Annual Report

2015

SCARS

SAVING CHILDREN
AND REVEALING SECRETS

BERMUDA

SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS

REGISTERED CHARITY # 922

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2015 – DECEMBER 31ST, 2015

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SCARS' Mission is to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse and to be an advocate and voice for children who have been sexually molested as well as their affected family. SCARS aims to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse by raising public awareness and speaking to key decision makers to put policies and procedures in place that best protect our children from the crime of child sexual abuse.

SCARS' intent is to provide information and training to all adults including Parent-Teacher Associations, Youth Serving organisations, Sports Programs, Faith-Based Groups and all other organisations that are entrusted with children in our community.

SCARS' focus is to stop sexual abuse before it happens and to provide resources for support when it does happen. Prevention is key because by the time the police, a government support agency or a therapist gets involved, the molestation has already occurred and a scar has formed.

SCARS' believes that by reducing the number of sexually molested children in our community there will be a reduction in drug abuse, alcoholism, teen pregnancies, mental illness, self injurious behaviors, eating disorders, promiscuity, violence, and suicide.

Training and Awareness

SCARS has achieved its tipping point!

So what is the Tipping Point Theory?

Tipping Point is a theory presented in the book, "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference" by Malcolm Gladwell. The basic theory is that if 5% of a given population changes their behavior, a cultural shift is created and a momentum builds that, with continued work, may actually change societal values. Gladwell talks about how the adoption of an idea or an endorsement of a product by a few key influencers in a given population can lead to widespread change or shift in behavior.

It makes sense for SCARS to apply the tipping point theory to our community-based child sexual abuse prevention initiative. If the theory is valid, then a training goal of 5% of the adult population in Bermuda will create a change in the norm such that child sexual abuse is no longer tolerated.

Bermuda tipping point: (www.census.gov)

Population: 60,000 *Adult Population: 60,000 x 75% = 45,000

Tipping Point: 45,000 x 5% = 2,250

SCARS has made a significant impact on the community, which is evident in the fact that we have exceeded the Tipping Point. In 2012 SCARS trained 121 adults, In 2013 we trained 827 adults, In 2014 we trained 1,323 adults. In 2015 we trained 1,577 adults. A total of 3,848 adults in Bermuda have participated in our certified training as of December 31, 2015.

Stewards of Children Training

Stewards of Children is an *award winning* prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organisations that serve youth, entrusted with the care of children, and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed (in the United States), evidence based program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors. Outcomes of the program include increased awareness of the prevalence, consequences, and circumstances of child sexual abuse, new skills for adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, positive change to organisational policies and procedures and an individual commitment to action through a personal prevention plan. In 2015 SCARS educated 1,577 people through the Stewards of Children Training.

SCARS

SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education) Program

SCARS' objective is to raise public awareness of child sexual abuse in Bermuda and it's devastating effects on both children and their family members. Since October 2011, SCARS has presented its SAFE presentation to 42 schools in Bermuda. In 2015 we provided this awareness initiative to 9 schools, 1 sports club, Foster Care parents, and 1 support agency; reaching approximately 344 people.

SCARS Lending Library

SCARS continues to operate its small book lending library, which provides parents and teachers that attend its SAFE presentations with books for parents, children, caregivers, and others entrusted with children to learn about the issue and ways to prevent abuse from occurring. This has been a powerful learning tool for parents to use after they hear SCARS' message. During 2015 SCARS loaned out more than 300 books.

Prevent NOW!

Darkness to Light has a Prevent Now documentary called "Into the Light". This powerful 22 minute documentary takes a poignant look at sexual abuse from the survivor's point of view. This initiative helps SCARS to share information with the community in a short, concise and highly powerful method. Prevent Now has been effective in raising awareness, generating donations to SCARS and increasing participation in the Stewards of Children Training and SAFE Programs. In 2015 SCARS made 8 presentations reaching 190 people.

Community Awareness Events

- On **February 20th & 21st** the Liquid Group very generously donated a booth at the Caldwell Banker Home Show to SCARS. We benefited hugely from this event in terms of awareness; having an opportunity to sign up participants for our monthly community training at Argus. Over 200 people were made aware of SCARS and our mission on those two days.
- In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month for April, SCARS increased awareness through an event on the steps of City Hall, which was held on Thursday, **April 16th**. Several dignitaries were invited to speak on the issue of Child Sexual Abuse, including the Governor George Fergusson, and Minister of Education, Wayne Scott JP MP. Minister of Community, Culture & Sport Mrs. Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, Detective Inspector Mark Clarke, Martha Dismont from The Family Centre, and Kelly Hunt from The Coalition for the Protection of Children.

