



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The meeting held on **19th January, 2008** was fairly well attended with 19 volunteers present. Dr. Patterson welcomed everyone and asked each to express his or her hopes and aspirations for the Crisis Centre during this coming year. One of the goals expressed by several volunteers was a Safe House.

The main topic for the meeting was the **Green Ribbon Campaign**. This school-based campaign is held each year throughout the schools in the Bahamas in an effort to engender peaceful conflict resolution among students. With the alarming increase in violence between students and young people, volunteers agreed that such a program is needed. The theme "Catch Yourself, Don't Wreck Yourself" was debated at length and the final decision was that it would remain and messages of peace and non-violence would supplement the theme. Several activities have already been planned by the committee, which is made up of representatives from the police, Ministry of Education, Health Education and Ministry of Local Government.

The Committee is planning to hold town meetings to get parents involved in the program and discussions were held as to how parents might be encouraged to attend the sessions. Junkanoo and The Singing Bishop were suggested as attractions. The Town Meetings are to be held in the Central, East, South and West of New Providence.

One of the main attractions of the Campaign is to be a contest in which Students can participate. Essay, art, step, poetry, skits, rap are among the different categories. It is hoped that the winners will be able to perform at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium in early April.

Another event planned is a Family Affair at Arawak Cay where it is hoped we can target parents and vendors alike. Ms Daisy has agreed to participate.

**Looking forward to seeing you on  
Saturday, 16th February at 10.00am**

Realizing that many of the problems stem from the family, a Family Pledge is planned so that parents can be involved in the peace making process.

An anti-bullying policy is also being encouraged in schools, at the same time recognizing that bullying often starts in the home.

It is hoped that the media will give the campaign good support with TV ads and radio announcements.

Schools have already been requesting representatives from the Centre and other Committee members to present at Morning Assemblies. Volunteers signed up to meet to come up with a dynamic message to be taken into the schools.

Bracelets and ribbons with messages of Peace and Respect will be distributed to students in participating schools.

Other issues discussed at the meeting were Hotline Calls, Courtwatch and Rape Advocacy. The subject of Sexual Harassment in the work place was discussed.

*Meetings are held on the **3rd Saturday of every month** and we try to call all volunteers to remind them. However, please keep the dates in mind, as it is not always possible to call everybody.*

*We welcome calls to the office to ask about any meetings, events and activities in which you might be interested.*

***Novellette** is our **Administrator** and she is always happy to hear from you.*

***Hotline volunteers** are asked to report any calls they have received while on duty. We continue to thank all of you for keeping this essential service going.*