



ITEMS



COMMISSION ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ACTION

\$3.00 Suggested Donation

Summer 2012

CVSA Hosts Dr. Luther Castillo Presentation on Health Care as a Human Right in Honduras

On April 5, CVSA volunteers were joined by staff from local New York CVSA member organizations, members of the Garífuna community in the Bronx, local college students and other concerned people who came to hear Dr. Luther Castillo Harry, founder of the First Popular Garífuna Hospital in Honduras, speak about the fight that he has been leading since 1999 for health care as a human right in Honduras. The CVSA event was co-sponsored by the NY Support Committee for the First Popular Garífuna Hospital, and both the Hispana/o Caucus and Hapa Caucus of Columbia University School of Social Work. The caucuses arranged for the use of a lecture hall at the school.

CVSA is now working in coordination with Celso Castro, head of the NY Support Committee, to organize several more events in New York in early September for Dr. Castillo to speak

Continued on page 6



Photo: David Ronero

Dr. Luther Castillo speaking at Columbia University School of Social Work on April 5, 2012, to an audience of volunteers and other concerned people from numerous New York-based, non-government organizations.

Ann Braudis Urges Volunteers to Participate in Global Movement for Sustainable Development Rio+20 is Largest Global Event in UN History



Photo: Freya Morales

Sr. Ann Braudis, (left) NGO Representative at the United Nations for the Maryknoll Sisters and Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, was the special guest speaker at CVSA's January 29th screening of *HOME* at the popular local Long Island City restaurant-bar-theater, The Creek & The Cave. Sr. Braudis spoke about the then-upcoming World Summit on Sustainable

Development, commonly referred to as Rio+20, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 20-22 and the need to continue organizing from the grassroots up after the conference until all destructive social, economic and environmental policies are replaced with sustainable and just policies.

The name Rio+20 is in reference to the first and historic Earth Summit held 20 years ago in 1992, also in Rio de Janeiro, which set and defined internationally agreed upon principles of sustainable development and launched the UN Convention on Climate Change. At the 1992 summit, countries adopted Agenda 21, which was a blueprint to "rethink economic growth, advance social equity and

Continued on page 3

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

INVEST YOURSELF: Deadlines for listings, photos, articles.....pg 5
When Parents Go to Prison, Who Cares for the Children?pg 11

Organizations featured in this issue:

Hour Children, Long Island City, NY
Maryknoll Sisters: Office of Global Concerns, NY
NY Support Committee for the First Popular Garífuna Hospital, Bronx, NY



WEEKLY SCHEDULE of CVSA VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Monday	9am-5pm	<i>INVEST YOURSELF</i> Distribution phoning and mailings
	6pm	Volunteer Organizer Class
Tuesday	9am-12	Volunteer Outreach
	10am-4pm	Membership Communications and Development
Wednesday	10am-4pm	Business Community Outreach
	6pm-9pm	Publications Production Session
Thursday	9am-2pm	<i>INVEST YOURSELF</i> Distribution phoning and mailings
	2pm	Volunteer Organizer Class
Friday	9am-12	Membership Communications and Development
	1-5pm	Volunteer Outreach
	6pm	Volunteer Organizer Class
Saturday	9am-12	Volunteer Outreach
	1-4pm	Publications Production Session
	4pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
Sunday	11am-4pm	Publications Production Session

CVSA VOLUNTEER PROJECTS from wherever you are:

You don't need to be in New York City to make a valuable contribution to the voluntary service and action movement. Here are other ways you can help:

We need *INVEST YOURSELF* Representatives:

You can help by publicizing and distributing *INVEST YOURSELF* in your local area to schools, colleges, libraries, places of worship, local community centers or workplaces and through the local organizations you volunteer with.

Build our Speaking Engagement Campaign:

You may know schools, congregations, social action committees, organizations, associations or other community groups who would be interested in having a CVSA speaker make a presentation about the non-government volunteer service and action movement.

Give us a call at (718) 482-8724

**You can also visit the new
CVSA website at:**

www.cvsa-investyourself.org



ITEMS is published quarterly by **Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA)**, the consultative and coordinating body of more than 200 non-government, voluntary service organizations based in North America that support or place volunteers with projects and programs serving people in the U.S. and internationally. **CVSA** seeks to interpret, extend, promote and support the world of voluntary service and involvement programs, and maintain and expand the ability and right of individuals to donate their time and services to persons, groupings and communities of people in need, free of government restraint.

ITEMS is **CVSA's** newsletter information service for organizational members represented in *INVEST YOURSELF* — *The Catalogue of Volunteer Opportunities*. **ITEMS** reports and provides analysis of news related to the voluntary service field on a national and international level, as well as political and economic developments relevant to the independent voluntary service sector.

Many volunteers and volunteer organizations learn the hard way: through their own experiences, using trial and error. We find that wasteful and contrary to the basic principle of organization: that an organization is stronger than an individual. Collective experience is therefore also more powerful than that of a single individual, or, for that matter, a single organization.

Your submissions to **ITEMS** of information, news, advice, photographs and graphics depicting your work or simply your comments and concerns are instrumental to the process of growth and advancement of voluntary service as a whole. We always look forward to receiving them.

Editor.....Susan Angus
Production Coordinator.....Gus Karakatsanis
Production Staff.....Joseph Petrino
Contributors.....Danielle Small
Photography.....Freya Morales, David Ronero
Sponsorship Staff.....Roslyn Isaac
Printer.....Wall Street Group, Inc.

