



CVSA Builds Systems of Mutual Aid Among Member Organizations

Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA) began its 2015-16 Membership Site Visit campaign soon after the new *INVEST YOURSELF* was printed with a visit in April to Camphill Hudson, in Hudson, New York and then eleven more organizations in the New York Metropolitan region through the summer months. "These CVSA consultative visits will continue through 2016 until we meet with each organization across the country that is listed in *INVEST YOURSELF* in order to involve everyone in the year-round *INVEST YOURSELF* distribution campaign and to build our systems for CVSA's mutual aid program for member organizations," explained Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director. "It is great to meet people who are leading some of the most exciting and important work going on in the U.S. today on the grassroots level and connect

them with others who have the same goals! It is clear that everyone needs more volunteers and more access to resources without strings and that is what we are working on together."

Meeting with the leaders of member organizations on site, CVSA volunteer organizers assess each group's strengths and their needs. "We are meeting about how they can participate in CVSA's processes for sharing information between member organizations through the *ITEMS* newsletter and other means, how CVSA can best provide on-the-job training on methods of organizing that will strengthen their efforts, and about ways they can build more local, national and international allies for their important work. We are trying to make it possible to utilize the vast and valuable experience each organization has for the

Continued on page 3

INVEST YOURSELF Goes to UMC Reg'l Conferences Distribution Campaign Expands



Photo: CVSA

Yael Alonso, CVSA Administrative Assistant (right), speaking with a pastor of a local church at the 2015 annual United Methodist Eastern Pennsylvania Conference held in May.

In order to have the opportunity to talk directly with clergy and lay leaders of local churches throughout Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey about the 2015 *INVEST YOURSELF: Guide to Action*, CVSA organizers attended the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual United Methodist Church (UMC) Conference on May 14-15, held in Oaks, Pennsylvania and the Greater New Jersey UMC Annual Conference May 28-29, held in Wildwood, New Jersey. Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director and Yael Alonso, *INVEST YOURSELF* Editor and CVSA Administrative Assistant, spoke with hundreds of attendees about making *INVEST YOURSELF* available as a resource to their congregations.

"Reaching out to local churches of all denominations is an important aspect of our 2015 *INVEST YOURSELF* Distribution Campaign," explained Alonso when giving an orientation to new volunteers at the CVSA office who came to help with the production of this newsletter on September 12. "Faith congregations historically are one of groupings of people willing and

Continued on page 5

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial: Cut the Strings.....	pg 2
In Memoriam: Reverend Randle Dew.....	pg 10
UN: General Assembly Unanimously Approves Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.....	pg 13
UN: Launch of 2015 World Volunteer Report.....	pg 13
CVSA Delivers Medical Supplies to Greek Community Clinic.....	pg 15

Organizations featured in this issue:

African Women Without Borders, Yonkers, NY
Battalion Community Services, Arverne, NY
Camphill Communities of North America, Hudson, NY
Metropolitan Community Clinic of Helliniko, Athens, Greece
United Nations Volunteer Programme, New York, NY



Editorial

Cut The Strings!

Build Roots in the Community

When the strings attached to those government grants that you started taking to fund your organization's programs begin to prevent you from being responsive to the needs and interests of the community you serve, dictate your priorities and separate you from your natural allies — before you resign yourself to a fate of disillusionment or derailment, consider looking at another way to build sustainable support for your important and growing work.

For many nonprofits, filling out endless forms and reports for government money, signing away the right to take any action towards changing how that government is currently governing, becoming tied to 'grant-writing language and framework,' has become 'normal.' When you begin to realize that the time spent catering to the agency that cuts the check is time not being spent talking with people in the community and organizing them to participate in your program of addressing the needs of the community — it is time to stop and consider a change in approach. Don't lament as you watch your organization shrink or become transformed into an agency of the government, and ultimately merged or closed when the source of funding you became dependent on is cut — organize!

Are there alternatives? Yes! There are alternative approaches. There are methods of building organization that do

not tie you to failed government policy. CVSA can provide the training and the guidance in these methods. First let's look at why you want to take the time and make the effort to consider this question.

Let's take the need for staff, including full-time staff for your program. You need more people, and the government is offering AmeriCorps volunteers. AmeriCorps is a program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, an administrative agency of the U.S. government established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 by President George H.W. Bush. The Corporation for National and Community Service is the umbrella organization that administrates AmeriCorps, VISTA, Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, and other federal programs in the realm of what they call volunteer and national service.

The AmeriCorps program provides grants to nonprofit institutions (such as colleges and social service agencies), nonprofit community-based organizations that have 501(c)(3) status, faith-based nonprofit organizations and also to government agencies such as FEMA, municipal parks departments and education departments. The grants are for stipends for the "volunteers" that take the positions being funded. The

Continued on page 7



ITEMS

COMMISSION ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ACTION



ITEMS is published quarterly by **Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA)**, the consultative and coordinating body of more than 200 nongovernment, 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 **INVESTYOURSELF — 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.

Publisher.....Susan Angus
Editor.....Yael Alonso
Photography.....Jalece Avana, John Dew, George Dikmanis
Production.....Dennys Antunish, Massiel Celi, Melissa Celi,
Sara Cruz, Ana Quinones, Zane Shatz, Akira Yawata
Contributors.....Sierra Berkel, Kosta Karakatsanis

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. See back page for volunteer opportunities with **CVSA**. Your financial contributions are also urgently needed and are tax-deductible.

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



CVSA Membership Campaign

Continued from page 1

benefit of any or all the others, cognizant that while we are hundreds of different kinds of community, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations — what we have in common is the determination to tackle the many urgent social and economic problems that prevent people from living decent lives — here in the U.S. and around the world,” explained Angus.

CVSA’s staff itself is entirely volunteer and draws on the 70 years of CVSA’s of leadership in the field of full-time volunteer service together with the experience of 100’s of organizations that have been featured in the *INVEST YOURSELF: Guide to Action* catalogue.

CVSA’s Administrative Assistant and *INVEST YOURSELF* Editor, Yael Alonso, leading this campaign, stated “Volunteer-driven organizations, dedicated to reversing the conditions of poverty and alienation — be it access to medical care, disaster relief and recovery, prison rights advocacy, food and clothing distribution programs, labor and community organizing efforts or anything else — are seeing these problems continue to grow in their communities and throughout the country. Through our Membership Site Visit Campaign, CVSA is offering the ability to turn to each other for aid and pursue our work knowing we are a movement that is *growing* in strength — the volunteer service and action movement. CVSA can provide the coordination needed to utilize our collective strengths.”

