

HELP & SHELTER
WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE PROJECT
MONTHLY M&E REPORT- JULY 2009 - Submitted by Danuta Radzik

Community Educators' Monthly Reports

KANEVILLE

Community Educator: Tessa Greene

Community: Kaneville, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 11 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total 246 Females 162 Males 84

Persons Newly Reached: Total 209 Females 133 Males 76

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 211

Other H&S Handouts: 0

Objectives of Visits:

- Community Walk & House to House Visits to discuss project and project activities with residents of Kaneville
- Planning, preparing and facilitating of children from Kaneville to participate in the Guyana Police Force & Guyana Police Wives Association summer camp
- To participate in the meeting with residents of Kaneville and Samatta Point, NDC Chairman, Overseer and Police to discuss the blocking of the access bridge between the two communities
- To raise awareness on the topics of Understanding Self with 2nd & 3rd Form students of IPE Secondary School in Grove
- Attendance and participation at Steering Committee Meetings for planning and review of community development activities
- To raise awareness on the topic of Domestic Violence with Steering Committee members, parents & guardians attending the Grove Health Centre Post Natal Clinic and with members of the Kaneville Pentecostal Church
- To raise awareness on the topic of Disobedience & Consequences with children attending literacy classes
- To raise awareness on the topic of Child Neglect with members of the Grove Craft Centre

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

House-to-House Visits & One-on-One Community Outreach - 5th July

- During this 4 hr community walk 15 homes were visited as well as other residents on the streets. A total of 38 persons, 32 females and 16 males, were made aware of the project and project activities in their community. During the visit two residents shared experiences of domestic and child abuse. One resident disclosed that her partner had been beating her 7 year old son for minor matters until she intervened to stop this abuse. She decided to take this action after her older sons told her that by not intervening she was encouraging her partner to continue this abusive behaviour. The second resident was concerned about her 3 yr old son aggressive behaviour towards persons and even her. The child's behaviour was evident as he displayed total disregard for his mother as she tried to get him to stop playing with a cutlass. The child also told his mother not to tell him anything or else his father would beat her. The resident admitted that her policeman husband hits her but she fights back.
The CE and CM also took the opportunity, while sitting at a corner next to a stand selling DVD's, to speak to the young men gathered and also distributed leaflets as persons came to buy DVDs. During these discussions experiences were shared by some of the young

men of being beaten as children. One young man disclosed that he had to intervene physically and threaten his own father when he pushed a bed onto his small son. This young man did not see this as abuse on his part also. In his view he saw his father abusing his grandson, his son in the same way he had abused him as a child and felt he had to put a stop to this. He also wanted to know how adults can “buss de children skin” and nobody is calling this abuse. The CE and CM tried to explain that this was also a form of abuse and that agencies are very serious about children being beaten as children have the same right to not be beaten or abused as adults have. A total of 58 leaflets on child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence and rape were distributed.

Steering Committee Meeting - 7th July

- A total of 8 members, 6 females and 2 males attended the meeting. The meeting lasted for 1 hr and 20 min and members were reminded about being on time as the Church has their own activities starting at 8.30 pm. The CE reminded the members of the objectives of the project i.e. reducing GBV in the community and reminded them of the awareness sessions for steering committee members which will be held on one of the two days fixed for meetings. Other issues discussed were:

Blackboard paint for community notice board - CE informed the group that she was awaiting approval and finances from H&S for the purchase of this

Naming of streets - This was postponed as most of the committee members were not present to partake in decision making

Project Banner - CE requested that the banner be nailed back on to the wooden frame as it was loose at one end

Preparation & Planning for children to attend the Guyana Police Force Summer Camp - 11th July & 16th July

- A total of 7 children, 5 girls and 2 boys between the ages of 11 and 14, were identified to participate in the GPF Summer Camp at Madewini. Preparations for the Camp included meeting with parents of the children identified filling out applications forms and having copies of birth certificates submitted. This meeting was also used as a forum to discuss progress parents saw in their children's behaviour as a result of attending group sessions on Saturdays as well as discussing how parents can assist their children at home. Parents said that their children were generally better behaved and were always talking about the CE and CM and what they said. Another parent shared that although she lived close to another parent they never really spoke much to each other but due to their children's attendance at the literacy classes they were now communicating much more as their daughters are now good friends. It was also felt that this initiative was a start in bringing the community together.
- The children were also taken on July 16th to have the required medical check ups done before going to the Summer Camp. They also visited Help & Shelter's Office & Crisis Centre and were able to meet with staff, the organizations coordinator and read the clippings on the wall on recent domestic violence and child abuse incidents. They also enjoyed a snack while at the Centre. As the children were taken around Georgetown, places of interest and landmarks were pointed out to them.

