



# UPDATE

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
**THE COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES**  
April - June 2005



Dear Partners:

Today more than ever, the plight of children is of burning concern to the nation. This was sadly demonstrated on the eve of the start of child month (Saturday, April 30) when another of our precious children, seven-year-old Shaneika Anderson, an innocent child, who mistakenly thought a stranger was a friend was brutally assaulted, raped and murdered. The brutal slaying of Shaneika Shakes, nine (9) years old and her friend Kay Ledgister, eight years (8) old on June 30, 2005 is another example of recent crimes committed upon our children.

How many more killings and traumatized mothers will there be before concerned Jamaicans unite and take a stand against this scourge?

CVSS joins the nation in condemning these heinous crimes and calls on policy makers, government, children's agencies and all their affiliates, as well as civil society to collectively work together to stop these atrocities that are, with increasing frequency being meted out to our children.

We call on the police to leave no stone unturned until the perpetrators of these crimes are removed from the streets. We also recommend that the law preventing the police from responding to the report of a missing person only after 24 hours be changed to ensure immediate action when children are involved.

We want to promote the call for more and safer, green spaces for children to play and enjoy their childhood without fear of molestation and abuse.

The Child Care and Protection Act 2004 (CCPA) makes it incumbent on every member of society to protect our children. The act emphasizes that the duty to protect children, not only rests with family, but is the shared responsibility of all members of society.



Civil Society must make it their business to care and act accordingly. The CCPA makes it an offence for any person who has information or suspects that a child has been abandoned, physically or sexually mistreated, to not report it.

The passing of the act is a signal of a commitment to build on the progress of improving the lives of Jamaica's children.

We fail them at our peril.

Carlton Levy  
Chairman, Executive Committee

## A CHILD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS TO PARENTS

1. My hands are small, please don't expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball.  
 My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you. 
2. My eyes have not seen the world as yours have;  
Please let me explore safely: don't restrict me unnecessarily.
3. Housework will always be there.  
I'm only little for such a short time -  
Please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.

4. My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; Don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness) Treat me as you would like to be treated.
5. I am a special gift from God; please treasure me as God intended you to do, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.
6. I need your encouragement, and also your praise, to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
7. Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me.
8. Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my Efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but Please don't try to compare me with my brother or my sister.
9. Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from parents, just as parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it's a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.
10. Please take me to Sunday School and church regularly, setting a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.



Contributed by: The National Child Month Committee

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- National Registry of Volunteers

Agencies are being asked to register all the volunteers working with them. If you need additional forms, please contact the Secretariat at 967-3598 On line registration is now available at [www.cvssjamaica.org](http://www.cvssjamaica.org)

- Under the IDB Institutional Strengthening Project

Eighty one (81) persons successfully completed Project Cycle Management 1 and 11 at the Social Welfare Training Centre, UWI in June 2005. Graduation took place on July 26, 2005, at the SWTC.

One hundred and seventy three (173) persons have received Certificates of Participation, having attended all four modules of the Practical Training Programme. The programmes' foci continue to be: Project Management, Strategic Planning and Performance Management, Proposal Writing and Fundraising and Accounting and Financial Reporting.

Twenty-three NGO and CBO professionals and volunteers are now participating in the NGO Management Training Programme being offered in collaboration with the UWI School of Continuing Studies. This summer, students are pursuing the module – Principles of Organizational Behaviour.

A one-day seminar/workshop on Entrepreneurial skills for the Voluntary Sector was held on July 19, 2005, at the Knutsford Court Hotel in conjunction with the Alcoa Foundation's "Sharing Lessons Learnt" from Social Ventures for income generation. Twenty-one agencies participated.

- CVSS in collaborating with the Child Development Agency hosted ten sensitisation/awareness seminars across the island on The Child Care and Protection Act.

- Brochures on the Child Care and Protection Act are now available from the Secretariat or the Child Development Agency.
- Mrs. Sharon Edwards, Programmes and Projects Manager –CVSS and Mr. Simon Harris, Chair – Education Sub-Committee (National Aids Committee) represented the Council at a National NGO Summit held in Barbados on June 20 – 24, 2005.
- Mrs. Beverley Stewart, Financial Resource Mobilization Specialist, IADB Project participated the IADB’s sponsored “Design and Management of Social Policies and Programmes” training programme in Washington, D.C. This is an annual offering. Be sure to look out for the advertisement next year.



