SCARS®

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS

BERMUDA

IMPACT REPORT

2021

10 year

Anniversary

SCARS Impact Report 2021

10TH Anniversary Edition

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SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS

REGISTERED CHARITY # 922

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2021 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

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 advocating to key decision makers to put policies and procedures in place that best protect our children from the crime of child sexual abuse.

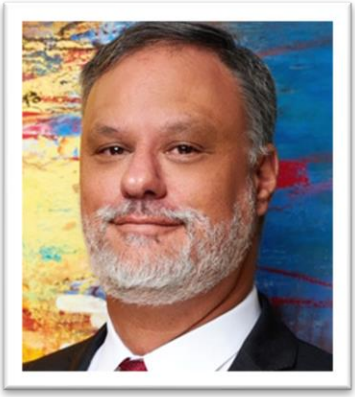
SCARS' intent is to provide information and training to all adults including Parent-Teacher Associations, Youth Serving organisations, Sports Programs, Faith-Based Groups and all other organisations that are entrusted with children in our community.

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 behaviors 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.

CHAIR'S REPORT



I am pleased to state that 2021 was a very good year for SCARS and its mission to educate the Bermuda public on how to protect the children whom are such a vital part of our society.

It was on October 27, 2021, that SCARS celebrated its tenth anniversary of its founding. During the ten years of our existence, over 11,000 adults in Bermuda have received our training in identifying, preventing and responding to the sexual abuse of children. Through our awareness initiatives and programs, we have partnered with adults in Bermuda in providing critical information to achieve our vital mission.

Those individuals, in turn, are now acting as guardians of the children within our community. While much work remains to be done, I am deeply moved that so many people are now taking the threat of abuse to our children seriously.

During the last 10 years there has also been an incredible outpouring of financial support received from individual and corporate donors. The monetary donations that SCARS received has greatly facilitated driving our mission moving forward. We are humbled by such heart-felt generosity and cannot thank our partners enough for their commitment to the protection of children in Bermuda.

Although the Covid-19 Pandemic created many challenges for our society, I am also happy to report that since the first "shelter in place" order was declared in Bermuda on 4 April 2020, SCARS trained 1,892 adults (771 of which were re-trained). This was made possible through the Zoom virtual medium, enabling us to continue offering our training curriculum. Additionally, through Zoom, SCARS is now able to share its message on an international level, which is a cause for excitement within our team.

I also wish to acknowledge the assistance that we have received from our partner association Darkness to Light, which has provided us with the Stewards of Children prevention training curriculum, which has created a shift in attitudes and behaviors around the issue of child sexual abuse. Due to the partnership with Darkness to Light, we are now offering recertification training to all of our local youth serving organizations to ensure that the knowledge previously provided remains current.

In closing, I thank all of our partners again. We cannot carry out our mission without their active participation and are grateful for all of their support. At SCARS we are determined to one day see a Bermuda where children are truly safe and able to achieve their full potential having been protected by the adults around them. It is because of their support that we are moving towards that goal, one adult at a time.

Allan Doughty
Chair, SCARS Bermuda

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Educating adults in prevention is critical to the success of SCARS. As I look back on 2021, I am thankful that with all the protocols and restrictions around COVID we were able to continue educating adults on child protection. A total of 1,220 adults were SCARS certified this past year. In 10 short years of our existence, over 11,000 adults have been educated in prevention with 2,000 adults re-trained.

Preventing children from experiencing sexual abuse is life saving work because the life of a child who experiences sexual abuse can be changed forever.

Research shows that sexual trauma causes great pain and if unaddressed the trauma can continue into adulthood. Many adult victims of child sexual abuse experience addiction, depression and thoughts of suicide. This is what makes our work life saving. Teaching adults how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse provides a child an opportunity to grow up emotionally and physically healthy, have the ability to trust others, and offer them a chance to live out their purpose.

The SCARS training is now mandated by most of our youth serving organizations and many require retraining every three years. As we begin 2022, we are excited about our partnership with the Darkness to Light organization in creating a new recertification curriculum called 'Beyond Stewards' specifically designed for those working with children that have already been SCARS certified. We are beyond proud that the information shared in this new training will include a video incorporating interviews from our very own Bermuda youth leaders, psychologists, clergy, teachers, and survivors and will also be used throughout the Darkness to Light organization around the globe. We are excited to launch the 'Beyond Stewards' recertification in February 2022.