ITEMS is free to **CVSA** members. **Subscription** rate for U.S. residents is \$15/year. Canadians and those abroad please add \$10 for additional mailing costs. Send your order and submissions of articles for publication to **CVSA**.

CVSA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable corporation with an all-volunteer staff; volunteers are always needed and tax-deductible contributions are welcome.

**Contact CVSA: 22-19 41st Avenue, 2nd Fl.,
Long Island City, New York 11101 • (718) 482-8724 •
www.cvsa-investyourself.org**



Global Movement for Sustainable Development

Continued from page 1

ensure environmental protection,” as described by the UN News Centre.

Sr. Braudis, who participated in all the negotiation sessions leading up to the Rio+20 conference, explained that this is the first United Nations conference in which all of civil society has been called on to participate in the preparation of the agenda, the actual conference and the follow-up to the conference. The conference was the largest event in the history of the United Nations, with 100 heads of state and prime ministers, senior UN officials and over 50,000 people, including parliamentarians, mayors, business CEOs, NGO leaders and their delegations, academics, representatives from environmental and indigenous groups, and journalists in attendance.

CVSA requested Sr. Braudis lead the discussion after the January film screening because of her six-year history as the NGO representative for the Maryknoll Sisters and her dedicated involvement in fighting for sustainable development policy and promoting popular education about the issues.

Sr. Braudis attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa in 2001 and wrote in one of her reports from that conference:

“There have been many excellent Side Events. I attended a four-hour seminar on Climate Change and Ethics at the university, featuring the work of Dr. Donald Brown... The seminar was excellent. The necessity of working hard to understand the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) process, with its multiple components, was pointed out at the outset. I have renewed my ambitions in this regard.



Photo: Freya Morales

Audience at the The Creek & The Cave mini-theater listening to Sr. Braudis speak after viewing the film HOME on climate change.



Photo: Freya Morales

Gus Karakatsanis, CVSA organizer training coordinator, speaking with an attendee about volunteering with CVSA, while Chrissy Karakatsanis, CVSA volunteer, listens.

“The most compelling component of the program was a diagnosis of the climate change disinformation campaign in the U.S., including a clear citing of its financial backers and the private benefactors. The grave crime against humanity represented by allowing the Earth to suffer the catastrophic changes of which we have been warned by a consensus of global scientists, including the U.S. Academy of Scientists, was addressed in terms of raising the necessary outrage and courage to publicly blame

Continued on next page



182 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Tel 718 387 6566
Fax 718 782 7101
northside.pharmacy@verizon.net
northsidepharmacy.net

Open Monday -Saturday 9am-8pm
Sunday 11am-5pm

11211

PACKING/SHIPPING & A WHOLE LOT MORE

You have your choice of DHL, FedEx Express, FedEx Ground, US Mail, or Freight. All you need to do is bring in what you need to ship and let us handle the rest.

190 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11249
(718) 782-0151 (718) 782-0140 fax
www.Office11211.com



Global Movement for Sustainable Development

Continued from page 3

those responsible. On the same subject, another speaker addressed the betrayal of public trust on the part of elected officials in presenting as public good that which is clearly for private benefit.

“Listening to the buzz about the corridors here, one could easily conclude that the U.S. is mainly an advocate for private enterprise and profit.”

Having participated in all three of the last UN Climate Change Conferences (Copenhagen, Cancun and Durban), Sr. Braudis is deeply familiar with how difficult it has been to achieve any agreement regarding climate change on a global scale under UN leadership and sees the strong element of skepticism regarding the possibility of achieving a universal agreement at Rio that will be any more successful, especially a universal agreement that affects the economy and lays down principles for achieving economic fairness.

She emphasized, however, the importance of bearing in mind that the Rio+20 conference is not just about the work of governments — it is about all of civil society, all the stakeholders on the planet, and the future they want to create through their own actions as well as the actions of governments. The failure to achieve agreement on an outcome document at the Rio+20 conference would not mean that the Conference has failed. She said it has not failed if the Conference — no matter the immediate outcome — ignites renewed energy and participation by grassroots and civil society to continue to fight for planetary well-being. She

emphasized that no one can underestimate the impact of group actions aimed at a sustainable future and that this is everyone’s responsibility.

Sr. Braudis urged everyone to become fully knowledgeable of the policies in question, the solutions being put forward from all over the world, and to do all that they can by way of advocacy to influence governments to take the Rio+20 negotiations seriously and responsibly.

CVSA History of Promoting *HOME* to Galvanize People to Action

CVSA has shown the film *HOME*, produced in 2010 for Earth Day by award-winning aerial photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand, to volunteers at the office many times over the last year, and has distributed two dozen copies of the film that were donated by the producer to community based volunteer service organizations across the country for them to screen in their communities and hold discussions on actions everyone must take. It is a unique not-for-profit film that approaches the subject of global warming from a new angle, giving the viewer the opportunity to see how our earth is changing and how the majority of people are struggling to live on it. With Bertrand’s breathtaking photography and the narration by Glenn Close, *HOME* shows the beauty of what makes life sustainable on this planet and the horror of what is destroying that sustainability at a very rapid pace at this stage.

