

**HELP & SHELTER/WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE
PROJECT
MONTHLY M&E REPORT- MARCH 2011 - Submitted by Danuta Radzik**

Community Educators' Monthly Reports

KANEVILLE

Community Educator: Tessa Greene

Community Mobiliser: Juliet James

Community: Kaneville, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 10 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 218 Females: 160 Males: 58

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 65 Females: 54 Males: 11

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 824

of H&S Posters Distributed: Nil

of Other Posters Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits

- Attendance & participation in steering committee meetings
- House to house and community visit to Wrong Turn
- House to House and community visit to 1st field
- Walk Against Domestic Violence
- House to house and community visit
- Awareness session at Grove health centre
- Awareness Session with Nursery Teachers Cluster Meeting
- Movie and discussion with Grove Craft Centre

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Rendering Assistance to Children at Risk – 6th March

- One of the community peer educators called the CM in relation to abuse of children which was taking place. The CM as a result called the police who responded promptly, arrested the uncle and took him down to the police station who was abusing his nieces. The police asked the mobilizer to accompany children to the station and give a statement on the incident. The man was subsequently warned and sent home and 1 week later he was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment for physically abusing his mother.

House to House & Counselling Visit – 16th March

- The CM visited a woman who was being abused physically and verbally by her son. The mother explained that on the day her son was physically abusing his niece and nephew and when she spoke to him about his behaviour he verbally abused her and slapped her in the face. The son stated that it was due to frustration as his reputed wife told him to move on with his life and he was not being allowed access to see his son.

House to House & Community Visit to Wrong Turn – 10th March

- . The purpose of this visit by the CE and CM was to inform residents of the ending of the project. Most of the residents expressed disappointment and hoped that the CE and H&S would continue to visit the community. A total of 12 residents were reached, 4 females and 8 males. Men who were gathered in the wrong turn area promised to avoid violence and to seek help when needed.
- The visit to the blind resident was a good one as she was very happy to see the CE and CM. The CE was able to have her registered at the Guyana Society for the Blind.

Steering Committee Meeting – 17th March

- A total of 19 persons, 11 females and 8 males attended the meeting. Matters discussed were the writing of letters to Business places asking for donations to erect a shed on a piece of land given to the group by a resident. One resident suggested that members should market the group by walking the community more regularly and invite additional persons to meetings. The CM informed the meeting that a Public Meeting could not be held in a Church as neither the Pastor nor Board Members were in agreement with this. Another suggestion made was the start back of literacy classes for children in the community. Members were also informed about the Walk Against Domestic Violence.

House to House & Community Visit to 1st Field – 19th March

A total of 32 residents, 24 females and 8 males between the ages of 17-56 years were reached. The CE and CM walked the first street and spoke to residents about domestic violence informing them of support services available to deal with problems which may arise if they find themselves in abusive relationships or are experiencing incidents of domestic abuse. The response to the sensitization visit was good, there was only one instance of neglect reported by a residence concerning 4 children, between the ages of 4-10 years who were being left alone from time to time by their parents who were alcoholics. The CE advised the resident to report the issue to the Ministry of Human Services as the residents had information pertaining to where the abuse was being perpetrated. Residents were also encouraged to join the upcoming Walk Against Domestic Violence being planned.

Walk Against Domestic Violence – 26th March

- The CE and CM were very pleased that students and teachers from schools, members of the Diamond Group, Kaneville Gym, Kaneville Development Group and others took part in this Walk Against Domestic Violence. A total of 78 persons, 48 females and 30 males between the ages of 11 -60+ participated and even though more persons were expected to participate the activity was a success. The Walk started at the Diamond Community Centre and ended at the providence Stadium where a short address was given by a member of the project management team who emphasized that all those who participated in the Walk as well as those who worked to stop DV were in fact heroes and not busy bodies as some would like to say. She also congratulated them on a job well done and stressed the need for the participants to continue the work that H&S started in the community. Two of the schools present indicated an interest in forming youth groups and the CE promised to network with the Ministry of Culture to see that this materializes. The presence of the ambulance and the Traffic police during the Walk were very much appreciated. H&S leaflets were distributed along the route of the Walk to homes, businesses and passing vehicles. During the walk one or two negative comments were made, but many of the drivers were very considerate and some persons stopped and asked what the Walk was all about and on being informed of this gave their support as they found this to be for a good cause.