Summer Camp for Children - 20th July to 25th July

- As mentioned a total of 7 children from the community of Kaneville attended this summer camp. The objective of the Madewini Summer Camp was to give underprivileged children the opportunity to:
 - Interact with other children from different communities and backgrounds
 - Assist them to learn to make various craft items (promotion of skills)

At the Camp the children were able to learn tie-dyeing, floral arranging, making of air fresheners, carpentry (making of cricket bats, beds, washboards, cutting boards, towel hangers etc)

Overall it was a fun-filled opportunity for the children where discipline and religious values were taught. In addition the house mothers had the task of ensuring self values were shared with the children.

Meeting of Kaneville & Samatta Point Residents to Discuss Blocking of Access Bridge between the 2 Communities - 28th July

- A total of 17 persons, 13 males and 4 females, attended the meeting. Residents of the two communities as well as the Overseer and Chairman of the NDC and police met to clarify the right of the Samatta Point Development Group to block the access bridge between the two communities. The meeting became very heated as the Samatta point residents threatened to have the Commissioner of Police stop the private cars plying the route because they are destroying the road and bridge as well as endangering the lives of children attending the day care by the way they drive. They also claimed that a Kaneville resident had pulled out the previous barrier put up and so residents put the poles down in cement. The Kaneville residents claimed that the action was one of total disregard for them and that it was unreasonable as they should have been consulted before this action was taken. The Chairman of the NDC was forced to convene a meeting on the 1/8/09 at 10am at the NDC Office to sort out the matter.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

IPE Secondary School - Understanding Self - 3rd July

- A total of 61 second form students between the ages of 12 and 13 participated in a 2 hr awareness session on the topic of Understanding Self.
Activities included students discussing in small groups responses to questions on self. Students said they felt good about themselves due to the following attributes or qualities-being handsome/beautiful, of good character, special, independent, courteous, skillful, sexy, straightforward, smart, religious, cared and loved by parents, relatives etc. They also liked themselves for having potential, loving parents, girlfriends, good character, belief and trust in themselves, high self esteem and self concept, being honest, obedient, brave, loving, caring and trustworthy.
Generally the students were open and receptive and shared opinions and views on how negative or positive words and actions by others affected their self esteem and self concept. In responding to ways in which teachers can influence students self esteem; students identified the labelling of students 'stupid' by one of their class teachers as an example of a teacher's negative influence. After the session the CE spoke privately to this teacher explaining how name calling can affect students.
Overall the session was good, students understood the messages that each of them was a unique individual and loving themselves for who they are is good and helps others to also love them. Evaluation indicated that participation and understanding of topics discussed was good, while facilitation and the session overall was assessed as very good.

IPE Secondary School - Understanding Self - 17th July

- A total of 31 students, 14 girls and 17 boys between the ages of 13 and 14 years, participated in a 1 ½ hr session on Understanding Self.
Activities included outlining definitions and explanations of self-esteem and self concept and small group discussions on who and what influenced students self concept and self esteem. Group presentations highlighted parents, peers, church members, celebrities, teachers, grandparents, siblings as persons having the greatest influence on them and money (lack or plenty), TV(USA dress and hair styles), music, compliments (from

parents, teachers, friends), and criticism (from parents, teachers, friends), as things that influenced their self concept and self esteem.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the rating of the session overall were all assessed as very good. The CE also felt that these students were better able to focus and enjoy the session than the 2nd Formers.

Pentecostal Church Members - Domestic Violence - 12 July

- A total of 8 person, 6 females and 2 males between the ages of 21 and 55 years, participated in a 2 hr awareness session on domestic violence.