Sharing Methods and Involving More Volunteers

While visiting each organization, CVSA looks in particular at how they involve volunteers in their work, the role of full-time and part-time volunteers, and is offering CVSA’s assistance in developing approaches for involving more volunteers to increase their organization’s tactical and strategic strength.

Camphill Hudson is one of the twelve Camphill Communities of North America listed in *INVEST YOURSELF* that are part of an international social movement of intentional communities where children, adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities, mental illness and social



Photo: Jalece Avana

In the kitchen of Solaris, the Camphill Center for Social Arts, two co-workers work alongside two residents to prepare the Tuesday night weekly community dinner, open to the whole Hudson community.

disadvantage can be supported in community. Hudson is one of the few urban communities of Camphill where they operate several “life-sharing” homes.

After giving a tour of the community homes and Solaris, their Center for Social Arts, Nathan McLaughlin, the Camphill Volunteers Coordinator, discussed with CVSA how full-time volunteers are at the heart of their effort and that Camphill is glad to share their successful approach to building communities in which people with special needs are able to function to their full human potential. He also ordered 12 copies of *INVEST YOURSELF* to distribute to each of the Camphill communities across North America, as part of the campaign.

On CVSA’s visit in August to Battalion Community Services in Arvene, a neighborhood in the Rockaways, Queens, New York, Pastor David Cockfield, founder and Director, explained the desperate situation of homeowners there who were hit by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Pastor Cockfield reported that 60% of the residents have still not been able to move back into their homes after Sandy. He said Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross were present for a few weeks in the Rockaways after the storm. FEMA gave some homeowners grants or loans for exterior repairs, then left and became inaccessible before the interiors

Continue on page 4

Tiles By Kia

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

I ♥
TILE

www.tilesbykia.com

Tiles By Kia II

36-30 Bell Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361
Tel: 718-281-2000 Fax: 718-281-2007
TilesbyKia.II@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 and commercial renovations, restaurants, bars and more.



CVSA Membership Campaign

Continued from page 3

of the homes could be repaired. With no further money allocated, mold eradication and replacement of water-damaged floors, walls and equipment were left up to low and middle-income homeowners.

Battalion Community Services runs a food distribution program for over 500 families a week as well as a community garden program that produces and distributes fresh organic vegetables. Pastor Cockfield inspired a "Call to Action" program where one evening every two weeks representatives of local social service organizations and government departments are gathered to be available to local working people who come to get answers to problems they have not been able to get on their own. The community has found this approach to advocacy successful, as it applies more pressure on the agencies to provide answers and fulfill their mandates when in-group.

Pastor Cockfield requested CVSA's assistance to their Volunteer Coordinator so they can more effectively involve volunteers from the community on an ongoing basis, participating in a CVSA on-the-job training program, gaining the basic skills of organizing and bringing the skills and processes back to Battalion.


Lynn Marceline Ayerhouse of African Women Without Borders/Burkina Faso met CVSA at a nonprofit conference and signed up as a member. African Women Without Borders/Burkina Faso is based in New York and in Burkina Faso and provides services to migrants and refugees in the United States while also building community-development and social programs for women and their children back home.

After meeting with CVSA, Ayerhouse commented on the importance of the CVSA benefits program saying, "CVSA is serious. The training is going to be very helpful for my organization. I haven't found this kind of support anywhere else."

Ayerhouse requested training in how to recruit French-speaking African college students to volunteer with her program in New York, starting with a training session to design a volunteer recruitment flyer, then training in how to use that flyer on campuses throughout the city and setting up speaking engagements.

Stan Brock of Remote Area Medical (RAM) asked for CVSA's assistance in finding ways to cut through red-tape delays in getting permission from the Greek government to be able to fly volunteer medical teams into the Greek island of Lesbos where tens of thousands of African and middle eastern refugees are landing to escape war and poverty at home. There are no doctors or medical services available to them there, tourists have been aiding them as much as they are able to, and medical care is urgently needed. CVSA put RAM in touch with the Metropolitan Community Clinic of Helliniko, an all-volunteer clinic just outside of Athens founded in 2011 and member of CVSA (see page 15), who provided needed advice on who to contact to get official permission for volunteer doctors to arrive and work in that country.

These are some examples of what is developing from the site-visits. Several CVSA member organizations have also joined the *INVEST YOURSELF* distribution campaign by ordering copies of the catalogue to distribute on college campuses, at local churches and other places they do community outreach. CVSA provides ideas to members on how to use the catalogue both as a fundraiser through sales by doing community outreach tables, phoning to colleges and other potential supporters in the area, business canvasses, and at the same time creating more good publicity for their organizations.

CVSA is calling for as much participation as possible by member organizations in the *INVEST YOURSELF* distribution campaign and assisting each other when needed. CVSA also needs more organizers, and provides on-the-job training to anyone who wants to assist in this expansion of our membership campaign and benefit program. Call Massiel Celi, CVSA's Volunteers Coordinator, to find out how you can volunteer. Call Yael Alonso, Administrative Assistant about your organization joining CVSA or to request a consultation. 



Associated Marketplace

44-07 Greenpoint Ave.
Sunnyside, New York 11104
(718) 361-5638

Store Hours:
Everyday From
7am to 10pm



INVEST YOURSELF Distribution Campaign

Continued from page 1

eager to put their concerns for others and the wellbeing of society into material practice. Over the years *INVEST YOURSELF* has provided that very valuable link between those looking for ways to make a real difference and the organizations that need them."

CVSA volunteer Reverend Ed Kimes, who retired in 2014 after almost 15 years as pastor of the East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania and his wife Dr. Faith Waters, had both volunteered with CVSA to complete the final stages of production of the 2015 edition last winter, contributing their excellent photoshop and proofreading skills, respectively. Once *INVEST YOURSELF* was printed, Rev. Kimes volunteered to bring CVSA staff and the *INVEST YOURSELF* catalogue to his Eastern Pennsylvania UMC Annual Conference held in May.

