Annual Report
2017

SCARS®

SAVING CHILDREN
AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

Saving Children and Revealing Secrets

Registered Charity # 922

Annual Report for Financial Year January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

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 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.

SCARS' vision is to have a community without child sexual abuse. We are doing everything we can to educate adults and end the pain and shame associated with this issue.

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2017.

This year, we have had a significant achievement by becoming the first country in the world to have reached "Tipping Point" having trained more that 13% of our adult population in Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Program. Tipping Point is described as the moment an idea, trend or social behavior 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. We continue our success of fighting to protect our children from sexual abuse. This means that, in almost seven years we have trained 6,414 adults and in 2017 alone we trained 1,424 adults, an increase of 26% above 2016. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our valued donors, employees, facilitators, and volunteers. They have gifted countless hours of personal time to join our advocacy of child protection. I would also like to thank the SCARS Board Members for their continued wisdom, support and contributions. We have had changes in Board Members and as a result I would like to thank the departing members for the much appreciated service and to those new Board Members I would like to welcome them to the team and look forward to their contributions and working with them going forward.

The changing regulatory environment for charities has introduced Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Anti-Terrorist Financing (ATF) requirements. We have ensured that we comply with those changes and have incorporated a Compliance Officer as a part of our ongoing governance evolution.

During 2017 Bermuda had a General Election which resulted in a change of government. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) under the leadership of now Premier David Burt has reassured the community of its commitment to legislative reform relating to child protection. That said, the PLP have reengaged the Joint Select Committee on Child Protection. We were provided the opportunity to present our position to the new members of that committee and are encouraged by the new government's commitment to amending associated laws, regulations and policies.

There is no doubt that 2017 was another busy yet successful year for SCARS! I would like to thank the community for their support and willingness to change the landscape of child protection making it safer for our children. I would also like to thank our collaborating business partners for their cooperation; support and readiness to work with us to effect the necessary changes in the child safeguard space.

Sincerely,

Chairman, SCARS Bermuda

Executive Directors Report

I wish to express my personal and sincere gratitude to our dedicated board members, our hard working office team, and our treasured volunteer facilitators. Our success would not be possible without them! A sincere thank you also to our corporate and community donors and our entire community for supporting our life-changing work!

SCARS is passionate about making a difference in the lives of children. Our vision is for all children to grow up in a safe environment, free from sexual harm and their innocence protected. When we educate our adults in prevention, we are helping children grow up healthy and whole. This is most certainly at the heart of what we do and why we do it.

Our name, SCARS, is both an acronym for Saving Children And Revealing Secrets, as well as a description of what is left behind after experiencing childhood sexual abuse. Sexual abuse of children in Bermuda is prevalent. In partnership with the Bermuda Health Council a self-reported survey was received by 5,000 adults certified in our Stewards of Children training program with over 700 responses received. (Anything over 450 is statistically significant for the country of Bermuda) The results of the survey revealed that one in three people in Bermuda have been the victim of child sexual abuse before the age of 18. This reinforces what we've discovered from personal interaction with attendees of our training and awareness programs over the years. We've seen their pain, shame, anger and the resulting impact; depression, addictions, guilt, confusion, and broken families.

But there is hope! Through our training programs victims become victors through validation, affirmation, empowerment and healing. The well-being of a child positively affects the health of a community and we have realized that our work in prevention is one of the keys to healing past trauma.

I am proud to say that Bermuda is the 1st country in the world to reach a 'Tipping Point'. We have now trained 13% of our adult population in sexual abuse prevention. And we have done this in 6 years! We have reached a tipping point in Bermuda where protecting children from sexual abuse is becoming the norm.

Finally, I am grateful for the courage of those that take the bold steps of learning the facts, minimizing the opportunity, talking about it, recognizing the signs and reacting responsibly to the issue of child sexual abuse.

