Annual Report
2016

SCARS®

SAVING CHILDREN
AND REVEALING SECRETS

BERMUDA

Saving Children and Revealing Secrets

Registered Charity # 922

Annual Report for Financial Year January 1, 2016 – December 31st, 2016

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 information on available resources if 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 if 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.

Chairman's Report

Over the past five years SCARS has changed the landscape of child protection on our island! With a focus on protecting our children from sexual abuse, in 2016, SCARS educated 1,129 parents and caring adults through the Darkness to Light Training. This means that, in only five short years, 4,990 people have received the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Training that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

The accomplishment of reaching more than 10% of Bermuda's adult population has surpassed expectations, as it means that SCARS has achieved a Social Tipping Point!

Tipping Point is described as the moment an idea, trend or social behaviour crosses a threshold and leads to a change of norms or actions. By reaching so many, SCARS has been able to change the norm such that child sexual abuse is no longer a taboo subject no one talks about.

SCARS' success was made possible by the generous donations of individuals and companies who believe in SCARS and believe in protecting children! 2016 proved to be a phenomenal fundraising year for SCARS. Highlighted by The Royal Night for SCARS banquet held at Government House in April, SCARS saw a series of fundraising events raise more than half of the organisation's budget. These events required support from corporate partners and individuals and we are most grateful for their patronage.

In 2016, SCARS received a huge opportunity to bring awareness to another country! After SCARS' Executive Director, Debi Ray Rivers, met Mrs. Jill Beckingham, wife of the Governor of the Turks & Caicos, SCARS was invited to travel to Turks & Caicos to train members of their community. In January 2017 this trip came to fruition and 87 adults were trained over a two day period. A great opportunity and rewarding experience!

There is no doubt that 2016 was a busy yet successful year for SCARS! I want to give a special thank you to our staff and Board for their dedication and commitment to protecting Bermuda's children. Many thanks also goes out to all of our facilitators and volunteers for the countless hours of personal time. Thank you to our individual and corporate donors whose donations guarantee SCARS' continued ability to educate our community about the dangers of child sexual abuse and I look forward to continuing this important work with the support of our community.

Sincerely,

Jon Brunson
Chairman, SCARS Bermuda

Executive Directors Report

What an amazing and blessed year SCARS has had! 2016, our fifth year in existence was a remarkable success! It is amazing that over the past five years SCARS has been able to educate almost 5,000 adults in our community! It is amazing that we have been able to offer our training programs without cost to the community due to generous corporate and individual donations! It is rewarding to see that we have made the taboo subject of child sexual abuse an issue that parents, children and caring adults are openly talking about and working to eliminate!

To date 4,990 adults have attended the Stewards of Children Training. We have achieved a "tipping point" in our community as reflected by the number of organisations seeking SCARS certification for staff, the increased number of reports to the police, criminal charges brought against offenders and steady demand for SCARS trainings and information sessions. This year 1,129 adults received Stewards of Children certificates. I am grateful for the more than 330 hours volunteers gave to ensure that adults in our community hear the vital information shared in the training. A special thank you to Glenda Edwards who has given so much of her time. THANK YOU so much!

Amazing volunteers have seen this year's fundraising efforts achieve record numbers! SCARS was once again chosen by Hamilton Lion's Club to participate in the Annual "Gas-a-Rama" supported by Teceira's Gas Station on North Shore. SCARS was selected as a Bermuda Triple Challenge beneficiary (more than 30 SCARS volunteers come out to support and work at the event). This year's fundraising high point was the Royal Night for SCARS held at Government House in April. The event raised more than $100,000. Thank you to Sandra Christensen and Fran Griffiths who helped organise the event along all the volunteers who worked at the event. Another successful fundraiser held in September was the Kayaking for Kids event due to the efforts of Mike Harden, Nigel Clark, Jerry Rivers, Laura Brown, Simon Arnott, Chris McDowell, Greg Fitzgerald, John Bonvetti, and Chris Conway for kayaking and raising more than $35,000 for SCARS. Long time friend to SCARS, Angelina Tomaz of St Patrick's Church, raised more than $10,000 from a Bingo Night at her Church. From the bottom of my heart I thank everyone who gave of their time, money, and talent to ensure that SCARS continues to offer quality training and awareness at no charge to the community.

