



ITEMS FOR ACTION

COMMISSION ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ACTION

The New *INVEST YOURSELF* Campaign is ON!

Volunteers have launched a phone campaign to reach the hundreds of community-based, CVSA member organizations currently listed in *INVEST YOURSELF* (IY) that will be included in the new 2019 edition, as well as new organizations that have requested to be added to the guide.

“Our goal is to have IY ready for distribution by early summer, to provide an up-to-date comprehensive guide for people looking for involvement with independent non-government organizations that provide an opportunity to serve communities in need and organize for systemic change,” stated Executive Director Susan Angus.

This issue of *INVEST YOURSELF* will be dedicated to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the U.S. and around the world. Each organizational listing will

be annotated by the SDG icons that reflect which of the 17 SDGs their work directly advances. IY will be published in time to be presented by a CVSA delegation at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the UN in New York, that will discuss the state of the first four years of the implementation of the SDGs.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by all 193 member nations of the UN in September 2015, as objectives to accomplish for the future of our planet. (See page 19 for a list of the 17 Goals.) Since the inspiration of the 2030 Agenda, CVSA has been building its Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S.

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See the 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS on page 19.

CVSA Prepares for 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

From July 9 to July 18, a CVSA delegation will attend the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held at UN headquarters in New York. The delegation will include a cross-section of people involved in CVSA's Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): students, teachers and volunteer leaders of community-based organizations in the U.S.

The 2019 Forum will be the fourth HLPF held since the September 2015 unanimous adoption of the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These Forums are held each year to provide an international platform for comprehensive review by leaders of each country as well as NGOs and other stakeholders of progress made and obstacles to progress toward achieving the 2030 SDGs.

“Since the U.S. government does not acknowledge its responsibility to carry out the 2030 SDGs internally, our delegation to the HLPF fulfills the function of speaking on behalf of communities across the country who are suffering from the lack of achievement of these Goals,” explained Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director. “We will also bring to the discussions information about the work



Photo: CVSA

CVSA's delegation to the 2018 HLPF on Sustainable Development at the UN New York Headquarters, (l to r) Caryn Maxim, Susan Angus, Christina DeBono and Robert Garcia.

being done towards achievement of these Goals by community-based volunteer service organizations in the US, sharing their initiatives and ideas with the international community in solidarity

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ORGANIZATIONS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC), Canada
Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Detroit, MI
Global Teens, New York, NY

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ITEMS FOR ACTION

COMMISSION ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ACTION

ITEMS FOR ACTION is published quarterly by **Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA)**. CVSA's mission is to promote, interpret, coordinate and extend the field of independent voluntary service and action programs serving people and communities in need of systemic solutions to economic, social and environmental problems.

CVSA is a consultative and coordinating body of nongovernmental, voluntary service organizations based primarily in North America as well as around the world. CVSA publishes **INVEST YOURSELF — The Catalogue of Volunteer Opportunities**; works to expand the ability of individuals to donate their time and services to people in need through organization and free of government restraint; and promotes full-time volunteer service as a vocational choice toward achieving social change.

CVSA holds Special NGO Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, thus provides a voice for independent, nongovernmental voluntary service and action organizations and the constituencies they serve, bringing local needs into global context and global context to local efforts. **CVSA** affirms the tenets of the UN Charter and is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the U.S. and around the world. **CVSA** mobilizes involvement of U.S.-based volunteer organizations and their allies for the achievement of the universal, transformative and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S., in order to end all poverty in all its forms everywhere.

ITEMS FOR ACTION is CVSA's newsletter information service for organizational members. **ITEMS FOR ACTION** 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.

Your submissions to **ITEMS FOR ACTION** 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.

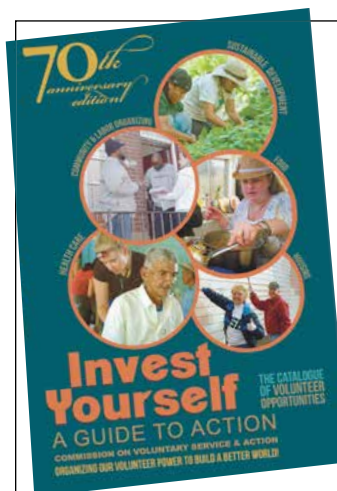
ITEMS FOR ACTION is free to **CVSA** members. Subscription rate for U.S. residents is \$15/year. Canadians and those abroad please add \$20 for additional mailing costs. Send your order and submissions of articles for publication to **CVSA**.

Publisher..... Susan Angus
Editor.....Christina DeBono
Production.....Pam Kalmus, Jocelyn Villasana
Photography.....Agenzia Info Salesiana, IISD Reporting Services, RAM USA, Xinhuanet

Founded in 1945, CVSA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable corporation with an all-volunteer staff. Volunteers are needed in all aspects of CVSA's work. Your financial contributions are also urgently needed and tax-deductible.

