

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 – MARCH 2012

1) CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT

- Reports received from project staff
- Parenting booklet developed.
- Round Table Session held on Friday 23rd March at the National Library aimed at sharing the knowledge and experiences with community stakeholders and all the agencies that collaborate and network for Child Protection and give support and resources to curb child abuse and foster safe environments for children

2) OTHER MATTERS

- Both posters completed; corrections made, available for distribution.
- Work is ongoing in Kaneville and Good-hope; reports received, compiled and forwarded. Work-plan submitted by project staff for month of April. Chabela Lord has replaced Tessa Green in Kaneville.
- Training of trainers facilitator's workshop completed on 10th March. Date for completion of assessment of in-school trainees to be finalized.
- Work in schools slowed due to Easter term examinations and vacation but will resume upon reopening of schools mid April. Contact was made with several schools who indicated a willingness to have sessions in the new term.
- CARIMAN – Scheduled workshop was canceled, no meetings held for the month of March.
- Statistical data completed and sent out.

Details of Public Education work done for March 2012

Total number of persons reached:

	Children	Adults
Males:	89	65 +
Females	94	361 +

Date	Organization	No. of Participants	Topic Discussed	Remarks
01.03.12	Parika/Salem Secondary (Linda)	23 males 13 females	Gender based violence	Discussion. • Types of violence Comments • One student claimed he was beaten after he was caught masturbating; he asked whether this was wrong or not or if it would be better to rape someone. • He feels his aunt needs to be educated

				Insights/lessons learned/recommendations Students disclosed that they are a lot of questions they have that they are not allowed to ask in their homes. Some males experienced challenges with regards to proving their masculinity and would fight a lot. One expressed hope that the sessions continue because he feels it can help him change for the better.
01.03.12	Den Amstel Health Centre (Linda)	15 females	Child's self esteem	Discussion. - Seven examples of emotional abuse Comments - Parents agree that they are sometimes guilty of crushing their children's self esteem but claim they do this in ignorance - One participant indicated that the information was new to her but would be of great help to her. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - More sessions of this nature should be done on a regular and consistent basis. - One participant after a disclosure was made was referred to the probation department.
05.03.12	La Venture Secondary.	15 females 10 males	Child Abuse	Discussion Forms of abuse Comments Insights/lessons learned/recommendations
09.03.12	GAPSW	11 females 3 males	Challenges faced by social workers	Discussion Points discussed - Changes in abusive behaviors - H & S clientele and statistics - Women killed due to domestic abuse - Addressing mental health - Men as agents of change - Equality (gender)
09.03.12	Parika/Salem Secondary (Linda)	12 females 2 males	Creating ways of managing negative behavior in the classroom	Discussion - Types of misbehavior: Attention seeking, Power, Revenge and Assumed disability Comments - Participants learned that not all misbehavior is goal-driven; sometimes they are simply inappropriate moments when a teacher enters a classroom with their belief system about the student's behavior which contributed to either positive/negative behavior - Teachers indicated that they have exhausted all they know but the behavior still continues

				- Some students work at bars where their parents work and are exposed to lewdness (indecent language etc.) which they act out in the school environment without regard for anyone else. - Gambling is also very prevalent among both adults and school-aged children in the community. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Teachers related that they are sometimes guilty of contributing to the behaviors of their students and expressed gratitude for the information. Steps for classroom management were shared with the teachers and will be implemented. - Teachers indicated a willingness to be more vigilant, confidential and trustworthy. - The head-teacher expressed thanks to H & S and facilitator; indicated a need for more sessions. Handouts were distributed
09.03.12	Theatre Guild	200+ persons	Panel Discussion	Services offered by Help & Shelter
10.03.12	Help & Shelter	4 females 1 male	Facilitator Training of Trainers	- This marked the completion of the facilitation training of trainer's workshop. The participation was good. Views were shared and different situations discussed. Main areas of focus were - Challenges faced by facilitators - Facilitating a training event - Creating a training plan - Learning environment - Coping with contingencies - Techniques used in facilitation
12.03.12	La Venture Sec	13 females 9 males	Sex , Gender & Gender Based Violence	- Session was conducted with 4th form students. - We discussed differences between sex and gender, society's expectations of males and females. We also examined socialization and individuals views on violence and violent behaviors. - How can we change these attitudes of violence.
13.03.12	Den Amstel Health Centre (Linda)	18 females	Hitting is unsafe	Discussion. - Violence perpetrated by adults to children - Children as witness to violence among adults Comments - Persons did not know that children who witness violence can become abusers themselves - Children are sometimes hit when they intervene in disputes (physical) between their parents. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Participants are eager to participate/share their views on the topic - Sessions should be consistent - Parents vow to raise their children differently especially first-time