House to House & Community Visit – 28th March

- The CE and CM visited 7 of their regular residents, 6 females and 1 male to inform them about the closing of the project at the end of the month. One of these residents visited is a cancer patient who said she was burnt on one of her toes and asked if the CM and CE could assist her to get Public Assistance from the Ministry of Human Services. She also requested help for the purchase of her diabetes tablets. Donations of clothing as well as food items were made to her and she was promised that her diabetes tablets would be purchased. Most of the residents expressed regret that the project had come to an end. In

spite of the closure of the project plans are still in place to mobilize assistance to distribute items to the needy as was done previously at Christmas.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Cluster Workshop for Nursery Teachers - 15th March

- A total of 31 female teacher persons, between the ages of 26-40 yrs participated in this awareness session which lasted for 2 ¼ hrs.
The CE used the Poem “The Little Boy” to highlight the importance of actions taken in influencing behaviour. The poem was used as a discussion point to explore the way we help persons to find themselves, either by direct or indirect actions. Participants were divided into 2 groups and asked to comment on effects of abuse on children 10 yrs and over and effects of abuse on the fetus and children under 9 yrs of age. Effects identified were brain disability, malnourishment, fetal alcohol syndrome, promoting a cycle of abusers, withdrawn and or aggressive behaviour, poor self confidence, poor school performance, delinquency, substance abuse, school drop outs, death, disease, mental illness, scars, burns, disfigurement, sexual abuse, not trusting of persons, teenage pregnancy
The CE used the opportunity to have 19 teachers sign on to the pledge to help eliminate DV.

Grove Health Centre - Suicide –16th March

- A total of 28 persons, 26 females and 2 males between the age of 35-65+ participated in this 1 ½ hr session.
Persons who participated in the session were there to attend the hypertension clinic. The CE went through the signs of suicide and step which could be taken to help persons who were suicidal or had suicidal thoughts. Some participants expressed alarm at the increase in suicide and attempted suicide cases over the years. One male participant felt that the younger generation was a set of discontented children who had no thought for anyone but themselves. Another participant, who was female, pointed out that men were also committing suicide and especially after they would have harmed or killed their female partners.

Grove Craft Centre – Domestic Violence – 18th March

- A total of 10 women viewed the movie and took part in the discussion which followed afterwards. The movie shown was “For Coloured Girls”, only one of the women present had previously seen it. The movie caused a lot of discomfort during the session as there were varying scenes of domestic violence depicted.
The CE listed some of the responses taken to the violence inflicted. At one point in the movie the father of 2 children threw them through the 4th Storey apartment window while his wife begged and pleaded with him as she struggles to wrest the children from his hands. Comments made by the participants to this scene included pushing the father out of the window also, expressing frustration that the owner of the apartment should have called the police or gone to get help instead of just panicking. The one student, who saw the movie previously, could not bear to watch this part and moved to the back of the room and turned away from the screen.
The second scene which brought much comment was when one of the young girls had an abortion done at a back street location and had to be hospitalized after she passed out on the street. Most of the students present felt that the risk of death in having a back street abortion done and dying was too high a price to pay.
Another scene which provoked discussion was when a young woman was raped by her escort after she invited him to her apartment after they returned from a date. The general opinion was that she could have fought him off using weapons such as knives etc she

would have had in the kitchen or she should not have invited him up to the apartment so quickly as she hardly knew him. The CE used the situations depicted in the movie to discuss topics such as healthy relationships, teenage pregnancy and parent/child communication as a means of preventing DV, sexual abuse and child abuse.

