SCARS®

SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS

BERMUDA

2023 IMPACT REPORT

CONTENTS

- SCARS Guiding Principles
- Chair's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Highlights of 2023
  - SCARS celebrates 12 years in Bermuda
  - Highlighting the impact SCARS has made
- Fundraising Highlights of 2023
- Raising Funds for SCARS
- SCARS In The News
- Training and Awareness
- Objectives for 2024
- Board of Directors and Staff
- SCARS Corporate Donors
- Organizational Details

SCARS (Saving Children and Revealing Secrets)
Registered Charity # 922
Annual Impact Report: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

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

SCARS' intent is to provide awareness information and prevention education to all adults including, caregivers, parents, guardians, youth-serving organizations including schools, sports programs, faith-based groups, camps, clubs and all other individuals and organizations that are entrusted with children in our community.

SCARS' focus is to stop sexual abuse before it happens and provide a list of resources for support when it does happen. Prevention is key because by the time child protective services, police, or a therapist gets involved, the molestation 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.

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

FROM THE CHAIR
Allan Doughty

Once again it is my privilege to write to you all and provide an update on the outstanding work that SCARS performed in Bermuda in 2023. Last year was truly exceptional for SCARS as can be seen through the actions it took in raising awareness for what is truly required to protect our children from sexual predators. As in previous years, Debi, and Helen, who serve as our staff, have continued SCARS' mission of training and certifying adults in our community to arm them with tools so that the children of Bermuda are kept safe. An updated training programme, developed by Darkness to Light® is now in effect, as of 1 January 2024, which further enhances the quality of the education that SCARS provides to the Bermudian public.

As you may have noticed, throughout 2023, SCARS engaged in an awareness initiatives, which were designed to underscore the terrible consequences that child sexual abuse inflicts on its survivors. The purpose of these campaigns are to reinforce that child sexual abuse is evil and it is the responsibility of Bermuda's adults to protect all our children from such vile acts. In furthering that drive, SCARS:

- Posted its "Because I am a Child" window graphics on the back of busses operated by its community partner, the Public Transportation Board;

- Produced local television programming entitled *Survivor Hour* that highlighted the lingering damage that is caused by child sexual abuse, while honoring the courage of survivors who are recovering from their trauma;

- Remained active in television, print and social media by providing active comment and opinion on court cases regarding those convicted of child sexual abuse;

- Continued to be a voice and an advocate for children and for survivors of child sexual abuse, along with their affected families;

- Continued to encourage victims of child sexual abuse, and their families, to report what was done to them to law enforcement and the Department of Child and Family Services;

- Saw its Executive Director, Ms. Debi Ray-Rivers, recognized by the Peace and Social Justice Ministry, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, in Bermuda, for the outstanding acts of service that she has provided to protect the children of Bermuda.

I cannot express how proud I am of Debi and Helen who made 2023 such an effective year for SCARS. What the staff have accomplished was driven by their love for the children of this Island. I am amazed by the effect that Debi and Helen have had in protecting and serving the children of Bermuda. SCARS was founded on the belief that it is through education and knowledge that we, as a country, will break the curse of child sexual abuse. That is the mission that SCARS will continue to carry out through 2024 and into the future.

In addition to the above, I also wish to thank all our board members who regularly donate their time to ensure that SCARS is governed in a responsible and efficient manner so that our staff can continue to serve our community.

Finally, I must give my deepest thanks to all of you for supporting our vision. While Debi and Helen deserve credit for their numerous accomplishments, it is only with your support that they can continue to carry out their vital work.

Allan Doughty
Chairman, SCARS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FROM THE FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debi Ray-Rivers

I cannot express how wonderful it feels to end our twelfth year of saving children and revealing secrets with an acknowledgement that SCARS has created social change in our community. In October, The Peace and Social Justice Ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton awarded me with their Peace and Social Justice Award for working tirelessly creating safety and bringing about justice for children victimized by child sexual abuse. To be recognized publicly by a religious institution is quite amazing. What we must keep at the forefront of our minds is that child sexual abuse can occur in any church and no denomination is exempt. Child sexual abuse does not discriminate based on religious institutions. It is the people in those institutions that choose to protect children. It's the leadership in those institutions that either do the right thing and react responsibly to disclosures or do the wrong thing and deny, minimize or cover it up.