Session was facilitated by the CM. Activities included discussions on the definition and forms of domestic violence. Interaction among participants was good as members had benefited from a previous awareness session done on domestic violence. The participants were very open to learning and even though the numbers were small everyone enjoyed the time spent. The only problem was one of the senior members of the church was a bit anxious as to how soon the session would end.

Grove Post Natal Clinic - Gender - 28th July

- A total of 42 parents and guardians, 39 females and 3 males, participated in this 1¾ hr awareness session on Gender.

Activities included discussions on gender, how gender can become a factor in domestic violence situations and how socialization by parents and care givers can affect the behaviours in adult life. Assigning of gender roles and household chores to male and female children was also discussed. The facilitator was able to share ways in which boy and girl children are socialized into female and male gender roles and how this can affect them negatively in their adult relationships.

One participant shared the experience of her husband who grew up having his mother and sister do everything for him. However, when they got married this became a burden for her as her husband expected her to take care of the children and manage the home while at the same time working at a full time job. She said at first she had a hard time getting her husband to help with home and child care duties, but, she kept insisting and even though this resulted in frequent misunderstandings and quarrels she never stopped until he started to assist her.

Evaluation of the session showed that participation, understanding of topics presented facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

At the end of the session one of the participants asked the CE visit her daughter who is in an abusive marriage. 45 Help & Shelter leaflets on child neglect, child abuse and wife abuse were also distributed to participants

Children Literacy Group - Disobedience & Abuse - 4th July

- A total of 14 children, 11 girls and 3 boys between the ages of 4-14 participated in a 1 ½ hr session on Disobedience & Abuse. The CE & CM facilitated the session and were able to sensitize the students on how disobedience can result in abuse to them. Each child was asked to identify an incident when they disobeyed or obeyed their parents/guardians or teacher and what were the consequences. Some examples identified of disobedience and consequences were:

1. Not fetching water when told to do so (consequences- having to fetch more)
2. Leaving house and yard without permission (consequences-‘blows’ being hit or beaten)
3. Fighting with brothers or sisters (consequences-‘licks’ being hit or slapped)
4. Stealing money (consequences- ‘licks’)
5. Staying away from school (consequences ‘blows’ being hit or beaten)

Examples of obedience and effects were:

1. Fetching water to fill the drum- (no words of thanks)
2. Trying to follow rules and as soon as a mistake is made-‘licks’
3. Asking for money from parent to buy something, but not being given any even though parent has money

The CE and CM examined ways of helping children to stay out of trouble and thus avoid negative consequences. The discussion ended with students agreeing to do the right thing as often as they can.

Evaluation indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

Steering Committee - Understanding Self - 28th July

- A total 7 persons, 6 females and 1 male participated in this 1 hr awareness session. Activities included discussion on self esteem and self concept as they relate to domestic violence and a group activity to identify who and what influenced their self esteem and self concept. Reports from the groups identified mothers, pastor’s wife, husbands and teenage children as persons who influenced participants; while insecurity, vanity, authority, media, situations, poverty and abuse were identified as things that influenced the lives of participants.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics presented, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

Grove Craft Centre - Child Neglect - 30th July

- A total of 9 females participated in a 1½ hr session on child neglect. Participants were very open during the session and interaction increased when the teacher was not present. One participant said she never considered parent’s not attending PTA or other school meetings such as meeting with class teachers as a form of child neglect. She thought that as long as the parent provided school clothing, books and ensured that the child was attending school this was sufficient. The CM explained that even though the basic was provided the parent still needed to express their love by showing an interest in what is happening at school. Both the CE and the CM felt that the participants gained new knowledge. The small number of participants was due to the Centre closing for holidays with only those students who had to finish odd craft items being present

Evaluation indicated that participation and understanding of topics were assessed as good while facilitation and the session overall were rated as very good.