Community Awareness Events continued…

- On Saturday, **April 25th** The Duke of Edinburgh hosted a fundraising event at Government House that provided awareness opportunities for organizations by hosting information booths. Helen and a team of volunteers very kindly donated their time and handed out SCARS brochures and pamphlets. We also encouraged the attendees to sign up for our monthly Stewards of Children training.
- On **May 2nd**, the annual End-to-End was held. SCARS, once again, provided a water stop at the entrance to Paynter's Road. This afforded us the opportunity for more awareness in the community. I personally wish to thank Chrissy for arranging for us to be a part of this fun event and thanks to Helen for providing us with the much appreciated tent!
- On **August 29th**, SCARS was invited a second time to have a table at the PLP Back to School Fun Day at Victor Scott School; which we gladly accepted.
- On **September 12th**, SCARS was invited by Mr. Craig Tyrrell to promote our programs at the Youth Sports Expo 2015 held at the National Sports Centre in conjunction with the Dept. of Youth Sport and Recreation. A SCARS sign was donated and placed at the pool area of the Sports Centre.
- On Saturday, **October 24th**, SCARS was invited by Government House to have the privilege and honor to meet HRH Duchess of Gloucester. The meeting was to discuss how SCARS training, awareness and advocacy has benefited our community and for the Duchess to meet some individual Bermudians that have been impacted by SCARS.

Training and Awareness Summary

In 2015, SCARS actively met with various Governmental Agencies, Schools, Churches, Sporting organisations and other Bermuda registered charities to provide assistance, information and training. Some of the entities that have heard our message and that SCARS has worked with in the past year include:

- The Bermuda Police Service (300 police officers)
- Department of Corrections at Westgate Prison
- Coalition for the Protection of Children
- Ministry of Education – new teachers
- Bermuda Red Cross
- St. Luke's AME Church, Holy Trinity Church
- Salvation Army
- Hamilton & Devonshire Seventh Day Adventist Church, Christ Church Devonshire
- Bermuda Zoological Society
- Teachers from over 20 schools including Pre-school, Primary, Middle, High Schools & Home Schools
- Bermuda Union of Teachers
- Dept. of Youth & Sport Summer Camp Counselors
- Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Club
- Rotary Youth Exchange Program
- Coaches from North Village Community Club
- Staff at The Reading Clinic
- Bermuda Psychological Association
- Jackson School of Performing Arts & DanceSations Dance Schools
- The Sea Cadets
- Smash Table Tennis club, Gold Point Archery
- Bermuda Sloop Foundation
- St. Johns Ambulance volunteers
- Staff at SPCA
- Staff at AIG, OIL Group of Companies, BNY Mellon, A.S. Cooper & Son Ltd., Zurich
- Department of Court Services
- Sharks Swim Club Coaches
- Devonshire Colts, Cougars, Boulevard, BAA Football Clubs
- Gombey Warriors
- Nanny Network Bermuda
- Mirrors Programme
- Staff at Butterfield & Vallis
- Bermuda National Gallery

In 2015 SCARS reached more than 2,200 people with the important message of how to prevent child sexual abuse!

SCARS

ADVOCACY

SCARS is very passionate about safeguarding and protecting children from sexual abuse in our community. The Government didn't cause the sexual abuse of children and they are not financially responsible for child sexual abuse, however what a Government can do for it's people is enhance and strengthen laws that will provide protection for all children from sexual abuse. SCARS continues to advocate for legislative reform that will protect children.

In 2014, the formation of a Joint Select Committee headed by SCARS Board member Mark Pettingill, was formed to examine, review and make recommendations and report to the House its findings on existing legislation regarding the necessity for a public sex offenders register along with other pertinent matters relating to convicted sex offenders. SCARS Board members, Jon Brunson, Yvette Pierre, Glenda Edwards and Executive Director, Debi Ray-Rivers, met with the committee on March 19, 2015 and asked them to address specific & critical areas with regard to children:

- **The Criminal Code Review** - The Children's Act 1998 is out of date and must be updated; taking into account internet pornography, which is considered sexual abuse. Remove the word Unlawful Carnal Knowledge – not used in the UK
- **Mandatory sex offender-specific evaluations** – Evaluations should be required, by a trained psychiatrist/clinical psychologist, to appropriately assess the predator's level of risk to the community before sentencing (e.g. low risk / moderate risk / high risk). The social inquiry report may be currently inadequate and needs to be revised and strengthened to incorporate the evaluation of the sex offender.
- **Sentencing Review** – It should match the criminal code (For example: remove the 1/3 automatic reduction in sentence)
- **Mandatory Treatment Program for Offenders & MAPPA – Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements**
- **The Sex Offenders List**

To date, we have not received a report of the findings of this Joint Select Committee.

On August 21, 2015, Debi Ray-Rivers, Executive Director, & Glenda Edwards (Board member) met with the Attorney General, Mr. Trevor Moniz, to further discuss the critical areas listed above.

On September 18, 2015, Debi & Glenda met with members of The Bermuda Bar Council, Richard Horseman & Cindy Clarke (DPP) to discuss the critical areas listed above.

On November 16, 2015 Debi & Glenda met with Senior Magistrate, Juan Wolffe, to discuss the possibility of training the magistrates & members of Family Court.

ADVOCACY CONTINUED...

On November 27, 2015 Debi & Jon met with The Premier, Michael Dunkley, and Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Derek Binns to give them an update on SCARS, SCARS' long term goal of a Child Advocacy Center (including planting a seed that Southland's property would be perfect), and SCARS' desires for legislative changes in various area. This prompted an invitation to meet with Cabinet Ministers which was set for January 26, 2016.