Sincerely,

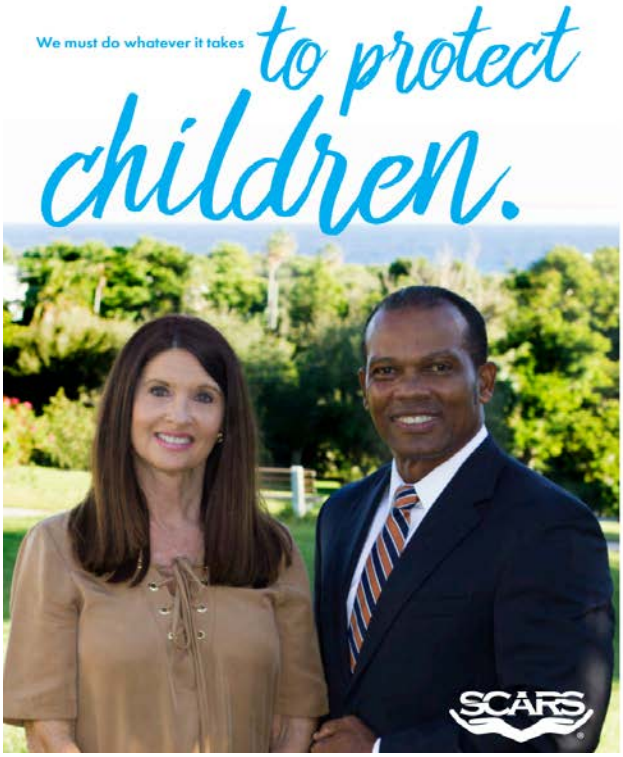
Debi Ray-Rivers

Founder and Executive Director, SCARS Bermuda

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

SCARS RECEIVES TIPPING POINT AWARD

SCARS was featured in the Darkness to Light FY 2017 Impact Report as a result of Bermuda being the first country in the world to train 10% of our adult population in sexual abuse prevention!



SCARS

Saving Children and Revealing Secrets

FIRST COUNTRY TO REACH TIPPING POINT
BERMUDA
SCARS
DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The impact that SCARS (Saving Children and Revealing Secrets) has made across the island of Bermuda can be felt at every turn. From schools who have made SCARS training with Darkness to Light's *Stewards of Children*® mandatory for anyone coming into contact with children, to the dozens of churches that look to SCARS as a resource and partner in protecting children, to the organizations that reach out to provide support to build a safer community for children, SCARS has put the protection of children at the forefront of minds and hearts.

"Bermuda is healing from decades and decades of abuse," says Debi Ray-Rivers, Executive Director. "And our work isn't done yet. We're doing whatever it takes to protect our precious children from abuse."

Over the past six years, SCARS has trained more than 6,000 residents of Bermuda to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to abuse, and it's working. The calendar at the SCARS office is full of trainings scheduled out months in advance, and the organization is constantly fielding requests for more training opportunities.

Bermuda is also setting an example for other island nations in the commitment to protect children. "Bermuda should be very proud because we are the first country in the world to have trained over 10 percent of our adult population in sexual abuse prevention," says Ray-Rivers.

"SCARS is setting the standard for what the community should expect of themselves when it comes to protecting children and child safety," says Darkness to Light President and CEO Katelyn Brewer. "They are showing the world that it can be done."

"Our goal has always been that every adult should receive this training and we're not going to stop until that happens."

With research that suggests one in three residents of Bermuda has been sexually abused before the age of 18, SCARS realizes that prevention is one of the keys to healing past trauma.

"Through the *Stewards of Children*® trainings we're finding more and more adults who have suffered the crime of sexual abuse as children. As the understanding of the issue of child sexual abuse grows, people are feeling more and more supported by a community beginning to comprehend their experiences," said Jon Brunson, SCARS Board Chair.

"Our goal has always been that every adult should receive this training and we're not going to stop until that happens."

BERMUDA IS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO train 10% OF THEIR ADULT POPULATION.

"Bermuda is the first country in the world to have trained 10% of the adult population! This is considered reaching '**Tipping Point'** a measurement Darkness to Light uses based on Malcolm Gladwell's book of the same name. Tipping Point is a theory presented in his book called "How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference".

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 change societal values. A training goal of 5% of the adult population of a given community will create a change in the norm such that child sexual abuse is no longer tolerated.

Highlights of 2017

SCARS RECEIVES TIPPING POINT AWARD

It makes sense to apply the tipping point theory to a community-based child sexual abuse prevention initiative. SCARS is serious and committed to this initiative.