18 years ago, I found out that my children were sexually abused by a trusted family member. When I began the process of reporting their abuse, the response my family received 18 years ago, beginning with my own church (No, I'm not Catholic), would not be handled the same way today. The response I received from Bermuda's child safeguarding agency when I reported it over 18 years ago, would also be handled differently today. Prior to SCARS, and in 2006, the prison system allowed the convicted sex offender of my children to attend a community event where there were children (including mine). Serving a sentence of 16 months, he was allowed to attend this community event after less than three months of being incarcerated. I don't imagine that would happen today either. Why? Because prevention education and awareness has created a social change in Bermuda. Today, there is more understanding, compassion, support and processes in place to minimize further traumatizing child victims.

So much has positively changed since SCARS' inception 12 years ago. Protecting and reacting responsibly to an issue like the sexual abuse of children has positively affected thousands in our country. And that's not just because of me. It is because of prevention education, awareness, and people in our community taking action! For example:

- Bishop Wes Spiewak stated, "it doesn't matter that we offer child safeguarding training such as VIRTUS® in the Catholic Diocese, why wouldn't we want more training"?

- Cindy Clarke stated, "Yes, we must strengthen and enhance laws as it pertains to child protection"
- Terry Cox, and the Commissioner of Education, Kalmar Richards, and our other private school leaders in this country who stated that our teachers will benefit from prevention education and will be required to be SCARS trained every three years. (According to research, children report sexual abuse experiences to teachers more than any other profession)
- Armell Thomas, from the Department of Health, made it a requirement that those that work in nursery schools, day care establishments, and all home care providers must be SCARS certified to obtain their license.
- Mark Wade, from the Bermuda Football Association (BFA), required SCARS training and certification to obtain a coaching license
- Mark Clarke, now retired from the Bermuda Police Service, arranged for over 300 police officers to be SCARS trained

In addition to these brave people, there are so many more other youth leaders, parents and guardians responsible for this social change. A decade of prevention education and awareness has created a social change and a positive impact for child safety in our community. Through our SCARS training and awareness initiatives, we have transformed the understanding of people's hearts, opened their eyes, and are driving out the darkness of sexual abuse in our country. Bermuda takes child protection seriously. We are an example to the world that it can be done!

2023 has proven to be another successful year in terms of education. We trained 1,390 adults this year in prevention. Sadly, sexual abuse of children has not gone away. Therefore, we must continue to provide training and awareness about this topic. SCARS is excited to roll out the new Darkness to Light® Stewards of Children® 3-hour training in January 2024. The newly upgraded Stewards of Children® has been released with exciting new updates to the curriculum. The edition of the training curriculum that we have been using retired at the end of 2023. We are proud to have a Bermudian, Dr. Darien Ray, contribute to this new curriculum, which will be shown around the world. The upgraded Stewards of Children® training is the same proven framework that has educated millions of adults to date, with the introduction of new survivors and experts, the latest statistics and technology, and enhanced learning methods and tools. I am also excited about the launch of our local cable TV show *Survivor Hour*, which premiered on October 18, 2023. I am grateful to Lamone Woods of Crimson Multimedia, and Bermuda Cable TV channel 82 for providing us with this wonderful opportunity.

Using platforms such as local cable TV, YouTube, and our SCARS website, it is our hope that viewers will have a better understanding of the emotional, physical and psychological wounds caused by childhood sexual abuse. The "Survivor Hour" show is also meant to provide awareness of the risks associated with this issue, the importance of reporting, and the complexities of the judicial system.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We want our viewers to learn what they can do to prevent child sexual abuse and encourage other survivors to believe that healing is possible. Survivor stories matter and their voices matter. We want our thousands of survivors to know that they are not alone. Our hope, through the airing of this show, is to provide awareness, prevention education, encouragement, healing, and hope. We must always expose injustice and use our voices to stand up against anyone who uses children for sexual gratification. It is our responsibility as adults to do everything we can to make sure they are safe.

In closing, it is important to acknowledge that the positive impact SCARS has had in Bermuda is the result of current and historical contributions from many people. Nothing that we have accomplished in prevention would be have been possible without the unwavering support and work of our SCARS team, third party vendors, a wise and committed volunteer Board of Directors (Past and present), and generous corporate and community donors who believe in our work. A charity's mission to seek social justice for children cannot be achieved without these valuable stakeholders. I am very proud and grateful for the positive impact we have made in child protection. Children are relying on us to continue being their voice for protection - our work must, and will, continue.

