

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 – JANUARY 2012

1) CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

- Reports received from project staff.

2) OTHER MATTERS

- Poster completed, presently expected to be completed by 17th February 2012.
- Work is ongoing in Kaneville and Good-hope. Work-plan submitted by project staff.
- No dates agreed for completion of TOT workshops, awaiting word from volunteer rep. Also date has not been set for completion of assessment of in-school training.
- Work has started in some schools; some schools are requesting letters from the Ministry of Education while others cannot accommodate us due to a “very packed” curriculum.
- LH has been brought on to assist in public education; she is presently working with three schools and three health centres on the West Coast of Demerara.
- Attended a two (2) day workshop organized by CARIMAN on 30-31 January, 2012. The group is looking to include Guyana in their network. The group works in collaboration with UN Women and addresses the following: Male issues, Men and violence against women and Fatherhood and Caregiving. A core group was set up to plan activities to reach men of which I am included.
- Statistical data completed and sent out.

Details of Public Education work done for January 2012

Total number of persons reached:	Males -	13
	Females -	114

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
14.01.12	Help & Shelter	15 females	Volunteer Assessment	- Volunteers did presentations on various topic areas and were assessed both by fellow participants and the evaluator. Seven of the persons were able to do their presentations while the others are to be done at a later date. This was due to time constraints. - So far, five persons has displayed the skills and abilities necessary for working with schools. - Participants were encouraged to participate in H & S public education activities for exposure and a number of persons expressed an interest. Thus far no one has come forward.
16.01.12	Plaisance Health Centre	15 females	Services offered by H & S	This being our first visit to the health centre. It was necessary to inform persons of the organization and services we provide. Many persons knew of the organization but were not clear on what assistance was given. Individuals were particularly interested in the court support offered. Also many persons were not aware that H & S also provides counseling to men. Some of the women indicated that their partners do need counseling but expressed that they would be reluctant to access same.
17.01.12	La Grange Health Centre	7 females	Abuse & Pregnancy	Mothers were told of abuse during pregnancy, we examined the causes of abuse, and the forms of abuse pregnant women are likely to experience. Mothers were given handouts and reminded of the services offered by H & S should they require it. They were also encouraged to tell others particularly people experiencing DV that they know where they can access help.
18.01.12	Sophia Health Centre	7 females	Abuse & Pregnancy	- The nurse had a session on cervical cancer, identifying the signs and the use of the VIA method of screening for cancer. She also discussed the use of the HPV vaccine and addressed the concerns of mothers as relates to the effects. She informed that as with any other drug the vaccine will have side effects but this was not a cause for concern. The information was very informative and can greatly assist in addressing concerns of persons in future sessions. - I use this stage to emphasize to mothers the importance of listening to their children when they report sexual abuse and to ensure that medical attention is sought, given that the vaccine was only for girls not yet sexually active. Mother were informed of abuse during pregnancy, signs of abuse and help available from H & S.

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
19.01.12	Den Amstel Health Centre	11 females	Domestic Violence	- We discussed the recent murder which occurred on the West Coast of Demerara. One individual related that she lives in close proximity to the woman murdered said that the woman never moved about. The opportunity was used to inform mothers of the web of abuse and entrapment. We also discussed the effects on the children that witnessed the incident. Mothers were reminded not to take threats likely and to seek help even if the abuse is not physical. - Mothers were given handouts on domestic violence
23.01.12	La Venture Secondary School	15 females 6 males	Sex and Gender	- Session was conducted with Grade 8 students. Boys and girls were asked to respond to the following questions Questions addressed were: - What messages does your community send to a boy when he is told to act like a man? - What is he expected to do - How is the boy encouraged to act? Responses - Relax and watch TV, work and bring in the “chi-ching” (money), must take wife/girlfriend out , help wife out with chores, must be romantic, look after children, don’t abuse sexually, have popcorn and look at blues (porn), must be intelligent Questions were repeated to focus on messages girls received, here are the responses - Girls should cook, clean and work in the home, dress modestly and wear short clothing, have sex, go to school, go to church, to be obedient, look after children and be open-minded. - We also discussed the influences of media on young people. Students disclosed that many teenage boys are wearing what is classified as female clothing (stretch jeans etc.) which they model from Jamaican artiste. - Also discussed were the differences between sex and gender. Students were asked to describe biological differences; their responses showed they have a good understanding of sex differences. To help students to understand “Gender” they were engaged in identifying roles, practices and behaviors; they consider specific to each sex. - Definitions of sex and gender were given to students. Sessions on GBV to follow