Rev. Kimes joined CVSA's exhibitor table for much of his time at the conference, encouraging clergy to get a copy of the catalogue. He explained how they could use *INVEST YOURSELF* to look for new opportunities for hands-on mission, and could place a note in their church bulletin allowing others to borrow the book. He explained, "If I had known about this catalogue in my years of pastoral service, I would have embraced a tool like this to encourage others in volunteer ministry or, for the sake of church relations in the community, to study other successful organizations who are involved in social justice ministries."

Many conference attendees expressed gratitude toward the opportunities that *INVEST YOURSELF* holds for college age students in their congregation as well as retirees looking for ways to invest their time and skills in productive work that will help others and said they would bring it to their youth groups and Church and Society Committees.

Kimes gave a copy as a gift to Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference. Several days later, after she had perused the catalogue, she wrote to him, "I was blown away by *INVEST YOURSELF*...what a great idea....There are so many good projects out there and I did not know about hardly any of them."

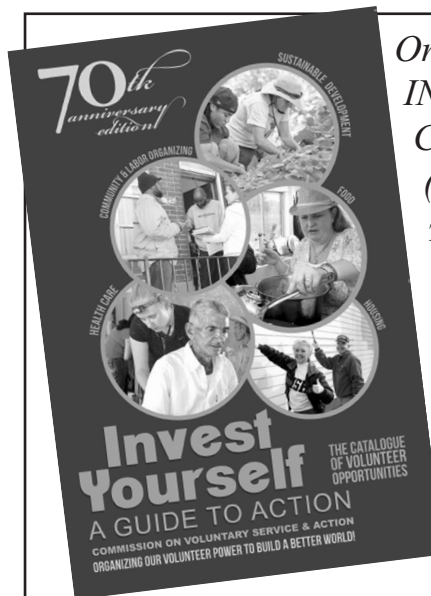
"The United Methodist Church has a long history of leadership and involvement in social justice work and reaching out beyond the church walls," explained Angus to clergy met at the two Conferences, "and *INVEST YOURSELF* makes it possible to continue to make those connections." Angus was originally introduced to CVSA and *INVEST YOURSELF* when she was on the staff of United Methodist Voluntary Service in the mid-1970s, under the leadership of the late Rev. Randle Dew who also served on the Executive Committee of CVSA.

"In those days, youth groups and Church and Society



Photo: CVSA

Yael Alonso, CVSA Administrative Assistant, speaking with a local church leader at the 2015 United Methodist Greater New Jersey Annual Conference held in Wildwood, New Jersey.



**Order your copies of
INVEST YOURSELF!
Call CVSA at
(718) 482-8724**

*The definitive guide to
nongovernmental volunteer
opportunities, full-time and
part-time, long-term and
short-term.
288 pages, paperback,
plus photos and indexes.*

\$15 donation for one copy

Bulk Rates: 5-9 @ \$12
10-49 @ \$11
50-99 @ \$9
100 and up @ \$7

Committees in the local churches were discussing how to provide leadership in civil rights matters, how to end the Vietnam War and counter the power of the 'military-industrial complex' and how to reverse the de-prioritization by government policy towards life-supporting programs providing health care, food, new jobs and other urgent needs," Angus explained. "Youth were very participatory, and looked for guidance from church elders who themselves were leading in the campaigns to address these social, economic and political problems. These problems have not gone away, but there are many more examples in the world now of how to solve them. And this is where *INVEST YOURSELF* is so relevant right now."

Continued on page 6



INVEST YOURSELF Distribution Campaign

Continued from page 5

There are over two hundred organizations representing thousands of full-time and part-time volunteer opportunities listed in *INVEST YOURSELF* throughout the U.S., and it has an international section of nongovernmental, community-based organizations that need volunteers as well.

CVSA also attended the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference held the last weekend of May and distributed *INVEST YOURSELF* to clergy and lay leaders from around the state, on the invitation of Reverend David Werle of the Leonia United Methodist Church in northern New Jersey, who had just ordered five copies of *INVEST YOURSELF* for the groups and committees in his church and encouraged CVSA to attend the NJ Annual Conference to meet clergy with the same concerns.

At each conference, leaders from churches in rural areas and small towns talked with great concern about the decreasing numbers and increasing age of their congregations. Youth are leaving these areas to find better economic opportunity elsewhere, while at the same time new immigrant communities with many social and economic needs are drawn to the area to fill low-wage jobs, so church leaders were interested to hear about CVSA's training programs in building volunteer-based organizations to bring people together to address social and economic needs everyone has in common.

CVSA is now contacting chaplains, career service officers and service learning directors on college campuses across the country to make *INVEST YOURSELF* available as a resource for students looking for off-campus experience with community-based organizations that are on the front lines, working to eliminate the causes of suffering that people in their community are experiencing due to lack of adequate income, food, health care, environmental pollution and many other areas of need.

Rev. Paul Clark, a United Church of Christ pastor serving as Chaplain at Albright College in Reading Pennsylvania, who ordered 15 copies of *INVEST YOURSELF* to give to students and to share with chaplains of other nearby colleges, is writing a letter to go to all fellow college chaplains across the country to introduce them to the value of having *INVEST YOURSELF* on hand. "The experience of volunteering full-time for a summer or taking the year after graduation, or even a week during spring break, can be a life-changing and life-defining experience that provides an awareness and understanding of the world that students cannot gain in the classroom," Clark affirmed when meeting with CVSA organizers this past July.

"Direct involvement, the chance to learn to lead, serve others and organize, to invest yourself in working with others to build real solutions to these problems — this is the most valuable

CVSA Needs a Building!



**Help CVSA
find and obtain
a building
that can serve as
our permanent
headquarters!**

**CVSA needs
space of our own
to grow in!
Help build our
Volunteer
Training Center!**




**Contact Susan at CVSA for details on
how you can help:
(718) 482-8724**

**Put those Laptops
(of any brand)
and desktop MACs
that you don't
use anymore
to good use with CVSA!**

Call CVSA: (718) 482-8724 to donate



education young people can get right now," explained Alonso to Clark, who agreed it is an important part of the higher education experience that not enough students engage in.

CVSA is building a staff of *INVEST YOURSELF* Distribution Volunteers, and needs many more people to publicize and distribute the catalogue — from wherever you are. You can help from any church, college, school, library or community organization anywhere in the country. Call CVSA at (718) 482-8724 to learn how you can *invest yourself*! 

Call today to learn about CVSA's Organizer Training Program!



Cut the Strings!