Debi Ray-Rivers
Founder and Executive Director, SCARS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SCARS!

On October 27, 2023, SCARS celebrated 12 years providing prevention training and advocacy in Bermuda. In that time SCARS has hit some very significant milestones in child sexual abuse prevention.

A beautiful cake was created in celebration of this. It was a presented and celebrated at a Peace and Social Justice award ceremony on the day of SCARS' Anniversary.

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

The Kayak for Kids fundraising event was held on September 30th (Day 1) and October 8th (Day 2), was the only fundraiser organized by SCARS in 2023. Thanks to our sponsors and donors, SCARS raised $166,560.

The kayakers getting ready to head out

Group shot of the kayakers

Brave kayakers and paddleboarders heading out

Day one of Kayak for Kids

January 6, 2023 – 'Puss in Boots'

A children's movie was hosted by a member of the community, Karen Plianthos. 59 tickets out of 60 available were sold. $1,330 was raised for SCARS. The response was tremendous, and SCARS is grateful to Karen and members of our community, some of whom also made additional donations.

MAKE YOUR MOVIE MONEY MATTER!

Friday January 6th, 2023 at 10:00am
Location: Speciality Cinema
Cost: $10 per person
Net Proceeds & Extra Donations To Benefit SCARS
Contact karen.plianthos@kwbermuda.com to book
Note: This viewing will be shown at a lower than normal decibel level to accommodate little people's ears.

RAISING FUNDS FOR SCARS

January 28th – 'Strawberries for SCARS'

We thank Louise Jones and Karen Plianthos for their BIG HEARTS in raising $1,000 for SCARS.

March 19th – Triple Challenge

SCARS is thankful to everyone with the Bermuda Triple Challenge for choosing SCARS as one of the recipients for their fun and challenging obstacle course event. We were grateful for all our amazing volunteers and kayakers who marshalled (on the water and on land) in Dockyard to provide encouragement and support to all the athletes. $5,253 was raised for SCARS!

RAISING FUNDS FOR SCARS

May 6th – Charity Golf Day

A Charity Golf Day was held at Turtle Hill for SCARS on Saturday, May 6th. We are grateful to Sophie Jackson and all who contributed to the donation of $1,000 to SCARS.

RAISING FUNDS FOR SCARS

June 17th – Community Movie Night at the Aquarium

SCARS is grateful to Vanessa and Jonathan Abate from E Se Studios who organized a Community Movie Night at the Aquarium and raised funds for SCARS and Family Centre. They organized a fun movie night for families while giving back to the community! They raised $670 for SCARS.

November 2nd – Conduit Re Gala of Giving

It was a blessing and an honor for SCARS to have been chosen as one of fourteen charities who benefited significantly from an incredible fundraiser specifically aimed at raising funds for worthwhile causes.

This entire event was organized by Conduit Re who worked tirelessly to make sure it was so successful. Local businesses purchased tables of 12. The night was supported by generous corporate sponsors and raised substantial funds via silent and live auctions. From beginning to end it was a first-class evening in which our charities and the people we serve in our community will greatly benefit. Mosaic Insurance, one of the insurance companies who purchased a table, invited our Executive Director and her spouse to join them on the evening of the event. SCARS received $23,951.73 from this event!

SCARS IN THE NEWS

The Royal Gazette

"Anti-sexual abuse charity calls for tougher sentences"
January 23, 2023

A charity dedicated to stopping the sexual abuse of children has called for stronger sentences after a convicted sex offender was found guilty of a new offence in Magistrates' Court. For the full story click here

"A shameless attempt to excuse the offender"
April 3, 2023

If we keep in the forefront of our minds that the management of sex offenders in Bermuda is purely about protecting children, if we understand that the average person does not just wake up one day and decide they are suddenly aroused by a child, then we should be outraged and deeply concerned for the innocent and vulnerable in this country. For the full story click here

"Child advocates join forces to prevent sexual abuse"
April 4, 2023

The welfare of children and their protection from abuse are to be spotlighted by two major charities throughout April. For the full story click here

"What goes on in the house should never stay in the house"
April 15, 2023

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse can take many forms, including physical, verbal and emotional abuse, and neglect. For the full story click here

