



PO Box 84
Grand Cayman KY1-1501
CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: (345) 938 6300
Email: esrfoundation@gmail.com
Web: www.esrfoundation.org.ky

Gender Equality and A Life Free of Violence for All

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 6, 2011

Contact: esrfoundation@gmail.com
Telephone: 938-6300

Estella Foundation Recognises Sexual Assault Awareness Month

For the second year, the Estella Scott-Roberts Foundation (ESRF) is recognising April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), by organizing a child sexual abuse prevention workshop for adults, a silent walk, and a series of public service announcements in the media. The SAAM campaign aligns with the theme of the Foundation's 2010/11 public awareness campaign: *"Silence hurts. If you see something, say something."*

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an advocacy event supported by organisations all over the world. ESRF Vice President Melanie McLaughlin said, "Estella was a committed advocate of raising awareness about sexual assault in our community, and she was instrumental in organising the first observance of SAAM in the Cayman Islands. It is therefore fitting that the Foundation celebrates her life's work by continuing to speak out on issues such as sexual assault, child sexual abuse and domestic abuse."

The 2011 SAAM events focus on speaking out about sexual assault and child sexual abuse. Statistics from the United States estimate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before their 18th birthday and that the majority of the abusers are people that are known and trusted by the children and family. The first SAAM event is a training workshop for adults and caregivers of children to confront child sexual abuse by learning 7 Steps to decrease the risks of child sexual abuse. The workshop is a Stewards of Children's Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training called "7 Steps- Darkness2Light".

The Board of Directors

Rayle Roberts, Chairperson

Sara Collins
Novelette Ebanks

Tammy Ebanks
Melanie McLaughlin

The training is free of cost and will be held on Saturday, 9th April from 11:00am-1:00pm at Windjammer Building (2nd Floor) on Walkers Road. This free training is limited to twenty adults, and persons interested in attending should pre-register by emailing esrfoundation@gmail.com or calling 938-6300.

The next SAAM event will be a 'Steps to End Silence' Walk held on Saturday 16th April at 10:00am. The purpose of the walk is to raise the level of awareness of issues such as sexual assault and child sexual abuse. By walking in silence for the entire event, the participants are reminded of how silence hurts both the victims of these crimes and the community when we fail to speak out against sexual assault and child sex abuse issues in Cayman.

The Walk is free and open to both adults and children; it will start and end at Camana Bay by walking down Lawrence Thompson Blvd. and turning north onto West Bay Road then turning back around to Camana Bay. Following the walk, there will be brief remarks by the ESRF, a short self-defense demonstration by Purple Dragon and a dance by Barnes Dance Academy Ltd. The Foundation will also have free giveaways for participants and will be selling t-shirts for the Silence Hurts campaign.

The Estella Foundation notes the positive effects of these events which not only raise the level of awareness on these issues, but often times it encourages a victim to come forward and obtain help they need to heal. The ESRF encourages anyone who has been a victim of sexual assault or child sexual abuse to seek support from one of the many agencies in the community or a trusted family member or friend. Let the healing and prevention begin today. For more information on these events or on SAAM, please email esrfoundation@gmail.com or visit www.esrfoundation.org.ky.