

## **Sandals and Beaches Resorts bring sex education to Rhodes Hall High**

WITH the globally recognised World Aids Day approaching (Thursday, December 1), Sandals Resorts International has increased its campaigning efforts to foster healthy lifestyle practices in the Caribbean.

This, through its latest feat, an interactive HIV/AIDS and Sexual Orientation Session held at the Rhodes Hall High School last Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

Team members from Beaches Negril, Beaches Sandy Bay and Sandals Negril, engaged over 30 fifth-form students in discussions and demonstrations aimed at deepening their knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS and other related issues. Among the topics explored in the two-hour session were STI awareness, including transmission, symptoms, treatment; and the ABCs of self-protection (Abstain, Be faithful to one partner and use a Condom every time).

Students also benefited from a condom demonstration done by Beaches and Sandals Negril environment health and safety managers, Sadiq Miller and Denisha Powell, who illustrated the proper way to open, put on, remove and dispose of condoms.

Guidance counsellor at the Rhodes Hall High School Camille Drummond expressed that with TEENagers being increasingly exposed to sex and sexual activities through the influence of their peers, music and the easy availability of pornographic material, the workshop was a timely one.

“Sandals’ presence here has helped to enlighten students and clear up common misconceptions and myths associated with sex and sexually transmitted infections,” she said.

The session ended with students listening to songs with and without sexual connotations. They were then encouraged to share their feelings on each track. The group gave varying responses, from feeling belittled and disrespected to feeling powerful and confident after listening, bringing to their realisation that music posed a lot of influence on their sexual feelings and decisions.

Sandals continues to play its part in ensuring that individuals are educated on issues relating to health and wellbeing, in an effort to promote healthy living within our homes, schools and our Caribbean communities.



Fifth form students at the Rhodes Hall High School eagerly participate in the HIV/AIDS and sexual orientation session facilitated by Sandals team members.



Beaches Negril environment, health and safety manager Sadiq Miller demonstrates to students the correct way to inspect condom packets during the HIV/AIDS sexual orientation session put on by Sandals Resorts in Negril at the Rhodes Hall High School.