As I close out my remarks I want to thank Helen Ponte, Director of Programs & Operations, Danielle Riviere, Project Manager, the SCARS' Board and all of our volunteers, facilitators and donors/contributors. The support you have given me has allowed SCARS to move from a vision to an established organisation which, for the past five years, has educated adults on how to protect our most precious gift, our children.

Sincerely,

Debi Ray-Rivers

Debi Ray-Rivers
Founder and Executive Director, SCARS Bermuda

Highlights of 2016

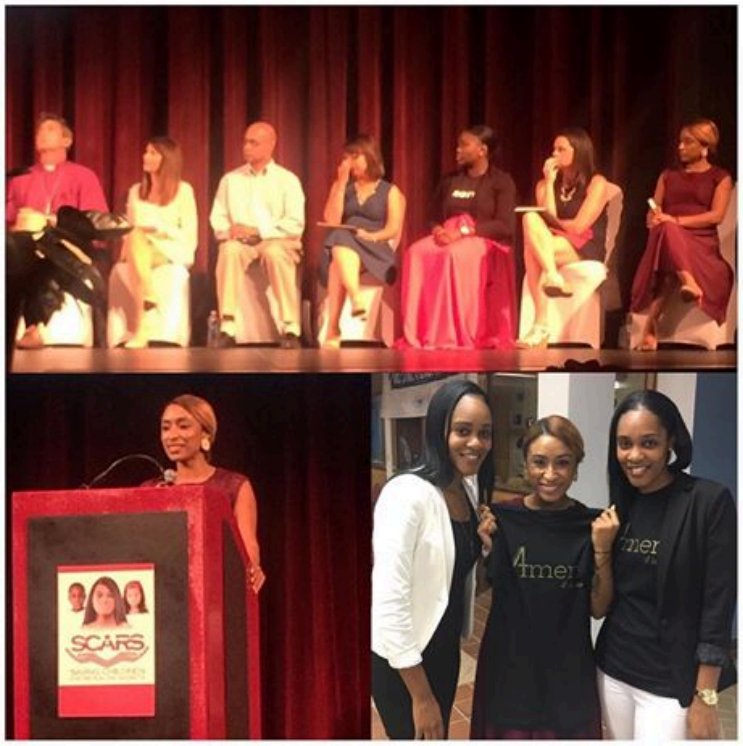
Bermudian's 2016 Best Charity/Community Service Award

SCARS was truly honored and excited to have received this award in the people's & places division.

New Database System – Rajic!

We owe a HUGE thank you to Donte Hunt for sourcing a database system for us and assisting with the set up! Having a database system has saved us countless hours of time as we record training participants, volunteers and participating organisations. With the help of a few volunteers, training participants for the past five years have been entered into Rajic. When inserting the data, we discovered that the number of people trained was actually slightly higher than previously recorded.

A Time to Heal



SCARS supported Praise Theatre Productions who wrote a play called "For My Good' which was performed at City Hall on October 26th, 27th, and 29th. The story included a lead character that was sexually abused by a family member who was also a leader in her church. The play touched upon the impact abuse has on individuals and families as well as the importance of forgiveness and healing. Those affected by sexual abuse can question where was God, lose their faith, or lose hope. Knowing that the play could have an emotional affect on attendees, SCARS organized and hosted an awareness event after the play called "A Time to Heal". Speakers included SCARS Board member, Bishop Nicholas Dill, SCARS Facilitator, Pastor Cyril Millett from The Seventh Day Adventist Conference, LaShonna Smith from the A.M.E. Church, local Psychologists Dr. Tina Arorash & Dr. Alicia Hancock. Rev. Neichelle Guidry from Chicago was the guest speaker. We had musical performances which were enjoyed by the roughly 105 attendees. We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback. A resounding thank you to Butterfield & Vallis for sponsoring the programs for the event.

Highlights of 2016

A Royal Night for SCARS

On April 16th SCARS held its first major fundraising event, "A Royal Night for SCARS". The event was an exclusive 'invitation only' black-tie event held at Government House. The event was designed to build fundraising momentum for SCARS. The night was exciting and included the band 'Night Life', a live auction and an array of items for a silent auction. Miss Bermuda Idol, Samantha Smith, opened the event with a song accompanied by Gilbert Institutes' Choir led by Mr. Terry Henry. The special highlight of the evening was a performance by Rebecca Faulkenberry. The night featured a video highlighting SCARS accomplishments over the last four years and introduced SCAR'S' long term strategic goal of developing a child advocacy centre in Bermuda. We were honoured to have Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones appear on the promotional video as well as former Governor George Fergusson. The event was a remarkable success with 120 attendees and more than $100,000 raised.