Continued from page 2

AmeriCorps/VISTA program offers student loan deferment plans of up to \$5,000 as well as a Public Service Loan Forgiveness program for out-of-work professionals, and a below minimum wage “stipend.” This is quite alluring in the face of the over 50% unemployment rate among the nation’s youth and the tremendous amount of college loan debt on their backs. The program is also advertised as a way to serve your country and change the world, gain experience, help others and discover yourself.

This program is creating a large pool of cheap labor for government agencies that used to hire union workers at a living wage who are being replaced by 22-year old “volunteers,” a year at a time, creating no steady work for anyone. And there are other problems, both short term and long term, for community-based nongovernment organizations actually trying to reverse conditions of injustice, poverty, environmental destruction or any other area of our society that is suffering under bad government policy, when they choose to become an AmeriCorps host.

AmeriCorps/VISTA “members,” as these workers are officially referred to, are “subject to certain restrictions related to their engagement in political activities. Such political activities are classified as either: (1) engaging in electoral activities; (2) engaging in lobbying; or (3) participating in demonstrations.”

AmeriCorps/VISTA members are “prohibited from engaging in the following activities at all times during service, *including off duty service time* [emphasis added]: ... May not engage in any political activity while in any office of the AmeriCorps VISTA program (e.g., while at the sponsoring organization or the project...)” and “No sponsoring organization may approve an AmeriCorps/VISTA member’s involvement in planning, initiating, participating in, or otherwise aiding or assisting in any demonstration. An AmeriCorps/VISTA member must contact the Corporation State Office, and get its permission, before he/she engages in any of the activities — electoral, lobbying, or demonstration — discussed above.”

This is a relinquishment of their First Amendment Rights and you must enforce these rules or be penalized.

As one AmeriCorps worker who was placed with a nonprofit faith-based organization that provides services and advocacy to women coming out of prison, told CVSA, “In essence, I cannot have political conversations in the office while I’m working even though everything we do all day is about fighting against a system that keeps women poor and disenfranchised, I cannot have a conversation with a co-worker about how the legal system, the prison system needs to be changed because that is ‘political’ talk. I can have no political thought while an AmeriCorps volunteer.”

You can try to assign AmeriCorps volunteers only to tasks that do not involve in any way effecting change in the system that is causing the problems the people they are serving face everyday. But how do you separate those tasks out? What kind of work will they then be doing, and is it worth your organization’s effort when it will also require a staff member’s full time on the paperwork and reporting required to keep these government “volunteers?”

If you see building your organization around such restrictions and under that kind of scrutiny as a problem, then don’t do it.

What is the alternative? In terms of enlisting the number of people needed for your staff, full-time and part-time, one alternative is to recruit and train goal-oriented volunteers who are supported and trained by the organization. Build support systems that organize the needed housing and basic living expenses and materials by building support from people in the community who agree with your goal and will support the effort in whatever way they can, consistent with what you have determined is needed. There are many ways to do this, and CVSA can provide the training and consultations towards determining the best strategies and tactics for your organization.

CVSA’s founding principle is that nongovernmental and faith-based organization should exemplify how government policies should be enacted, rather than blindly follow the promulgations of government. CVSA has been a consistent voice for independence in volunteerism and maintains that without the freedom and flexibility to develop our own strategies for change, volunteer organizations are reduced to mere extensions of the very same failed government policies from which the need for volunteer assistance arose.

There has not been a single government funding source from which a community-based organization that was dedicated to solving the problems of poverty, inequality, hunger, lack of access to health care, lack of access to legal justice, reversing practices of environmental degradation or any other economic injustice took funds, that has not immediately or in the long-run actually harmed the ability of the organization to achieve its goals. Think about it. If there were, those conditions would have been changed by now. All the resources needed to ensure that everyone has adequate food, shelter, water, well-paid employment, health care, a safe environment and education exist in this nation. Yet, there is a growing lack of access for more and more people in the U.S. to basic necessities every year.

No government agency provides funding that is not designed to protect the status quo in the long run — regardless of the positive intentions of the staff on the front lines.

Working together, we can ‘cut the strings’ and develop organizing methodology capable of uniting all concerned

Continued on page 12



D & F ITALIAN

Where Every Bite is a Delight
CATERING FOR ALL OCCASIONS

35-17 Broadway
Astoria, NY 11106
www.dandfitaliandeli.com

L1: (718) 728-2422
L2/Fax: (718) 278-3672



34-12 34th Ave., Astoria, NY 11106
(718) 784-8420
Open Everyday 7:00 am to 10:00 pm

**The
difference
is wanting
to make
a difference.**

Tania Broschart
*Branch Manager,
Vice President,
Banking Division*

37-16 30th Ave
Long Island City, NY
718.545.4400

astoriabank.com

**ASTORIA
BANK**

Member FDIC © 2015 Astoria Bank

**LEATHER
SPA®**

55 West 55th Street
New York, NY 10019
Tel. 212-262-4823
www.leatherspa.com

**CVSA thanks our
sponsors who support
volunteer service and
to build better world!**



**Tartufo Gelato
Italian Cheesecake
Reginetta, Tiramisu Cup
Spumoni, Amaretti
and more**

*Fine Gourmet Desserts
Since 1977*

See catalogue
www.bleekerpastrytartufo.com

37-22 13th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 937-9830

The place for all your *quality* printing needs



**.Awnings
.Banners
.Digital Printing
.Auto Wraps
.Lettering
.Truck Letters
.Light Boxes
.Signs
.Business Cards
.Flyers
.Posters & More**

Call us today at **1(877)720-1829**

bannersnyc.com

35-44 Steinway Street Astoria New York 11101

Tel: (718) 784-2814 Fax: (718) 784-2496



Hospice is about family and community...
And **volunteers** are the heart of hospice.

There's a place for you on the hospice team.
Become a hospice volunteer.

National Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization



<http://www.caringinfo.org>



"... moving forward by giving back"
www.experiencethevillage.com

action

Be immersed.
Be inspired.
Create change.

