



# UPDATE

## The Official Quarterly Newsletter of The Council of Voluntary Social Services

### Events of the quarter



#### IADB/CVSS Institutional Strengthening Project

February 22  
Jamaica Conference  
Centre, "Building and  
Sustaining  
Organizational  
Capacity" Conference



Boys' Brigade  
February 24,  
Annual Fish Fry - \$400

February 17-19  
Western Regional  
Fellowship Weekend  
Camp



March 4  
Girls' Brigade  
Launch of Girls' Brigade  
Month  
King's House – 9:00  
a.m.

Fellowship Day and Fair  
– Mico Teachers College  
– 9:00 a.m.

March 17  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
National Pantomime –  
Benefit Performance  
\$600



March 12  
Jamaica Cancer Society  
Prostate Cancer Public  
Forum – March 12, 2006  
Mandeville – Golf View  
Hotel

October – December, 2005



Dear Partners,

It was good to see so many of you at our Annual General Meeting held at the Jamaica Conference Centre on November 29, 2005. We welcome on board five new members, Youth Reaching Youth, Rural Services for Children with Disabilities, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, the Fishermen's Cooperative Union and Mr. Donovan McLaren. We look forward to sharing mutually beneficial relationships. We also welcome on board the newly appointed Executive members, Ms. Lorna Jackson, Mrs. Rosemary Neale-Irving, Mrs. Mildred Dean and Mr. David Wilson. We look forward to your contribution and participation.

The Gleaner Company broke with previous trends and named five faith-based organizations as joint top recipients of its annual Gleaner Honor Award. I am particularly pleased about this as three (3) of these are our own member agencies. Salvation Army, Adventist Development and Relief Agency and St. Andrew Settlement. On behalf of the CVSS family, we offer our own congratulations to these agencies.

I am sure you too will join with me in endorsing Professor Nettleford's comments made in his letter to the Editor and published in 'The Daily Gleaner' on November 30, 2005, "... [The] 2005 Gleaner Honor Awards made to faith-based voluntary organizations – places, the awards system on the side of history – past and present."

Congratulations also to our own Honorary Vice President, Miss Elsie Sayle who received the Gleaner Merit Award for her years of unselfish service in social work and volunteerism and who was further recognized as the Kingston Parish overall International Volunteer Day (2005) winner at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Monday, December 5, 2005. Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer, Executive member of CVSS, United Way volunteer, Ms. Pat Ramsay and the Programme Director of P.A.C.T., Mrs. Sheila Nicholson were also honoured for their work in volunteerism by the Gleaner Company.

Exciting days are ahead of us, we look forward to commencing construction of the National Volunteer Centre in the first quarter of 2006. This facility will act as a focal point for coordinating all volunteer activities in the country. It will also be the home of the National Registry of Volunteers and the training center for NGO professionals and volunteers.

We wish for you and your staff a successful and productive 2006. Remember, keep us informed of your activities, so that we may participate and celebrate with you.

Best regards,

CARLTON LEVY  
CHAIRMAN



National IVD Chairman Mr. Elon Beckford making a special presentation to Kingston parish overall IVD 2005 volunteer winner – Ms. Elsie Sayle

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The Council's Annual General Meeting was held on November 28, 2005 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The members of our Executive Committee are:

**President**

*Professor the Hon. Rex Nettleford, OM, FIJ BA (UWI), MPhil (Oxon), Hon D Litt, Lld, LDH*

**Chairman**

*Mr. Carlton Levy*

**Vice Chairman**

*Mrs. Wyvolyn Gager*

**Hon. Treasurer**

*Mr. John Beman*

**Secretary**

*Mrs. Joan Browne*

**OFFICERS**

*Rev. Dave Spence*

*Ms. Claire Bernard*

*Mr. Carlton Stephen*

*Mr. Jos Chambers*

*Pro. Denise Eldemire-Shearer*

*Ms. Gerlin Bean*

*Mr. Gregorv Shirlev*

*The Hon. A. "Bobby" Pottinger*

*Mr. Owen Bernard*

*Mrs. Mildred Dean*

*Mr. David Wilson*

*Mr. Elon Beckford*

*Ms. Lorna Jackson*

*Mr. Ceibert Hines*

*Mrs. Rosemarv Neale-Irving*

*Mrs. Mildred Dean*

*Mr. David Wilson*



Mrs. Angella Plunkett, Co-ordinator, Youth Reaching Youth, receiving new membership certificate from Chairman Carlton Levy

- A conference on “ **Building and Sustaining Organizational Capacity**,” will be held on February 22, 2006, at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston at 8:30 a.m. Board Members and Executive Directors of agencies will be targeted. Speakers confirmed to date include Dr. Leahcim Semaj, Prof. Neville Duncan, Dr. Henley Morgan and Ms. Karen Turner, Director of the USAID. Mrs. Lisa Harrison, Programmes Mgr (EFJ) and Ms. Faith Graham (JSIF) will also be in attendance and will speak on assigned aspects of the topic.
- Twenty-one members from the NGO Community are in their second year of a two year Certificate in NGO Management in collaboration with UWI School of Continuing Studies. Subjects being done this term are: Networking and Advocacy, and Principles of Cost and Management Accounting.
- The NRV has registered over 5000 persons.
- Ground breaking ceremony for the National Volunteer Centre at 2b Camp Road will take place in the first quarter of 2006

**Jamaica Red Cross****World AIDS Day December 1, 2005**

The highlight of the day was the debating competition, with moots like “*Sex education increases the likelihood of earlier sexual activity among youth*” as well as “*An abstinence only strategy is a practical sexual reproductive health approach for Jamaican youth*” among others.