DEN AMSTEL

Community Educator: Ebeth McIntosh Christie

Community Mobiliser: Gaitree Bacchus

Community: Den Amstel, West Coast Demerara

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

Persons Reached: Total: 183 Females: 118 Males: 65

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 34 Females: 22 Males: 12

H&S leaflets Distributed: Nil

Leadership Skills Leaflets Distributed: Nil

MLHSS DV Posters: Nil

GHARP Booklets (Super Gang & The Player): Nil

GHARP Posters: Nil

Empowering Women Booklet: Nil

HIV Leaflets & Booklets: Nil

H&S Posters: Nil

of Condoms Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits:

- To conduct an awareness session on Stress Management and do a closing exercise of the project with members from the Congregational & Restoration AOG Youth Groups
- To conduct 2 awareness sessions on Parenting of School Aged Children & Adolescents with Den Amstel Pre Natal Clinic
- Closing exercise was done with the Kingdom Connection Youth Group
- To conduct 2 awareness sessions on Stress Management & Child Sexual Abuse with Den Amstel Primary School students
- Closing Exercise & discussions on behavioural issues of students with Nursery School teachers

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Congregational & Restoration AOG Youth Groups –Stress Management – 6th March

A total of 46 youth, 30 females and 16 males between the ages of 12-35 participated in this 2 ½ hr session on Stress Management. Participants came from the Congregational and AOG youth groups. Discussions on stress management included identifying things that cause stress, how stress can be both negative and positive and diseases that are caused by stress. A stress inventory was introduced and participants were asked to respond to the statements as a way of determining their stress levels. The stress inventory included eating habits, hours of sleep, exercise, substance abuse, relaxation activities, chronic pains, positive or negative outlook etc. A closing exercise was also done and participants shared some of the things they have learnt and some of the things they have shared with others. They expressed their gratitude to the CE and said that they have benefited from the programme tremendously. The CE informed the groups about having an evaluation session done and they are willing to participate and once the time, date and venue is fixed they will avail themselves.

Den Amstel Health Centre, Pre Natal Clinic – School Children & the Family – 10th March

- A total of 22 parents, 20 females and 2 males between the ages of 18-35 participated in this 1 ½ hr session on Parenting School Children.

Participants were glad to have the opportunity to discuss such as issues as some of them are first time parents while others find it difficult to cope as they lack information on such issues. participants were very attentive and asked questions and shared their views and experiences. Some of the areas discussed were engaging in activities with their child or children, assigning of responsibilities in the home, setting of family timetables and rules, preparing your child for emergency situations, fostering an atmosphere of acceptance, affection and good humour, nourishing the marital relationship

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

Kingdom Connection Youth Group – Closing Exercise – 13th March

- A total of 45 participants who had attended awareness sessions and other project activities were present. Some of them had been involved from the beginning of the project while others came in midway and others close to the end of the project. They gave their views of the project and talked about the way they have benefited from the session. They expressed their gratitude to the CE for the work done with them and the CE also expressed her gratitude to them for their support and participation. They were informed about the evaluation to be done and said they would be willing to participate whenever the project is ready.

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

Den Amstel Health Centre, Pre Natal Clinic –Adolescent Children – 17th March

A total of 24 parents, 20 females and 1 male, between the ages of 18-35 participated in this 1 hr awareness session on Adolescent Children. In discussing adolescence the psychological and emotional changes which children go through were addressed as were the important role that friends and companions will have on the child. As a result of these changes parents may have to change their technique in dealing with their children such as encouraging them to participate in family decision making. Methods of discipline at this stage also need to be discussed and agreed on by family members.

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

Den Amstel Primary School, Grade 6 – Stress Management – 16th March

- A total of 20 students, 7 females and 13 males between the ages of 10-11 participated in this 2 hr discussion.

