

HELP & SHELTER

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

PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT – APRIL 2012

1) **CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT**

- Project ended. Final report to be completed

2) **OTHER MATTERS**

- Sessions in schools were cancelled due to examinations and Easter holiday.
- Reports for Kaneville and Good Hope completed and sent out. Work plans for May received.
- Statistics completed and sent off.
- Project ended 31 April 2012. Final report to be completed

Details of Public Education work done for April 2012

Total number of persons reached:

	Children	Adults
Males:	0	21
Females	0	240

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
03.04.12	Parika Health Centre	1 male 23 females	Safe touches	Discussion. • Some touches become secrets-these are unsafe Comments • One participant shared from this discussion that she realized that her mother had erred in bringing her up but she would ensure that she would raise her child better. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations Awareness sessions are helping persons to identify behaviors that are unhealthy and they have shared that they would work to change their behavior and to share with others.
03.04.12	Lodge health centre	11 females	Cycle of Violence	Discussion. • Do we tell our partners of our expectations • Recognizing abusive behaviors

				Comments • Most persons do not talk about their expectations because it does not mean that things would be better. • People hide who they really are. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • Participants were reminded that upon entering into a relationship both persons usually try to put their best foot forward meaning they show the better side of their person. • Participants were encouraged to discuss with their partners what their expectations are and to also know what their partner's expectations are, and that this is better done before the relationship gets serious. While this may not eliminate problems in a relationship, it gives you the opportunity of knowing whether it is something you can work with and also makes it easier to make changes and more importantly to talk about issues that may arise in the relationship in a non-confrontational/non-violent manner.
05.04.12	Den Amstel Health Centre	12 females	Safe touches	Discussion. • Some touches become secrets-these are unsafe Comments • Having this information will help to change my behavior towards my children and to be more vigilant • I never realized it would be good to remove myself from the child when I'm angry. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • Doing awareness sessions is giving persons the information to promote healthy relationships between children and parents but it must be consistent. Working with adults, giving options would bring about changes.
10.04.12	Lodge Health Centre	9 females 3 males	Violence & its effects on children	Discussion • The DV poster was discussed Comments • My relationship is good • If my partner hits me, he will be hit back, I'm not allowing no man to hit me and get away with it • Men are abused too, not only women • Help and shelter can do more for women in terms of providing financial assistance. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations

				- Participants were reminded that violence is violence no matter who is the perpetrator. Hitting back does not necessarily solve the problem as this can sometimes lead to fatal consequences. - Men do experience abuse both by women and men; however men do not report issues of abuse and in most cases are very reluctant to seek help. Participants were reminded that this has its origin in our socialization and gender expectations. - Persons were reminded of the services provided by help and shelter - We also examined the various behaviors of children who witness/are victims of abuse. Persons were encouraged to seek counseling if they are experiencing abuse both for them and their children.
13.04.12	Leonora Health Centre	23 females 2 males	Safe touches	Discussion - Some touches become secrets-these are unsafe Comment - One male Mr. Dupan Persaud who works at the Ministry of Home Affairs said he appreciate the talk, the information was presented well and he said parents need to teach/talk to their children and parents are to be held accountable for most of what is happening to children Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - The awareness sessions are helpful, persons would use the probation service in Reg # 3 because they were not aware where H & S is and services they offer. H & S hotline and child protection service been given after every session more persons are seeking help
16.04.12	Lodge Health Centre	9 females 4 males	Forms of abuse	Discussion - What are the forms of abuse - Services offered by Help and Shelter Comment - What does H & S do for women and children who are sexually abused - Women usually hit out at men and nothing is done about it, but if men hit women the police usually don't ask questions they just lock men up. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Participants were told of the court-support services offered by H & S, also counseling services available both face-to-face and hotline

				and our shelter. • We also discussed all forms of abuse and how they are interlinked. • Participants were reminded to tell others of the services of H & S and to also access counseling should the need arise.
17.04.12	Parika Health Centre	17 females	Safety of Children	Discussion • Adults have a responsibility to keep children safe Comments • Sometimes you cannot talk to some parents/children because they would turn around and curse you even though you may be warning them of potential dangers to their children. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • Most persons do not want anything/violence to happen to children and knowing the impact it can have on the family as well as the community, promises were made to share the information with others and to be more vigilant. • Some persons shared that they would hear about sexual abuse in their community but would not get involve; areas such as Parika and Ruby back-dam and Parika façade.
17.04.12	Ministry of Health – Ocean View Convention Centre	76 females 8 males	Intimate partner violence	• A presentation was done on H & S services and our statistical data in the various areas of work. Other presentations were done by Red Thread representatives, doctors and other ministry personnel on intimate partner violence.
18.04.12	Herstelling Health Centre	15 females	Domestic violence	Discussion • Reasons why children do not tell when someone hurts them Comments • Many women visit the health centre who are abused, the evidence is usually clear but many deny it has happened • There were two situations in the area where one woman has 9 children and is living in very poor conditions but would not access family planning. Once she did, and her husband beat her when he found that she was not becoming pregnant and she had to come off the preventative. • Another woman is beaten often by her partner and is usually rescued by nurses at the health centre but would often return to the abusive relationship. • Whenever the police are called in they don't respond. • One woman who had moved out of her home disclosed that she was being threatened by her child-father.

				Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Nurses were encouraged to refer persons to H & S - The participant was encouraged to seek counseling - Counselors should have an office at health centres to address these cases as nurses are not trained to handle same. This would aid the work of the nurses while offering assistance to persons who are reluctant to access help from other helping institutions or those whose only opportunity to leave home is to go to the health centre.
19.04.12	Den Amstel Health Centre	15 females	Safety rules for children	Discussion - Reasons why children do not tell when someone hurts them Comments - This information was new for participants - Adults must listen to children and get help if the child is hurt and not criticize/label the child about what happened. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - One participant spoke of violence amongst students in school while she was a teacher and indicated that work being done by H & S is good but persons have to apply what they have learnt.
20.04.12	Leonora Health Centre	3 males 22 females	Safety of Children	Discussion - What can adults do to ensure safety of children Comments - I would look out for children in my community not only mine. - All adults should do what they can in their respective capacity to prevent abuse. - Children should speak out, however adults need to develop an atmosphere of trust to make children willing to disclose. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations Some women suffer violence and cause suffering to their children as related by an elderly woman. She indicated her hope the young women would use the services available and not stay in abusive situations; she also encouraged them to speak out.
23.04.12	Plaisance health centre	8 females	Child Abuse	Discussion - The forms of child abuse using the poster; specific attention was placed on sexual abuse in the home. Comments - Participants inquired as to what can be done to mothers who knowingly allow their partners to sexually abused their daughters also those who take money to end cases.

				Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • We focused on rape and the various forms of sexual abuse, the provisions in the sexual offences act • Participants were also reminded of H & S court support services and the child protection agency. • Persons were encouraged to report suspected incidences of child abuse to the child protection agency or H & S.
25.04.12	MTV Channel 65		Domestic Violence	• Interview focused on the reported cases of domestic violence over the past three years and H & S views on the recent murders/attempted murders of women and what we are doing as an organisation. • The public was reminded that H & S sees persons at the crisis centre, we have worked and continue to work in communities providing counseling and bringing awareness to persons as to the effects of violence. Persons were also encouraged to access our services particularly our hotline for those who live in outlying areas.

Handouts distributed in April 2012 - 1275

Posters	Help & Shelter	-	16
	Domestic Violence	-	16
	Child Abuse	-	6

Condoms	Male	-	1 box
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Submitted by: Kevin Massiah