Although prevention education is critical to achieving our mission, equally as important is awareness! Through our various 2021 awareness campaigns which included messaging on local buses, media outlets and social media, we were able to continue communicating the important message of prevention far and wide.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary of **saving children and revealing secrets**, I will not forget that our accomplishments in training 21% of our community in prevention has been achieved because of our corporate and community donors who believe in our work and trust us in using their financial gifts efficiently and effectively to achieve our mission. I also thank our Board of Directors – past and present, along with all of the SCARS facilitators over the past ten years. We could not have done this without them.

To oversee an organization such as this, one must be surrounded and supported by dedicated and loyal individuals who are committed and passionate about the protection of children. I am grateful for our SCARS Board of Directors, who provide individual wisdom, personal time, oversight, and accountability without monetary compensation.

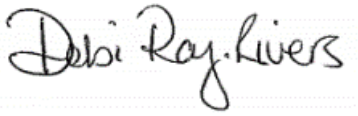
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – CONTINUED

To be successful one must also have a team of hard-working and loyal staff. Since the pandemic, SCARS now consists of a team of two! Myself and Helen Ponte. Helen started with SCARS on day one as my long-time friend offering her assistance for 3 years and at no cost to SCARS. As the charity grew, in 2014 Helen was employed part-time as our Director of Programs. I cannot express enough my gratitude to Helen, who has a huge heart for all children and whose dedication to the work, and steadfast support of me, play a vital role in our success.

We all need hope in this new year! My hopes are that our training continues to be mandated by those organizations who open their doors to children, that we see more youth serving organizations implement best practice codes of conducts and safe policies, and that more parents will sign up for SCARS training, so they are better equipped to protect their child. I look forward to seeing our courtrooms become more child-friendly and all child victims of sexual abuse be represented by a litigation guardian.

I also thank all of the leaders of our private youth serving organizations who have mandated prevention education and implemented best practice safe policies.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge the work of our Government Ministries, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport. Many of the departments within these Ministries have made our SCARS prevention curriculum a requirement, which is a HUGE step in child protection. Not only does this prevent children from being harmed, but it also sends a clear message to other jurisdictions that the Government of Bermuda and its people take child protection seriously.



Executive Director

Founder and Executive Director, SCARS Bermuda

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

SCARS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

OF SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS

Back in 2011 a movement was started. Through family tragedy in 2004, Debi Ray-Rivers discovered that there was a lack of understanding and accountability around the topic of child sexual abuse. As she went through this painful journey, she had a profound appreciation of how dangerous a taboo topic can be without awareness and education on the topic. This traumatic and horrific experience her family endured was the catalyst for her to research sexual abuse prevention education. In 2010, one year before starting SCARS, Mrs. Ray-Rivers discovered an organization in the United States called Darkness to Light (D2L). D2L had an educational program called "Stewards of Children". It was an evidence-based program that taught adults how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. A facilitator workshop was being held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA and she was compelled to attend. After obtaining her certification through D2L, she was passionate and confident that this educational program was a necessity for Bermuda.

Her mission became her passion and with the support of her husband Jerry, her daughters, Brittany & Christy, her childhood friend, Jon Brunson and many other family and friends, SCARS was created and approved as a Bermuda registered charity on October 27, 2011.

The objective of SCARS was to save children from sexual abuse through targeted training on prevention, with a focus on parents and organizations that were responsible for children. The goal was to get every adult in Bermuda trained to protect the country's most precious resource, children. In order to fulfill this commitment and through the generosity of corporate and community donors the training was offered free of charge to ensure everyone received this important prevention educational tool. With a small staff, and a diverse group of volunteer Facilitators, and a dedicated Board of Directors and Officers, SCARS has become one of the most respected and recognized charities in Bermuda. Child sexual abuse scars children. As a voice for children, and through collaboration with other like-minded organizations, SCARS has also advocated for legislators to strengthen laws to protect children and hold perpetrators accountable for the damage they cause. Much has changed since SCARS' inception 10 years ago. The walls of shame surrounding sexual abuse are being dismantled. Bermuda's population now have a better understanding about the trauma of child sexual abuse and strategies to minimize its occurrence.

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SCARS Celebrates 10 Years – Cont'd

As SCARS celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, we can see that our prevention work over the past decade has changed the landscape of child protection in our community. Since May 2012, when we began delivering the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children training program, we have educated over 11,000 adults in prevention. By educating over 20% of our adult population in sexual abuse prevention, the protection of children is now the social norm in Bermuda. That is impact!