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

SCARS IN THE NEWS

The Royal Gazette

"SCARS says 'probation hostel' needed for sex offenders"
April 28, 2023

The release of a convicted sex offender without any known address has been criticized as unsafe by the head of a charity dealing with child sexual abuse. For the full story click here

"New support group for sexual assault survivors formed"
April 28, 2023

Three charities have united to form a community support group for female victims of sexual assault. The Women's Resource Centre, in partnership with Scars and the Centre Against Abuse, launched the Sexual Assault Survivors Support Group. For the full story click here

"SCARS urges people to 'speak up' to stop child sexual abuse"
July 19, 2023

Better education and communication is required to protect children from predators, including those inside their own household. For the full story click here

"Round-the-island kayak event planned to support charity"
August 23, 2023

A round-the-island kayak event is to take place in support of charitable work protecting children from sexual abuse. For the full story click here

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

SCARS IN THE NEWS

The Royal Gazette

"SCARS demands tougher oversight for released sex offenders"
October 5, 2023

Stronger oversight for newly released sex offenders has been demanded after a serial molester admitted attacking a woman less than a week after his release from prison. For the full story click here

"SCARS founder recognized as social change trailblazer"
October 30, 2023

A stalwart for the protection of children has been recognized by the Roman Catholic Church. Debi Ray-Rivers, the founder and director of Saving Children and Revealing Secrets, was given the Peace and Social Justice Award during a ceremony at St Theresa's Catholic Cathedral in Pembroke. For the full story click here

"Charity welcomes maximum sentence for sex offender"
December 8, 2023

A Supreme Court judge has been applauded for taking a tough stance against child abuse and highlighting the suffering victims go through. For the full story click here

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

SCARS IN THE NEWS

SCARS: "Because I Am A Child Campaign"
March 31, 2023

The month of April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and SCARS will be launching their child protection awareness campaign 'Because I am a Child' on April 3rd . For the full story click here

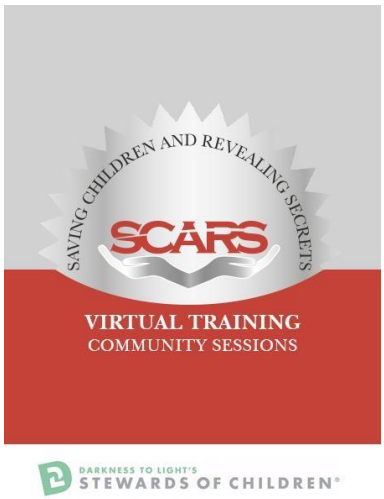
"Kayakers Event To Raise Money For SCARS"
September 28, 2023

Kayakers and paddleboarders will complete a loop of the island this weekend to raise money for a child sexual abuse prevention charity. For the full story click here

SCARS provides several training programs including a three-hour Stewards of Children® curriculum and a two-hour Beyond Stewards® recertification training for those that were previously certified under Stewards of Children®

TRAINING

Darkness to Light® Stewards of Children®



The Darkness to Light® Stewards of Children® award-winning prevention training provides practical guidance for preventing and responding to sexual abuse to individuals and organizations entrusted with children. This prevention training uses people with lived experiences, experts, and treatment providers talking about protecting children from sexual abuse. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence-informed 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
- Skills for adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse
- Encourage organizations to have policies and procedures in place to protect children
- Empower individuals to commitment to taking action through a personal prevention plan

The Stewards of Children® training has become a 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 to obtain their license and operate. Also, to obtain a license to be a coach with the Bermuda Football Association, SCARS certification is required.

Stewards of Children® is approved for 3 professional development hours of continuing education by the Bermuda Education Council, 3 CEU professional development hours by the Bermuda Health Care Professionals, and 2 CLE professional development hours by the Bermuda Bar Association.

In 2023, a total of 873 adults participated in the Darkness to Light® Stewards of Children® 3-hour training.

TRAINING

Darkness to Light® Beyond Stewards of Children®

The 2-hour Darkness to Light® Beyond Stewards of Children® recertification prevention training goes beyond the concepts presented in the 3-hour Stewards of Children®, digging deeper into practical applications of the 5 Steps to protecting children. Additional sections were added within the training that extend learning on creating a prevention-oriented community and applying trauma-informed strategies.

SCARS played an instrumental part in partnering with the Darkness to Light® organization in creating this new re-certification curriculum. It was created specifically for those who have already been SCARS certified and who continue working with our youth.