16 Help & Shelter leaflets for parents and child neglect were distributed to participants.

KANEVILE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR’S WORK PLAN - August 2009

Date	Activity	Time
4/8/09	Steering Committee Meeting	5 pm
6/8/09	Awareness Session-Kaneville Full Gospel	7 pm
7/8/09	Awareness Session-Youth (Southern Side)	4 pm
21/8/09	Awareness Session-Parents (Southern Side)	5 pm
23/8/09	Awareness Session/Meeting-Pentecostal Church	4.30 pm
24/8/09	Literacy Class & Awareness Session	3pm
25/8/09	Awareness Session-Steering Committee	5 pm
30/8/09	Community Meeting	4.30 pm
	Awareness Session-Taxi Drivers	

DEN AMSTEL

Community Educator: Ebeth McIntosh

Community: Den Amstel, West Coast Demerara

Activities: A total of 7 visits were made to this community for the month *

Persons Reached: Total 134 Females 79 Males 55

Persons Newly Reached: Total 69 Females 34 Males 35

H&S leaflets Distributed: 240

MLHSSS DV Posters: 0

GHARP Booklets (Super Gang & The Player): 0

Empowering Women Booklet: 0

HIV Leaflets & Booklets: 0

H&S Posters: 0

Objectives of Visits:

- To create awareness on the topic of sexual assault through engaging in a Cook Out and Games Night with youth
- To conduct an awareness sessions on Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships with the Assemblies of God, Women's Group
- One on one meetings with young people at the community centre ground to inform them about the WWDPGC/H&S project and to solicit their support for project activities
- Participating in a community Movie Night to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence
- House to house visits and meeting on the street with residents of Den Amstel to inform them of the WWDPGC/H&S project and encourage their participation in project activities
- Visit to see one of the steering committee members admitted to the West Demerara Hospital after sustaining injuries from a road accident.

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Youth Cook Out & Games Night - 12th July

- The CE took the opportunity before the start of these activities to discuss the topic of sexual assault including how and when such assaults can take place, perpetrators of sexual assault and how to protect oneself from sexual assault. After the discussion with the 23 young people 17 females and 6 males present, the cook up food was started and everyone played games while waiting for the food to be cooked. The activity was a fun event for the youth. Leaflets on sexual assault were also distributed to those present.

One-on-One Discussions with Youth at the Den Amstel Community Centre Ground - 16th July

- The CE reported that the discussions about the project and project activities were well received by the young people present. Many persons said that they would be willing to take part in awareness sessions if they are held in the afternoon and they are notified about the day and time beforehand. Leaflets were also distributed to those present.

Movie Night for Residents - 19th July

- A total of 34 young people, 20 females and 14 males from the Kingdom Connection Youth Group attended the Movie Night which featured the film "Enough" about a woman's struggle to escape the violence of her extremely abusive husband. Unfortunately the young audience did not seem to have a clear understanding of the issue of domestic violence as negative comments were being made as the movie unfolded with the wife and mother desperately trying to escape the violence of her husband and father of their child. The CE felt very disappointed by the reaction of the audience to the film.

However, as there was not enough time to have a discussion of the film at the end, the CE plans to engage the youth group about their negative criticism of the abused woman during a session in the month of August.

Christian Brethren Crusade - 20th & 22nd July

- The CE participated in 2 nights of the 5 night Christian Brethren Crusade. She observed that that most of the people attending were persons she had previously been in contact with i.e. members of the Christian Brethren Church, persons attending the health centre clinics, teachers from the Primary School. The CE took the opportunity to introduce herself and outline the project and project activities to a total of 16 new persons, 10 females and 6 males who she met with.

House-to-House Visits - Restoration Church Street - 26th July

- Most of the 24 persons that the CE visited were persons who attend the Restoration Church or are part of the Youth Group belonging to the Church. Even though the majority of persons were already part of the project's programme, they were still pleased to have the CE visit their home. The few persons who did not know the CE had heard about the project from others who had attended awareness sessions or been involved in other activities. Some of these persons indicated their interest in attending sessions but due to the lateness of reaching home from work it was difficult for them. Leaflets were also distributed.

Visit to Hospital to Visit Injured Steering Committee Member - 29th July

- One of the members of the Den Amstel Steering Committee had been struck down by a car as she was standing on the road in her community. The CE and one other steering committee members visited her at the West Demerara Hospital where they learnt the details of the accident. The injured member was very happy to see both members of the steering committee. She suffered a broken leg and bruises about her body.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Restoration A.O.G. Women's Group - Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships - 14th July

- A total of 13 women participated in this awareness session. Participation was good as many shared their experiences of unhealthy and healthy relationships they had. Some of these experiences were very sad but a lot of support and strength was given by other participants as these experiences were related. Participants demonstrated that they are always striving to have healthy relationships with their spouses, children and other around them.