During the discussion the CE discovered that some of the students were stressed out for various reasons such as domestic violence, child physical abuse in the home, having to do home chores as well as home work and coping with parents who expect their children to shoulder some parental responsibilities in the home. Participants were placed into groups and asked to act out some of stress there are experiencing. Coping with stress was shared with the participants as was the stress inventory

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

Den Amstel Primary School, Grade 6 – Child Sexual Abuse – 23rd March

- A total of 23 students, 9 females and 14 males between the ages of 10-11 participated in this session. The CM spoke to the students about rape, sodomy, the effects of rape after it is committed, how persons react and what to do if a person says they were raped.

Students were very glad for the information given and participated well in the session. One of the teachers asked if H&S would still continue the sessions as they saw them as useful and the students were gaining knowledge about issues.

Den Amstel Nursery Teachers – Closing Exercise – 31st March

- A total of 5 female teachers between the ages of 25-48 participated in this session. Since this was our last visit to the school for this project the teachers were asked to speak about any topic which had not been addressed as yet. Some of the topics which teachers identified were how to deal with an aggressive child, how to get a child to open up and how to improve the relationship between parents and children. A reflection was also done on the 3 years of the project and how they have benefited from the project. The teachers said that they have learnt a lot from the awareness sessions and they also shared much of what they learnt and will continue to do so. They expressed their gratitude to the CE and asked her to pass this on to Help & Shelter

GOOD HOPE

Community Educator: Suzanne Chung

Community Mobiliser: Olivia Simon

Community: Good Hope, East Coast Demerara

Activities: A total of 8 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 239 Females: 139 Males: 100

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 184 Females: 94 Males: 90

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 824

of H&S Posters Distributed:

of Other Posters Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits:

- House to House & Counselling Visits
- Community Walkabout
- Follow Up on Peer Educators' Workshop Action Plan
- Awareness Session at Lusignan AOG Church, Women's Ministry
- Awareness Session at Learning Centre
- Attendance & Participation at Youth Mentoring Workshop, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Steering Committee Meeting

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

Home/Counselling Visit – 7th March

- At this follow up visit it was learned that the daughter had moved out and the mother was worried about her safety. The daughter returned home a week later after reportedly partying for a week and even though she said she would return to her counselling sessions, she never did. Later on in the month the mother reported that the behaviour of her daughter worsened and when she was caught stealing from her mother. When the mother intervened in the stealing incident she was badly beaten by her daughter. The matter was then reported to the Ministry of Human Services.
3 H&S leaflets on the DVA, Shelter and Anger Management were given to this family.

House to House & Counselling Visit – 8th March

- This intervention resulted in a mother and her 2 young children being placed at H&S Shelter due to an abusive situation. The mother of the grandchildren was grateful as she said the violence was escalating against her daughter in law and children. The young

woman seemed relieved to be leaving a dangerous environment as she feared for her life and the lives of her children.

Home/Counselling Visit – 8th March

- A report was made about a situation of child sexual abuse to the Police Station. The police referred the matter to the relevant Government Welfare department. As a result of action taken the 3 children were removed and placed in protective custody, the father was charged but is out on bail. The mother left the father and has taken a live-in domestic job.

Home/Counselling Visit – 13th March

- In this case assistance was given to a young widow with the filling out of a form for a house lot and attaching a note explaining the difficult circumstances in which this young widow found herself. As a result of this intervention the young widow and her 6 children was given land and a small house built by “Food for the Poor” a local charitable NGO. The mother-in-law and young widow were very thankful for the help and felt it was the note sent by the CE which resulted in her receiving help so quickly. The CE also advised the young mother to join the family planning clinic as she already has 6 children all under the age of 12 years.