Authentic immersion
experiences since 1992.



global
citizens
network

www.globalcitizens.org

shape_ideas

In the heart of downtown New York City,
The New School offers cutting-edge
undergraduate programs that focus on
your future as a creative and critical thinker.

www.newschool.edu

THE NEW SCHOOL
Innovating higher education
since 1919

THE NEW SCHOOL

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

Volunteer
Share
Donate

MAKECHANGEHAPPEN

where #FaithandService meet

Catholic Volunteer Network

Search Volunteer Opportunities at
www.CatholicVolunteerNetwork.org



In Memoriam

Reverend Randle Bascom Dew

September 9, 1923 – August 21, 2015

Rev. Randle B. Dew, founder of the innovative United Methodist Voluntary Service program (UMVS), Executive Committee member of Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA) from 1968 to 1982 and senior advisor since that time, died at the age of 91 on August 21, 2015 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he lived with his wife June.

Dew is survived by his wife June, two sons John and James, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Known as “Randy” to thousands of UMVS volunteers, grassroots leaders, fellow clergy and everyone who worked with him in CVSA, he had a profound influence on the ability of CVSA to survive the transition from being entirely dependent on national level church budgetary contributions to becoming an independent, community-supported council of hundreds of volunteer-based organizations serving people in need and organizing for change.

In 1968 Dew was called on by the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries, based at the Inter-Church Center at 475 Riverside Drive, New York City to move from his home in Kentucky to New York to take over the Office of Voluntary Services and develop the United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS) as a major new project of the United Methodist Church’s 1968-72 Quadrennial Emphasis called “A New Church for a New World,” which then was continued as a standing program of the National Division because of its success.

Dew’s early ministry in the South shaped much of his conviction in his later work. Born in Central City, Kentucky, Dew attended Kentucky Wesleyan College, and got his bachelor of Divinity degree at Emory University. In 1958, Randy joined the Methodist Board of Education in Nashville, Tennessee, and served on the Board until 1966. During those years, he was active in the growing civil rights movement, was a close friend of Rev. James Lawson, who helped coordinate the Freedom Riders of the 1961 Mississippi Summer campaign, run by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which involved thousands of volunteers from the North in the campaign against the Jim Crow laws and carried out voter registration of blacks in Mississippi. Dew and his family then moved to Louisville, Kentucky where he served as Director of the Louisville Council

of Churches from 1966 to 1968 before accepting the call from the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries to come to New York to organize UMVS and where he became deeply involved in CVSA.

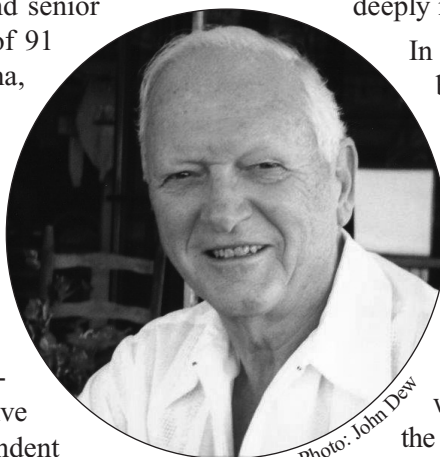


Photo: John Dew

In New York, Dew designed and carried out a bold program for UMVS, placing his faith and investing his office’s resources into a model that provided support for local, grassroots organizations run by people that were already full-time volunteers, living on subsistence incomes or community support in one way or another, serving people in need and organizing for solutions to their problems. Once UMVS partnered with them as a service project, they became the Methodist volunteers. They received funding that could be used for subsistence stipends, and training in whatever skills they determined they needed to further their program.

These organizations ranged from women’s free health centers, food cooperatives in low-income neighborhoods, farm labor organizing efforts, neighborhood run child care centers for Hispanic working women, Native American rights organizations, tenants organizations, affordable housing advocacy groups and free legal assistance collectives. They were located throughout the country from Camden, New Jersey to Albuquerque, New Mexico; Minneapolis, Minnesota to Eugene, Oregon; McAllen, Texas to Bellport, New York; Washington, DC to San Francisco, California; and from Detroit, Michigan to Jackson, Mississippi.

Most of these organizations were not started by the United Methodist Church or by any church; Dew’s conviction that social justice work should receive support and participation from the institutional faith community motored his focus on trying to build bridges between these organizations and the local churches in their areas. Sometimes he was successful. Sometimes local prejudices or narrow financial interests prevailed and pre-empted the possibility of success. Dew never backed down from his position or his efforts to educate and inspire, but he often had to acknowledge that which he did not have the power to change through the influence and example of the UMVS program alone.

After the first three years of UMVS’ operation and the involvement of over 750 full-time volunteers, 46 percent of whom were from minority ethnic groups, Dew reported, “Our



experience of the past three years reinforces our convictions that a creative relationship with young persons in innovative work initiated by the young is key to national and world reconciliation." In addition to his emphasis on enabling and supporting young people in their commitment toward change in society, Dew also believed and demonstrated through this program that those who are suffering from the lack of solutions to problems such as poverty, hunger, exclusion and injustice know best what the solutions should be and must be part of building those solutions.

Through Dew's involvement with CVSA, many of these grassroots UMVS-supported organizations were then included in *INVEST YOURSELF*, the pamphlet of full-time volunteer opportunities published annually at that time by CVSA, which was widely distributed to local churches and regional church bodies of each church denomination involved. Some of those organizations still operate and can be found in the current edition of *INVEST YOURSELF*, such as Akwesasne Freedom School near Roosevelttown, New York, Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in Toledo, Ohio, and Eastern Farm Workers Association (EFWA) in Bellport, New York.

Over the years, Dew served CVSA in a number of capacities, including Treasurer, Executive Committee Chair, Co-Chair, convener of CVSA conferences and de facto fundraiser. Most importantly he provided courageous and visionary leadership defending the founding principles of CVSA, shaped its policies of broad inclusiveness and protection of

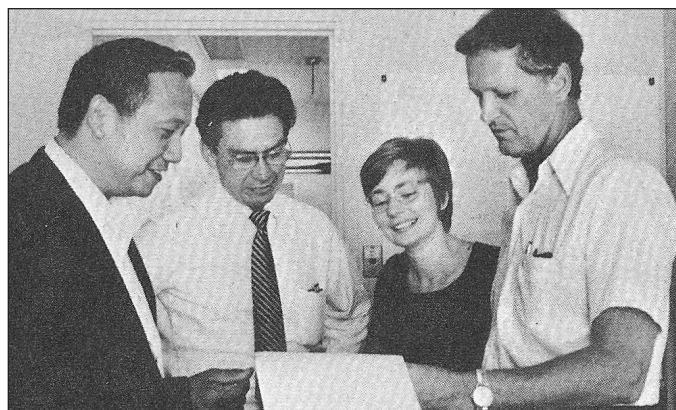


Photo: United Methodist Voluntary Service

(From right to left) Rev. Dew, Executive Secretary of the Office of Voluntary Service of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries with Susan Angus, a member of the United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS) staff, Rev. Leo D. Nieto of Special Ministries of the National Division, and Jun W. Jue field staff member of United Methodist Communications, discussing publicity plans for UMVS projects in 1973.

analysis of the dangers inherent in President George H.W. Bush's "Faith-Based Initiative," putting churches and faith organizations in the position of relieving the government of its responsibilities to protect its citizens from poverty and want.