The filming for the training video took place during the summer of 2021 in Bermuda. We are beyond proud that the advocates in the series of videos which is shared throughout the recertification training are our very own Bermuda youth leaders, psychologists, passionate child advocates and survivors. Not only is SCARS using this educational tool in our community, but Darkness to Light®, the leading advocate in the United States for the prevention of child sexual abuse, are also using this training throughout the U.S.

Many of our youth serving organizations require certification every three years as a reminder of the important information in child protection. Beyond Stewards of Children® is approved for 2 professional development hours of continuing education by the Bermuda Education Council and 2 CEU of professional development hours by the Bermuda Health Care Professionals

This program is being conducted virtually using the Zoom platform.

In 2023, 517 adults were trained in the Darkness to Light® Beyond Stewards of Children® training.

TRAINING SUMMARY

Below is a summary of our training and awareness program activities and the impact they had in 2023.

We certified or recertified a total of 1,390 adults in 2023.

DARKNESS TO LIGHT® STEWARDS OF CHILDREN® (3-Hour Training)

50 Training Sessions	873 Adult Participants

DARKNESS TO LIGHT® BEYOND STEWARDS® (2-Hour Recertification Training)

36 Training Sessions	517 Adult Participants

Since May 2012, SCARS has educated 12,836 adults in child sexual abuse prevention, which represents approximately 24.13% of Bermuda's adult population; the highest of any country in the world*

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

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

STEWARDS OF CHILDREN®

In 2023, 873 adults were certified or recertified in the 3-hour Stewards of Children® curriculum, including members of the following organizations:

Eddie Ming's) Drum School & Rhythm Lab
19th Bermuda Boy Scouts
Ace Cleaning Services Ltd.
Adventureland Nursery & Preschool
Aerie's Adventures Nursery & Preschool
Age Concern
AgraLiving Institute
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
AME Conference
Anglican Church of Bermuda
Aquarium
Atlantic Caregiving
Bailey's Bay Cricket Club
BBBS (Big Brothers Big Sisters)
BELCO After School Program
Bermuda Aquarium Museum & Zoo
Bermuda Bowling Federation
Bermuda Boys Brigade
Bermuda Cleaning Ltd.
Bermuda College – EMT Program
Bermuda College Nursing Program
Bermuda Diabetes Association
Bermuda Economic Development Corporation
Bermuda Educators Council
Bermuda Fire & Rescue
Bermuda Football Association (BFA)
Bermuda Gymnastics
Bermuda High School
Bermuda Hockey Federation
Bermuda Industrial Union (BIU)
Bermuda Institute
Bermuda Maritime Academy
Bermuda National Gallery
Bermuda Optimist Dinghy Association
Bermuda Police Service
Bermuda Red Cross
Bermuda Rowing Association
Bermuda Rugby Football Club
Bermuda Sea Cadet Corp
Bermuda Sloop Foundations
Bermuda Triathlon Association
Bermuda Volleyball Association
Bermuda Zoological Society
Beyond Rugby Programme
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda
Bloomfield Nursery
Blossom Youth Spa
Bright Beginnings Nursery
BUEI
Butterfly Crochet Creations
Calvary Gospel Chapel
Cedarbridge Academy
Childrens Evangelical Fellowship
Christ Church Warwick
CLIC – Children Learn In Colour
Color Me Green Bermuda (Health & Wellness)
Complementary & Alternative Medicine Council
Conduit Re
Cornerstone Bible Fellowship
Dalton E Tucker Primary School
Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy
DaRock Elite Performance
Dellwood Middle School
Department of Education
Department of Health (Nurse)
Dept of Health – Child Caregivers
Dept. of Child & Family Services
Dept. of Youth Sport and Recreation
Devonshire Colts Football Club
Duke of Edinburgh
EAP Bermuda
Elite Salon
Employee Assistance Programme (EAP))
Endeavour
Evangelical Church of Bermuda
Evening Light Pentecostal Church
Family Center Beyond Rugby
Family Centre
FC Bascome Academy
First Church of God
First Friends Nursery & Preschool
Flying Start Nursery
Footy Promotions
Frontline Bermuda
Government Camp – Boys to Men
Hamilton Lions Club
Hamilton Parish Workmen's Club
Hamilton Rotary Club

