

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 – FEBRUARY 2012

1) **CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT**

- Reports received from project staff.

2) **OTHER MATTERS**

- Poster completed; corrections to be made to prints after which distribution will commence.
Work is ongoing in Kaneville and Good-hope. Work-plan submitted by project staff for month of March.
Proposed date for completion of TOT workshops 10th March, awaiting word from volunteer rep. Also date has not been set for completion of assessment of in-school training.
Work in schools will once again reduce due to writing of Easter term examinations.
CARIMAN - Attended two meetings thus far with core group to plan activities for men. One (1) day workshop scheduled for 9th March; to engage some forty men from different organizations nationwide in the discussions on the role of CARIMAN in Guyana and how they can be involved in the network.
Statistical data completed and sent out.

Details of Public Education work done during February 2012

Total number of persons reached:

	Children	Adults
Males:	59	21
Females	83	149

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
02.02.12	Den Amstel Health Centre (Linda)	8 females	Wife Abuse	Discussion • Emotional and sexual abuse. Comments • Some indicated that it was the first time they were looking in depth at the consequences of these types of abuse. • Participants were told that any form of abuse should be reported. • Women were able to relate to information, with one indicating that withholding of money from a nursing mother can affect her as well as her baby's health (malnourishment). Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • The medex expressed her delight with the level of interaction by the mothers on the subject.

02.02.12	Stewartville Secondary (Linda)	23 males 13 females	Gender	Discussion. - Sex and gender. Comments - Boys and men can also do chores such as washing dishes, sweeping the house, cooking and also caring for the baby and children; it is not only a woman's job. - Most of the boys said they assist in washing dishes. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - They were a lot of myths concerning sex which had to be clarified such as: masturbating is unhealthy for men as it leads to infertility. - Students shared that they are willing to change behavior that are not nature; but created by society.
03.02.12	Leonora Health Centre (Linda)	23 females	Wife Abuse	Discussion. - Sexual and emotional abuse - Women were made aware of same; what they should do if they experience same? Where to report and help available. Comments - Nurse in charge indicated that all women should receive this information, particularly for teaching their children. - One participant related that women should be independent and not stay in abusive relationships. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Women are willing to share information shared with them but indicated that they would not report sexual abuse/rape to the police because of shame.
03.02.12	Patentia Secondary	16 females 5 males	Sex and Gender	Discussion. - Sex and Gender Comments - Students were asked to distinguish between sex and gender. - To discuss the following questions - What messages does your community send to a boy/girl when he/she is told to act like a man/woman? - What is he/she expected to do? - How is he/she encouraged to act? Some responses from students - Boys: wealthy; strong; use your male voice: hardworking; responsible, etc. - Girls: good hygiene; care for husband; interested in outdoor games; flexible; dress appropriately; intelligent; responsible; good attitude and personality, etc. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Students were given definitions on sex and gender; they were

				reminded that sex relate to things about ourselves that are natural but gender refers to society's expectations of male and female differences. Participants were informed that these differences are created by our culture and we can change them.
14.01.12	L'Aventure Secondary	19 females 8 males	Gender Based Violence	Discussion. - Gender based violence Comments - Students shared their thoughts on violence and in groups draw as many images of violence that comes to mind. - The following are some remarks from the drawings done: <i>You could say what you want because you done get it. If I did know I never would have slept with him.</i> <i>Baby, do you like it? No I love it. How could you cheat on me? I thought you loved me. Woman look! Don't stress me out. Leave me alone.</i> - Students spoke of issues of violence they witness in their respective communities. - They were told of ways in which they can help.
07.02.12	Patentia Secondary			Discussion. - Gender based violence Comments - Students shared their thoughts on violence and in groups draw as many images of violence that comes to mind. - The following are some remarks from the drawings done: <i>Husband – where is my yellow shirt?</i> <i>Wife: wear another one I forgot to wash it.</i> <i>Husband : what did I make you my fxxxing wife for (hitting her)</i> <i>Wife: I can't get it wash right now</i> <i>Husband: find another one, NOW!</i> <i>Adult male: I want sex now</i> <i>Teenage girl: my period is coming</i> <i>Adult male: I don't care</i> <i>Father: take your children and leave bitch</i> <i>Radika, why you cheat on me? Cause you are not good enough.</i> - Coming out from the discussion, it was found that students witnessed a lot of violent acts both in their communities and their homes. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations Notes were given on definitions of Gender-based violence and types and forms.
07.02.12	Parika Health Centre	2 males 23 females	Wife Abuse	Only two participants were aware of emotional and sexual abuse, the others were hearing about it for the first time and the emotional