Finally, we presented the Premier and Dr. Binns with a list of 18 questions addressed to the Dept. of Corrections & the Parole Board. Unfortunately, we never received a response.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SCARS is very pleased and thankful for the generous support of corporations, organisations and individuals. SCARS has been the recipient of donations this year from numerous and diverse sources.

SCARS conducted its annual Denim Day campaign fundraiser which was supported by approximately 22 companies. Other fundraising donations came from a Bingo Fundraiser, Child Abuse Tag Day in April, our 12 for 12 Campaign, Argus Walk the Walk, and Quiz Night at Docksider's.

Over $22,000 was donated to SCARS by individuals in the community through birthday donations, sporting events or simply a personal passion for the cause.

SCARS continue to be extremely grateful for the moral and financial support provided to the organisation.

SCARS continues to use donations to pay for training materials, resource material, a library of books, and general operating expenses that are specifically in pursuit of our objectives.

Attached to our Annual Plan is a complete financial report for 2015.

3 THINGS WE CELEBRATED IN 2015

1. **SCARS three part television special aired on September 28th, October 5th, and October 12th on ZMB TV 9, which had a huge impact on the community.**

The first episode featured stories from Bermudian survivors and their families. In addition, live on air, Danielle Riviere interviewed two Psychologists who helped put the content shared by the survivors into perspective. The second episode featured SCARS staff, Board members and representatives from our international partner Darkness to Light. The third episode featured representatives from the government system that deal with the reporting and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases.

2. **In 2015, 300 Police Officers were trained in our D2L Stewards of Children training. Mark Clarke, a SCARS Facilitator and a Police Inspector, is committed to not only the safety of our community but also takes child protection seriously.**

Between August and October this year, SCARS trained the Bermuda Police Service in how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. We also have the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Michael Desilva, who leads by example.

3. **On Friday, December 4th, 2015, 36 members of the Ministry of Education, including 23 Principals and 2 Deputy Principals and admin staff from our Government Pre-School, Primary, Middle & Secondary schools took part in SCARS Darkness to Light (D2L) Stewards of Children training facilitated by 2 SCARS volunteer Facilitators Glenda Edwards (SCARS Board Director & Former Supervisor of Child & Family Services) and Mark Clarke (Inspector with The Bermuda Police Service). SCARS Chairman of the Board, Jon Brunson, welcomed the group.**

As Principals and leaders of our schools, they are the persons with the highest authority and hold an important position in their institution of learning.

Some research shows that although most children don't tell that they are being or have been sexually abused, the highest percentage of reported abuse from children is to teachers. Learning about sexual abuse prevention will help us recognize the signs and react responsibly to this issue. This training was helpful in providing clarity and understanding about what teachers, as mandated reporters, must do.

Objectives for 2016

- Continue to educate the community through SCARS' training and awareness programmes with the goal of reaching at least 1600 participants
- Create an Adult Empowerment Guide for children & teens
- Train at least 5 new facilitators to help present the Darkness to Light training
- Complete a Strategic Plan to guide the organisation over the next three years
- Create a documentary film that will serve 4 purposes:
    1) Document the evolution of SCARS Bermuda in its nascent years
    2) An instructive model for the replication of SCARS in the Caribbean Islands, other British Overseas Territories and beyond
    3) A tool for reinforcing the child sexual abuse prevention movement in Bermuda itself, via local media
    4) Marketing collateral for fund raising efforts, to demonstrate the scope of the SCARS movement, via a pared-down version of the film
- To begin the process of obtain the Bermuda National Standards Certification with the goal of applying in 2017
- Continue research on the development of a Child Advocacy Center

Board of Directors, Officers and Staff

Board of Directors:

Jon Brunson J.P., Chairman

Jerry Rivers

Mark Pettingill J.P., M.P.

Yvette Pierre

Glenda Edwards

Dr. S. Glenn Faries

Kelly Hunt

The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill

Officers:

Debi Ray-Rivers, Executive Director

Lisa Boyles, Corporate Secretary

Karen Olson, Treasurer

Staff:

Helen Ponte, Director of Programs and Operations

Organisation Details

Name of Organisation: Saving Children and Revealing Secrets (SCARS)

Address: Turtle Point, 16 South Road, Southampton SN 01

Mailing Address: P.O. Box HM 3003, Hamilton HM MX

Phone #: 441-297-2277

Email Address: info@scars.bm

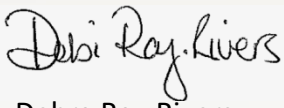
Registered Charity #: 922 (expiry date October 23, 2016)

Company Registration #: 45555

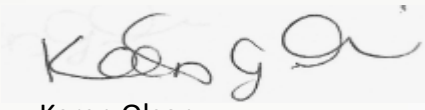
Financial Year: January 1 – December 31st

Charitable purpose: The advancement of education and awareness on the issue of child sexual abuse and to encourage the healing process.

Respectfully submitted:



Debra Ray-Rivers
Executive Director



Karen Olson
Treasurer