Seven schools competed in the debating final which was held at the PCJ auditorium on Thursday, December 1, 2005 under the UN theme “Keep the Promise” and the Jamaican extension “Make the Promise....Keep the Promise”. Students present at the competition signed a document to indicate their intention to make and keep the promise.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the National Aids Committee not only partnered with the Jamaica Red Cross in the staging of this event but they also provided technical support. Corporate sponsors and

local media houses donated prizes and promotional time slots respectively. The competition was video-taped and plans are being made to have this used as a tool in the teaching of sexuality awareness and HIV/AIDS.

Congratulations to Montego Bay High School which won the competition and to St. Andrew Technical High for placing second.

Contributed by the Jamaica Red Cross



Ms. Dawn Minott presenting the championship trophy to Opal Dunn of Montego Bay High School.

## **DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK 2005**

### **RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY: ACTION IN DEVELOPMENT**

Under the above United Nations Theme, the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disability kicked off its week of activities on Saturday December 3, 2005 with its national

church service held at the Church Street Seventh Day Adventist Church in Montego Bay. Senator Floyd Morris, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and National Security, declared the week officially opened.

One of the highlights of the week was the appreciation function held at Verney House on Wednesday, December 7. This was to recognize persons, mainly from Western Jamaica, who had significantly contributed to the community of

persons with disability. Mr. Peter Kerr-Jarrett received an award on behalf of his father, who is deceased, for donating the land on which the school of Hope is built.

The guest speaker, Mr. Hixwell Douglas, Education Officer in the Special Education Unit of the M.O.E.Y&C, praised individuals for their selfless giving to the community of persons with disabilities. The function provided a serene atmosphere for awardees, their families, friends and the entire community.



### **Information & Documentation Centre**

The CVSS Documentation and Information Centre has been set up to provide several services to you (Please see flyer). We are interested in getting Annual Reports, Brochures, Newsletters and news in general about projects and anything you may have to share about your organization so that it can be included in the database of the Documentation Centre.

In this way we can develop a clearing house where information about all the non-governmental organizations in Jamaica is available.

## **PARENTING WORKSHOPS – RISE LIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

All across the island November is recognized as Parent and Youth month. Let us have a look at some of the parenting and youth interventions carried out by the Rise Life management Services.

With the aid of Citizen Security & Justice Programme (CSJP) Ministry of National Security, RISE Life Management Services has been impacting positively on the lives of young people ages 11-14, in six inner-city communities. Their community intervention programme for youth at risk in the communities of Allman Town, Drewsland, Fletcher's Land, Parade Gardens, Tower Hill and Waterhouse is done through SYMBA (Stimulating Young Minds to Become Achievers). Mondays through Wednesdays between 3pm -5:30 pm homework assistance as well as remedial reading is offered to the young people.

Not only are young people facilitated but there are also parenting workshops for parents. Here parents of youth within SYMBA are given information on how to form community parents' support groups, taught communication skills, rights of the child, sexuality and nutrition.

The long term goal of RISE is to have these parent groups become self-sustaining. The Fletcher's Land group is well on its way of becoming thus. At times Miss Arlene Bailey and Mr. Carlton Powell from this group are often asked to make motivational presentations to other communities.



TOWER HILL PARENTING WORKSHOP (L-R) Carlton Powell, Arlene Bailey (of Fletcher's Land), Norman Cooper (RISE Life), Kirt Stephenson (UWI Practicum Student Cammoy Robinson (Centre Manager for the Tower Hill SYMBA centre)

Contributed by RISE Life Management Services

Can you afford to miss this?

**Council of Voluntary Social Services Benefits of Membership**

1. Access to funding for qualified projects via CVSS' sister organization 'The United Way of Jamaica'
2. Ongoing information regarding funding sources
3. Training Opportunities
4. Access to technical assistance under CVSS Projects
5. Access to skills bank of resource people
6. Representation with government regarding benefits to the voluntary sector
7. Unified advocacy on current issues
8. Exposure for member constituents
9. NGO collaboration and exchange of ideas (especially within the sector)
10. Provision of information on issues relevant to NGOs
11. Staff benefits at group rate (Health Insurance, Pension Scheme)
12. Opportunities for Networking

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

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



## VOUCH'S COMPUTER FACILITY

VOUCH is pleased to announce the opening of its computer room. Thanks to the Bernard Van Leer Foundation and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) among others. They are now exposing 4 & 5 year olds at the Sylvia Foot Basic School to the technology.

The facility has available twelve (12) stations but it is still a work in progress as there is need for a few more new computers, printers and surge protectors as well as additional software for the selected age group.

The computer facility was officially opened by Mr. Roger Richards, Sr. Vice-President in charge of data and Internet at Cable and Wireless Ja. Ltd. He promised on behalf of Cable and Wireless to provide free high-speed internet connections for the computers and it is expected that implementation will take place in January 2006.

The plan is to make the facility available for training after 2:00 p.m. weekdays. Consideration is being given to the provision of a cyber café and document (printing/copying) centre adjacent to the present facility. This would be accessible to members of the neighbouring communities.

Contributed by VOUCH