Since the first Rio summit in 1992 — and as the film *HOME* depicts so well — there has been an increase, not a decrease, in environmental destruction and economic inequity and we have had a major world financial crisis that

Continued on page 15

GRAND OPENING

MODERN SPACES ASTORIA OFFICE

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • SALES AND RENTALS
NEW DEVELOPMENT MARKETING • WALK UPS • MULTI FAMILY
CONDOMINIUMS • WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

ASTORIA@MODERNSPACESNYC.COM

ModernSpaces
love your place

Modern Spaces Jackson
10-63 Jackson Ave.
Long Island City, NY 11101

Modern Spaces HQ
47-42 Vernon Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101

Modern Spaces Astoria
29-20 23rd Ave.
Astoria, NY 11105

ModernSpacesNYC.com • info@modernspacesnyc.com



Don't be left out of the New Edition of **INVEST YOURSELF**

Production is underway now!
Deadline for LISTINGS & PHOTOS: August 15, 2012

If your organization is looking for people who care, are willing to work and willing to learn while volunteering together with others to build a better world — you need to be **IN** the next edition of **INVEST YOURSELF!**



Make sure your organization is included in CVSA's new & improved, **Guide to Action**, listing over 200 organizations with full- and part-time volunteer opportunities in the U.S. and throughout the world; photos; geographic index and skill/area of interest index; articles by volunteers about their experiences. Used by colleges, high schools, professional associations, libraries, faith-based organizations, community-groups, students, retirees and the 99.7% who want to change the direction things are going in!

In this period of increasing economic, social and environmental devastation people of all ages and walks of life are looking for ways they can make a difference. **INVEST YOURSELF** offers them the opportunity to volunteer with non-government organizations dedicated to reversing these conditions, bringing hope through collective action and service to communities in need.

Make sure they find **you** in **INVEST YOURSELF!** Join the campaign to make this the most comprehensive and widely distributed edition ever! Call (718) 482-8724.

Already submitted your listing text?

Thank you! We still need your photos with caption and credit information.

Haven't submitted your updated listing text yet?

What are you waiting for?
Please call us today!

New to INVEST YOURSELF?

Include your organization NOW!

If you represent a non-government organization that needs volunteers, has full-time or part-time volunteer opportunities — contact CVSA today! CALL or fill out the LISTING FORM that you can download from CVSA's new website:

www.cvsa-investyourself.org

Last call for articles: CVSA is collecting article submissions from people who have made volunteering in service to communities in need your life's vocation, and people who have volunteered or are volunteering on short or long-term commitments with an organization listed in **INVEST YOURSELF**, to give readers insight into the varieties and scope of opportunities available. Contact CVSA **today** at (718) 482-8724 for details.



Health Care as a Human Right in Honduras

Continued from page 1



Photo: CVSA

Dr. Castillo (left) and Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director, meet for the first time in Chicago at a Conference on the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (known as ALBA), sponsored by the Venezuelan Consulate General in Chicago.

with more people about the alternative model of health care that he and his team are demonstrating in Honduras.

Honduras is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere, second to Haiti. The Garífuna people are the descendants of Carib & Arawak Indians and black African slaves, who were brought to the Caribbean by the Spanish colonialists in the 1600s. When two Spanish slave ships were shipwrecked in the West Indies, the slaves escaped to St. Vincent and were welcomed by the Carib Indians. Their intermarriage formed the Garinagu people, known as Garífuna today. In 1795 the British took control of the island and tried to re-enslave the people. The Garífuna fought the British and escaped to the Atlantic coast of Honduras. Today they live in Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, where they represent 10 percent of the population. There are also over 100,000 Garífuna living in New York City, primarily in the Bronx.

In 2001 UNESCO declared their culture to be one of the 19 Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. This designation is for the purpose of identifying and safeguarding cultural expressions and living heritages of humanity that are endangered due to such factors as migration, imposed standardization policies, uncontrolled influx of mass media or lack of finances. In the case of the Garífuna, their language has survived centuries of discrimination and linguistic domination. It is endangered due to the complete absence of its teaching in the school systems. Their music, made of rich

melodies with African and Ameri-Indian elements, along with tales of history and traditional knowledge (such as cassava-growing, fishing, canoe-building and the construction of baked mud houses) and a considerable amount of satire, are traditions still very important to the life and survival of the Garífuna people.

Just ten days before this event, CVSA Executive Director Susan Angus met Dr. Castillo at a conference in Chicago sponsored by the Consulate General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on development in Latin America and the regional accomplishments of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA). Angus invited him to come speak in New York City before he returned to Honduras in April.

With little time to mobilize CVSA's New York constituency and despite the date coinciding with Holy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter), 44 people attended. Many stayed late after the presentation to discuss with Dr. Castillo his plans for developing further support for the struggle to build systems of access to community-based health care throughout the developing world and in low-income areas of the United States.

Castillo Presentation at Conference on ALBA

At the March 22-23 conference in Chicago, Angus heard Dr. Castillo, who was on the panel of speakers representing social movements in Latin America, give a stirring presentation about the economic and social gains the people of Honduras had begun to make under President Manuel Zelaya, which were abruptly ended by the June 2009 military

RESTAURANT • BAR • www.7acafe.com

7A
24 hrs.

