



Principality of Hutt River

Operation: Michelle An Initiative To End Domestic Violence

After Action Report



DATE OF ACTION:

12 May 2007

CONTACT:

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ACTIVITY:

One of the Objectives of Operation Michelle is to help begin breaking the cycle of domestic violence in individual communities everywhere. One way of accomplishing this is by working with shelters and other organizations for victims of domestic violence to ensure they have the resources to help victims remain safe and break the cycle of abuse.

Sir William Speir, Jr., his wife Lee Anne, and their two children are in the process of moving to another part of the country. After the new house was selected, it became clear that a number of pieces of furniture would not be making the move. Lee Anne, a former victim of domestic violence from her first marriage, wanted this excess furniture to be put to a good use. She had spent several months in a woman's shelter until she was ready to live on her own. The shelter provided a number of furniture and other household items, which had been donated by other former residents of the shelter, to help her quickly establish a new home for herself and her two children. Lee Anne wanted to do the same (this is referred to as "paying it forward").

Lee Anne has been involved in charitable activities related to local woman's shelters for a number of years. She contacted one of these shelters to arrange the donation of the excess furniture, and was informed that they had an individual with an immediate need. Lee Anne and this individual met and made arrangements for all of the furniture to be donated to her. This individual arranged for volunteers to help with the loading and unloading of the furniture, while Sir William obtained a truck to handle transporting the furniture. On 12 May 2007, the furniture was delivered to its new home.

OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED:

The operational plan for Operation: Michele identifies a number of activities to be performed. Two of these activities were the focus of this action:

1. Contacting local shelters and organizations for victims of domestic violence to identify their needs and challenges.

2. Coordinate the activities of former victims to “pay it forward” (give to other victims what they received that helped them overcome the cycles of abuse).

RESULTS:

The 20 items of furniture almost filled this individual’s 5-room apartment and will give her the chance to start a new life free from domestic violence. Not only was another former victim of domestic violence assisted, but closer relations between the Speir family and the local women’s shelter were formed. This provided an opportunity to discuss Operation: Michele and the role that the Principality is taking in the elimination of domestic violence.