how these norms affect the health of men and women and identifying ways to shift these norms and improve their health.
30.10.11	Good Hope			<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

Submitted by: Kevin Massiah