

# INNER ACCESS



Dear Friends and Partners:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the CDF Times. Through this Newsletter you will find out what is going on with CDF and receive information on what is going on with the children of Belize. In addition you will find out how God is using your partnership with CDF to make an eternal impact on the Kingdom of God in Belize. Psalm 127:3 reminds us that children are a gift from the Lord, a reward from Him. This is the foundation of what we do at CDF: our mission is to equip children's workers and organizations to repair the brokenness of children whose proper development has been interrupted by exploitation or abuse. Our work is now more urgent than ever and your partnership more necessary than ever.

Sexual exploitation is a scourge in Belize and the most insidious victimization of human rights of children. It destroys the God given value and dignity of children and reduces them to objects. Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse will be emotionally and psychologically scarred and are often unable, without God's intervention and healing, to form normal trusting, loving relationships and a strong family bond later in life. *( cont'd on page 3)*

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**Help Stop Sexual Exploitation Today!**

**One voice, One child, together we can save a life.**

## WHAT IS THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION - CDF

The Child Development Foundation (CDF) is a Christian non-profit social justice organization registered under the companies Act, Chapter 250 of the Laws of Belize.

Mission Statement Equipping children's workers and organizations to repair the brokenness of children whose proper development has been interrupted by exploitation or abuse.

Vision Statement Each child suffering hurt or abuse being rescued from abuse and fulfilling their God given potential to become social transformers in their communities.

### Objectives

To ensure the police, social workers, teachers, churches, health professionals and other stake holders have a clear understanding of commercial sexual exploitation and the role they play in protecting the rights of a child.

To promote a Biblical understanding of child development that allows children to identify their eternal worth.

To advocate for Biblical counseling and restorative healing so as to restore value, self- dignity and worth.

To provide restorative residential care and rehabilitation to teenage girls who are victims of sexual exploitation

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.  
Psalm 127:3

## BOARD MEMBERS

The Child Development Foundation has a Board that consists of seven members who are representative of local organizations and international partners that are involved in protecting children from exploitation.

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Even worse, when our culture tolerates and allows the victimization of the most vulnerable members of the population, the culture becomes hardened against holiness and righteousness. Sexual exploitation happens because of sin and because of the acceptance of immorality. As Christians we must be the voice of Christ, condemning exploitation and advocating for the rights of victims. We must be the hands and feet that restore our culture and we must call forth righteousness. CDF has begun to do this. Last year we trained 85 Social workers, teachers and other stake holders and 200 police officers to bring sensitization on the issue and to enlighten stake holders on the ways the law can be used to protect victims.

In this issue you will hear about the training activities, plans for 2010, and the police training we have already completed. We invite you to join us and to a take stand for Christ and for His children.

Blessings:

Diana Shaw- Founder of CDF.

“The very essence in leadership is that you have to have a vision.  
You can’t blow an uncertain trumpet”.  
Theodore M. Hesburgh

## POLICE SENSITIZATION TRAINING AND WORKSHOP 2010

By: Verlie Lamb

Ms Shaw and officers in Belmopan City

Police officers are some of the most influential men and women of society. Despite of all that we have been hearing within the Police Department we here at The Child Development Foundation took the opportunity that was given to us by Chester Williams, Commissioner of Police and Director of Training, very seriously. We know that this workshop has changed the way many officers will deal with cases of sexual exploitation in Belize.

Our annual Police training started on June 22 and ended on the 25 of the said month. We had the opportunity to train over a hundred officers from all six districts within Belize. Each district had a representative from each Police Department, which included Criminal Investigation Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Family Violence Unit, Relief officers, Community policing, quick response, patrol offices, traffic officers, and records office. We received positive feedback from officers present, and were asked to continue teaching about CSEC, especially in High Schools throughout Belize.

Listed below are the topics that we covered.

What is CDF?

What is CSEC?

Where is it happening?

What has been done in the past to address those issues?

Who are the victims and perpetrators?



What are the existing laws concerning CSEC?

What is trafficking of persons?

What are the roles and responsibility of Police officers?

Detecting, Investigating, Protecting and Teaching.

From those topic listed above we did a group activity and found that the information that was given was very useful by officers to conduct any Police investigation that had to do with CSEC.

I also had the opportunity to observe the expression of Police officers, and from that observation, I believe that 70 percent of those officers were serious about protecting children that were victims of sexual exploitation. 15 percent of officers were not interested in what was being said. My conclusion to this is either they were involved in relationships with kids that were younger than 18, or they knew of someone that was. The remaining 15 percent were not aware that this was a crime and perpetrators could spend up to three years or more in prison. I strongly believe that this training has opened the eyes of those Police officers and conviction of the Holy Spirit will continue to lead them. *I have faith that those men and women that have sworn to protect their country will rise up and use the power that they have to defend the rights of the Belizean people.*

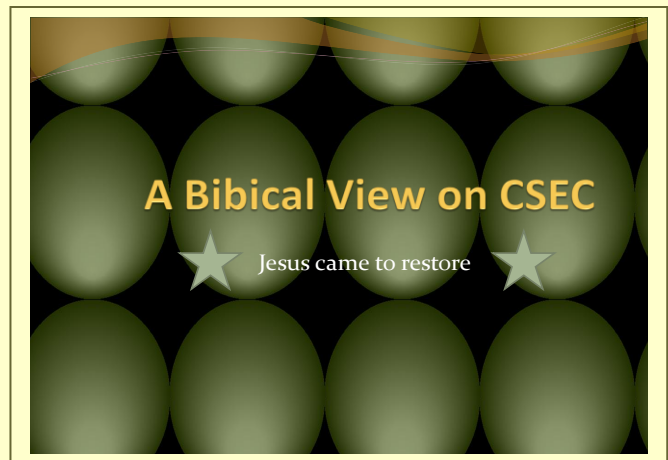
*UPCOMING PROJECTS:*

Church Training

July 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am- Baptist Training Center, Camalote Village, Belmopan

Teachers Training

Date to be announced later



*PRAISE REPORT*

*PRAYER REQUEST*

April 2010- Establishing of function Board

May 2010- Finalization of Plan for Police training

June 2010- Four Police Sensitization Training with over 100 officer from all six districts

Hiring full time Administrative Assistance Verlie Lamb

Donations to cover Church and teachers training

Training\workshops

Monthly financial donation for telephone service

Current Social Worker will be transferred to Belize City. Prayer for God's favor with new officer

Inner Access is the title of our news letter that will be sent to you by e-mail at the end of every three months. As believers we have the keys to opening doors of our blessings. You the reader have Inner Access to The Child Development foundation times and into the Kingdom of God. Hope you had fun reading the first issue for this year. Look out for the other in September

“TO BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT PRAYER IS NO MORE POSSIBLE THAN TO BE ALIVE WITHOUT BREATHING.” MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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