As of December 31, 2017, SCARS has trained **6,414** adults in sexual abuse prevention. **With a population of 50,690 adults, this now represents 13% of our adult population in Bermuda.** The protection of children in Bermuda is gaining traction as a social norm.

Because of SCARS' work in the community, changes are being made to better protect children. Several schools, sporting clubs, churches, clubs, and camps across the island are taking the initiative on their own to become certified in prevention. They are offering the SCARS training to their staff & volunteers, and finding ways to reduce risk by eliminating or reducing isolated one-on-one situations. Organizations are installing windows in their doors, they are working on implementing codes of conduct, they are creating social media policies, travel policies and transportation policies. All of these things help reduce risk and will help keep children in Bermuda safe.

These initiatives are transformative – first for the safety of children, and secondly for the health of the country overall.

Bermuda's residents are to be applauded and celebrated for making the commitment to protect children and future generations of children on our island!

Fundraising Highlights of 2017

Kayaking For Kids

The second annual **Kayaking For Kids** fundraising event took place on September 30th and October 1st. There were 10 brave participants that paddled the forty mile journey, over two days, around the island to raise both money and awareness for SCARS. The event, supported by corporate and individual donors, generated in excess of $58,000. There is growing interest to participate in this challenging yet rewarding event with plenty of room for more individuals to join the paddle in 2018 (Scheduled for September 29th and 30th).

SCARS Celebrates Country Style!

SCARS celebrated their sixth anniversary on October 27, 2017 with a country night fundraiser which was sold out. The evening consisted of live music by the Country Travelers Band, silent and live auctions, dancing, food and beverages. It was great to see everyone dressed for the theme!

For more information on fundraising events, visit the donate section of www.scarsbermuda.com.

Highlights of 2017

SCARS SURVEY ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN BERMUDA

SCARS recently partnered with the Bermuda Health Council to conduct research on child sexual abuse in Bermuda. Research confirms what we discovered during our years of training in Bermuda. Child sexual abuse has been a crisis in Bermuda for many generations, and we now have the data to show just how severe the issue has been.

One in three adults in Bermuda have been the victim of child sexual abuse before the age of 18.

Among victims, only 41% disclosed to anyone, and the majority of those disclosed ***at least*** 25 years following the abuse.

90% of victims identified as female, 10% of victims identified as male*

*Our experience shows that males are less likely to disclose their experiences of child sexual abuse.

SCARS and the Bermuda Health Council will be working together toward publishing the data.

The data was collected by surveying a database of over 5,000 residents of Bermuda who have completed our three-hour Darkness to Light Stewards of Children® child sexual abuse prevention training.

As quoted by Ricky Braithwaite, Director of Health Economics at Bermuda Health Council, "Data collection such as the Health Council's collaboration on a sexual abuse survey with SCARS, represent the investments needed in building an evidence base for combatting social determinants of health. It is a reminder that only 20 percent of health results from health system use, while the larger 80 percent pieces often get overlooked and too often marginalized."

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 2017, SCARS trained 1,424 adults in prevention in 111 training sessions.

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. In 2017, SCARS presented 9 SAFE awareness Programs with 272 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' SAFE awareness message. In 2017, SCARS loaned 147 books during the SAFE Presentations.

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 2017, SCARS made 15 Prevent Now presentations with a total of 823 people in attendance.

Community Awareness Events

- SCARS was invited in April to be one of the presenters at the Youth Empowerment Seminar held at Cedarbridge Academy over 4 sessions. This seminar was designed to touch teenagers in a multifaceted way with the goal of making every teen more aware of the innate abilities and how they can help change their community and world as they know it.
- On April 20th, SCARS was honored to be invited to have a informational table at the Garden Party for the official Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.
- On October 1st, SCARS was invited to host an informational table at The Bermuda Institute of Seventh Day Adventists first annual Health Fair "Health Roots 2017". This event was to shed light and bring awareness on health issues in our community.

Collaboration

- SCARS was invited to have a seat at the table with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders to work on new guidelines and standards for Day Care providers and Day Care Centre's to ensure children are given the best start to life. The standards are also meant to provide support to parents, legal guardians, the Day Care providers and Day Care Centres.