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

Hamilton Seventh Day Adventist Church
Hannover Re
Happy Valley Nursery
Harrington Sound Primary
HSBC
IEP
In Motion School of Dance
Irish Freemasons
Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation
Keep Bermuda Beautiful
Kiddie Academy
Kroll
Labor Ready Bermuda
LB Football Academy
Little Learners Preschool
Longtail Learning Bermuda
Menuhin Foundation
Mid Atlantic Wellness BHB
Ministry of Education
Miracle Temple Church
Mirrors Programme
Mount Saint Agnes Academy School
Mt. Zion AME Church
Nadz Beauty Salon
Nanny Position
National Archery Assoc. of Bermuda
NTCOG National Youth Board
Oasis Spa Ltd.
Olive Branch Nursery
Once Upon a Time Nursery
Pembroke Rotary Club
Perform to Learn
PHC Majorettes & Drum Corp
PHC Zebras
Pickleball Association of Bermuda
Planet Math
Port Royal Primary School
Positive Image Dental
Prince & Princess Club – Hamilton Princess
Pro Bike Life Bermuda
Prospect Preschool
Purvis Primary School
PwC Bermuda
Raleigh Bermuda
Rise Marketing
Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
Royal Bermuda Regiment Cadets
Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club
Saltus Grammar School
Schoolhouse Nursery
Seasons Learning Center
Security Associates of Bermuda
Shelly Bay Beach & Park Bermuda
Skanna Security
SkillCraft Marketing
Solstice
Somerset Cricket Club Youth
Somerset Primary School
Somerset SDA Pathfinders
Somersfield Academy
Spirit of Bermuda
St. Anthony's Church
St. George's Cricket Club
St. John Ambulance
St. Mark's Anglican Church
St. Paul's Christian Education Centre
St. Theresa's Church / CCD Program
Tender Care Nursery and Preschool
The Garden Daycare Centre
The Hospital Auxiliary of Bermuda (HAB)
The Onion Patch Academy
The Reading Clinic
The Salvation Army
The Women's Resource Centre
Torah Tots
Transformational Living Centre (TLC)
Treetops 2
United Dance Productions
Victor Scott Primary
Walkers (Bermuda) Limited
Warwick Academy
Warwick Academy Football Club
Warwick Longtails Pathfinder Club
WaterStart Bermuda
WeSpeak
Word of Life Bermuda

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

BEYOND STEWARDS OF CHILDREN®

In 2023, 517 adults were recertified in the 2-hour Beyond Stewards of Children® curriculum, including members of the following organizations:

Abraham's Little Seed Preschool
Adapt
Adventureland Nursery and Preschool
Aerie's Adventures Nursery School
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association
Bermuda Boxing
Bermuda Boy's Brigade
Bermuda Centre for Creative Learning
Bermuda College
Bermuda Conference of Seventh Day Adventists
Bermuda Diabetes Association
Bermuda Educators Council
Bermuda Employers Council
Bermuda Fire & Rescue Service
Bermuda Football Association (BFA)
Bermuda High School
Bermuda Hockey Federation
Bermuda Hospital Board
Bermuda Institute
Bermuda Jump Rope Federation
Bermuda Kids
Bermuda Olympic Association
Bermuda Optimist Dinghy Association
Bermuda Overseas Mission
Bermuda Police Service
Bermuda Red Cross
Bermuda Scout Association
Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute
Bermuda Union of Teachers
Bermuda Volleyball Association
Bermuda Zoological Society
Beyond Rugby
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bermuda
Bloomfield Nursery School
Bright Beginnings Nursery & Preschool
C.L.A.S.S. Athletic
Calvary Gospel Chapel
Cambridge Beaches
Cedarbridge Academy School
Chatmore British International School
Child Care Regulation Programme
Child Evangelism Fellowship
City Strivers Nursery School
Dalton E. Tucker Primary School
Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy
Dayrosia Massage Therapy
Deelightful Daycare
Dellwood Middle School
Department of Child & Family Services
Department of Education (DOE)
Department of Health (Daycare Provider
Dept. of Youth Sport & Recreation
East End Primary
Evangelical Church of Bermuda
Family Centre – Beyond Rugby
FC Bascome
First Church of God
Function Junction Occupational Therapy
Gina Spence Productions
Hamilton Lions Club
Hamilton Parish Workman's Club
Harbour Swim Club
Harmony Birth Services
HSBC Bank Bermuda
IESHUN S. Fashion Camp
In Motion School of Dance
Island Rehab Hub Ltd.
Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation
KEMH
LB Football Academy
Little Achievers Childcare
Little Learners Nursery & Preschool
Little Scholars Academy
Loquat Learning
Lyceum Preschool
Menuhin Foundation
Midland Heights SDA Church
Ministry of Education (MOED)
Mount Saint Agnes Academy School
Mt. Zion AME Church
My Sereni-Tea
North Village Community Club
Once Upon a Time Nursery School Chapter 1
One Upon a Time Chapter 2
Onionpatch Academy
Paget Primary School
Pembroke Hamilton Club (PHC)

