

### STUDENTS:

“I find that it changed my attitude toward certain things. I find that I’m doing better in school. I can understand the teacher better now in school.” *Tara Edward, Bocage Secondary*

“Yeah, I can relate better. Normally in class, when we had arguments, I would never take part in them. But now I’m more advanced, I’m more vocal, I can express myself.” *Shana Marius, Babonneau Secondary*

“Like Shana, I always take part in arguments, and in all the arguments the children try and tell me I’m not right, but as I took the program, I know for sure I’m right because I know my facts.” *Kerdisha Lucien, Sir Ira Simmons Secondary*

“This program gives us the opportunity to make a difference in our society, because you’ll find that young people, if they speak about AIDS, they don’t really speak about it, they’re just touching the edges of the topic. Now I could go back and teach my peers what I learned.” *Juane St. Brice, Micoud Secondary*

“I plan to do several speeches to my friends, and not only speeches, but talk to my close friends and ensure that they know how to protect themselves and they will pass on the message and that will in turn break the silence.” *Kdi JnPierre, St. Joseph’s Convent*

“I joined the program to help spread knowledge about HIV/AIDS. I learned a lot more than I bargained for. I learned how to relate to people, how to express my feelings, and how to deal with people. I also learned how to use a video camera and how to interview people.” *Camilia George, St. Joseph’s Convent*

“When I watch a movie, I ask myself many questions.”

“I ‘read’ into everything now: I identify the shots, I analyze the messages.”

“I’m thinking about trying to open up my own video company.” *Tara Edward, Bocage Secondary*

“When I look at it, I think Breaking the Silence is about giving women the power to change society, both in the labor force and in the contraction of HIV.” *Julietta Gonzague, Vide Bouteille Secondary graduate*

The majority (at least 75%) of participants strongly agreed that Breaking the Silence was fun and interesting, that the program helped them learn about themselves, their strengths, and their leadership abilities. The majority also strongly agreed that Breaking the Silence helped them learn what they can do to make a difference, learn that they can do things they didn’t think they could do, and helped them feel proud of their accomplishments.

100% rated their self-esteem and values-awareness to be at the highest level possible at the end of the program.

100% of the students reported that the Breaking the Silence program fulfilled and/or exceeded their expectations.

100% would take the class again and would recommend it to others.

### INSTRUCTORS & GUEST SPEAKERS:

#### *Why they got involved...*

“I think it is important for women to be in control of their reproductive health care and media is a way for them to take control and help others take control.” *Christy Elton, 911 Media Arts Center, Seattle*

“I decided to participate because there is a great need to empower girls in particular to deal with situations that confront them, particularly in situations pertaining to relationships with the opposite sex.” *Arthusa Semei, CAMDU, Ministry of Education*

“This is a great idea and I hope it produces effective messages that other groups can use as a standard for HIV/AIDS and youth.” *Jerry George, Specialist on Media Messages for HIV Prevention*

“For the girls to realize, ‘Hey, but I’m one of the very first St. Lucian females to actually handle the camera, to do the videotaping, do the editing, and put a video out in the world’ – that is another kind of power we can give these girls, a power that boosts up their self-esteem and gives them independence.” *Marva Edward, Youth Officer, St. Lucia Red Cross*

#### *Success stories...*

“Excellent program. Its impact goes beyond the objectives of organizers. It is, I am sure, saving a whole generation.” *Lissa Joseph, Radio St. Lucia*

“This a good way to create impact to help young people, especially young women.” *Dr. Stephen King*

“If we can help our young women develop vocational skills and realize the power that lies within, we do believe we are well on our way to creating change.” *Joan Didier, Executive Director, AIDS Action Foundation*

- \* seeing how well participants related to the information
- \* dedication and enthusiasm of the girls
- \* the girls created strong friendships and bonds
- \* the girls showed up consistently, no dropouts
- \* high quality presenters and presentations
- \* programme gained recognition and support from the community
- \* participants learned media literacy
- \* organizational partnerships

100% of respondents expressed interest in participating in Breaking the Silence in the future.

### AUDIENCES:

- On average, audience members strongly agree that the Breaking the Silence video is entertaining and would recommend the video to others.
- On average, audience members agree that the video is informative, unique, and thought-provoking. They also agree that the video inspires dialogue, inspires them to take action, and will have an impact on their lives.