The following list of accomplishments have been achieved through SCARS' education and awareness programs:

- More parents are talking to their children about body safety earlier and often
- Every public and a majority of private schools now mandate SCARS' prevention training for their teachers and staff. Many are requiring retraining every three years
- SCARS certification is now required for those working and volunteering at many of our youth serving organizations. An example of this is that the SCARS training is now a requirement by the Government of Bermuda Department of Health to open a Daycare Centre and a requirement with the Bermuda Football Association to obtain a license to coach
- SCARS training is one of the 'training checklists' for approval for Out-of-School Camps through The Government of Bermuda Dept. of Youth, Sport and Recreation
- Youth serving organizations responsible for the caretaking of children are scanning environments for potential risk and implementing Best Practice Codes of Conduct and Child Safe Policies
- Reporting has increased! The Department of Public Prosecution confirm that the SCARS movement has played a large role in that increase
- Child protection laws are strengthening
- SCARS is one of the most recognized brands in Bermuda

Some other milestones and accomplishments that SCARS has achieved over the past ten years include:

- Created SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education). SAFE is a one-hour awareness presentation given to PTA groups and parents
- Received BNSC Certification and Recertification
- SCARS received Tipping Point Award in 2017. Bermuda was the first country in the world to train 10% of its adult population in the prevention of child sexual abuse. Malcolm Gladwell coined the phrase in his book "How Little Things can Make a Big Difference", citing that if 5% of the population change their behavior, it can create a cultural shift.
- In 2019 SCARS was recognized by the Department of Education for exceptional service in the areas of awareness programs, prevention training and information resources for the prevention of child abuse
- Bus Operator applicants are now asked to include their SCARS certificate with their application
- SCARS has received the Best of Bermuda Award for outstanding service in the Charity/Community Service Organization category in 2016 and 2019
- Created a documentary called "A Heart for Children" which was developed with the intent to share with other jurisdictions. Click here to watch the film A Heart for Children.
- In partnership with Darkness to Light, developed a 2-hour recertification training program for those youth service organizations who are already SCARS certified

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

SCARS INTRODUCES NEW 10TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO

SCARS celebrated a milestone in 2021, our 10th Anniversary of Saving Children and Revealing Secrets. It was only fitting that we honour this landmark with a revised logo to highlight our endurance and long-standing commitment to protecting children in our community.

We recently updated our logo adding "Bermuda" as we still have a long-term view of expanding SCARS into other jurisdictions around the world who are also in need of prevention education.

We are very proud of our sustainability and wanted to recognize this through our new logo.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

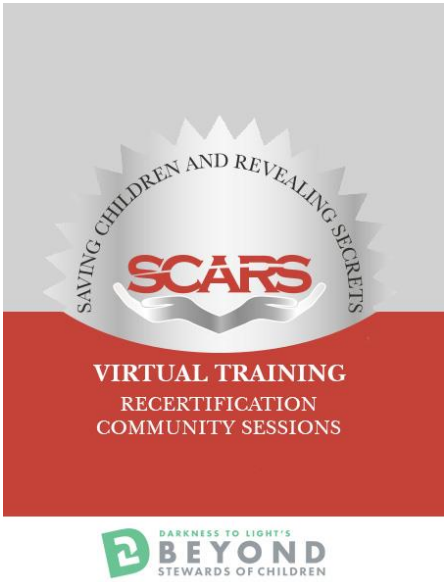
SCARS REVAMPS WEBSITE

SCARS has been adapting and changing with the times. Our website has been revamped; giving it a fresher and more user-friendly experience. We are grateful to SJD World and Stephan Johnstone for creating the new design of our website.

We created new quick links to some of the more important items on our website which make it user-friendly and easier to find key areas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

SCARS DEVELOPS "BEYOND STEWARDS" RECERTIFICATION PREVENTION TRAINING WITH DARKNESS TO LIGHT



SCARS has partnered with the Darkness to Light organization to create a 2-hour Stewards of Children recertification training program for those adults who have already been SCARS trained. With so many youth serving organizations requiring prevention training every three years for their staff and volunteers, it made sense to create a new version for those already SCARS certified.

In 2021 the recertification prevention training curriculum was developed in collaboration with Darkness to Light. This recertification program will be two hours in length and integrate knowledge checks, interactive activities, videos, best practice checklists on how to effect compliance, pocket guide for safeguarding for staff/volunteers/visitors, etc.

The outcomes from the 2-hour recertification course is that participants will be able to identify and recall foundational information about child sexual abuse, identify and apply strategies that encourage compliance to prevention, articulate behavior policies for children and parents, identify examples of boundary violations and apply techniques to address those violations. It also includes information about the impact of taking risks as a youth serving organization leader, identifying potential sexual abuse signs, red flags, and grooming techniques and apply the appropriate preventative measures. It also covers bystander intervention techniques, empowerment skills and steps to create a prevention-oriented community, articulating steps in reporting suspected abuse and to identify how to build a community of support.