Dew was also a pioneer in directly challenging the increasing encroachments of the federal government in funding and running so-called volunteer service programs.

In a keynote speech, entitled "Is the Bubble Bursting?" given in October 1971 to open a CVSA conference, Dew said, "Volunteerism is one of the foundation stones of the genius of America. It is easy to romanticize this. Some of us are related to voluntary associations, which predate the republic and are greatly concerned about the basic motivations, style, administration, and activities of voluntary action in a voluntary society. Our concern is the preservation of the inherent freedom of volunteerism and its unrestricted application by those who wish to freely give of themselves and their resources to programs designed to solve problems and to help people. With the advent of governmental activity in the voluntary service world, particularly with the creation of the numerous programs, including the Peace Corps and Vista and now ACTION centers, one could say voluntary service is more than ever the 'in thing' where the action is, and a way of personal involvement in the problems and issues of today. This would be true if the government-sponsored voluntary service programs are allowed to be voluntary. But the big question is the motivation of the federal government in the voluntary service world. Are these truly programs to help people become helpful to others or might they be ways in which government evades some of its responsibility by calling upon the independent sector to 'volunteer,' and might it be a device whereby to capture the voluntary service impulse for change to direct it towards governmental ends?"

Continued on next page

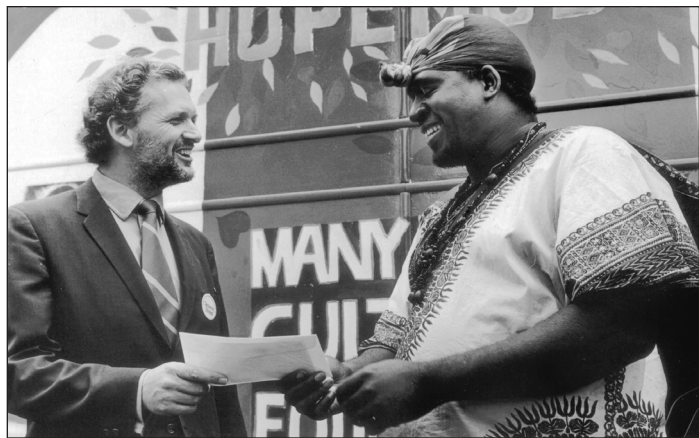


Photo: United Methodist Voluntary Service

Rev. Dew presenting the late Reverend Frederick Douglass Kirkpatrick, singer and associate of Martin Luther King in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, with support from United Methodist Voluntary Service for his Many Races, Many Cultures Hope Mobile project in Harlem, New York City in 1972.

the constitutional right of freedom of association as the basis for his wariness of government intrusion. Through this, he established the groundwork for CVSA's ability to survive the turmoil of the '80s and grow to what CVSA is today. In the 1990s Dew contributed several articles to CVSA's membership newsletter, *ITEMS*, about the history of CVSA and his



In Memoriam: Randle Dew

Continued from previous page

Dew was even more definitive in his June 1972, testimony to a U.S. Senate Special Sub-Committee on Human Resources of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare in regard to U.S. Senate Bill S-3450 that authorized the continuation of the federal agency ACTION and expanded the funding for the VISTA program beyond local anti-poverty work, to include placing "volunteers" in government agencies and departments. He said, "I am not opposed to volunteers working in any situation of human need, but I am exceedingly dubious about the wisdom of enlarging governmental voluntary service programs especially through governmental structures... The power of voluntarism lies in it is independent status. The greatness of this nation is due in a large part to the free spirit of voluntarism on the part of its citizens. For the federal government to expand voluntary service programs through its own machinery is dangerous. In such an act are the seeds of destruction of voluntarism and ultimately of those values which we associate with a society of free people."

Dew retired from his post with UMVS in New York in 1978 after the second Quadrennial was completed and a combination of funding cuts, changes in national leadership of the United Methodist Church, and more conservative views began to prevail. Dew and his family returned to Kentucky so he could resume local pastor duties and he continued to serve on CVSA's Executive Committee as Co-Chair. He retired from his post with CVSA in 1982 and "fully retired" from all his local church roles in 1986. However, he continued with enthusiasm the local leadership work he began in 1982 with the then-fledgling organization called Habitat for Humanity (HfH). Dew helped establish the seventh HfH affiliate in the country in Paducah, Kentucky. He went on to establish four more HfH affiliates. Dew developed the concept of Habitat work camps, bringing church groups from across the country into a local area to build homes.

Dew moved from Kentucky to Florida with his wife June in 1997, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity chapters there, and after three hurricanes swept through the area in one year in 2004, they moved to an assisted living community in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 2005 where he lived the rest of his life.

"I first met Randy during my high school years in the late '60s when he and his family moved north and he served as the adult advisor to our United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Leonia, New Jersey UM Church," said Susan Angus, current CVSA Executive Director. "He was a calm but encouraging inspiration then, giving us the benefit of his experience without dampening our energy towards civil rights and desire to stop the Vietnam War. He encouraged us to learn, get the truth, share what we saw was right with others. When I worked with him four years later on the staff of UMVS, I saw what a struggle he waged daily to educate, broaden horizons and maintain church-wide support for the many 'secular' social justice programs he brought into association with UMVS and with CVSA. He was never loud with anger when up against opposition nor self-righteous when victorious in his arguments; he kept teaching, explaining, listening, but always stood to his convictions without fear."

In 1986 Randy wrote in a letter to Angus, "Yesterday I met for several hours with pastors just out of seminary and reviewed my life and ministry with them. One asked, 'How did you, with such a conservative, fundamentalist background turn out to be so radical?' I really don't know, except that it somehow was strongly impressed upon me that Jesus had a lot to say and do about people who were poor, downtrodden, exploited and misused."