109 Avenue A (at 7th St.) • NYC • 212.475.9001



Photo: David Ronero

The audience at the April 5, 2012 speech by Dr. Castillo included volunteers from organizations of medical and legal professionals, Columbia University students and graduates of the Latin American School of Medicine (Escuela Latino Americana de Medicina or ELAM).

coup which removed the democratically-elected President and exiled him from Honduras. The new government withdrew Honduras from ALBA and reversed many policies Zelaya had installed, such as land reforms and health care programs. Despite the oppression of the current right-wing coup government, Castillo described how the Popular Garífuna Hospital he established in the municipality of Iriona, Department of Colon, has continued to grow, save lives, and demonstrate an approach to health care which not only involves the entire community but addresses root causes of health problems that people in the community experience in common. This work is only possible now due to Cuban and other international support that Dr. Castillo and his dedicated staff, who all work as unpaid volunteers, have gained from outside of Honduras. Angus felt it was important for more people to learn about this international volunteer effort and that CVSA should help to build further support for this pioneer work.

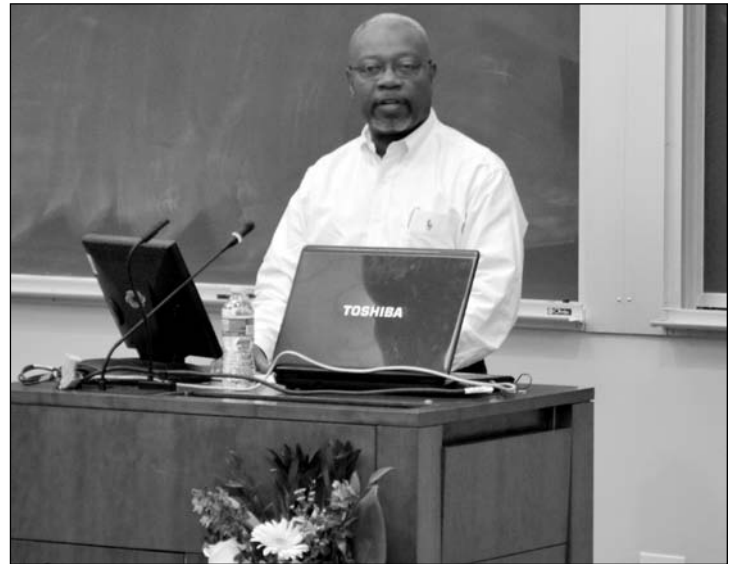


Photo: David Ronero

Celso Castro of the NY Support Committee for the First Popular Garífuna Hospital introduces Dr. Luther Castillo at the April 5, 2012 speech at the Columbia University School of Social Work, in New York.

Dr. Castillo was a member of the first graduating class of the Latin American School of Medicine (Escuela Latino Americana de Medicina or ELAM) in Havana. ELAM is the Cuban medical school, founded in 1999, that provides world-acclaimed medical education to young people from over 29 developing nations throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Islands. There are also over 100 students from the United States currently at ELAM. Their tuition is covered with full scholarships from the Cuban government. Through ELAM, students are learning new social relationships and an approach to medical practice that they then apply in underserved communities in their own countries. The World Health Organization has recognized the Cuban community based approach to medical care as the most effective in the developing world.

Continued on page 8

THYMARI
GREEK CUISINE

BAR • RESTAURANT • WINE

718 204 2880 32-07 34th Ave. Astoria NY 11106 www.thymari.com

*People helping people
is a way of life,
not just a slogan.
Keep it going, CVSA!*

On behalf of working single mothers
like me who really care, but currently
have limited time to volunteer.

Kathy



Health Care as a Human Right in Honduras

Continued from page 7



Photo: First Popular Garífuna Hospital

The First Popular Garífuna Hospital was built by the volunteer labor of hundreds of people from the community.

Dr. Castillo's Background

Dr. Castillo graduated from ELAM in 2005 with several other Garífuna from Honduras, and returned to the Cirboya community on the north coast of Honduras. In 1999 he had established the Garífuna Foundation Luagu Hatuadi Waduheno (in English, The Foundation for the Health of Our People) to handle administration of donations of funds and supplies. In 2006, through the foundation, he led the community in constructing the first Garífuna hospital which opened in 2007 and is now serving over half a million people in the surrounding isolated indigenous coastal communities free of cost. The area has never had a medical clinic, hospital or doctor in residence.

"We always say in Honduras, 'Where the paved roads finish that's the beginning of Garífuna communities,'" Dr.



Photo: First Popular Garífuna Hospital

Patients waiting outside the First Popular Garífuna Hospital. Many have traveled for many hours to receive medical care, which is provided free of charge.

Castillo explained. He gave an example of what happened every day in the villages before the hospital was built. "A woman in serious, serious complications of birth had to be transported maybe six hours, carried in a hammock to get to the river, another five hours in a boat, and another eight hours in the back of a car to get to the nearest hospital."

Beginning Plans for Garífuna Medical Care

While in medical school, Castillo, along with the other Honduran Garífuna students, made plans for what they could do for their community when they returned. "Knowing about the reality of our communities, we could not sleep eight hours a day; we knew we had work to do. We thought about what we could do for our people before we became doctors." They decided to use their summer vacations to work in the most remote areas of Honduras. "We returned to our areas, where some of us were born and raised. We had dreams of

HORUS CAFE
III

Mediterranean Cuisine

Cooked Over Seasoned Wood Chips

Catering & Birthday Parties

293 East 10th Street, NY, NY 10009

Tel: 212-228-4774 · Fax: 212-228-7399



Photo: First Popular Garifuna Hospital

Dr. Luther Castillo attends to patients at the First Popular Garifuna Hospital.