Training and Awareness Summary

In 2017, SCARS has actively met with various Governmental Agencies, Schools, Churches, Sporting organisations, Camps, Clubs 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

- Paget Primary
- Northlands Primary
- Harrington Sound Primary (May & Nov)
- Somerset Primary
- St. George's Prepatory
- Aerie's Adventure Nursery & Preschool
- Bermuda Institute
- Elliot Primary

(9 SAFE Presentations with 272 participants)

PREVENT NOW

- Ascendant Group
- Stevedoring Services Ltd.
- Devonshire Recreation Club
- Attorney General Chambers
- First Church of God
- AME Women's Missionary Conference
- The Kiwani's Club
- Warwick Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Bermuda General Agency (2 Presentations)
- Bermuda Health Council
- Seniors Aqua Club
- AME Mission Conference Young People Division
- Cornerstone Bible Fellowship Church
- Warwick Academy IB 1 & 2 Students

(15 Presentations with 823 participants)

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Training

111 training sessions - 1,424 adults certified

- The Reading Clinic
- Warwick Academy Football Programme
- 16th Cub Scouts
- Nursing Program
- AIG Tutors
- Bermuda Flyers Track Club
- BDA Conf. Seventh Day Adventist - St Georges
- Bermuda Institute Teachers & Staff
- Bermuda Conference Women's Missionary
- Bermuda Sloop Foundation
- ABC Football Club & Coaches
- Open Door Christian Assembly
- Bermuda Conference of Seventh Day Adventists
- Ocean View Golf Club
- Bermuda Optimist Dinghy Association
- University Security Alliance
- Cedarbridge Academy Support Staff
- Hamilton Parish Youth Soccer Program
- St. John's Ambulance
- Bermuda Gymnastics Association
- Child Evangelism Fellowship
- Northlands Primary P.T.A.
- Susanne Ingham
- Bermuda School of Music
- Artex Risk Solutions (Bermuda) Ltd.
- Little Blessings Nursery School
- K. Margaret Carter Centre
- Salvation Army Home League
- Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association
- Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy
- Bermuda Community Education
- First Church of God
- Assoc. National Sports Governing Bodies
- Dalton E. Tucker Primary School
- Destiny Summer Camp & After School Program
- Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute
- Somerset Primary School (all staff)
- Al-Mil Robotics Camp
- Saltus Grammar School
- St. George's Cricket Club
- Apex Physio
- Cornerstone Bible Fellowship
- Solstice
- United Dance Productions
- Aries Sports Centre
- Onion Patch Academy
- Richard Allen AME Church
- In Motion School of Dance
- Cornerstone Bible Fellowship
- Ministry of Education (New Teachers)

SCARS

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children Training (continued)

- Department of Youth, Sport & Recreation
- Bermuda Jump Rope Federation
- Dept. Child & Family Services (Foster Parents)
- Bermuda Customs
- Cub Scouts
- The Governor & Government House Staff
- The Talbot Brother Foundation
- Argus
- Bermuda Union of Teachers
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Agape Faith Church
- Warwick Academy Teachers & Parents
- Teen Services
- Associates in Integrated Health
- Bermuda AME District Conference
- Royal Bermuda Yacht Club
- Planet Math
- ABC Football Club
- Bermuda Musical & Dramatic Society
- Midland Heights SDA Church
- Frydays
- Bermuda Regiment
- Universal Security Alliance
- TLC After-School Program
- YABSTA
- Residential Treatment Care (DCFS)

In 2017 SCARS reached more than 2,519 people with awareness and education on how to protect children from child sexual abuse!

Advocacy

SCARS continues to advocate for legislative change to strengthen laws that will ultimately better protect children in our community.

Objectives for 2018

- Continue to educate the community through SCARS' training and awareness programmes with the goal of reaching at least 1600 participants.

- Assess the feasibility of a Child Advocacy Center.

Board of Directors and Staff

(As at December 31, 2017)

Directors:

Jon Brunson J.P., Chairman

Nigel Clark

Cindy Clarke

The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill

Glenda Edwards

Dr. S. Glenn Faries

Kelly Hunt

Yvette Pierre

Jerry Rivers

Cindy Weeks

Officers & Staff:

Debi Ray Rivers, Executive Director

Helen Ponte, Director of Programs and Operations

Karen Olson, Treasurer

Michelle Furqan Knights, 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