DEN AMSTEL COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN – August 2009

Date	Activity	Time
2/8/09	Awareness Session- Child Sexual Abuse-Congregational Youth group	
6/8/09	Awareness Session-Domestic Abuse-Pre Natal Clinic	
9/8/09	Discussion on Previous Movie Night & Showing of New Movie-Kingdom Connection Youth Group	
11/8/09	Awareness Session-Child Abuse-Restoration Women's Group	
12/8/09	House to House Visit	
13/8/09	House to House Visit	
17/8/09	Awareness Session-Child Abuse-Christian Brethren Women's Group	
18/8/09	One on One Sessions with Young Men at the Community Centre Group	
19/8/09	House to House Visit	

GOOD HOPE

Community Educator: Montgomery Chester

Community: Good Hope, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 4 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total 95 Females 55 Males 40

Persons Newly Reached: Total 85 Females 47 Males 38

H&S leaflets Distributed: 86

H&S Posters: 38

Brochures on Condoms: 0

Objectives of Visits:

- To inform and discuss the WWDPC/H&S project with Good Hope taxi drivers
- To meet with shop owners and other community members
- Participation in a community meeting for the planning of upcoming and future activities
- Participation in a community awareness march to promote the WWDPGC/H&S project and issues associated with domestic violence
- To conduct an awareness session with residents of Good Hope on the issue of GBV
- To conduct an awareness session of domestic violence entrapment with residents of Good Hope

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Meeting with Good Hope Taxi Drivers - 8th July

- On this day the Community Educator was able to meet with 3 male Good Hope taxi drivers. The drivers were unaware of the project so the community educator was able to update them with what was happening. The men mentioned that they are aware that domestic violence is common in the area and welcomed what Help & Shelter is doing. Two of them stated that the main reason for this is alcohol abuse and the pressures of the harsh economic times. However, one man stated that it is the changing behavior of women that is the cause of it. He said that the popular shows women are scantily clad, consuming alcohol and just behaving in lawless manner. These women push their husbands to react when they blatantly disrespect them, by calling them certain names or putting them down otherwise. The driver believes that Help and Shelter should target women who behave in such a manner.

Upon conclusion the man stated that he is open to having session and the community educator should be in contact with him. Brochures and posters were left with the drivers for them to give their customers. The men promised to contact the community educator when they need more brochures. A total of 6 H&S posters were distributed to the taxi drivers as were 6 leaflets on wife abuse and 6 on the WWDPGC/H&S GBV project.

Meeting with Shop Owners & Other Community Members - 9th July

- The community educator visited some homes of persons who are involved in the project. A total of 15 persons were reached, 10 females and 5 males. Those who were not at home were otherwise occupied so there was not much time for talking. Visits were also made at some of the shops in Good Hope and the community educator spoke to the owners about the project. They all gave their oral support and one woman seemed very enthusiastic. Posters and brochures were left for them to display to their customers, however one shop owner seemed reluctant to display Help and Shelter posters in his establishment. A total of 6 H&S posters were distributed and 6 brochures on the WWDPG/H&S GBV project.

Community Meeting with Residents - 10th July

- A total of 9 women participated in this meeting. The focus of the meeting was to plan for future activities, including the Awareness March scheduled for July 19. Some of the

religious leaders from Lusignan and church members from Good Hope were present at the meeting. At the meeting planning was done for more sessions with the youth from the different churches. A request was made for the community educator to facilitate at least one session per month with the men's fellowship in Lusignan.

Awareness March

In planning for the awareness march everyone was given the task of bringing another person to the activity and informing their neighbours about the event. Some persons even promised to donate refreshments for the activity, such as beverages and channa.

At the end of the meeting everyone was given homework which was to come up with ideas/activities that can be done in Good Hope to get the message out.