Photo: First Popular Garifuna Hospital

Health care worker from the hospital distributing vitamins and gathering vital epidemiologic data in the community towards developing strategies for preventive health care.

making change, but our countries and our villages are full of young people who every day see their dreams die, that our mind becomes like a cemetery of dreams. But we were determined to make a difference.” Since 2001, prior to the establishment of the hospital, the students went in brigades during their summer vacations, assisted by Cuban doctors, and provided integral health and medical assistance in communities such as Santa Rosa de Aguar, Tornabe, Triunfo de la Cruz, Guadalupe, Limon, Cirboya and Cocalito.

“We knew we had to have a strategy for how we were going to be able to return with our medical education, as doctors, and be able to practice what we learned. How were we going to do our residencies and have places to practice medical care in our own communities, where there are no resources?

“In Cirboya, in 2005 we began by holding meetings, community by community, holding meetings to discuss our dream of building a medical care facility and our new concept of medical care. And people in this area, they don’t believe anyone who talks about doing anything for them, because politicians come to them every four years telling lies. We got a piece of land donated from the community, and we started enlisting people to volunteer their time to prepare this land to build the facility. We cleared the land and we built our first facility, which was under canvass tarps on poles! We worked in this facility for more than a year, but it showed people what we could do, how it ran, and the difference it made in the community to have a medical facility. Then we began getting building materials donated, and talked to people about volunteering to help construct a hospital building. Every

household decided to donate ten days of volunteer work. In that manner, with men, women and youth from the entire community all engaged in building the hospital, we built it.

“Now, every day, people come from all over. When you ask patients where they traveled from, they say ‘I left my home yesterday to get here’ or, ‘I walked for 6 hours.’ Some people can pay maybe a dollar for the care. Most people cannot pay anything. We do not charge anything.”

Dr. Castillo explained that their approach was to establish a practice of preventive health care. For instance, many people were coming in with backaches, and the doctors sought to understand the cause. Everyone has to cut, chop and carry wood every day to make fires to heat water for cooking and washing. So they did research and found a way to build solar ovens that were made with inexpensive materials: basically cardboard and foil. The receptacles hold water outside in the sun and the sun brings the water to a boil after a period of time. Soon they also found you could cook the rice in them by putting the water and rice in the receptacle, and at the end of the day the rice is cooked. Installing these solar ovens throughout the villages cut down the amount of wood cutting and carrying everyone had to do, and there are now far less back problems. “We believe in doctors who can go and look for solutions with people,” Castillo explained.

Dr. Castillo explained that their model of medicine, and their very existence in the poor communities in Honduras, is seen as a threat by the current post-coup government. He said they ask, “Are you a public hospital? No, we do not take

Continued on page 10



Health Care as a Human Right in Honduras

Continued from page 9

government funds, we are not a 'public' hospital. Are you a private hospital? No, it is not owned by any private individuals, and makes no profit. Well, you are not public or private, what are you, they ask!" Castillo stated, "They do not understand, because of the racist rules based on exclusion and that they never thought that the people can build and run their own hospital! It is a 'popular' hospital. It is of the people. They never thought that young men and women of this poor community could go to school, learn to read, learn to be doctors, and come back and lead the process of development in their community and fight for the health of their community!"

Reaction from the Coup Government

"In June of 2009, the coup government tried to shut the hospital down, because our doctors were showing another way to do medicine, different than anything done in Honduras before. Giving medical care every day, visiting houses. Each doctor was in charge of 3,000 patients in different areas of the community, and each doctor got to know all the patients in their area. We re-enforced our human resources in this effort by training young women, single mothers who do not have the opportunity to leave their homes for an education, to be auxiliary nurses and they greatly augment the resources of the hospital and the community."

"It is very exciting for us that for the first time in history, people in our area have access to the ultrasound... free

of charge." In one of the films that Dr. Castillo showed about the hospital, a woman from the community said, "...it is like God finally came to the Garífuna, because now we know we have the right to live, and to have an education and adequate health access. We can learn to read and lead the process of development in the community. And build a health care system for us."

Dr. Castillo explained further that in the Garífuna society in Honduras they have created a new model. "How do we, as doctors from the Latin American School of Medicine — using the principles we learned there to be a Doctor of sciences and of consciousness, giving complete and unconditional care, ready to serve in any corner of the world and share our health services — how can we establish a different model in our capitalist society, an alternative health care system that truly services the poor? We see the misery in Latin American countries, the same exclusion that the modest dispossessed masses of people experience each time as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The masses increase more and more into poverty each day. This must change. And we believe as youth, we have a part, a fundamental role to play in changing this."

Dr. Castillo also spoke of the work he and over 700 other ELAM graduates did in Haiti directly after the 2009 earthquake struck. The earthquake occurred soon after the coup in Honduras, and Dr. Castillo was unable to get back into Honduras for a while. He contacted young doctors who had graduated from ELAM, who were now in their own countries

Continued on page 14

foodcellar & co. MARKET

tel: 718-606-9786 fax: 718-606-9785
e-mail: info@foodcellarco.com
4-85 47th Road
Long Island City, NY 11101

W

W



Cafe Mogador

Moroccan Food,
Breakfast, Brunch,
Lunch, Late Dinner.

Music, Belly Dancers
Wed Nights.

101 St. Marks Place
New York, NY
(212) 677-2226
www.cafemogador.com



When a Parent Goes to Prison... What Happens to the Children?