Community Walk About– 29th March

- The CE, CM and members of the AOG Women’s Ministry visited the home of a grieving widow who had also recently lost a daughter by accident. Prayers were offered by the Women’s Ministry and the widow was advised on how she could seek assistance from the relevant Government Ministry. The family and widow were touched by the show of support in her time of sorrow from the group. Counselling was also given by the CE for the widow and a young daughter. During this visit a total of 20 community residents, 19 women and 1 man between the ages of 18-55 were reached with the message that they do not have to live in situations of domestic abuse.
A total of 63 H&S leaflets on Child Abuse, Child Neglect, Wife Abuse, The Shelter and For Parents were distributed.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Students & Teachers of IPE Secondary School – 11th March

A total of 96 persons, 44 females and 52 males between the ages of 12-60 participated in this 2hr session. The session focused on substance abuse- alcohol & drugs, sexual abuse, healthy relationships and dating. The session went well with students asking questions about many things that they were unsure of and wanted guidance on. At the end of the session students requested more such sessions and the Principal and teachers expressed their thanks for the information shared with the students as it was needed and timely. Evaluation of the session done indicated that participation and facilitation were assessed as excellent while understanding of topics and the session overall was very good.

A total of 348 H&S flyers on Alcohol, Children & Drugs, Marijuana, Rape, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, DVA and Anger Management were distributed.

Students & Teachers of IBE Secondary School –Drug & Alcohol, Dating, Self, Sexual Assault-16th March

A total of 89 students, 45 females and 44 males between the ages of 15-55 participated in this 2 hr awareness session. The facilitator discussed the dangers of harmful substances such as alcohol, cigarettes and drugs as well as sexual activity at a young age. He also spoke about self image and self concept, hopes and expectations of students when they leave school and healthy relationships. Many of the students said that the session

answered a lot of questions that they were afraid to ask. The teachers who sat in on the session felt that H&S was doing a wonderful job of providing necessary information to youth.

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

A total of 510 H&S leaflets on Rape, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Harmful Drugs, Alcohol, and Marijuana were distributed.

Learning Centre- Rape, Sexual Assault Self Awareness – 30th March

- A total of 26 students, 16 females and 10 males participated in this 2 ½ hr session. During the session a self awareness questionnaire was used with the students. By the end of the session the students learnt about the differences between sex and rape and learned to think about what their life will look like in 10 years. Many of the students realized that their dreams would not come true if they did not work hard to make this a reality. Evaluation of the session assessed participation, understanding of topics discussed facilitation and the session overall as very good.

COVENT GARDEN

Community Educator(s): Ebeth McIntosh, Chabela Lord

Community Mobilizer: Carol Henry

Community: Covent Garden, East Bank Demerara

Activities: A total of 8 visits were made to this community for the month

Persons Reached: Total: 42 Females: 25 Males: 17

Persons Newly Reached: Total: 9 Females: 5 Males: 4

H&S Leaflets Distributed: 15

of H&S Posters Distributed: Nil

of Other Posters Distributed: Nil

Objectives of Visits:

- House to house visits/counselling & one on one discussions with residents
- Community walkabout & leaflet distribution
- Awareness Session on Anger Management with students from Covent Garden Primary School

Community/Group & Individual Responses to Visits:

House to House Visits & Counselling – 14th March

- During this visit a mother of 4 children disclosed the neglect she suffers from her husband. Some time ago her brother offered her an opportunity to go to the USA. After some thought it was decided that her husband would go first and then arrange for the rest of the family to follow. When the husband got to the US he supported the family in Guyana for a while then stopped. The mother has heard from her brother that her husband has since married some one else. During the period in which her husband stopped sending support, this mother had to seek employment in order to take care of her children. Her brother and other relatives assist her with the upkeep of the children. Four (4), H&S leaflets on wife abuse, child neglect and GBV were given out.

House to House Visit & Counselling – 16th March

- During a house to house visit the CM was informed that the 2 teenager mothers are now sleeping over at the house of the older sister's boyfriend and returning to their mother's house early in the mornings.

