GOJoven Belize Alumni Association

GOBELIZE

Bulletin

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Recreational Day 2015

The closing of the Out of School Youth Empowerment Project took place in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek on November 28th, 2015 with a total of 123 youth participants from San Isidro and Bella Vista of the Toledo District, Dangriga Town, Silk Grass and Hopkins Village of the Stann Creek District. All youth participated in a day full of activities where Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health information was disseminated through interactive and fun games.

Coordinating the activities were GOBelize Staff Eva Burgos, Gloria Avila and Omar Rodriguez, along with Errol Longsworth of the National Drug Abuse Council and GOJoven 2011 Alumni, Kelsie Ciego of the Department of Youth Services and 2014 Alumni and Ms. Marrieta Enriquez from the youth arm of the National Garifuna Council. Assisting us with the programmed activities were Chrisbert Garcia (2015 Alumni), Kaneir Casimiro (2015 Alumni), Alisha Solis (2014 Alumni), Vaniah Bailey (2014 Fellow), Kylah Ciego (2012 Alumni) and Juan Carlos Martinez (2008 Alumni) and Peace Corp Volunteers Jason Leger and Loan Chau.

The overall goal of the youth empowerment project was to increase knowledge and skills of 750 youth between the ages of 11-24 years in the Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts and increase knowledge on self-esteem, personal values, HIV prevention and dispelling myths, as well as reduce unplanned teenage pregnancy through education.

FPink Team getting ready for the obstacle course

2015 Recreational Day's Strength

In this bulletin:

Recreational Day 2015 *p. 1*

Training on Human Rights and Gender Approaches *p. 2*

Launch of the 16 Days of Activism *p. 2*

Youth Empowerment Trainings *p. 3*

Upcoming Events *p. 4*

(501) 802-1444
Ground Floor B.E.S.T. Building
54 Miles Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan City, Belize, C.A.

Training on Human Rights and Gender Approaches

On November 24-25, 2015, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities held a training on Human Rights and Gender Approaches. Gloria Avila and Jason Leger attended to represent GOBelize. Approximately 20 individuals participated representing eleven organizations that work to combat issues around gender, gender-based violence, and HIV.

The training was divided into three modules. The first module, facilitated by Dr. Carolyn Gomes, Executive Director of CVC, was designed to help participants better define and understand human rights and the human rights based approach. The second and third modules were both facilitated by Monica Brown. The second module focused on the intersection of gender-based violence, HIV and human rights and the current context of human rights in Belize, while the third module provided the opportunity for participants to build their knowledge and skills for effective advocacy. The training also included discussion of the Belize Domestic Violence Act, facilitated by Ann-Marie Williams. The trainings were very interactive, including role-plays to help participants grasp the roles and responsibilities of duty bearers and rights holders.

From Left to Right: Sheena Gentle of WIN-Belize, Gloria Avila of GOBelize, Monica Usher of Belize Youth Empowerment Movement

Launch of the 16 Days of Activism

Women's Issue Network of Belize (Win-Belize) and the National Women's Commission launched the Sixteen Days of Activism on November 25, 2015 with the theme "Step up to end gender based violence NOW!" It's an annual activity that is designed to focus on gender-based violence.

In attendance were the organizations dedicated to protect and work with women and children; namely Haven House the Department of Human Services, Women's Department, Police Department, The Special Envoy for Women and Children, Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow, UNDP and GOBelize.

Also in attendance, giving their testimonials were the families of Colleen Sharp and Keisha Buller, both women were viciously killed by their boyfriends this year. A candle light vigil was held after the ceremonies in memorial of the women we have lost to Domestic Violence. 16 Days of activism is observed from November 25 – December 10, 2015

Training in Barranco

Participants of Golden Stream Village

Youth Empowerment Trainings

Between November 14 – 21, 2015, three two- day workshops were conducted simultaneously for a total of 118 participants ages 11-24 of Golden Stream, Indian Creek and Barranco Village, located in Toledo District. The workshops included sessions on Self-Esteem, Teenage Pregnancy, Contraceptives, and HIV/AIDS. The workshops were facilitated and co-facilitated by Eva Burgos, Omar Rodriguez and Gloria Avila, GOBelize Staff along with Kelsie Ciego from the Department of Youth Services and 2014 GOJoven Alumni.

Upon completion of the two-day workshop the participants received a certificate.

Participants of Indian Creek Village

Upcoming Events

December 20-22, 2015:
Leadership Training Program

GOJoven Belize Alumni Association (GOBelize) is a Non-Governmental Organization formed by a group of alumni from the Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program (GOJoven).

The purpose of GOBelize is to contribute to the development of Belize by building youth leadership capacity, improving the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) of young people, and creating awareness for environmental conservation.

Mission: GOBelize commits itself to contribute to increased levels of SRH, enhance leadership skills, and promote environmental consciousness in Belizean youth in order to stimulate positive behavior change and communication in an atmosphere of fellowship.

Visit GOBelize online at: http://gojoven.org/gobelize/

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