Hour Children's Volunteers Care for Children of the Incarcerated

By Danielle Small

As the poverty rate in the U.S. continues to soar and more women are incarcerated, while the government pumps millions of dollars into building bigger prisons and slashes the social services that prevent recidivism and the dismantling of families everywhere, Hour Children, a CVSA member non-profit organization based in Long Island City, New York, is working to reverse the damage and demonstrate a better and more successful way of making people whole, building community and rehabilitating women and their families.

The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, with over 2 million people in prison, and a total of 7.2 million either in prison, on probation or on parole, according to a 2006 U.S. Department of Justice report. While having only 5% of the world's population, the U.S. houses 25% of the world's prisoners. In the last 30 years, the female prison population in the U.S., two-thirds of whom are arrested for non-violent offenses such as property and drug crimes, has increased over 800%.

Legislative discrimination and economic hardship contribute to these horrific statistics. For example, under the Three Strikes rule of the War on Drugs and the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, a child not under the care of a relative



Photo: Danielle Small

An Hour Children volunteer working in the nursery with some of the children who are happy to be with Hour Children.

will be taken away from an incarcerated mother – forever – after she has served 15 months on her “third strike.” And statistics show that, as the economy worsens, the number of women arrested and incarcerated in the U.S. increases.

Incarcerated women are shipped to correctional facilities that are frequently hundreds of miles away from home, family and friends. Seventy-seven percent of them are single mothers. How can these mothers stay in touch with their children? Where can they go to start a new life with their children after they serve their time? All too often, lacking the means and security needed to rebuild their lives after their release, these women end up in homeless shelters and their children are placed in foster care.

Hour Children, assists about 200 women each year, building a supportive community for these women and their children, and working to end the cycle of poverty and recidivism that might otherwise trap them “in the system” forever. Established in 1985 by Sister Tesa Fitzgerald and four other Sisters of St. Joseph to care for the children of incarcerated mothers, Hour Children has grown and now also provides residences for mothers coming out of prison where they can

Continued on page 12

Minuteman Press

The First and Last
Stop in Printing

44-80 11th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 937-2200
Fax (718) 937-7622
www.lic.minutemanpress.com
tgprinting@gmail.com

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Black & White Copies | * Flyers | * Price Lists |
| * Booklets, Brochures | * Holiday Cards | * Product Sheets |
| * Business Cards | * Invitations | * Reply Cards |
| * Business Forms | * Labels | * Report Covers |
| * Calendars | * Letterhead | * Resumes |
| * Carbonless Forms | * Manuals | * Rubber Stamps |
| * Catalogs | * Memo Pads | * Self-Inking Stamps |
| * Color Copies | * Menus | * Stationery |
| * Coupons | * Newsletters | * Tickets/books and more... |
| * Digital Copies | * Note Pads | |
| * Direct Mail Printing | * Postcards | |
| * Envelopes | * Presentation Folders | |



Hour Children

Continued from page 11

reunite with their children, and offers a support system to prevent recidivism.

The first Hour Children location, at St. Rita's Convent, was aptly re-named My Mother's House, so the children could tell people they were going to "my mother's house" after school, instead of having to say that they were going to a special after school program for kids whose moms were in prison. Today, Hour Children has three transitional houses, two permanent residences and two apartments. Within a year, another residence will be completed.

Julianna Robinson coordinates Hour Children's mentoring program for incarcerated men and women who have children. She recruits and trains volunteer mentors to work with the men and women pre- and post-release. According to Robinson, "Once trained, we match the volunteer mentors with inmates based on several factors, and then have the mentors cleared to go into the facilities to meet the person they will be mentoring. They begin their relationship in the prison, and then continue it once the man or woman is released." Volunteer mentors are currently working in the Bayview, Beacon, Taconic and Queensborough facilities in New York State.

Robinson says that many landlords who provide post-incarceration housing do so simply to obtain government funding and they put a short time limit on how long residents are allowed to remain in the housing in order to keep a rotating flow of tenants. At the transitional housing provided by Hour Children, there is no time limit. "You can't put a time limit on anyone putting their life back together," Robinson affirms.

Most members of the New York State female prison population are first-time offenders. "In the past two years that I have been working in the prison," Robinson says, "I only know of one woman who wasn't a first-time offender. The major reasons women don't maintain their relationship with their children while incarcerated is because either the woman is incarcerated too far away and the family members don't have a way of physically getting to them, or their children were already in ACS (Administration for Children Services, a New York City government agency) prior to the arrest and the children may not know the mother's whereabouts. Once released, the women must jump through hoops to show that they are becoming stable in life before the system will give them their children back. There are also instances where women have lost their parental rights if there has been no

contact for more than 18 months, as set by the State, and once the rights are lost, they will not get their child back."

What's most impressive about Hour Children is the welcoming atmosphere that is omnipresent in everything they do. Whether visiting their hair salon, thrift shop, furniture store, day care or residences, the care shown to the women, their children, and their families is manifested in the positive presence Hour Children has built throughout the community.

In prisons today, incarcerated women can only see their children if an adult is available and can afford to bring the children the distance from home to the prison where their mother is incarcerated. Once that long, and often difficult, trip is made, children are then only allowed to visit with their mother for one hour. This stark fact gave Hour Children its name.

Volunteers are the backbone of the programs Hour Children provides. Without them, it would not be the thriving and expanding organization it is today. Volunteers mentor and tutor the children of incarcerated parents, engaging them in activities such as sports, hiking, cooking, picnics, movies and so on.

