



**Give a little...
get much more back**

Volunteers touch a community in many ways and open avenues for improvement of the quality of life. Today, more than ever, marginalized communities rely on the willingness and generosity of citizens and organizations to work together with them to improve their quality of life.

Who Can Participate?

Who participates

The National Registry of Volunteers encourages the registration of all volunteers living locally and overseas. Regional and international groups, and volunteer groups that function in Jamaica can be registered to facilitate acknowledgment and placement of their personnel.

Individuals

Volunteers are of all ages and come from all walks of life - housewives, students, retirees, working adults, members of the business communities. Whether your cause allows you to work alone or with a group, you can be part of this initiative.

Voluntary Organisations

All civil society groups are invited to participate in the programme of the NRV. These include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community based organisations (CBOs), foundations and service clubs. Religious groups and institutions of learning offering voluntary support in their local communities are to be included in the NRV.

Corporate Volunteers

Many corporate entities support and encourage employee voluntarism as a part of their corporate social responsibility. Some companies become involved in voluntary sector activity to support their public image as good corporate citizens.

All corporate citizens, giving financial support or company time to the development of the Jamaican community are invited to become registered with the National Registry of Volunteers.

How To Register

Registering with the NRV costs nothing.

- ◆ Registration Forms are available at the offices of the Social Development Commission and the National Youth Service throughout the island.
- ◆ Register by Telephone
Call 702-3641
- ◆ Email us at: voluntrs@uwimona.edu.jm
- ◆ Visit us online at – www.nrv.org.jm
under construction

A project of the Council of Voluntary Social Services
Funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
Partners: The University of the West Indies
Social Development Commission
Association of Development Agencies



**National Registry
of Volunteers**

*Enhancing Partnerships
for a Secure Future*

The Power of Partnerships

Volunteerism in Jamaica has been built on a tradition of individuals and organizations forging partnerships within communities for a better quality of life and a more secure future. Many have selflessly given time, shared resources and knowledge to build a better country, making invaluable contributions to every aspect of Jamaican life.

Promoting Partnerships

The National Registry of Volunteers (NRV) initiative is a collaboration of the Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS), Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), Social Development Commission (SDC) and the University of the West Indies (UWI), supported by several national organizations. The National Registry of Volunteers will seek to develop a database that records and recognizes the contributions of those who give of their time and effort in service to others without expectation of personal and financial gains.

The overall objective of the NRV is to multiply human and financial resources as it strengthens and connects groups of individuals and organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of Jamaican citizens.



(l-r) Governor General Sir Howard Cooke, poses with Miss Dorett Bent of Manchester, who was named the National Volunteer of the Year, 2001.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The National Registry will increase volunteerism, ensure continuity in volunteer management systems and support best practices. NRV will do this through providing volunteer resources, recruitment and referral, training and recognition. Volunteer sector participants are expected to benefit through improved communication and information systems, support and education.

Ensuring Greater Networking

NRV will develop and maintain a network of volunteer service providers by:

- ◆ Identifying and registering volunteers.
- ◆ Facilitating access to volunteer programmes for persons wanting to give service.
- ◆ Matching the right volunteer to the right programmes based on the available skills and stated needs.
- ◆ Facilitating international organizations wishing to give voluntary service in Jamaica.
- ◆ Expanding Jamaica's volunteer corps.
- ◆ Increasing the support of volunteerism by youth and retirees.

Encouraging a New Approach to Volunteerism

NRV will play a catalytic role in this new focus on volunteerism as it seeks to bring recognition to the sector. NRV will explore activities that:

- ◆ Develop a charter governing the rights, responsibilities and conduct of volunteers and the voluntary sector.
- ◆ Establish systems of communication between participants in the sector.
- ◆ Set standards of good practice.



Photo courtesy Kiwanis Club of New Kingston

- ◆ Facilitate volunteer training and skills building
- ◆ Identify best practices.
- ◆ Enable programmes that tap into the resources of the community and involve the corporate, non-governmental and public sectors of society.

Recognition and Valuing of Volunteerism

What is the value of volunteerism to the country? Can it be measured? NRV will:

- ◆ Assess the service hours given by volunteers annually.
- ◆ Quantify the impact of volunteer service on the country's Gross Domestic Product.
- ◆ Recognize persons who provide human service on a voluntary basis.

Advocating Policies and Government Support

NRV will:

- ◆ Provide advocacy support to influence policy initiatives for individuals and companies involved in volunteerism.
- ◆ Provide relentless support in pursuit of recognition of the voluntary sector by the government.