				mothers.
15.03.12	Parika Health Centre	20 females	Safety of Children	Discussion. - Impact of violence on children Comments - Sometimes you have to give your children lashes because that is all they understand. - I am not hitting, I am giving time out to my three year old child, I would take away her TV time and would talk to her about her behavior. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Some persons are using alternatives to discipline - A disclosure was made about possible sexual abuse and neglect of two teenage girls who reside with their father. It was indicated that they are not attending school as they are seen on a daily basis wandering. This information was related to the Child Protection Agency Region 3 and the promised to investigate the matter.
13.03.12	Lodge Health Centre	9 females	Services of H & S	The session focused specifically on the work of Help & Shelter and services available including the Child Protection work done in the four communities.
16.03.12	Leonora Health Centre	20 females	Child's Self Esteem	Discussion. - Seven examples of emotional abuse Comments - They will stop saying negative things to their children - They will share the information with others - They are going to use the tips identified i.e. discipline when calm, use positive language and model the behavior you want children to follow. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations Sessions of this nature helps persons to identify their behavior pattern towards children and how ineffective they are parenting while providing ideas to correct their behaviors.
17.03.12	Justice & Peace Commission	6 males 33 females		We covered the root causes and gendered nature of domestic violence with specific focus placed on understanding types and forms of abuse, sex and gender differences and the impact of socialization on people.
18.03.12	Justice & Peace Commission	3 males 27 females		Focused on the reasons for entrapment, signs of domestic abuse; understanding healthy relationships, which participants revealed was very relevant to their needs and was of great value in providing a better understanding of the approach necessary for rendering assistance to victims of domestic violence.
20.03.12	Lodge Health Centre	14 females		Mothers received information on the Domestic Violence Act, the

				forms of abuse covered under the act and the various orders available to victims of abuse with specific attention on the protection order – applying for same. Also how H & S can assist persons with court cases.
20.03.12	Leonora Health Centre	3 males 22 females	Hitting is unsafe	Discussion. - The quote “if we hit an adult it is assault; if we hit an animal it is cruelty; if we hit a child we say it is for their own good. Comments - One teacher present said she can now relate to the information and requested similar sessions at her school. Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - An issue had to be addressed in relation to gender role expectations as relates to career women and the care their children receive.
20.03.12	Parika Health Centre	25 females	Child’s self esteem	Discussion. - Seven examples of emotional abuse Comments - For some parents, it was the first time they receive such information - Happy that H & S is educating pregnant women Insights/lessons learned/recommendations - Parents have a better understanding of how their children’s behavior in school and the home setting are molded and what should be done to change negative behaviors
21.03.12	IPE – Goed Fortuin	33 males 42 females	Gender based violence	- Session was conducted with third and fourth form students. The focus of the session was to help students understand the difference between sex and gender, and how gender expectations contribute to gender based violence. - A teenage girl on the same day attempted suicide, speaking with the her it was found that she is usually teased by classmates and it would appear that she does not have the best relationship with the teachers either. She disclosed that she would like to be transferred but her requests fell on deaf ears. Contact was made with the social worker at the West Demerara Regional Hospital and she was referred for counseling. Her parents were encouraged to visit H & S for further counseling.
24.03.12	Justice & Peace Commission	6 males 33 females		The final two days of the workshop, participants were taken through activities which were directed at exploring expectations of men and women in society and conflicts emanating from un-met expectations and ways of resolving same, brainstorming the effects of violence on children, forms of violence children face and open discussions on sources of violent behavior. Also addressed were the domestic violence and sexual offences acts to give participants a clearer understanding of the provisions in the law which will assist them in

				their day-to-day efforts of offering assistance to persons faced with domestic abuse.
25.03.12	Justice & Peace Commission	3 males 27 females		• Twenty-six (26) participants that attended the workshop represented various catholic parishes. • Based upon feedback, 70% of the participants indicated that the information shared was very useful, while the remaining persons felt the need for more information. Participants also indicated the need for follow-up sessions that will aid in them in better understanding themselves and their own situations and to build their confidence in helping others. To deepen participants understanding of the nature and context of domestic violence. Core objectives of the workshop • To explore the gendered nature of domestic violence • To provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for intervention in conflict situations • Address relevant laws, discussed challenges and work through ways of overcoming same. • Examine the impact of domestic violence and its correlation to other social ills of society.
26.03.12	La Venture Secondary.	14 males 11 females	Rape	Discussion • What is rape? • What to do if you are raped? • Reporting Comments by students • It's embarrassing to report rape. • Why shouldn't you bathe or discard clothing if you are raped • Boys cannot be raped. • If I was raped I would not tell anyone because people does throw them things back in your face and might tell other people Insights/lessons learned/recommendations • Students were reminded that boys can be raped and were encouraged to report rape if it should happen because it's not their fault; neither should they feel guilty or ashamed. • Students were also encouraged to take precautions against rape; not to find themselves in situations where they are vulnerable; also to report rape even if it is by members of their own household/family. • Students were told of possible effects of rape and the importance of accessing help and counseling for same.

27.03.12	Lodge Health Centre	8 females	Domestic Violence	Mothers were told of the statistics as it relates to pregnant women and abuse. They were given information on the types of abuse women faced. They were also informed of the services available at Help & Shelter
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Handouts distributed for the Month of March 2012 - 2600

Posters	Help & Shelter	-	2
	Domestic Violence	-	2

Submitted by: Kevin Massiah