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
24.01.12	Patentia Secondary School	22 females 5 males	Sex and Gender	- Session was conducted with students from Grade 9. Students were introduced to the subject of GBV. What was the aim of the sessions and what they would gain from information they received. The topic is one presently being introduced in the social studies syllabus so was very timely as indicated by the subject teacher. Questions addressed were: - What messages does your community send to a boy when he is told to act like a man? - What is he expected to do - How is the boy encouraged to act? Responses - Be responsible, do household chores, be involved with older women Masturbate, have sex with girls, have sex many times a day, say no to drugs, use condoms to have sex, stay out late, go to dance , fetch water/sweep yard Students were also asked; what are some things they were not expected to do? - Responses were: behave like little children, play with toys, become a homosexual The same exercises repeated for the girls yielded the following responses "No sex before marriage", "cook", don't use drugs, wash potty, take care of elders, mature (grow up), don't follow bad company, clean house, take care of self, should be loving caring and affectionate, walk sexy, wear the latest styles, don't have boyfriend , look good, take education and wash wares. - From the responses from both boys and girls it is evident that some practices are changing as it relates to male/female roles, however there are still areas of concern as it relates especially to sexual practices. These observations were shared with students and suggestions were made as to how boys can deal with the sexual pressures they are faced with. Students were encouraged to choose abstinence at this stage of life. - Sex and gender was explained to students to help them to distinguish between biological differences which we are born with and by nature will not change and gender which; are ideas created by society which we can change.

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
25.01.12	Plaisance Health Centre	10 females	Effects of Violence on Children	The discussion was focused on how children are affected by the violence occurring in their homes, violence that they witness and directly affected by. The recent issue of the 7 year old witnessing the murder of his mother was used to highlight everyday situations which can and sometimes have similar results. The need for parents to deal with conflict in non-violent ways was reinforced to the mothers present. Persons were encouraged to seek help and counseling for challenges they were experiencing in their relationships even if it did not include physical abuse.
27.01.12	Sophia Nursery School	12 females 2 males	Alternative Discipline & Tips on Parenting	• Discussion included teachers and parents. The discussion focused mainly on the use of physical punishment of children and how abuse affects students' performance in schools. Some questions addressed were: • Why students are withdrawn in the classroom setting? • Why do children only respond to aggression? Teachers complained that they are having a difficult time getting through to some students. Teachers also identified lack of proper nutrition as a major problem affecting student' performance as many of the children come to school hungry and at times without any meals. • We also address how violence in the home and its negative effects on children and how it contributes to behavioral problems. • Some teachers and parents continue to see beating as necessary for proper raising of children in the right way. The facilitators reminded of the many effects (both short and long term) that this would have on an individual and use references to many of crimes committed and young men killed either by law enforcement or other men, also the number of women killed by males who had not learned how to deal with conflict in their lives. • Parents and teachers were encouraged to give more attention to children, to talk more with their children, to set realistic boundaries for children and to be living examples of the behaviors they would like their children to model.

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
30-31.01.12	CARIMAN Workshop		Working with Men	The objectives of the workshop: • To deepen understanding of the relationship between masculinities, gender equality programmes and social justice, specifically gender based violence against women; • Engage men and boys in the promotion of social justice, specifically gender justice; • To establish a network of trained men to be advocates in their countries for the prevention of violence against women; • Develop an action plan and way forward. Topics covered: • Identifying social justice issues relevant to Guyana: lessons learnt from intervention • Men: part of the problem or part of the solution • Identifying priorities for working with men • Power and control in relationships • Men, Anger and Conflict Resolution • Fatherhood • Religion and Spirituality • Strategic plan and Collaboration

Handouts distributed for the Month of January 2012 - 250

Submitted by: Kevin Massiah