We are proud that our very own Bermuda youth leaders, including teachers, clergy, psychologists, and survivors participated in the making of the videos for the new training, and in October 2021 the "Beyond Stewards" prevention training was completed. Our first recertification training session will be held in February 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

SCARS SAFE PROGRAM GOES VIRTUAL

SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education) Program's 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.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 having such an impact on the school system, SCARS was not been able to promote in-person awareness sessions.

As SCARS has learned to pivot and adapt in this climate of COVID, Helen Ponte and Debi Ray-Rivers created a virtual version of the SAFE Program. On February 23rd the first virtual program was presented to a PTA group.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

6TH ANNUAL KAYAKING FOR KIDS

One of SCARS most successful fundraiser is the annual Kayaking for Kids (K4K) which was started by Jerry Rivers in 2017. This year, along with Chris Conway, they accomplished the most successful kayaking fundraiser yet.

Over the two-day Kayaks for Kids event, fifteen kayakers, two paddleboarders and one rower navigated the 40-mile course.

The event started on Saturday, September 25th in the morning at Somerset Long Bay Park and ended at 4 pm on Sunday, September 26th at Clearwater Beach in St George's.

Support boats and jet skis were deployed to shadow participants – and hand out drinks and snacks along the route.

The event raised $87,500 through 18 corporate sponsors and another $71,700 by individual participants for a record total of almost $160,000!

Corporate sponsors included:

Gold sponsors: Willis Re and Fidelis

Silver sponsors: Appleby, Allied World, AON, Everest Re, Chubb, Conyers, Liberty Mutual Insurance, OIL/OCIL, Validus Re, and RenaissanceRe

Bronze sponsors: Ark Insurance, Lancashire, AXA XL, Aeolus, TigerRisk Partners and Guy Carpenter

RAISING FUNDS FOR SCARS

In addition to the hugely successful event Kayak For Kids, SCARS also benefited from the following fundraising events held in Bermuda with SCARS as the recipient:

Harrington Sound School – A school with a BIG heart

The Harrington Sound Primary School recently paid tribute to SCARS. This event saw students and staff from P1 - 6 have an opportunity to participate in this fundraising initiative for SCARS.

The Wacky Poetry and Dress Down Day, saw students and staff alike, donating to this worthy cause, while enjoying a day of writing and reciting poems, dressed in their wacky attire.

Principal Weeks, who also wrote a poem of self-reflection for the day, shared, “It was a fun-filled day, ever fitting of the mission of SCARS and we were absolutely thrilled to show our gratitude in a tangible way, to such a hard working, child-centered organization. This is Child Abuse Prevention Month and SCARS gives a voice to the voiceless and aids the most vulnerable among us, by ensuring the safety and protection of children in Bermuda. The Harrington Sound Primary School salutes this organization for its bravery, selflessness and unwavering stand in helping to eradicate child sexual abuse in this country.”

RAISING FUNDS FOR SCARS, CONT'D

PAR 5 FALLEN HEROES GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Par 5 Fallen Heroes Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, June 20th at Port Royal Golf Club. SCARS was selected as the charity of choice to receive money raised at the event. The tournament raised $5,000 which was presented to SCARS. It was also a wonderful opportunity for awareness as the SCARS banner was placed at the road entrance of Port Royal Golf Club. Thank you Par 5 Fallen Heroes for being a champion for our cause.

RAISING FUNDS FOR SCARS, CONT'D

RUBIS ENERGY LIMITED CALENDAR DRIVE

In November Rubis Limited held a promotion selling calendars in support of nine local charities considered "Heroes in the Pandemic". SCARS was chosen as one of the charities to benefit.

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STRAWBERRIES FOR SCARS

In December, Karen Plianthos sold her strawberry plants to raise money for SCARS. 25% of the proceeds were donated to SCARS. It's private citizens doing small things like this that make a big difference. Thank you, Karen!

SCARS IN THE NEWS

The Royal Gazette

Man admits touching 12-year-old girl

Published February 11, 2021

A 24-year-old Devonshire man was remanded in custody yesterday after he admitted repeatedly sexually exploiting a 12-year-old girl. Shundray Gilbert pleaded guilty in Magistrates' Court to three counts of touching the pre-teen for a sexual purpose while in a position of trust.