CVSA mourns Randy's passing, but the legacy of his goal-oriented vision for the power of voluntary service and his measured daring in how he put his faith into action continues to provide a foundation of inspiration and clarity for CVSA's course forward.



Minuteman Press

The First and Last
Stop in Printing

25-12 41st Ave.
Long Island City, NY 11101
(718) 937-2200
www.lic.minutemanpress.com
tgprinting@gmail.com



25-15 Queens Plaza North,
Second Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101
Tel. 718-786-8494
www.commissarymarket.com

Cut the Strings!

Continued from page 7

people in the community towards achieving the goals of non-profit, community-based volunteer organizations that are working to reverse the conditions of poverty.

Call Yael Alonso, CVSA's Membership Coordinator, at (718) 482-8724 to schedule a consultation on what your needs are and how CVSA can assist your efforts. It is not too late, nor too difficult, to begin a new approach to addressing the needs of your organizations and better serve those you represent. We hope to hear from you soon!



Call today to learn about CVSA's Organizer Training Program!



News From the UN

UN General Assembly Unanimously Approves Sustainable Development Goals for 2030

The UN Summit on Sustainable Development was held on September 25-27 at UN New York headquarters, convening a record number of 150 government leaders who unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pledged their commitment to the new 2030 Agenda. CVSA staff attended a number of the preparatory meetings leading up to the Summit over the last two years. Despite thousands of requests to attend the Summit in September and limited seats, CVSA was fortunate to be selected and given passes to attend.

Titled “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the agreement on the set of 17 goals with 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible, will come into effect on January 1, 2016, replacing the Millennium Development Goals set in 2000.

The 17 goals to be achieved in the coming 15 years include:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Halt and reverse land degradation
- Provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.


These goals are applicable to all countries. Point 5 of the preamble to the Agenda states, *“This is an Agenda of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development.”*

The UN is calling on the people of all nations and the nongovernmental organizations to hold their governments accountable to the implementation of these goals and to work in solidarity with the people of the world through good-faith international cooperation called for in the document. *“All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the*

human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.”

The 35-page 2030 Agenda is the product of an unprecedented three-year-long transparent, participatory process that was inclusive of all nations, hundreds of nongovernmental organizations, grassroots social movements and others. CVSA looks forward to enabling more organizations of concerned people in the US to join the effort to reach these goals here in the US as well as around the world.

The agenda will be monitored by the UN and reviewed using a set of global indicators which will be agreed on by the UN Statistical Commission by March 2016.

There has been little coverage in the US media explaining the Goals, and no public acknowledgement or discussion of them by US politicians. The leadership and impetus for their implementation has to come from below, from those of us “on the ground” who have been addressing these needs and problems for decades. CVSA will be discussing this with all our member organizations. To download a PDF of the whole document titled “Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” go to CVSA’s website www.cvsa-investinyouelf.org and call CVSA for more information. 

UN Launches State of the World’s Volunteerism Report

by Sierra Berkel

Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA) was invited to the global launch of the 2015 *State of the World’s Volunteerism Report* held at the UN New York headquarters on June 5. The event was hosted by the United Nations Volunteer Program (UNV) and over one hundred diplomatic and NGO representatives from numerous countries, along with staff of many UN agencies, attended. This is the second world report on volunteerism produced by UNV; the first was published in 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the UN 2001 Year of Volunteers.

In this 2015 report, volunteer efforts are recognized as a political force for change and development in the world. The theme of the report is “Transforming Governance” to advance the abilities of nations to achieve the new 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNV report draws on stories from diverse countries

Continued on next page



World Volunteerism Report

Continued from page 13



Photo: CVSA

At the UN headquarters, Sierra Berkel, CVSA volunteer, Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director and Ame Esangbedo, UN Volunteer Programme Liaison Analyst, at 2015 State of the World's Volunteerism Report launch.

such as Brazil, Kenya, Lebanon and Bangladesh to show how ordinary people are volunteering their time, energies and skills to improve the way they are governed and how they engage at local, national and global levels.

The UNV identifies four types of volunteerism in this report: mutual aid/self-help; philanthropy and service to others; civic participation; and advocacy and campaigning.

CVSA noted that the 86-page report focuses on volunteer efforts in developing countries — mostly in Latin America, Asia and Africa — saying very little about volunteer organizing in the US or western European countries. At the June 5 launch event, CVSA suggested to UNV administrators that grassroots, volunteer efforts in these regions be included in future reports, pointing out that the sustainable development goals are for everyone — including the poor in the US, where conditions of poverty, disenfranchisement and marginalization are growing, along with demands for a change in governance.

In the meantime, the analysis that this World Report presents can be applied internationally. For instance, the chapter on the impacts of volunteerism at the national level says, “By being a conduit for the voices of the poor, the most marginalized and excluded, volunteerism can, under the right circumstances, improve the quality of democratic processes and make them more inclusive and responsive to the needs of people. By mobilizing a wide cross-section of voices, volunteerism can also elicit greater accountability and responsiveness from governments.”

An example of volunteerism having national impact, which provides a model for organizations in both developed and developing countries is covered in the 2015 State of the World's Volunteerism Report which reads, “In Brazil, close connections between state and civil society enabled the formulation of a new health policy that reduced the inequalities in the distribution of public health care.” The report explains how the Brazilian government has systematically engaged citizens who are part of a volunteer movement in a multi-level, bottom-up process of developing and testing initiatives at the local, state and then national levels in replacing the old public health system with the Unified Health System, based on the “Citizen Constitution” that Brazil adopted in 1988 which declared health to be a universal right of citizens.

The report also describes the impact of volunteer efforts on the local level this way: “Volunteerism practiced at the local level enables people to learn new skills and deepen their understanding of their rights. It enables individuals to develop the abilities to engage and participate beyond the household or village; to monitor and track government commitments and spending; and to build groups to move beyond the local to the national and even the global level.” Change the word “village” to neighborhood or town, and this accurately describes what CVSA sees being accomplished daily throughout the US by organizations listed in *INVEST YOURSELF* working to address everything from immigration rights, access to health care, reversing the trends of unemployment and homelessness, to tackling the causes of environmental pollution as well as many other areas of need and rights.