House to House Visit – 21st March

- The CM visited this family who had lost their house to fire recently. During the visit the CM realized that the husband seems to have given up hope. He is consuming more alcohol and expressed his wish to die. Presently he and his wife are living in a small shop in front of their yard. They have received materials to rebuild but the persons who promised to help them with the re-building are working very slowly. The man expressed concern about some of the building materials and the CM advised him to visit Food for the Poor organization to see what assistance they may be able to give him.

House to House Visit & Counselling – 22nd March

- During Phagwah Day celebrations, violence broke out in the squatting area resulting in three (3) men being brutally chopped about their bodies. The targeted victim was caught unaware and was attacked repeatedly by the end of the attack he had to get 48 stitches. Two (2) other men who went to the rescue of the intended victim were also chopped brutally one receiving 50 stitches and severed joints to 2 fingers on his hands. The incident occurred at a Licensed Liquor Shop when an old grievance over money surfaced. The matter is now in Court and there have been 3 court hearing called so far.

House to House Visit & Counselling – 25th March

- This young man confided in the CM some of the circumstances as to how he lost his job. According to him his boss does not appreciate him and would harass and verbally abuse him constantly for no particular reason. One day he turned up for work and when he refused to fix his clothes in the way his boss wanted him to he was once more verbally abused. As a result there was an exchange of words between himself and his boss and he was sent home. When he returned to work the following day he was fired and is now unemployed, he also has the responsibility of taking care of his mother. The CM spoke to this young man about domestic violence and other forms of abuse. Three (3) H&S leaflets on GBV, anger management and the DV were given to the young man and he was encouraged to read them.

House to House Visit & Counselling – 25th March

- During this visit a woman who has been married for 9 years disclosed some of the problems facing her. She has had 2 miscarriages and since then has not been able to get pregnant again. This situation has led to a great deal of problems between her self and her husband. According to this woman her husband stays out late at nights and treats her unkindly including verbally abusing her sometimes. She feels that he is cheating on her. About a year ago her husband was thinking of separating from her but they are still together. The woman also complained that her mother in law treats her badly and when she is abroad she would send things for her other children and spouses but never for her. The woman said she feels depressed and sad most days because she is mentally and emotionally tormented. She also said that some of these things are too embarrassing for her to relate.

A total of 4 H&S leaflets on GBV, Wife Abuse and DV were given to this woman.

House to House Visit & Counselling – 28th March

- The CM reported that in one of her house to house visits she met a pregnant woman who was visiting her relatives and they were all indulging in alcohol. Observing this situation the CM took the opportunity to inform the pregnant woman about the dangers of alcohol to her self and her unborn child. The pregnant woman listened attentively and it was hoped that she took this advice seriously. The CM also spoke to the other persons present informing them also about the dangers of alcohol which can lead to family problems and domestic violence situations.

House to House Visit & Counselling – 30th March

- At this home there was another situation where a father and husband got a 5 year visa to the USA and after some years living abroad he sent his wife a letter of divorce and told her that he has married someone else in order to stay in the USA. He later told this mother to seek employment in order to take care of herself while he would support their 3 girl children. The father of these 3 girls does not communicate with them he just sends money for them. He has accused their mother of poisoning their minds against him. A total of 4 H&S leaflets on DV, Wife Abuse and GBV were left with this mother.

Evaluation of Awareness Sessions

Covent Garden Primary School, Grade 6 –Anger Management—17th March

- A total of 25 students, 15 females and 10 males participated in this session which lasted for 1 hr.
The CE and CM reported that the session went very well as students shared their views and experiences on anger issues. They were informed that anger is a basic human emotion and in managing anger they needed to admit it, identify what is causing them to feel angry and then using methods to manage or control their anger. A closing exercise was also done with students and teachers and they expressed their thanks for conducting awareness sessions which they said they benefited from tremendously.