Policies and Procedures Manual

As SCARS works towards Bermuda National Standards Certification, we are extremely grateful to the Centre on Philanthropy who connected SCARS with KPMG and their summer internship program. We are very grateful to intern Ciara Rego, who was mentored by Ian Bucci of KPMG, for helping create a Policies and Procedures Manual that provides a foundation for as we move through the certification process.

SCARS Documentary

Bermuda has become a brilliant example of how a community can come together to shine light on a social issue that has for too long been taboo. To capture the impact SCARS has had in the country of Bermuda, we have created a documentary that shares the beautiful way in which the people of Bermuda have come together to protect our children from sexual abuse. The film is titled "SCARS - *A Heart for Children".* We interviewed 27 people including the Director of Child Protective Services, a representative from The Department of Education, a School Principal, a representative from a youth organization, a sporting organization, two members of the Clergy, The Deputy Governor Mrs. Ferson, a Child Advocate Lawyer, survivors, parents of a survivor, donors, and some of the SCARS team. The film is a testament not only to SCARS' development and evolution, but also showcases Bermuda to other communities around the world how, when a community comes together, significant changes can be made to protect children from sexual abuse.

Recognized For Exceptional Service

On December 31st, Founder, Debi Ray-Rivers, and Chairman of the Board, Jon Brunson, were recognised by Buckingham Palace New Year's Honours List for their service and work in the community of Bermuda and received the Queens' Certificate and Badge of Honour.

Training & Awareness

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children

The Darkness to Light Stewards of Children certified prevention training provides practical guidance for preventing and responding to sexual abuse to individuals and organizations entrusted with children. It is the only nationally distributed, 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 2016, SCARS trained 1,129 adults in prevention. With a total of 4,990 adults trained from May 2012 to December 2016, over 10% of our adult population have been trained in 5 short years.

SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education) Program

SCARS' objective is to raise public awareness of child sexual abuse in Bermuda and its devastating effects on both children and their family members. Our intent is to ensure that our SAFE message is presented to all Parent-Teacher Associations, Youth Serving Organizations, Sports Programs, Church Groups and all other organizations that have access to children in our community. SCARS presented our SAFE awareness presentation to 6 schools during the 2016 school year with a total of 303 parents and teachers in attendance.

SCARS Lending Library

SCARS continues to operate a book lending library which provides books to 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. In 2016 SCARS loaned out more than 140 books.

Darkness to Light Community Awareness Prevent Now Presentation!

This initiative helps SCARS to share information with the community in a short, concise and highly powerful method. It has been effective in raising awareness, generating funds and increasing participation in our Stewards of Children training and SAFE programs. This powerful 22 minute documentary takes a poignant look at sexual abuse from the survivor's point of view. The video presentation is followed by a discussion about what our community is doing to prevent sexual abuse and how their organization can help us. In 2016 SCARS made 10 Prevent Now presentations with a total of 284 people in attendance.

Community Awareness Events

- On March 5th we participated in the 2nd Annual Paediatric Health Fair at the Bermuda College Field. We had an information table providing information about the work SCARS is doing in the community and to encourage attendees to sign up for one of our Stewards of Children training sessions.
- We were invited again to participate in the PLP Back to School Fun Day on Saturday, August 20th at Victor Scott Primary School field. SCARS had a table providing information about SCARS, hand out Body Safety rack cards for parents and to encourage parents to sign up for one of our Stewards of Children training sessions. Approximately 150 people attended.
- We were invited once again to participate in the Department of Public Transportation Wellness Day on September 14th. The objective of the event was to provide information that promotes and encourages healthy life style choices with the Ministry of Tourism, Transport & Municipalities employees. It was a wonderful opportunity for participants to learn about SCARS.
- On Wednesday, 28th September 2016, the Department of Health celebrated 'Wellness for Men' by hosting an event in the City Hall car park. SCARS hosted a table and provided participants information on prevention and education.
- SCARS had a table at the Youth Sports Expo on Sunday, October 2nd at the National Sports Centre. The event provided an awesome opportunity for SCARS representatives to visit with all the sporting bodies and provide information on our training and encourage them to sign up their coaches and volunteers to be certified.
- SCARS hosted an information table at the International Day of the Girl event held on October 9th at The National Sport Club. Another great opportunity to spread awareness!