A spokeswoman for Saving Children and Revealing Secrets, a charity dedicated to protecting children from abuse, applauded the victim and her parents for bringing the case to the police. She said: "Scars is incredibly proud of the child for revealing, because most victims don't tell. We are also very grateful to her parents for reacting responsibly."
For the full article go to Man admits touching 12-year old girl

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Zoom talk about child sex abuse

Published February 12, 2021

Parents and teachers have been invited to join an international online talk about child sex abuse tonight. The Zoom discussion is also open to other members of the public, including police and anyone who works with children.

Debi Ray-Rivers, the founder and executive director of Saving Children and Revealing Secrets, a child sex abuse prevention charity, will also take part in the discussion.
For the full article go to Zoom talk about child sex abuse

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Dad who lost family in air disaster thanks Bermuda with charity donations.

Published March 10, 2021

SCARS was one of the charities to benefit from donation provided by Boeing as compensation for the fateful crash that took place on an Ethopian Airlines flight on the Max 737 which was later found to have failures in the design of control mechanisms causing the tragic accident. Paul Njoroge, who worked at the Bank of Butterfield, teamed up with Jumuiya Ya Afrika, a charity set up to promote African culture and heritage in Bermuda, to organise the gift of $223,000 apiece to anti-child abuse organisation Saving Children, Revealing Secrets and Family Centre.
For the full article go to Dad who lost family

SCARS IN THE NEWS CONT'D

Work to tackle child abuse and sexual assault praised

Published April 29, 2021

The hard work of local organizations fighting against child abuse and sexual assault was today hailed by the Women of the One Bermuda Alliance. Nicky Gurret, chair of the OBA Women's Caucus, praised the dedication of frontline organizations including SCARS, the Centre Against Abuse and the Women's Resource Centre as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month – both celebrated in April. She said that SCARS has worked hard to create advocates for the victims of child sexual abuse and tackle social problems at their source.
For the full article go to Work to tackle child abuse

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Paddle power raises $160,000 for prevention of child sex abuse

Published September 27, 2021

Kayaks, paddleboarders and a rower completed a marathon circuit of the island to raise almost $160,000 for a charity focused on the prevention of child sex abuse. The money will be used to help fund free training for adults by Saving Children And Revealing Secrets (SCARS).

The event, organized by Jerry Rivers, a SCARS board member and Debi Ray-Rivers' husband, raised $87,500 through 18 corporate sponsors. The individual participants raised another $71,700 over the weekend.

For the full article go to Paddle power raises $160,000

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BER NEWS 24/7 News

SCARS On Protecting Children During Holidays

Published November 24, 2021

Saving Children and Revealing Secrets [SCARS] is reminding the public to make sure that children are protected and free from harm this holiday season, and provided a series of advisory images.
For the full article go to SCARS on Protecting Children

ADVOCACY

LEGISLATION REFORM

SCARS advocates to the Attorney General, The Honorable Kathy Lynn Simmons JP MP, with ongoing requests for strengthened legislation in child protection. Below are requests made in 2021.

- Every youth serving organization who opens their doors to children (for example - schools, camps, clubs, Faith-Based centres, and sporting organizations), should be required to vet those they hire, to by conducting a background check and be required to check the Child Abuse Registry of all employees and volunteers before hiring? This provides an extra layer of due diligence as not every convicted and released child sex offender will appear on a sex offender list. (Names were expunged off that list pre–AG Honorable Kathy Lynn Simmons JP MP)
- All Home School providers must be licensed and regulated and perhaps fall under the Department of Education or The Department of Health with respect to oversight, policies, and procedures requirements.
- To ensure the safety of children, consider all Camps and Clubs be regulated through the Department of Health or Department of Education. (The Department of Health are doing an incredible job with Nursery Schools, Home Care and Day Care Providers).
- Are there specific and designated protected area zones which convicted, released, and deemed dangerous child sex offenders are restricted / prohibited from attending? If so, would you be able to share what they are? For example, can a dangerous released child sex offender be allowed in the Bermuda Youth Library, public parks, playgrounds, school areas etc.? Is it within a certain amount of feet?

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A commitment was made in the 2020 Throne Speech that the Child Care Placement Board will be replaced with a Children's Commission, whose remit will be to advocate for the children in care, promoting best practice policy, programs, and service responses to meet their needs. This will require an amendment to the Children Act 1998.

