

INNER ACCESS

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Greetings Friends & Partners:

Sexual Exploitation is not a new concept. This has been happening for centuries. We cannot remain inactive; we must act now on behalf of our children. Will you help us stop sexual exploitation? Visit our website for more information on how you can help.

Joel 3:3

They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink.

Leviticus 19:29

Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will turn to prostitution and be filled with wickedness.

Welcome to this our second edition of Inner Access. Over the last three months we have sensitized over 324 persons in the Cayo District Belize, on the issue of CSEC. Details of our presentation at the Cayo District Teacher's conference, our training workshop for Church leaders and our presentation to youths will be found inside. We are grateful for the opportunities that God has given us and look forward with great anticipation to the harvest that will come because of these seeds that have been sown in the hearts of key leaders. Your generosity made this possible and we are grateful.

Through your prayers and God's divine favor, I was invited to make a presentation on the situational Analysis of CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) in Belize. This was the first ever National Symposium hosted by the First Lady of Belize Mrs. Kim Simplis-Barrow on August 25 and 26 2010.

This presentation highlighted the situation of our children and called for action on the issues faced by victims. As the only local representative and technical experts on the subject, CDF received some media attention as the event was covered by all major TV stations and local News paper. Commitments were made by the Minister of Human Development, CEO's and other stakeholders present as well as Mrs. Barrow to spear-head initiatives to address CSEC in Belize to begin with a National Plan of Action. We request your prayers for the plans and implementation actions to be developed by Government. CDF remains committed to this issue and will continue to perform the activities in our action plan and look forward to your continual prayer and support. We give God praise for what He has done, what He is doing and what He will yet do.

Blessings

Diana Shaw

Founder & Chairperson CDF

CHURCH TRAINING

All major church denominations are represented in our local communities and the church has a presence in every village. Nevertheless, the church's involvement in social justice issues does not reflect their presence in the communities, on many social justice issues, the church is sadly silent or not as involved as they should be. There is an important role for the church in advocating for victims, providing treatment and care to victims and families and promoting cultural change that will destroy tolerance of sexual exploitation of children in our communities.

The church has a voice that must be heard on behalf of victims who often do not have a voice of their own. CDF wants to be a part of equipping and sensitizing the church on this, one of its most important roles. On June 24th 2010 CDF did a sensitization training to church leaders, who were sensitized about the situation of CSEC in Belize; the Biblical and civic role of the church; the Biblical requirement for justice and care for victims; the treatment of victims as well as legal reporting requirements. Fifteen 15 churches and 41 participants in attendance were present, they were:

1. Step of Faith
2. Christian Ministries of Belize
3. Divine Appointment Ministries
4. Belmopan Church of the Nazarene
5. Mountain View
6. Hattville Baptist Church
7. Gospel of the Kingdom Ministries
8. S.D.A Adventist
9. House of Prayer
10. Zion Out Reach Ministry
11. Belize Bible Center
12. New Jerusalem Church
13. Members of My Refuge Christian Radio
14. E.B.C
15. St Jude R.C

YOUTH TRAINING

Teaching children and young people how to deal with sexual temptation and encouraging them to refrain from involvement in sexual activity as children and adolescents is important. Children and adolescents struggle with how to make decisions concerning involvement in sexual activity, often with little, no or wrong information and often in situations where they face negative peer pressure. The media often gives children and adolescents the idea that involvement in sexual activity at an early age is the norm or that it is appropriate and many children and adolescents have never heard about self-control or delaying sexual activity as they think that they are unable to withstand or re-channel sexual urges. On August 3rd and 4th we did a two day sensitization at the Baptist Camp Grounds with over 40 children and adolescents. They were sensitized about the issues of CSEC and how to stand against the pressure from friends to become sexually involved when they are not ready. They were also educated on how to report pimps and perpetrators, how to be a help to someone who may be a victim and how to stand for their values and to believe that they are valuable.

Youth Sensitization



"Research shows that parents are the single biggest influence on children – if you are worried about your teen to them."