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

Pembroke Rotary Club
Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church
Planet Math
Play with a Purpose Nursery School
Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
Roots & Wings Nursery
Rotary Youth Exchange Program
Royal Bermuda Regiment
Royal Bermuda Regiment Junior Leaders
Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club
Saltus Grammar School
Sandy's Secondary Middle School
Sandys Sprouts Preschool
Scribbles Art Shack Intl. Ltd.
Security Associates of Bermuda
Sharks Swim Club
Somerset Primary School
Somersfield Academy
Southampton Poinciana Pathfinders Club
Southampton Preschool
Southampton SDA Church
St. Anne's Church
St. Anthony's Church
St. David's Preschool
St. David's Primary School
St. John Ambulance
St. Mark's Church
St. Patrick's Church
Sweet Pea Nursery School
The Berkeley Institute
The Bermuda National Trust
The Garden Daycare Centre
The Guild of Guardians
The Reading Clinic
The Salvation Army
Tree Tops II Preschool
Treetops 2 Preschool
Warwick Academy Football Club
Warwick Academy School
Warwick Longtails Pathfinder Club
Warwick Preschool
Warwick SDA Church Adventures Club
Waterstart Bermuda
WeSpeak
West Pembroke Primary School
Whitney Institute
Wolves Football Team
Word of Life Bermuda
X-treme Kidz Summer Camp

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

Because I am a Child Campaign

SCARS was honored and humbled to partner with local charity, Family Centre on this important campaign. (A collaborative way to show our partnership in child protection).

It kicked off in April in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Three videos, which aired on local television, were created for this campaign. An example of the ad that appeared in the video can be seen below.

SCARS partnered with Family Centre in advocating for child protection sending a clear message that being a 'child' should be reason enough to justify that our children deserve and should receive unconditional protection, love, care and nurturing. Children need to be happy and healthy to thrive. The purpose of "Because I am a Child Campaign" was three-fold:

1. It brought awareness on how we can protect children using their own voices. The age group of our youngsters was very important. Their needs are particular to the age group in which their messages were recorded.
2. We provided resources to help parents and guardians who want to learn more about how they can better understand, nurture, protect or simply support their children.
3. The campaign also included a discussion with SCARS and Family Centre, that premiered on Channel 82 on Monday, April 10. It was hosted by Ms. Sheri J. and aired throughout the month of April.

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Once again, SCARS spread our message of prevention beyond the shores of Bermuda! Debi Ray-Rivers along with Shervonne Hollis were guests on a radio show that aired in the Bahamas called "Transforming Lives".

Survivor Hour Show on Cable Television Channel 82

This awareness initiative began in 2023 and will continue into 2024. The show has a three-fold purpose:

1. Provide awareness and prevention education around the topic of child sexual abuse from the lens of survivors and the traumatic effects this can have on a child. Through *Survivor Hour*, we are revitalizing hope in our Bermuda survivors. The journey of healing can be very difficult. Survivors of trauma may carry the weight of their emotional pain through discouragement, fear, unfounded guilt, and even hopelessness. It's a show for all survivors to tune in and be encouraged and strengthened.

2. Provide the audience with important information from experts who understand the mind of an offender. They explain the risks to children in the community when convicted child sex offenders are released without receiving the most effective treatment and license conditions.

3. Drive viewers to sign up for SCARS' Darkness to Light® Stewards of Children® virtual training session.

The show includes topics like victim reporting, offender sentencing, and advocacy to improve legislation to safeguard children in our community.

MEDIA AWARENESS

SCARS continued to advertise on public buses with important messages about child sexual abuse in April which is sexual abuse prevention month. Below are examples of the ads that were displayed on the back of buses

SAFE VIRTUAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

A total of 98 parents attended SCARS' SAFE (SCARS Arms Families Through Education) Awareness Program at West Pembroke Primary School.