As such, In June 2021, The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Social Development and Seniors, asked if stakeholders, including SCARS, would consider making a submission to the Ministry on what SCARS believes the remit, principal aim, functions, and powers of a Children's Commission for Bermuda should be. On July 6th the following SCARS' recommendations were submitted. "In the eyes of SCARS, A Children's Commission remit should be to promote the rights of children and to advocate for best practice policies and decisions that will ensure that every child has an opportunity to grow up healthy and whole. The commission should consist of a group of caring individuals, representing authoritative agencies whose duty is to be the voice for the voiceless and the power for the powerless. Trusted individuals chosen to advocate, protect, intercede, support, guide, and promote healing. It can be described as a team of advocates and experts; including private, social, and governmental agencies lead by someone skilled in law and child development (independent of Government)". SCARS applauds Minister Tinee Furbert and her Ministry for her leadership and passion for wanting the best for the children of Bermuda.

COLLABORATION

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE DISCUSSION ABOUT CHILD SEX ABUSE

Debi Ray-Rivers was a special guest on a webinar hosted by child protection organizations in the Bahamas to discuss how SCARS has been able to successfully train 20% of it's adult population in the prevention of child sexual abuse and the positive impact it has made in Bermuda.

This was an important message for other jurisdictions to know that it can be done, and SCARS was grateful for the invitation to share what Bermuda has been able to achieve when it comes to reducing child sexual abuse in our community. It is important that every country respond to child sexual abuse from the lens of the victims to create a survivor supportive culture.

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SCARS
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Wednesday June 2nd 8pm-10pm
Debi Ray-Rivers of SCARS
Alongside Lisa James - Social Justice Advocate
Will Be On Magic 102.7
'ON ALL FRONTS'
With Dr. Lew Simmons
As Part Of A Collaborative Campaign On
Child Sexual Abuse.

Protect Their Childhood.
Protect Their Future.

The Coalition for the Protection of Children
MAGIC 102.7FM
Family Centre
Where Children Come First

In 2021, an awareness campaign lead by Creative Director Hafid James called "Protect their Childhood. Protect their Future" was created. SCARS was invited to collaborate with the Family Centre and the Coalition for the Protection of Children in this important campaign.

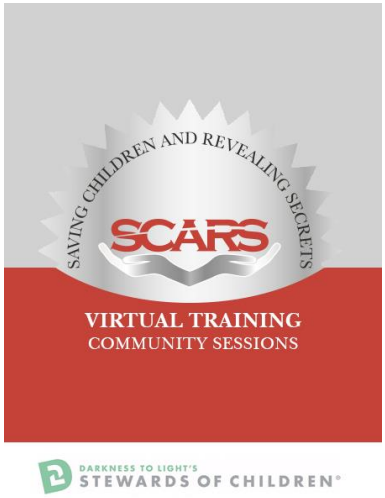
In June, SCARS, Family Centre and The Coalition were invited on radio shows Magic 102.7 and Vibe 103.3 to discuss the media awareness campaign "Protect their Childhood; Protect their Future".

The three charities helped spread the importance of child protection and the impact it can have when children are not protected. We shared information with the audience on our missions and services provided to our community.

TRAINING & AWARENESS

TRAINING

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 organizational policies and procedures and an individual commitment to action through a personal prevention plan.

The Stewards of Children training that SCARS conducts, has become mandatory training for many youth serving organizations and government agencies across the island. This includes public school teachers and staff with the Department of Education, most private schools, anyone working with children in the Catholic Diocese, Seventh Day Adventists, and other faith-based organizations. The Department of Health and Environmental Health have made it mandatory for all nursery schools, home and daycare providers to be SCARS certified in order to obtain their license and operate. In order to obtain a license to be a coach with the Bermuda Football Association, SCARS certification is required.

This program is now being conducted virtually using the Zoom platform.

In 2021, 1,220 adults were certified or re-certified in Bermuda in the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children training.

AWARENESS

SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education) PROGRAM

As noted previously, the SAFE Program has been converted to a virtual program. On the evening of February 23rd, the first virtual SAFE presentation was made to Northlands Primary with 40 members of their PTA in attendance. Since then, there was very little demand from PTA groups for the SAFE Program with the uncertainty created in the schools with the COVID virus.

Prevent NOW COMMUNITY AWARENESS PRESENTATION

There have been no requests for a Prevent Now presentation in 2021. This may have something to do with COVID or the fact that SCARS is now a household name and most organizations in our community understand our mission and what we do.

AWARENESS CONT'D

MEDIA AWARENESS

April was National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The following media awareness initiatives were carried out throughout the month of April.

- Radio ads making it known that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the importance of child protection
- Facebook Frame Initiative – almost 100 people added the SCARS Frame to their Facebook Profile picture
- "Paint for Prevention" – A family Fun Event to be held on Saturday, April 24th through Zoom
- "Revealing your Secret" campaign – A social media initiative
- Weekly posts made on our Facebook and Instagram pages regarding child protection, awareness and prevention

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On May 25th, SCARS was invited to participate as a guest on the "Daily Hour", which is Bermuda's daily talk show that airs live on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and the Bermudian cable Channel 82. Debi Ray-Rivers discussed the work and the importance of SCARS education during a Pandemic.

