



The meeting held on **17th February, 2008** was fairly well attended . We look forward to seeing our volunteers each month so we can update them on the activities and projects organized by the Centre. Many activities depend upon volunteer participation to ensure success.

As was the case at the January meeting, the main topic 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 looking for the most effective ways to reach the parents, particularly those with children who exhibit anti-social behaviour.

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. Letters have gone out to all schools, public and private in New Providence and to the Family Islands.

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. 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.

As the Campaign is going to be very costly, letters are to be sent to business places, as well as to members of Rotary. A proposal has been sent to Cable Bahamas and will also be sent to the Lyford Cay Foundation.

**Looking forward to seeing you on
Saturday, 15th March at 10.00am**

Volunteers at the meeting looked closely at the Pledge for parents as well as the one for the children. It was felt it would be more effective to have a shortened version, possibly in bookmark form, for parents and use the brochure already designed for the children.

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.

Bracelets and ribbons with messages of Peace and Respect will be distributed to students in participating schools in September. Posters are to be designed as part of the media thrust.

Fund raising was also discussed with the idea of having cake sales every three months. A Fashion and Trade Show was also considered for October and these plans will be pursued.

Volunteers signed up for a **Health Fair** to be held at the College of The Bahamas.

Training of new volunteers will take place either in March or April.

*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. **Novelette** 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.*