



Principality of Hutt River

Operation: Michelle An Initiative To End Domestic Violence

Update



DATE OF UPDATE:

15 April 2008

CONTACT:

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ACTIVITY:

Update on fundraising activities and the Construction of the Shelter.

Since the letter of support initiated by HRH Prince Leonard, we have been busy on local levels in the United States. Sir Edward Rupert, KRO, has been participating on the Advisory Board of the local safe-house, which had experienced a major problem in 2007. Over 200 women and children were turned away because no room existed at the safe-house. This issue could have had deadly consequences.

The safe-house required both money and a new location to mitigate this problem. Late in 2007 Sir Edward, along with other board members organized and participated in a "silent auction" and dinner, which auctioned off over 1,200 items and services solicited from local businesses and benefactors. The event was attended by numerous officials and leaders in the area. Operation Michelle was at the forefront of the event as Michelle's own father and mother took the stage and gave a very heartfelt expression of the events that lead up to Michelle losing her life, including the emergency tape to the emergency operator which left the attendees speechless. The Operation Michelle event brought over \$160,000 USD, which was earmarked to provide direct services to the shelter's clients.

As a consequence, at a follow-up to this event, Sir Edward contacted a local Businessman involved in nursing care for the elderly. This individual is currently in the process of donating a building, originally built as a nursing facility, that will house over 75 women and children for up to 6 weeks. This donation to Operation Michelle has a value of over \$3,500,000 USD and will dramatically accelerate the speed with which the new safe-house can be opened and operational.

In addition to opening the new shelter, Sir Edward's wife Joanne, a psychotherapist, is in the process of setting up a program for the benefit of the both Law Enforcement Officers and the safe-house staff, to assist in bridging the information gap that has existed, in bringing the perpetrators of domestic violence to justice.

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Pictures of the new safehouse:



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