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An awareness campaign led by a member of the community and a creative director, Hafid James, called "Protect their Childhood; Protect their Future", provided SCARS with an opportunity on **June 2nd to be a guest on Magic 102.7 Radio Show** with Dr. Llewellyn Simmons, "On all Fronts", to discuss the campaign. We were able to share with the audience the mission of SCARS, and the importance of prevention education and awareness.

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SCARS was invited to send videos from "A Heart for Children" to Channel 82 to air randomly at different times during the day and night which resulted in greater awareness of our important mission.

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The Royal Gazette did a story on the Kayak for Kids (K4K) Fundraiser which was featured on the front page of the Royal Gazette on September 27th, which provided great community awareness.

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SCARS was invited to participate on CITV (The Government run station) on October 27th on the show "Health & Family" with Dawn Burgess to discuss our mission, our programs, and the issue of child sexual abuse.

AWARENESS CONT'D

MEDIA AWARENESS

During the month of December, SCARS ran a series of 4 ads on Bernews and on our social media sites which highlighted the importance of child protection over the holidays. These ads ran all through the month of December. This was a great opportunity for awareness and to promote child protection.

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To celebrate its 10th Anniversary, SCARS showed their gratitude to the community by publicly thanking them for helping us accomplish our mission to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse in our community. Throughout the month of October, SCARS ran a video on radio, social media outlets, Utube, BerNews, & RG, and CITV.

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As part of an awareness campaign in 2021, messages were placed on the back of our local buses expressing that safe & protected children grow into healthy and happy adults; and the best way to achieve this is through awareness and training.

TRAINING & AWARENESS SUMMARY

Below is a summary of our training and awareness program activities and the impact they had in 2021. The numbers were up from 2021 as people became more familiar with virtual training as well as many youth serving organizations requiring recertification for their employees and volunteers.

DARKNESS TO LIGHT 'STEWARDS OF CHILDREN'

- ❑ 83 training sessions (all via zoom)
- ❑ 661 adults trained & certified
- ❑ 559 re-certified
- ❑ Total trained in 2021 - 1,220
- ❑ Increase of over 11% from 2020

As of the end of 2021 SCARS has educated 11,000 adults in child sexual abuse prevention, which represents approximately 21% of Bermuda's adult population*; the highest of any country in the world.

DARKNESS TO LIGHT 'PREVENT NOW'

Due to COVID-19, we did not present any Prevent Now sessions in 2021.

SAFE (SCARS Arms Families through Education) PTA Presentation

Due to COVID-19 we were only invited to make one virtual SAFE presentation in 2021, which was to Northlands Primary School.

**Based on approximate adult population of 53,000*

DARKNESS TO LIGHT "STEWARDS OF CHILDREN"

In 2021, 1,220 adults were certified or re-certified in Bermuda; including members of the following 149 organizations:

- 22nd Cub Scouts
- Adventureland Nursery and Preschool
- Aerie's Adventures Nursery & Preschool
- AMBIT
- BE Solar
- Beeline Transport Ltd.
- Benedict Associates
- Berkeley Institute
- Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo
- Bermuda Centre for Creative Learning
- Bermuda College (EMT Programme)
- Bermuda College / Nursing Program
- Bermuda Conference of Seventh Day Adventist
- Bermuda Diabetes Association
- Bermuda Fencing Federation
- Bermuda Football Association
- Bermuda Gaelic Athletic Association
- Bermuda Gymnastics Association
- Bermuda High School Staff
- Bermuda Hustle Truck
- Bermuda Institute
- Bermuda Island Tours
- Bermuda Massage Therapy Association
- Bermuda Motorcross Club
- Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association
- Bermuda National Gallery
- Bermuda Netball Association
- Bermuda Olympic Association
- Bermuda Police Service
- Bermuda Police Service Reserve
- Bermuda Sanshou Association
- Bermuda Zoological Society
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Bloomfield Nursery School
- Boys 2 Men
- Bright Beginnings Nursery School
- BSMART Foundation
- Camp Mickey
- Candi Apples Summer Day Camp
- CedarBridge Academy
- Champion Taekwondo
- Child Care Regulation Programme
- Click Errands
- Convex Re Limited
- Coral Beach Tennis Camp
- Creative Touch Home Preschool
- Dellwood Middle School
- Department of Education, Student Services
- Department of Health – Oral Health Services
- Department of Health Daycare / Homecare Provider
- Department of Health – Occupational Therapy
- Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation
- Dept. of Child & Family Services – Residential Treatment Services
- Devonshire Colts
- Devonshire Preschool
- Dollhouse Home Care
- Dolphins Swim Team
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)
- Endeavor Community Sailing
- Everest Reinsurance (Bda) Ltd.
- Extreme Academy
- Family Centre
- First Friends Nursery
- Flying Start Nursery
- Francis Patton Primary
- Fresh Breath Dental