~ John Walters

TEACHERS TRAINING

Teachers play such an important part in the life of any child. They spend at least thirty five hours a week with students. CDF got the opportunity to inform and educate 120 Government Teachers in the Cayo District along with 12 Staff and teachers of Cayo Christian Academy in Ontario Village, Cayo District, Belize hosted by Christian Ministries of Belize. CDF explained the roles and responsibilities of teachers in this fight and how they can partner with Parents, Police and other stake holders to Help protect and provide a safe environment of their students. For photos visit our Face book account.

If we accept a world in which children can be bought and sold as if they are goods in a supermarket, we forfeit the right to call ourselves civilized.

Teachers Sensitization



“Whatever they grow up to be, they are still our children, and the one most important of all the things we can give to them is unconditional love. Not a love that depends on anything at all except that they are our children.”

Rosaleen Dickson

CHURCH SENSITIZATION



Mrs. Kim Simplis-Barrow hosts Symposium on the CSEC in Belize.

On August 25 the First Lady of Belize, Mrs. Kim Simplis-Barrow hosted a two-day National Symposium on the CSEC. Mrs Barrow is the Special Envoy for women and children. Attending this symposium were: Prime Minister Dean Barrow, Minister of Human Development, Eden Martinez, Chief Magistrate, Belize Family Court, Bishop Philip Wright, CEOs of Labour Department, CEO of Police Department, CEO of Human Development, Representatives from The Attorney General Ministry, Immigration Department, NCFC and NGOs.

CDF Founder, Ms. Diana Shaw was asked to speak on the situational analysis of children as a technical expert on the issue. Other International Speakers from the ILO, UNICEF and ECPAT also made presentations.

On, August the 26th, the attendees were divided into groups to identify present initiatives and recommend new or additional strategies to be used in developing a National Plan of Action on CSEC under four key areas: 1. Legislation and Enforcement, 2. Child Protection Services for Prevention Recovery and Reintegration, 3. Change of Attitude, Customs and Practices, Alliance with Tourist Sector, and Research, 4. Monitoring and Data Collection.

At the end of this Symposium Mrs. Barrow indicated her commitment to work with stakeholders to develop strategies to eradicate CSEC. The CEO of Human Development also reiterated the Government's commitment to tackle the issue.

CDF will continue to equip and sensitise the public and will continue to develop programs for intervention and care for victims.

Please continue to pray for the Government's commitment and for the expansion of CDF's initiatives. Be encouraged, we are winning the fight!!!

Peter Eden Martinez, Minister of Humans said

Development said "As Belizean we have a duty to stand up and let our brothers who engage in this type of activity know that their behavior is totally unacceptable. It is downright criminal as a matter of fact".

SYMPOSIUM 2010

Ms Shaw Speaking at Symposium



International Speakers



Stakeholders and Invited Guests



*UPCOMING PROJECTS:
SENSITIZATION TRAININGS*

Principal Training --- 2 September
Cayo Christian Academy - 4 September
Counselors Training-- 18 September
Preschool Teachers--- October 6
Legacy Youth Camp--- November
Immigration Officers
Police Recruits

PRAISE REPORT

314 persons were sensitized
Launching of CDF website
Chair person speaking at symposium
Donations
Excellent Feedback on Webpage and Trainings

PRAYER REQUEST

Donations to cover upcoming trainings in September and October

Training\workshops that ears and hearts be open

Monthly financial donation for telephone service

Councilors Training

That Grant proposals will be approved.

That appropriate Government action will be taken as a follow up to the Symposium that took place on 25 and 26th of August.

Thanks to TAS Belize for their maintenance and donation to our website.

Visit them at www.tasbelize.com

Phone- 501-802-0152

Special Thanks to all who donated to CDF Belize, we look forward to your continual support

Child Development Foundation

Help For Progress Building

Corner of Forest Drive\ Slim Lane

P.O Box 97, Belmopan Belize

Call us at

633-7010

Fax:

822-1099

E-Mail:

cdfbelize@ymail.com

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.cdfbelize.org

Face book us at The Child Development Foundation

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