In addition, Hour Children has many community-based programs, such as the Hour Friends In Deed Mentoring Program, Hour Early Learning Program (HELP), Hour After School Program, thrift shops, a furniture outlet, and the Hour

Tiles by Kia

35-53 Steinway Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
Tel: 718-406-9815 Fax: 718-406-9816
TilesbyKia@gmail.com



36-30 Bell Blvd
Bayside, NY 11361
Tel: 718-281-2000 Fax: 718-281-2007
TilesbyKia.11@gmail.com



Massive selection of premium quality natural stone and engineered tiles including; Marble, Porcelain, Glass tile, Slate, Ceramic, Travertine, Limestone Mosaics and many more items. Home improvements as well as huge commercial renovations, restaurants, bars and more.

www.tilesbykia.com




ITEMS



Children's Food Pantry, all of which need either part-time or full-time, live-in volunteers. For example, local part-time volunteers keep HELP running, providing early learning and day care services for children from infancy up to three years old. In the thrift shops and the furniture outlet, part-time volunteers sort and clean donated goods and provide a vital community presence.

Hour Children needs volunteers in other areas as well, to work on their newsletter and carry out other tasks. And they are always thankful for donations of basic needed supplies, such as good quality clothing, diapers and milk.

Hour Children is – unfortunately – a nearly unique organization. Providence House, also listed in *INVEST YOURSELF*, is a similar organization in New York City, but there aren't many other nongovernmental organizations like this in the U.S., and government programs do nothing of this kind. Volunteers make all the difference in how many women Hour Children can reach, and in how many more locations and communities they can reach. To find out how you can help, contact Hour Children at (718) 433-4724. 

Please patronize our SPONSORS!

The businesses displayed throughout this newsletter support CVSA and our work to promote voluntary service and action across the country.

Please thank them with your business!



**FINE CUISINE FROM SPAIN
AND TAPAS BAR**

**38-09 36th Avenue
Long Island City NY 11101
718.349.7777
www.cafeolerestaurantny.com**

CVSA needs MOBILITY!

CARS and MINI-VANS URGENTLY NEEDED

Keep CVSA on the road. Your car will enable us to:

- Carry out community outreach and education
- Distribute *INVEST YOURSELF*
- Bring volunteers to the organizations that need them

Call CVSA today at (718) 482-8724



**Your contribution of a car, wagon or
mini-van to CVSA is tax deductible**



LUNASA

enjoy the fruits of your labor

Half-priced happy hour Monday-Friday from 4-7PM

126 First Avenue (Bet. 7th & St. Marks) ♦ 212.228.8580

New York, NY 10009 ♦ www.lunasabar.com



HANDLES
FROZEN YOGURT YOUR WAY



FLAVORS • 50+ TOPPINGS • SELF SERVE



**EAST VILLAGE, NYC
153 2ND AVENUE**

**WILLIAMSBURG, BK
141 NORTH 7TH STREET**

www.16handles.com




Health Care as a Human Right in Honduras

Continued from page 10

throughout Latin America, and he brought together over 700 of them to work in Haiti directly after the earthquake. To illustrate their work, Dr. Castillo showed us some portions of a film "Fireflies in the Night" about the Henry Reeve Cuban Medical Brigade in Haiti and the ELAM doctors Dr. Castillo had mobilized to come. Doctors from Peru, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador and many other Latin American and Caribbean countries left their jobs and family on a moment's notice to come to the aid of the Haitian people facing total devastation from the earthquake. The Cuban-led Brigade, currently comprised of 736 Cubans plus 402 ELAM graduates from Haiti, seven from the U.S. and two from Nicaragua, is still in Haiti and constitutes the largest medical relief effort there.

There are currently 114 U.S. students from low-income communities studying at ELAM and 67 that have graduated and returned to the U.S. These are young people who would otherwise never have been able to afford medical school and are committed to serving in underserved areas here. Several of these alumni now in New York also attended the April 5th event to hear their colleague speak.

CVSA is looking forward to Dr. Luther Castillo's return to New York this September 2012 to be able to bring this international effort to the attention of more people and gain much needed participation and support. In the meantime, there is a collection of supplies for the hospital underway in Los Angeles, where a shipping container has been donated and needs to be filled. For more information about the supplies needed and how to contribute to the shipment, call Susan at CVSA at (718) 482-8724, or Celso Castro (New York Support Committee for the First Garífuna Hospital) at (917) 841-3643, or visit the website for the Garífuna Hospital in Honduras at <http://primerhospitalgarifuna.blogspot.com/p/ingles.html>.

CVSA thanks Luke Patterson at Columbia University School of Social Work for his aid, and we thank the local businesses in Astoria, New York below who donated flowers, water and other needed supplies for the event. 

(Printer puts
logo here)

THE WALL STREET GROUP

High quality, fast turnaround,
affordably priced printing,
with complete art, desktop, camera, press,
bindery and shipping departments.
We manufacture an excellent product with
a service-oriented approach.

