



FOL Newsletter

Fountain of Life

ISSUE 7

RAPE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN SCHOOLS



Fountain of Life has launched an awareness campaign in schools within Lilongwe urban on defilement, rape, sexual assault and services available. Last Year FOL partnered with Children of Blessing Trust (an NGO that helps and supports children with disabilities) to raise awareness on rape in eight (8) communities around area 25 in Lilongwe which was a success and received positive feedback. FOL in Blantyre also carried out an awareness in schools around Blantyre urban so we thought of doing the same in Lilongwe.

In most schools the pupils knew what “Rape” and “sexual assault” is but did not know what “defilement” is and were eager to learn what sort of

help is available for victims of rape, defilement and sexual assault.

We used one of the stories from the “Breaking the Silence” tool kit to start discussions about knowing who perpetrators can be, how they use threats or treats to sexually abuse children, how perpetrators are mostly known to victims, where they can report and receive help. We mainly empowered them to REPORT cases to trusted adults, to the police and to the hospital.

We managed to visit 5 Private schools and reach over 1500 pupils and teachers. We visited Walani, Bambino, Mount Sinai, Mphanje and Good Shepherd Private schools around Lilongwe

Did You Know?

- Most principals/head teachers in schools thought children below ten years old do not know about rape/defilement. But when the children are asked they said they know.
- Rape can affect the victim his/her whole life emotionally/psychologically if he/she does not get the necessary help.

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WATCH A SERIES OF VIDEO CLIPS ON YOUTUBE

In our previous newsletter (Issue 6) we wrote about a client who shared her story of how she got raped when she was fourteen (14) years old a long time ago. Her incident affected her for a long time and thought of sharing it after hearing about FOL’s “Breaking the Silence” tool kit.

There are ten (10) video clips, each having its own theme like “Effects of rape” “comfort” and so forth. They are shared on FOL’s YouTube account, Website and Facebook page, one video clip each week. Subscribe to our YouTube channel or Like our Facebook page to watch the video clips. BREAK THE SILENCE.

FACEBOOK: Fountain Of Life - Malawi LTD

YOUTUBE PAGE: Fountain of Life (Malawi) Ltd

Contact Information

ONE STOP CENTER STORY

A 13 year old girl was re-brought to One Stop Centre in April. A few months ago the girl was brought in by her mother, who suspected her daughter was being sexually molested by her husband, the girl's biological father. The mom said she had no evidence but had been suspecting for a while and that her husband and her fight a lot and he does nothing for her but showers her daughter with gifts and presents. The daughter in the session cried throughout and refused that her father molested her and said a stranger defiled her at school but she never told anyone. However the pain in the child showed evidence that there was something going on in her life that was troubling her, she also shared her pain at the relationship between her father and mother and said she wished they could get along.

After a few months the mother found her daughter and husband coming from the same room in the house and looked suspicious. She followed her daughter to the bedroom and forced her to undress and checked her vagina and saw that she had semen. She questioned her daughter who then told her mother that her father had indeed been molesting her for about 3 years. The mother brought her daughter back to the OSC and the child was able to talk about what had been happening, still emotional and crying that she did not want her father to go to jail because she loved her father. The mother was very angry, felt betrayed by both her husband and daughter. With family members and even service providers not understanding this is a normal reaction to incest, she was scorned and she felt so alone and unsupported.

The father was taken into police custody and is currently on bail. Both the father and the prosecutor did not show up for first hearing, the mother is worried that nothing will be done to ensure justice. The mother has moved to Zomba with her daughter and her other 2 children. She came with her daughter for a follow up session. The mother was in a better state, which made it possible to explore with her on how she could support her daughter and redirect her anger away from her daughter. The child was still emotional and shared that she was guilty that her telling could cause her father to go to jail. When she was asked to think of anything good that will come up from her telling she said "that my father will never do what he did to me again", when asked if she thinks her father deserves to go to jail for what he did she did not answer but answered yes to whether she thinks any father who could do that to her daughter or to any child deserves to go to jail. She said she would never want to go back and stay with her father again as she would not know if he could change.

FOL STAFF RETREAT IN MANGOCHI!!!!



FOL staff went on a retreat in early May in Mangochi. The purpose of the retreat was for Lilongwe staff to meet and bond with Blantyre staff, share ideas and progress, acquire some counseling skills and techniques but also to relax and have fun.

It was a self catering cottage which made it ideal for the staff to share chores, coordinate and thereby bond. There were games which built trust, communication and reliability. It was a good and refreshing retreat which strengthened friendships and we hope to have an opportunity to go for more.



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**MALAWI'S ANSWER TO THOSE
SUFFERING FROM SEXUAL ASSAULT**