

June-July 2007

Together we work for a world free of child abuse
and neglect, full of love, and aspire for peace

Capital governor visits Be-Free Center

The Capital governor H.E. Shaikh Homood Al Khalifa visited Be-Free Center to take a closer look of the activities and services provided for children, families and victims of child abuse. H.E. expressed his appreciation of the work done by the center for the welfare of the children and their families. He also emphasized the role of governmental organizations in supporting NGOs and defining ways of cooperation and more understanding of the role that NGO's play in the community. H.E. has also attended part of the workshop titled "I am a Smart, Strong and Safe child" and interacted with the children through a light and exciting conversations.



Be-Free Center website won the e-content prize

Be-Free Center website www.befreecenter.org won the e-content prize that was organized by the ministry of Industry and Commerce with the cooperation of Bahrain Internet Society.

The contest covered 8 areas: e-Learning, e-Culture, e-Science, e-Government, e-Health, e-Business, e-Entertainment and e-Inclusion.

Be-Free Center won the first prize in the e-Inclusion, and the Jury Evaluation was: "Be-Free Center is a unique website addressing child abuse, education, empowerment and family issues in a simple way. The colors which have been selected are very suitable and the content is bilingual to ensure maximum reach".

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Be-Free and WLP Joint project on girls leadership?

Be-Free Center participated in the partnership meeting for Women Learning Program (WLP) which was held in Antalya, Turkey. This is to mark the end of the first phase in the joint project that Be-Free Center is doing with WLP to produce a manual on leadership for girls ages 13-17. This manual contains a series of workshops for girls to identify the meaning of leadership and how they can be active leaders in sustainable and human development in their day to day life. According to the agreement, the Be-Free is developing, testing and producing the manual with the participation of teens. The partnership meeting discussed the progress of the project, and then a motivational leadership song was played. This song was produced by Be-Free to encourage teens to see their role as leaders.

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Two Workshops for parents of special needs children

“Emotional stress and its effects on children with special needs”

Be-Free Center with an invitation from Bahrain Association for Parents and friends of disabled conducted two workshops to parents of children with special needs. The first workshop was under the title “Emotional Stress and its effects on children with special needs” the workshop focused on different types of stress that parents with special needs children go through which are different in many ways from those that parents with normal children deal with.

Among the areas that add stress to parents of children with special needs are the children need for continuous and sometimes intensive care, communication challenges with these children, feelings of guilt and helplessness towards the children and the lack of time to ensure better marital and social relationships with them. This workshop focused on these stresses and discussed ways to overcome or limit their negative effect on parents and siblings. It also explored ways that parents along with the whole family can grow in humanity out of these stresses

“Children with special needs and emotional poverty”

The second workshop focused on special needs children and their normal and legitimate need to give and receive emotions and love. It focused on how can special needs children with different disabilities read and express emotions and how the family can understand them. Much focus was on the way parents look at the child and how hidden empowering or disempowering emotional messages can be conveyed to the child. The workshop has also discussed the different ways that parents can communicate emotions to their children who have mental disabilities and how to build bridges of trust and understanding that can help in child protection and emotional satisfaction.

In Barbar Village

“How to discover abusive Relationships” was the title of a discussion forum held by Be-Free Center for a group of young girls in Barbar village by an invitation and arrangement of Barbar Women Society. Many challenges were brought up by the girls such as the internet, emotional blackmailing, the relationship with their parents, marriage and peer pressures. The discussion facilitator helped the girls in exploring different ways of looking at things and making smart decisions.