Awareness March - 19th July

- The main event for this month was an Awareness March through the community of Good Hope. Permission was granted by the police for the March however no police escort showed up. Prior to the start of the activity the community members could be seen working hard on their placards. The march started at about 16:00hrs and the marchers faced the setbacks of a poor turnout - 9 marchers - , the hot sun and a large community wedding which took over an entire street but they kept their spirits high and focused on the job.

Pastor Punilal led the way with loud speakers attached to his bus. "Join the march, support Help and Shelter and the people of Good Hope" was blasted from the speakers. While the lead marchers displayed the project banner the others in the group waved their placards for all to see. Some these placards read: "stop the abuse now" and "men love your wives".

Throughout the march messages were chanted, such as "stop the abuse now", "stop domestic violence now" and "there is no hope with dope in Good Hope". The march, which went from Phase 1 into Phase 2 and then back into Phase 1, got the attention of the Good Hope villagers. Many of them stood on their bridges and verandas to see and hear what was happening, many of them gave their oral support. However, not everyone was pleased with the activity. One man, who seemed to be inebriated, shouted obscene, threatening remarks as he approached the lead vehicle in a hostile manner. He then relented with a promise to call the police to have us jailed.

At the end of the event the marchers gathered at Norma's residence for refreshments. The community educator commended and thanked the group for coming out. Next time, they hoped for more persons. During the March a total of 80 persons, 40 females and 30 males were reached. A total of 196 H&S brochures and leaflets on the GBV project, Domestic Violence, Child Neglect, Rape, Wife Abuse, and For Parents were distributed

As a few of the community members involved were Alliance for Change (AFC) members the event was featured in the AFC newspapers, The Key, on July 24, 2009.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Residents of Good Hope - Gender Based Violence - 10th July

- A total of 7 females participated in this 1 hr awareness session on Gender Based Violence. The group explored points such as what is GBV and what is the root cause of it. The CE explained the topic and gave example. The participants demonstrated their understanding of the topic by giving their own personal experiences of GBV. One woman shared that her husband is not the type who is knowledgeable about construction work; so while they were doing some work on their home she was pressuring her husband, because he is a man, to go help the carpenters. He refused and she kept questioning his 'manhood' because of his refusal. This escalated the tension between the couple and caused her husband to lash out verbally at her.

As the session concluded another woman shared how she was helped by help & Shelter. Prior to the awareness session she had received a H&S brochure with the poem, 'I got flowers to-day'. She said the poem had an amazing effect on her as it calmed her soul and brought her piece of mind. She commented that she is not the belligerent confrontational person she was in the past. She also said that she often reads the poem to her neighbours. Evaluation of the session indicated that participation was assessed as very good, understanding of topics was assessed as excellent facilitation as good and the overall session as excellent.

A total of 6 H&S leaflets For Parents were distributed to participants.

Residents of Good Hope – Entrapment - 15th July

- A total of 7 persons, 6 females and 1 male participated in this 1 ½ hr session on domestic violence entrapment. The discussions were very fruitful with excellent participation. Two new persons from Lusignan attended the session. They said it was the first time they heard about this topic. As the group discussed this topic and listed reasons for the entrapment the new women were busy taking notes and promising to share these with others. They asked a lot of questions on this topic and services of Help & Shelter. One of the women said she knew of an abusive situation in her street and she wanted to give the abused persons Help & shelter's numbers to call. The woman also requested similar session in the community of Lusignan.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed facilitation and the session overall were all assessed as excellent.

GOOD HOPE COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORKPLAN - August 2009

Date	Activity	Time
6/8/09	Steering Committee Meeting	5 pm
11/8/09	Awareness Session-Lusignan Men's Fellowship	6 pm
	Awareness Session-Men	
	Meeting with Community Policing Group	
	Awareness Session-Steering Committee	
	Awareness Session-Church Youth Groups	
	Awareness Session-Lusignan (Sister Zena)	

COVENT GARDEN

Community Educators: Tessa Greene & Ebeth McIntosh

Community: Covent Garden, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total 7 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total 105 Females 57 Males 48

Persons Newly Reached: Total 105 Females 57 Males 48

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 118

H&S Posters Distributed: 4

Brochures on Condoms: 0

Objectives of Visits:

- To inform residents of Covent Garden through house to house visits about the GBV reduction project, enlist their support and introduce the community educators.
- Raising awareness on the issues of Self with members of the Full Gospel Church, Women's Group

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

House-to-House Visits - Squatting Area - 8th July

- During her visit to this area the CE interacted with 13 residents, 11 females and 2 males, about domestic violence and other issues affecting them. The husband of one discordant couple explained that he is a shrimp catcher and the cold bother him so he has to keep warm by consuming alcohol. The wife disagreed claiming that he drinks because he like to. Another issue affecting this family is the regular attendance of their child at school with the mother and grandmother disagreeing as to how often the child attends. The CE also took the opportunity to sit at one of the small shops and observe the amount of alcohol and cigarettes that were purchased by adults and by children for adults. A total of 14 leaflets on Child Neglect, For Parents and Anger Management were distributed to residents as were 4 Help & Shelter posters.

House-to-House Visits - Squatting Area - 14th July

- During this visit a total of 11 persons, 7 females and 4 males, were reached. Issues identified during this visit involved a teenager whose relationship with a young man was resulting in her skipping school and communicating by cell phone even though she had been banned from doing this according to her grandmother.

A woman who had been physically abused by her now deceased partner who had also been unfaithful to her during their relationship related that this experience had made her adamant that she would never live with a man again. This woman and another woman living nearby explained that they had been throwing 'box hand' for years and this money had been instrumental in helping them to concrete their yards. They said that they had 'thrown' \$20 a week until it grew to \$60,000. The woman agreed to meet at the nearby shop to have awareness sessions. They also agreed to have someone take the CE through the track to the Sea Dam area.

House-to-House Visit & Meeting Residents on the Street - Public Road - 15th July

- This activity was conducted on the Public Road section of the community. A total of 29 persons were reached, 10 females and 19 males. At the Barber Shop the CE spoke to 7 men and 1 woman about the project and also distributed leaflets. The men and woman shared their knowledge of domestic abuse occurring in the community and identified some of the houses where this is taking place. At one home it was related that even though the husband is partially disabled he physically abuses his wife and children using his crutch and other implements. He also chases and locks them out of the house. Neighbours said that once their grandfather went over to talk to the perpetrator to get him to stop his behaviour however, he was also assaulted by the perpetrator.

The woman also shared some of her personal experience, such as being slapped by her fiancé at the age of 17 which led her to calling off the engagement permanently. Years later when married and living in the UK her husband verbally abused her and pushed her into a closet. This resulted in her moving out of the house and later back to Guyana.

Other males met on the road related that domestic violence is prevalent in their community and occurs mostly among persons of East Indian descent. However, they said that persons are ashamed to come forward and talk openly about the abuse. The women that the CE met were more reserved in speaking about abuse within their community.

The CE also visited a private medical clinic located on the public road and met with the Dr. Michelle Shiwandan who specializes in General Medicine, Pediatrics and Gynecology. This clinic is open Monday –Friday 8am-4.30 pm and Saturdays from 8am to 10.30am. The doctor said she does not have a large clinic but the CE asked her to distribute H&S leaflets to her patients and to do referrals to Help & Shelter in domestic violence cases she sees.

House-to-House Visits & Meeting Residents on the Street - Middle Street - 22nd July

- CE re-visited Middle Street to make contact with residents she did not get to meet on her first visit. A total of 32 persons were reached: 12 females and 20 males. The women were visited in their homes and 4 of them said that they had been counseled by Help & Shelter's coordinator. Two males also reached also indicated that they had also been counseled by Help & Shelter's coordinator. Some men were reached at the side of the street drinking alcohol under a tree and others were reached at grocery shops visited. The CE explained about the WWDPGC/H&S project to everyone she came into contact with and reported that the residents were all positive in their responses. Business owners were asked to put up posters on the walls of their shops and they all agreed to do this and said they would like to spread the word about the project and reducing GBV. A total of 104 leaflets on Drugs & Alcohol Abuse, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence were distributed.