In its concluding chapter, “Capacities for the New Development Agenda,” the report says, “Volunteerism creates a path where there is no road. It organizes when there is no structure. And it brings resources and capacities when it is not apparent where these will come from. It is a vehicle for the most marginalized to connect with others in solidarity, creating a power base that can change laws, systems and the direction of travel. It is an act of citizenship that requires an environment where it can be nurtured for the common good.”

CVSA has observed this dynamic at work in the efforts of most of the organizations described in *INVEST YOURSELF*, especially those that have had to fight to defend their right to freedom of association, including church groups coming together to feed homeless people in the street, farm workers organizing for their human rights before picking the crops and organizations conducting disaster relief, bringing in concerned doctors to provide free medical care to those in need where no official agency was responsive. These grassroots struggles of organized volunteers being carried out in areas throughout the US are some examples CVSA hopes to see in the next UNV report on World Volunteerism that others around the world can learn from. CVSA will be providing reporting on progress and successes from our membership organizations to UNV. The 2015 report is available at www.volunteeractioncounts.org/SWVR2015. ☺



CVSA Delivers Supplies to Greek Clinic in Solidarity

By Kosta Karakatsanis

During a visit with family in Greece this July, I had the opportunity to visit Metropolitan Community Clinic at Helliniko (MCCH) just outside of Athens. I brought with me 40 lbs. of much-needed medicines and supplies that were donated by doctors and others who live near the CVSA office in Queens, New York. They heard about the clinic and the need for these supplies from CVSA's publications and outreach, and are very concerned about the growing humanitarian crisis being suffered by the population of Greece due to the austerity measures imposed by the Eurozone and the closing of many hospitals due to the Greek government's cutbacks in funding.

MCCH is a member organization of CVSA and listed in the 2015 *INVEST YOURSELF* catalogue in the international section. Founded in 2011 by Dr. Giorgos Vichas and two other doctors, the clinic provides primary health care to the uninsured, the unemployed and anyone who needs help. The clinic relies totally on donated supplies and volunteer services, and takes no cash donations. The clinic is located in a building on an old abandoned US military air base leased to the clinic at no cost by the municipality of Elliniko.

Dr. Vichas had previously informed CVSA that some medicines are hard to obtain in Greece, even if you have the money to pay for them, because large multi-national pharmaceutical companies will no longer sell to pharmacies or hospitals in Greece unless they can make full payment in cash upfront prior to delivery. The large corporations, who have a monopoly on the supplies and medicines, care more for their profit margins and fear an economic collapse in Greece will cause them to lose money, even at the risk of the health of the people.

On my arrival, Mr. Christos Sideris, co-founder of the clinic, took the time to tell me more about how things are going. MCCH, along with another volunteer-run free clinic in Thessalonica, have helped start dozens of other free clinics and pharmacies around Greece. MCCH now has over 300 doctor volunteers and almost twice that number of laypeople volunteering.

I saw first hand the conditions people are suffering. Greece is faced with a situation now where even Greeks who have health insurance coverage cannot receive the needed medical care because the hospitals simply do not have the resources. Even those who were scheduled to receive treatment are denied care when a whole department of a hospital closes due to funding cutbacks.

Mr. Sideris showed me several bulging binders with the lists of medicines that have been donated to them which they in turn donated to Greek hospitals that needed them. The inaccessibility for medical care in Greece goes well beyond the




Photo: George Dikmanis

Dr. Vichas (left) and Christos Sideris (right) welcome Kosta Karakatsanis (center), a CVSA volunteer who delivered urgently needed medical supplies and medicines to the Metropolitan Community Clinic of Helliniko, Greece, collected by concerned people in Queens, New York.

3 million uninsured and really affects every one who cannot afford to go to the new private hospitals which costs more than \$500 a night just for a bed alone — in other words, one month's salary for the average employed Greek. Another common situation in Greece is not the lack of equipment, but the lack of technicians and trained medical people to work and read the machines, which is the case on many Greek islands.

There has been an overwhelming response in aid for the clinic but some of the things they can't get enough of are medicines. There is a list on their website (www.mkiellinikou.org) of what is needed. Currently MCCH has an abundance of volunteer participation, but they work with many other clinics and hospitals in the country who do need more volunteers. You can learn about them on MCCH's website.

Mr. Sideris also told me that the land their building is on, the old US air base, was recently purchased by a big private developer. The clinic staff are hoping they will not be kicked out of their building.

Anyone interested in collecting, shipping or delivering more supplies to MCCH can contact me at CVSA by calling (718) 482-8724. 

	<p>Jesus CO-OWNER 347-459-1324</p> <p>HAIRCUTS HOT TOWEL SHAVE BEARD TRIMMING</p> <p>26-10 Hoyt Ave. South Astoria, NY 11102</p>
--	--



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 records.

Organizing Our Volunteer Power to Build a Better World!

Volunteer with CVSA to strengthen the voluntary service & action movement

CVSA needs volunteers for these areas of work:

Membership Organization Communications, Consultations and Training

Volunteers participate in our site visits, consultations, and training workshops with member organizations of CVSA, help maintain and build more arenas of communication with member organizations around the country and collect news for the newsletter.

INVEST YOURSELF Publications Production

On-the-job training is provided in publication work sessions every Wednesday night, Saturday afternoon and all day Fridays. If you have skills in writing, editing, proofreading, desktop publishing, or photoshop — you can become one of the trainers!

INVEST YOURSELF Distribution and Circulation

Volunteers maintain ongoing contact with public libraries, colleges, universities, faith-based organizations, schools and professional organizations through phoning, mailings and meetings all year round to expand the distribution and use of *INVEST YOURSELF* to increase the flow of volunteers to vital projects.

Volunteer Organizer Training & Education

All CVSA volunteers and staff of CVSA member organizations are welcome to participate in our organizer training programs which include on-the-job practical training as well as classes in history, strategy and methods of organizing and current world affairs.

Volunteer Community Outreach Events

Volunteers help schedule and participate in information tables and speaking engagements throughout the New York and Metropolitan area. This is CVSA's most valuable means of connecting with people from all walks of life looking for meaningful and productive volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Outreach Phoning

Volunteers phone people who give their contact information and express an interest in the current volunteer needs and activities of CVSA, a vital part of keeping the movement growing. We do volunteer phone training on Monday and Wednesday evenings, as well as weekdays.

Call CVSA at (718) 482-8724 to schedule an orientation or time to volunteer.