## **PREPARING FOR A DISASTER**

### **PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES**

In a disaster, ordinary items in the home or workplace can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break, or cause a fire is a potential hazard.

- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- Fasten shelves securely.
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Secure water heater. Strap to wall studs.
- Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.

- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products away from heat sources.
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.

### **EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a Disaster Supplies kit with items you may need in an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy –to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffle bags or covered trash containers.

#### *INCLUDE*

- A three-day supply of water and food that won’t spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family’s prescription medications.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or traveller’s checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

Keep important family documents in a waterproof container.

#### *UTILITIES*

- Locate the main electric fuse box, water service main and natural gas main.
- Learn how and when to turn these utilities off
- Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves. Remember, turn off the utilities only if you suspect the lines are damaged or if you are instructed to do so.
- If you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on.

Contributed by the Jamaica Red Cross

### **JAS 110<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

This year marks a special and significant milestone in the history of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and that is the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this farmers’

organization. Formed on May 29, 1895 by Sir Henry Blake, the Jamaica Agricultural Society has been consistently providing unbroken service to farmers and giving direct domestic support to the agricultural sector in general.

Agriculture is indeed the bedrock of our society and undoubtedly the key to sustained development within any nation. The importance of the farmers of Jamaica therefore needs to be emphasized and given the recognition and assistance that is truly deserved.

An organization such as the Jamaica Agricultural Society with the mission to, “ensure the protection and promotion of farmers’ interests”, acts as a lobby group facilitating the needs of farmers and rural development through extension services, special projects and programmes.

On Sunday May 29, 2005, a thanksgiving celebration was held at the Coke Methodist Church to commemorate this anniversary and highlight the valid contributions of the past presidents of the Society.

Officiating the service was Senator Burchell Whiteman. Senator Norman Grant, President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society extended greetings on behalf of the organization and gave sincere thanks to God for this momentous occasion.

A symbolic cutting of the Anniversary cake was done immediately following the service and Senator Anthony Johnson, Mr. Allan Rickards, Mr. Paul Miller, Dr. Trevor Dewdney and Ms. Donna McPherson brought greetings.

These persons lauded the Jamaica Agricultural Society for the tremendous effort to assist the farmers of Jamaica; the farmers who place us a step further towards self-reliance and food security, the farmers who give us clear hope for the progression of Jamaica.



Senator Norman W. Grant, President of JAS greeting Dr. Amiel and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the JAS after the 110<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, May 29, 2005 Coke Methodist Church, Kingston.

Contributed by the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

**? DID YOU KNOW?**

**Violations and Penalties Under the Child Care and Protection Act 2004**

The maximum penalty for cruelty to children has been increased from \$50 to \$1 million in certain courts. Significant penalties are now imposed for failure to report suspected cases of abuse, neglect or abandonment of children. For the first time, offences such as trafficking of children are enshrined in the law. The act also makes it mandatory for any person who suspects that a child is being abused, to report it to the appropriate authorities, or face stiff penalties.



**The CVSS health plan covered by Blue Cross of Jamaica**

*A special recruitment drive is now on to increase the number of persons under the CVSS Health plan provided by Blue Cross of Jamaica.*

*If your staff is not covered please call the secretariat for registration forms*

**\$\$\$ PENSION SCHEME \$\$\$**

The CVSS Pension Fund is managed by Life of Jamaica Ltd. Please contact the secretariat for brochures and application forms.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 2005**

**August 9-14**

Addiction Alert – 967-3778  
Stimulating Young Minds to become Achievers – Summer Camp @ CASE

**August 12**

HEART Foundation of Jamaica  
NDTC benefit performance – Little Theatre @ 8:00p.m., cost \$650,  
Wine and Food Festival – Liguanea Club, September 30

**August 19**

Jamaica Cancer Society  
Wine and cheese – Jamaica House  
@ 6:00p.m., cost - \$1,000

**CVSS/IDB Institutional Strengthening Project Practical Training programme**

Next Offering – Portmore

**August 20**

Financial Accounting

**August 27**

Proposal Writing

**September 3**

Strategic planning

**September 10**

Project Management

Please contact the secretariat for further details.