One Edward Hart Drive
Jersey City, NJ 07304
(201) 333-4784 or 1(800) 344-0280
info@wallstreetgroup.com

Thank You

Charles Florals
34-20 Broadway

Quinn Florist
35-24 Broadway

Homemade Falafel
36-18 Broadway

Trade Fair
22-20 36th Avenue

C-Town
29-10 Broadway

Uncle George's
33-19 Broadway

Desktop Computers and Laptops

**for CVSA's publications program
and field visits are
URGENTLY NEEDED**

**Please call if you can donate working equipment
718-482-8724**



Global Movement for Sustainable Development

Continued from page 4

put the fight to end poverty back several decades in many areas of the world. These events have spurred the large, vocal, assertive and determined civil society involvement at the current Summit. Sr. Braudis stated how encouraged she is by groupings like those CVSA gathered together to watch the film *HOME*, and other efforts going on across the country and the globe at the grassroots level to make people more knowledgeable of the need to personally take responsibility in action for the future of the earth as a sustainable place for life.

On June 6, less than two weeks prior to the summit, the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) warned that “the world was speeding down an unsustainable path, despite over 500 internationally agreed goals and objectives to support sustainable management of the environment and improve human well-being.” The report, which is the fifth edition of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-5), summarizes scientific evidence that shows that the Earth systems are being pushed towards their biophysical limits with evidence that these limits are close and have in some cases been exceeded.

UNEP, created after the 1992 summit, has carried out monumental work in documentation and recommendations; however it has little authority. The structure and program of the UNEP are up for review by the UN, and many civil society organizations are now advocating in Rio that the agency be upgraded to become the World Environmental Organization, functioning like the World Health Organization.

UNEP Director and UN Under-Secretary General Achim Steiner said about the importance of the report, “If current trends continue, if current patterns of production and consumption of natural resources prevail and cannot be reversed or ‘decoupled,’ then governments will preside over unprecedented levels of damage and degradation.” (The full report is available at: <http://www.unep.org/geo>).

On June 13, Sha Zukang, the Conference’s Secretary General and UN Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, told the UN News Centre in an interview, “The world we live in today is not sustainable — socially, economically and environmentally. At Rio, world leaders need to renew their political commitments for sustainable cities and disaster risk reduction. ... We also should not lose sight of the simple fact that over one-fifth of humanity is severely deprived, lacking basic goods and services. Yet, on the other hand, some 20 percent of the world population is consuming 80 percent of the natural resources. That is unsustainable. We need to change. We need action. My message is: come to Rio ready to commit.”

For over a year prior to the June conference, negotiations between governments, with the participation of hundreds of NGO civil society organizations, were held around the world to prepare an “Outcome Document” that all governments participating in the June summit could agree to. The negotiations became more and more intense in the last few months prior to the conference, with a great divide emerging between the wealthy countries of the north and the developing countries of the south, with many developing nations accusing the U.S. and the European Union of trying to back-track and water down commitments already agreed to in 1992.

CVSA member organizations who attended the Rio+20 conference will be sharing their accounts with us and their next steps. Volunteers are urgently needed by all of the efforts involved in this struggle. Please contact us about how you can help complete the new edition of *INVEST YOURSELF* and carry out an expanded distribution strategy so that we can strengthen this movement with more people being able to find their role in it.





Expert REPAIRS on all Photographic Equipment
Cameras • Lenses • Video • Digital

AUTHORIZED WARRANTY SERVICE FOR:
CANON, FUJI, NIKON, SIGMA

WE ALSO SERVICE:
CASIO, HASSLEBLAD, TAMRON, OLYMPUS, PANASONIC, POLAROID, SONY

**And Repair Center for all
Cellular Phones, iPods, Game Boxes & more!**



www.CPR-NYC.com

Chrysler Camera 367 W. 34th St., 2nd Floor NY, NY 10001 (212) 682-3547 www.phototech.com	Photo Tech 110 East 13th St. NY, NY 10003 (212) 673-8400 service@phototech.com	Photo Tech Depot 97 Nassau St. NY, NY 10038 (212) 240-9696
---	---	---



Commission on Voluntary Service & Action
22-19 41st Avenue, 2nd Floor
Long Island City, New York 11101-4835

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
New York, NY
PERMIT #3886

Change service requested.



RECYCLE by PASSING IT ON!

When you finish reading this issue of *ITEMS*, **don't** toss it in the recycle bin! Recycle this newsletter by sharing it with friends and colleagues. Or bring it to your local library, place of worship, school or college! That's a great way to build the movement while still saving the environment!

If you have received this publication in error, please call (718) 482-8724 and let us know we have the wrong address for the person the publication is addressed to so we may update our record.

SUBSCRIBE to ITEMS!

Order INVEST YOURSELF!

*Join the growing
NON-GOVERNMENT VOLUNTARY SERVICE
and ACTION MOVEMENT!*
Call (718) 482-8724

- ☐ Enclosed is my \$15 donation for an annual subscription to CVSA's newsletter *ITEMS*.
- ☐ I want to order #____ copies of the current edition of *INVEST YOURSELF—The Catalogue of Volunteer Opportunities*. Enclosed is my donation of \$10 (plus \$2.25 for postage) for one copy, or _____ for #____ copies.
- ☐ Contact me about how I or my organization can join CVSA.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Organization _____

Volunteers Urgently Needed!

***Help compile the new edition of
INVEST YOURSELF, build the distribution
network and carry out our community
education campaign about the voluntary
service and action movement.***

***CALL CVSA today.
(718) 482-8724***



**EXTRA SPACE STORAGE
OF LONG ISLAND CITY**
36-02 Northern Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 392-0259



Reserve Online at WWW.EXTRASPACE.COM or Call 1-888-STORAGE