House-to-House Visit - Sea Dam - 30th July

- During this visit a total of 12 persons, 9 females and 3 males, were reached. The crossing over to the Sea Dam was difficult as the makeshift bridge is made of pieces of wood mounted on poles. One resident who the CE met on her visit to the Squatting Area has four children who were not attending school due to her having lost their birth certificates when her previous home was broken down. The CE was able to advise her as to where she should go to obtain the necessary documents. The situation on the Sea Dam is precarious with the water coming up to the side of the dam where the trees are located at high tide. During rainy seasons it could also be potentially dangerous and is not safe for a lone stranger to get caught in because of the isolation and the rickety bridge crossing which does not facilitate a quick getaway.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Covent Garden Full Gospel Church, Women's Group-Understanding Self - 7th July

- A total of 8 women participated at this 3 hr session on Understanding Self. Activities included sharing of 6 things by participants about themselves. Participants were also asked to make masks, put them on and share what they were hiding behind their masks. One woman said she was hiding unhappiness, emotional pain and frustration as her husband had left her for another woman and they are now living together and husband and wife. She said she cried for many days when this first occurred and still cries a lot about this as it still hurts her deeply. She said she hides her tears from her children, Church and family members and tries to be strong and speak to people about what happened but still finds it hard to really share her true feelings of being hurt. Another woman revealed that she was abused by her husband physically and emotionally for many years but hid the abuse from people for a long time until it became too much for her to deal with and she left the marriage. She said she wants to help women who are in abusive relationships to leave. Another woman said she was hiding shame, hurt, fear, and sadness because of her son who lives in the downstairs flat of her house and who verbally abuses her every day and does not provides her with any means of support. She is frustrated and does not know what to do. Four other women said they were hiding sickness, guilt, anger, sadness and fear. The last woman to share said she was not hiding anything behind her mask everything is out in the open between herself, husband, family and Church members. The woman also spoke of the group being able to share the hurt they were hiding behind their masks and even though it was sad and painful to hear of the experiences of others they also found strength from each other.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics presented, facilitation and the session overall were all assessed as very good.

Covent Garden Full Gospel Men's Group - Understanding Self - 13th July

- A total of 7 men between the ages of 20-49 participated in this 2 ½ hr session. Activities included the male participants interviewing each other and choosing the questions they would like to ask to get to know each other. One man shared that he is always doing the wrong thing even though he knows it is wrong and he would like to change his behaviour. Another man admitted that he used to abuse his wife emotionally and physically because as a child and young person he saw and learned that behaviour from his uncles. He said as a result he thought that this was the right thing to do. He was also hooked on drugs for 9 years and lived on the streets of Georgetown washing cars and minibuses to get money for drugs. He said he is a changed man now, doesn't abuse his wife any longer, stopped using drugs and has never abused his children. He said he is always willing to share his experiences with people so they would not make the same mistakes he made. A third man admitted that anger gets the better of him sometimes but he is trying to control it. Other male participants said they are aiming for the highest and to keep pure and clean from violence because most of them were exposed to violence in their homes as children. All of the men also indicated that they are pleased that Help & Shelter chose to work with them and committed their support to work along with the organization and were prepared to join forces and work with the community to help reduce GBV.

Evaluation of the session indicated that participation, understanding of topics discussed, facilitation and the session overall were all rated as very good.

COVENT GARDEN COMMUNITY EDUCATOR'S WORK PLAN - August 2009

Date	Activity	Time
3/8/09	Attend Wake of Youth (car accident)	6.30 pm
6/8/09	Vacation Bible School-Full Gospel Church	9.00 am
8/8/09	Awareness Session –Youth-Ms Hall's Residence	4.30 pm
9/8/09	Awareness Session-Ms Desiree's Shop	
10/8/09	Awareness Session-Gender-Full Gospel Men's Group	
11/8/09	Awareness Session-Squatting Area-Ms Desiree's Shop	4.30 pm
11/8/09	Awareness Session-Gender- Full Gospel Women's Group	
11/8/09	House to House Visit	
19/8/09	Awareness session-Gender-Full Gospel Women's Group	
19/8/09	House to House Visit	
19/8/09	Putting up Posters at Business Places & Leaflet Distribution	
20/8/09	Poster & Leaflet Distribution to Business Places	
21/8/09	House to House Visit	