SAFE – SCARS ARMS FAMILIES THROUGH EDUCATION

Our virtual **SAFE** awareness presentation provides a 'tool box' of information for parents, guardians and organizations entrusted with the care of children.

SCARS OBJECTIVES

The objectives of SCARS for 2024 included the following:

- Continue to promote a prevention-oriented community by offering the only evidence-informed, adult-focused child sexual abuse prevention training in Bermuda proven to increase knowledge and change behavior.

- Ensure a successful launch implementation of our Darkness to Light® newly upgraded 3-hour Stewards of Children® training.

- Continue to advocate for parents and individuals who are responsible for children, along with those who work/volunteer in youth serving organizations be SCARS certified.

- Continue to advocate that all organizations who work or volunteer with children should:
  - Mandate staff and volunteers to be SCARS certified and recertification every three years (at no costs to organizations)
  - Require background checks and references for all staff and volunteers.
  - Implement and require acknowledgement signatures by employees and volunteers for the following:
    - Best Practice Code of Conduct Policy
    - Safe social media Policy
    - Reporting Policy
    - Safe Transportation Policy (If applicable)
    - Safe Travel Policy (If taking children off island)

- Continue to promote awareness and prevention education through our *Survivor Hour* cable television show by inviting subject matter experts and survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

- Advance our mission in child sexual abuse reduction, by continuing to publicly advocate for the most effective child sex offender treatment program, the Healthy Sex Programme (HSP), to be used for convicted child sex offenders whilst incarcerated at the Bermuda Department of Corrections.

- Continuous advocacy to keep Bermuda's children safe and protected from sexual harm.

SCARS
SAVING CHILDREN AND REVEALING SECRETS
BERMUDA

SCARS OBJECTIVES

The objectives of SCARS for 2024 (continued)

- Continue to advocate that those who are convicted of a sexual crime against a child be required to have the following license conditions upon release from Westgate:

  - ❑ May be subject to electronic monitoring
  - ❑ Must meet regularly with an Offender Risk Management Team
  - ❑ Must attend all related and mandatory appointments
  - ❑ Prohibited from living in any home with children under the age of 18 (not even for one night)
  - ❑ Must advise the Offender Management Team member of any relationships (New or prior to their time of incarceration) with anyone who has children under the age of 18 years
  - ❑ Must receive approval from an Offender Risk Management Team of their place of residence, and when they move
  - ❑ Prohibited in making any contact or communication with the victim or family members of the victim (unless approval from victim, family, and the member of the Offender Risk Management Team Member, all visits must be supervised)
  - ❑ Must not engage in any unsupervised contact with any child under the age of 18
  - ❑ Must not apply for any job, volunteer position, or engage in any activity that will involve children under the age of 18.
  - ❑ Must not be within any designated zones that are prohibited
  - ❑ The period of registration is extended beyond 10 years
  - ❑ Offenders should remain on the Sex Offender Register for life (currently, convicted sex offenders do not remain on the registered list indefinitely)
  - ❑ They must advise Offender Risk Management Team of place of worship
  - ❑ They must not have child pornography in their possession
  - ❑ Prohibited from using applications that delete browser history
  - ❑ They must advise of any travel plans outside of Bermuda
  - ❑ Prohibited from legally changing their name
  - ❑ If the offender breaches any of these conditions, they will be arrested and will be recalled to Westgate with no trial

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Allan Doughty, Chair

Cindy Clark, Director

Chris Conway, Director

Terry Cox, Director

The Rt. Revd. Nicholas B.B. Dill,, Director

Dr. S. Glenn Faries, Director

Dr. Alicia M. Hancock, Director

Gideon M. Kigotho, Director

Jerry Rivers, Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Miriam Shaya-King, Director

Michelle F. Furqan
Corporate Secretary

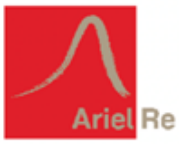
Karen Cooper Olson,
Treasurer

Debi Ray-Rivers,
Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

Helen Ponte,
Director of Programs

Jessica Lewis, Volunteer Social
Media Coordinator

2023 Corporate Donors



Free Masons' Fund for Bermuda

Foundation for a Just Society International, Ltd. (FJSI)

ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

Name of Organization: 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