				aspect was a shock for persons as they were made aware of their effects not only on them and their unborn child. • One participant shared an experience of reporting rape. Her remarks were as follows “if I was raped I would only report to a male police officer because the females harass you; the kind of questions they ask you; they judge you by asking questions such as you give the man sex now you come here hollering rape; how he put you; what position you were in and such like”. • One elderly participant indicated that abuse was justified because some women walk from house to house talking name and not doing their chores and they cannot cook properly. • One participant shared that this information is good and should be done often to educate people especially women and it is the first time she is hearing this topic and knowing where to get help; it is also a relief to her knowing help is available.
08.02.12	Men’s Group	10 males	Domestic Violence	• The session commenced with us discussing the reasons why so much focus is on men whenever domestic violence is spoken of. Men were informed that statistics available revealed that more women than men are victims of domestic violence as evident in reports. We examined some reasons why men don’t report abuse. Men disclosed that the police response to such a situation would hinder their reporting domestic violence particularly at the hands of a woman. The men were informed of the human element involved and the fact that policemen even though they have a responsibility to uphold the law, gender socialization teaches that it is not expected that a man should be hit by a woman therefore it’s likely that police officers may initially “laugh” before rendering assistance. The example was thrown out to the men. They were asked what their responses would be if one of their colleagues were to stumble through the door with a head injury claiming he was hit by his wife/partner, what would be their responses; the entire room burst into laughter (this was done to emphasize the point made). Men were encouraged to not let this initial reaction by the police hinder them reporting abuse. Further to that men were asked the following questions: • What are your expectations of women in your lives? • What are women’s expectations of you? How do you know? • Where did you get your ideas of how women should be treated? • What happens when our expectations are not met? How do we act or respond to our partners? • Where do we learn violence? • What is the most common form of violence committed against men and the most common form of violence men use against their spouse?

				• We discussed gender socialization and the differences in the socialization of boys and girls and how these contribute to the behaviors of men and women in their adult life. • We also addressed the issue of witnessing or being directly affected by violence and its impact and effects (both short and long term) on the individual. • We also focused on how men deal with experiences and the suppressing of their emotions which allowed for serious self-analysis and introspection. Men were reminded that that their past experiences both bad and good do not disappear but remains with them and usually shows up in how the handle conflict in their relationships when challenges arise. At this point the cycle of violence was introduced to help the men understand how, sometimes things we overlook in the early stages of the relationship can eventually lead to very violent outcomes and also to emphasize why we should not take arguments lightly but should seek help where necessary. • Men were briefed on the main forms of violence; physical, sexual and psychological. Ideas shared by the men • Women today are more sexually aggressive than men. One guy related that women; after sex wants you to “pin the tail to the donkey” • Men felt that if their wife/partner is working and “her skirt is getting shorter and her income is improving she’s having an affair”. • The men felt that all the education on gender has brought about the problems we are having in society today and is contributing to homosexuality as it is making men more feminine. There is no distinction as to what is acceptable behavior for men and women. • Men expressed their disgust in the way police officers respond to DV reports, it was suggested that some police officers respond violently towards men and their reasons are usually because they have ulterior motives, which includes having sexual relations with the abused women. • Men felt that some of the clothing being sold for children; are more appropriate for adults. • If couples would read their Bibles, no problem would lead to violence.
08.02.12	Zeelugt Primary	18 females	Child Protection &	• Session conducted by CPP staff; focused on the recent teacher

			Abuse	training in Child Protection and how the skills acquired were being used and what the response has been by parents and students. • Discussion also included addressing the socialization process of boys and its contributions to their lack of ability to deal with conflict situations. • Teachers were reminded of the fact that men are in the majority abusers (particularly physical) therefore it is necessary to focus on behaviors that promote such and work towards changing same for the future generations. • Teachers received copies of the draft inter-agency protocol and child abuse posters.
10.02.12	Patentia Secondary	6 males 17 females	Gender Based Violence	Discussion. • Gender based violence Comments • Students shared their thoughts on violence and in groups draw as many images of violence that comes to mind. • The following are some remarks from the drawings done: <i>Mommy I can't have sex with uncle Roy</i> <i>A gon shake de life outta yuh, how y'all gon eat, de man aint want me I too old.</i> • <i>Adult male: cum u lil jackass</i> • <i>Teenage girl: Ah! Daddy don't beat me no more</i> • <i>Daughter: Daddy, me nah went with he</i> • <i>Father: move yuh @//&* out of my house, yuh whore.</i> These remarks reflect what occurs in some homes and the community. Students related that these are situations they witness. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations Notes were given on definitions of Gender-based violence and types and forms. •
10.02.12	Vergenoegen Secondary (Linda)	17 males 8females	Gender	Discussion • Gender roles: what is expected of males and females in society. Comments by students • Most of the boys felt that women and girls are responsible for household chores and child-care. Women should be independent and not stress out men • Roles can change • There is distinction between boy work and girl work • Women should be beaten to do their chores properly and to take care of their responsibility which is caring for their children.

				Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - About five of the young men from the class are affiliated with gangs and openly expressed that they solve their problems with violence. One was locked up before but doesn't see anything wrong with being violent and aggressive. - One girl shared that her father would beat her mother and all the children whenever he gets upset; if he cannot find something; when he wants to visit his sweet woman who is their neighbor.
13.02.12	La Venture Secondary School	15 females 6 males	Gender-based violence	- You could say what you want because you done get it. If I did know I never would have slept with him. - Baby, do you like it? No I love it. How could you cheat on me? I thought you loved me. Woman look! Don't stress me out. Leave me alone.
14.02.12	Patentia Secondary School	22 females 5 males	Peer Pressure	Discussion - Peer Pressure - Advantages and disadvantages of belonging to a group - Positive and negative peer pressure - Ways of resisting negative peer pressure Comments - Students were asked to role-play different situations of peer pressure followed by a discussion on the various issues coming out in the presentations. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Friends can influence you to make bad decisions or can motivate you positively. - Students were encouraged to be the influence and to be positive influence. - They were also reminded that sometimes it is better to stand alone if you are doing it for the right reasons. - Students were encouraged to stand up for what is right and people will respect you for it even though they may not see the results immediately.
15.02.12	Zeelugt Nursery	7 females	Child Abuse	Discussion - Child Abuse Comments - Parents reported that they are not using physical punishment to discipline however it was still being used by other parents in the community. - One parent reported that there was a parent who was in the habit of burning her child, this was forwarded to KS to look into; parents were also encouraged to call CPA and report these issues whenever they see them occurring.

				• Parents also disclosed a case of the rape of a child in which the perpetrator has not been arrested even though the case was reported because of his position in the community policing group. • Other areas addressed included Child abuse and forms; socialization of children; parent/child communication and reporting abuse.
16.02.12	Den Amstel Health Centre	12 females	Parenting	Discussion • Statistics of child abuse around the world • Percentage of boys and girls who suffer sexual abuse Comments • Perpetrators of sexual abuse should have a speedy trial and not be remanded because the cases take too long to go to trial causing the victim and family to become frustrated and give up attending court. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • Victims are settling sexual abuse cases for sums of money with the perpetrator(s). • Families are allowing perpetrators to continue to abuse other children. • All children deserve to be safe regardless of the religious background, whether they are differently able; handicapped, etc. and it's the parent's responsibility to protect and provide. Questions asked • Are there any laws protecting men in domestic violence situations.
16.02.12	Stewartville Secondary	21 males 18 females	Defining Violence	Discussion • Psychological violence Comments • Students learnt about three (3) forms of violence and are now aware of the behavior/signs associated with same. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • Students acknowledge responsibility for some behaviors associated with psychological violence especially making threats, teasing, bullying and insulting their peer, but after looking at the negative consequences of these behaviors and the impact it could have on the individual's life which can eventually lead to attempts (suicide). • Students promised to work at changing these behaviors • They also related that teachers perpetrate psychological and

				physical violence in the school. Students were able to identify that a single act of violence can have multiple and varying effects.
16.02.12	Parika Secondary School (Linda)	8 males 21 females	Defining Violence	Discussion - Psychological violence Comments - Psychological abuse is common in the school. It is perpetrated by teachers to students and peer to peer. Students however, do not have the knowledge of how it affects other individuals. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Students promised to change behavior and to share information with parents.
17.02.12	Patentia Secondary	12 females 2 males	Peer Pressure	Discussion - Peer Pressure - Advantages and disadvantages of belonging to a group - Positive and negative peer pressure - Ways of resisting negative peer pressure Comments - Students were asked to role-play different situations of peer pressure followed by a discussion on the various issues coming out in the presentations. - Students spoke of situations where they were forced to do things they did not want to do, but responded in positive ways. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Friends can influence you to make bad decisions or can motivate you positively. - Students were encouraged to be the influence and to be positive influence. - They were also reminded that sometimes it is better to stand alone if you are doing it for the right reasons. - Students were encouraged to stand up for what is right and people will respect you for it even though they may not see the results immediately.
18.02.12	Leonora Health Centre	4 males 21 females	Parenting	Discussion - Statistics – child abuse Comments - Persons were not aware of the child protection agency and laws protecting children. - Persons were alarmed by the world statistics of child abuse.

				Insights/lessons learned/recommendations One participant disclosed that she would be sharing the information with others and would be looking out for children in her community not only her own. These sentiments were also shared by others.
21.02.12	Parika health Centre (Linda)	2 males 15 females	Safety of Children	Discussion - Statistics – child abuse - Effects on children who witness/affected by violence Comments - One mother related that she beats out of frustration and her inability to deal with the demands of her child owing to her pregnant state. Sought alternatives. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Some persons have no knowledge of the topic discussed, a few learned from television and expressed gratitude that it has been explained to them e.g. types of abuse and signs. - Nurse has requested continued sessions.
29.02.12	Parika Salem Secondary	3 males 22 females	Emotional Abuse	Discussion - Emotional abuse and its effects Comments - Not being affectionate towards the child - Separating children in the classroom - Children may come into the school environment looking for a different treatment to that receive in the home, but may receive the same harsh criticisms, insults, treatment, etc. - Given children mixed messages. - Not paying attention to students' welfare, whether they do school work or not or if they are affected by others in the school environment - Belittling the child, making them feel worthless - Using the child for teachers' personal business. - Teachers were also briefed on the impact of the parents' behavior on the child; how children are affected by violence witnessed/perpetrated against them or others especially in the home environment. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Head teacher in her closing remarks expressed a need for a follow-up session.

Handouts distributed during February 2012 - 200

Submitted by: Kevin Massiah