Darkness to Light Stewards of Children (continued)

- Future Leaders
- Girls & Ladies
- Guy Carpenter
- Gwen's Wonderland Nursery School
- Happy Valley Child Care Center
- Harrington Sound Primary Parents
- Health Care Solutions
- Heron Bay Primary School
- HSCM Bermuda
- Inner Beauty Kids Spa Camp
- Island Employment Partners Ltd.
- J.A.G. Athletics
- Little Ele's Babysitting
- Little Learners Preschool
- Little Scholars Academy
- Magistrates Court
- Marvelous Morals
- Mini Mega Transport Services
- Ministry of Education
- Mirrors Programme
- MOED
- Money Wise Academy
- Mount Saint Agnes Academy (Board of Gov.)
- Nanny/Child Care
- Nell's Children Services
- Nexus Bermuda
- Nonna's Kitchen
- North Village Community Centre
- Once Upon A Time Nursery School
- Onion Patch Academy
- Open Your Heart Foundation
- Pembroke Hamilton Club (PHC) Zebras
- Perform to Learn
- Play with a Purpose Nursery School
- Port Royal Primary
- Prospect Primary School
- Quality Gymnastics
- R.J. Camps
- Raleigh International Bermuda
- Restoration Children's Ministry
- Saltus Grammar School Staff
- Sandys Secondary Middle School
- Sandys Sprouts Nursery & Preschool
- Seasons Learning Center
- Security Associates
- Solstice
- Somersfield Academy
- Southampton Preschool
- Special Olympics
- St. George's Preschool
- St. John Ambulance
- St. Luke's AME Church
- St. Mark's Church
- Star Dive Camp
- Sui Generis Dance Studio
- SunBeam Nursery
- Synergy Music Therapy and Wellness Services
- Teacher's Pet Nursery School
- The Alliance Francaise
- The Family Centre
- The Garden Daycare Centre
- The Menuhin Foundation
- The Ministry of Education Gym Teachers
- The Reading Clinic
- The Sloop Foundation
- The Yellow House Nursery
- Tomorrow's Voices
- Tree Tops II Preschool
- Universal Security Alliance Ltd.
- Urban Construction Services
- USAIL Bermuda
- Vasco Youth Program
- Venture Theatre Drama Summer Intensive
- Victor School Primary School
- Victor Scott Preschool
- Warwick Academy Staff
- Warwick Preschool
- We Blead Bermuda
- WeSpeak
- X-Roads Warriors
- X-treme Kidz Camp
- Zita's Daycare

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

The objectives of SCARS during 2022 include the following:

- Continue to advance our mission to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse and be an advocate and voice for children who have been sexually abused as well as their affected family.
- Continue to advocate that parents and individuals who care for children, and the adults who work/volunteer in youth serving organizations, become SCARS certified.
- Continue to advocate for mandated legislation that requires ALL youth organizations to implement a Best Practice Code of Conduct and conduct background checks for their employees and volunteers working with youth.
- Delivery of the Darkness to Light 'Beyond Stewards' Recertification training created in 2021.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

Directors:

Allan Doughty, Chair
Cindy Clarke, Director
Chris Conway, Director
Terry Cox, Director
The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill, Director
Dr. S. Glenn Faries, Director
Dr. Alicia M. Hancock, Director
Gideon M. Kigotho, Director
Jerry Rivers, Director

Officers:

Karen Olson, Treasurer
Michelle Furqan Knights, Corporate Secretary

Staff:

Debi Ray-Rivers, Executive Director (Ex-Officio)
Helen Ponte, Director of Programs and Operations

New Additions

SCARS has been very blessed to have Jessica Lewis come on board as our Social Media Coordinator on a volunteer basis. SCARS is very grateful that Jessica has been able to find time in her busy schedule competing internationally Wheelchair Track Racing.

Jessica Lewis was born in Bermuda and attended BHS and Saltus. For post-secondary education she attended Brock University where she graduated in 2018 with an honors bachelor's degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies with a concentration on Therapeutic Recreation.

Organisation Details

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

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