Training and Awareness Summary

In 2016, 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:

SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education) Program

- Bermuda Institute
- Department of Youth & Sport
- Harrington Sound Primary
- West End Primary
- West Pembroke Primary School
- Whitney Middle School

6 Organisations with 303 people

Prevent Now

- Bermuda Realty
- Christ Church Warwick (2 services)
- Corporation of Hamilton
- Salvation Army
- Willis Towers Watson
- XL Catlin
- Youth Net
- Berkeley Institute (2 presentations)

8 Organisations with 284 people

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children

AIG
Anointed Steps Dance Ministry School
Argus
B.U.E.I.
Bermuda Conf. of Seventh Day Adventist
Bermuda Community Education
Bermuda Gymnastics Association
Bermuda Housing Corporation
Bermuda Optimist Dinghy Association
Bermuda Regiment
Bermuda Union of Teachers
Bermuda Zoological Society
Bethel A.M.E. Church
Calvary Gospel Church
Christ Church Warwick
Community Education
Center for Student Advancement
Department of Parks
Department E-Commerce - Cybertips

Training and Awareness Summary

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Continued

Department of Education
Elliot Primary School
Fairwinds
First Baptist Church
Greenrock
Harrington Sound Primary School
Heavenly Blessings Nursery & Preschool
Holy Trinity Church
Impact Mentoring Academy
Kaleidoscope
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.
Little Learners Preschool
Man on a Mission
Masterworks Museum Bermuda Art
Menuhin Foundation
MOED Student Services
MOED Substitute Teacher
Oxford Learning Bermuda
Phenomenal People
Purvis Primary & Port Royal Primary
Radnor Road Christian Fellowship Church
St. Johns Ambulance
Stepping Stones Nursery
The Community Program
The New Testament Church of God
Tomorrow's Voices
Up With People
Warwick Academy Teachers
Warwick Academy Bears Club (Afterschool programme)
West Pembroke PTA
West Pembroke School Trip Chaperones
West Pembroke Teachers
Western Stars Sports Club
XL Catlin employees

In 2016 SCARS reached more than 1,700 people with the important message of how to prevent child sexual abuse!

ADVOCACY

SCARS continues to push for legislative change that will improve the policies, procedures and processes that impact victims and perpetrators.

In January 2016, Board Chair, Jon Brunson, and Executive Director, Debi Ray Rivers, met with Premier Michael Dunkley and his Cabinet to discuss strengthening our laws to better protect our children. They discussed mandatory prevention training for all organizations entrusted with the care of children and the importance of mandated treatment and management for convicted sex offenders.

In September 2016, The Executive Director, Debi Ray-Rivers, met with Bermuda's Chief Justice, Ian Kawaley, to express concerns about children testifying in courtrooms and facing their alleged perpetrators without a screen or the ability for the proceedings to be video conferenced, subsequently causing re-traumatization.

In December 2016, Mr. Michael Weeks spoke at a Parliamentary Conference in London about SCARS and the work we are doing in Bermuda and our advocacy for legislative reform.

SCARS continues to play an active role in ensuring that decision makers keep the issue of child sexual abuse as a priority.

Objectives for 2017

- Continue to educate the community through SCARS' training and awareness programmes with the goal of reaching at least 1600 participants.
- Complete a new Strategic Plan to guide the organisation over the next three years.
- Achieve Bermuda National Standards Certification.
- Research the development of a Child Advocacy Center.

Board of Directors and Staff

Board:

Jon Brunson J.P., Chairman

Nigel Clark

The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill

Glenda Edwards

Dr. S. Glenn Faries

Kelly Hunt

Mark Pettingill J.P., M.P.

Yvette Pierre

Jerry Rivers

Officers & Staff:

Debi Ray Rivers, Executive Director

Helen Ponte, Director of Programs and Operations

Danielle Riviere, Consultant Project Manager

Karen Olson, Treasurer

Lisa Boyles, Corporate Secretary

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

Company Registration #: 45555

Financial Year: January 1 – December 31st

Charitable purpose: The advancement of education