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Editorial:

The Most Valuable Career Choice in the World: Volunteer Organizer

Call it civic engagement, activism, collective action, organizing or volunteering — it's about being responsible for the ramifications of our own lifestyles, for each other, for our future and the future of the planet.

Since the 1950s, nonprofit and tax-exemption laws in the US have fostered an atmosphere where volunteerism is limited to uncontroversial activity that never threatens the status quo and is not involved in getting to the root of the systemic problems.

CVSA looks at it this way: Volunteering is a fundamental rejection of the notion that things are too big and powerful to change. It is a self-aware determination that action can and must be applied to advance and achieve progress.

Most social, political and environmental movements that accomplished positive change started as a group of people "volunteering" to take action towards a common goal to solve a common problem. Nelson Mandela, a volunteer, mobilized tens of thousands of South African volunteers to fight and defeat the apartheid system. In the mid-1800s in the U.S., volunteers carried out the Underground Railroad that aided escaped slaves to freedom. The labor unions of the 1920s and 30s were led by volunteer organizers bringing together whole communities to demand decency and dignity. Tenants' associations during the Great Depression took action against government and landlords to keep people in their homes — all volunteers. We can go on with a list like this for many pages with examples from U.S. and world history.

Yet, 'organizing' is rarely a category that comes up on an Internet search of volunteer opportunities or vocational choices.

You will find hundreds of examples listed in *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide To Action*. You will find, for example, opportunities to volunteer with groups of working people who mobilize during and after natural disasters like Hurricanes Maria and Harvey to literally go in and save people from dying in the face of inaction on the part of the federal government and at the same time speak out about government chronic failure to provide timely assistance to those in most need. You will find organizations that are bringing together medical professionals to provide free health care while also fighting for policies of health care as a right for all; groups that mobilize volunteers to build affordable housing in poor areas who also organize for the right to safe shelter and affordable homes for everyone; community-based associations that bring together low-paid workers to run self-help programs of survival assistance while fighting for decent living and working conditions.

You will find organizations that mobilize people to take action to gain access to fresh, nutritional food no matter their income. Others are taking urgent action to protect our planet

and future generations by ending the causes of climate disruption. Still others build programs to protect our right to clean water and clean affordable energy.

There are many more examples, and these are a fraction of the action going on at the community level across the United States and around the world by people volunteering their time to address immediate needs of people and organizing for change.

The Growing Movement to Transform Our World

The most exciting and hopeful example of transformative action right now is the global movement to carry out the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the outcome of over three years of the largest, most inclusive and transparent consultation and debate process that the United Nations ever coordinated, involving 193 governments, thousands of nongovernment organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders such as indigenous groups, farmworker and peasant groups, scientists, educators, women, youth and more. CVSA has been writing and speaking about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since 2015 when it was adopted by all 193 member nations at the UN in an historic act of unity.

It is a plan of action to end poverty, diminish inequality, build prosperity and peace and save the planet. It is not pie in the sky. Every nation agreed the resources exist and it can be done. They agreed that if this is not accomplished by 2030, future generations will not have a viable world to live in.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on volunteer and nongovernmental organizations to actively engage with their governments at all levels in their planning and implementation of the 17 Goals.

But the U.S. government is not even giving lip service to the 2030 SDGs, much less making plans towards their achievement.

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ORGANIZERS NEEDED

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High School Students Inspire Local Supplement: *INVEST YOURSELF Pasadena*

Inspired by CVSA presentations at their school about the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need to build volunteer involvement with grassroots organizations that are working towards the SDGs at the local level, a team of high school seniors at Polytechnic School in Pasadena launched a project to produce *INVEST YOURSELF: Pasadena*.

This project is student-led and a collaboration between CVSA, the Community Outreach Program of Polytechnic School led by Renee Larios, and Red Hen Press, a local nonprofit independent press that is providing the production space at their facility in Pasadena and technical guidance to the students as they put the guide together using CVSA's *INVEST YOURSELF* template.



Calvin Heartfield, Rory Xanders and Alec Walsh (l to r).

CVSA Executive Director, Susan Angus, gave a presentation about the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to a class of seniors at Polytechnic School in early October 2018 at the invitation of John Bracker, Head of School, and explained the need to mobilize the community for their implementation. Students were eager to determine a course of action.

Two students stepped forward to lead this project: Alec Walsh and Rory Xanders. "We need to unite as a community to work towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals – we literally have no other choice," Alec explained. "I think that our generation is the one to lead this charge. My hope is that, if we integrate the SDG's into our community outreach in high school, students will continue their efforts to advocate for the Goals after graduation."

Xanders explained, "There are so many issues facing our planet, whether it is poverty and homelessness, global warming and climate change, or the lack of food and water. When these issues are looked at all at once, they can seem overwhelming and practically impossible to solve. My hope is that by creating a local edition of *INVEST YOURSELF*, people from communities across the U.S. and the world will feel a moral responsibility to try to improve their communities while also feeling less overwhelmed by having a clear guide in the ways they can address local needs and problems.

"I hope that books like *INVEST YOURSELF* will prompt people to unite and commit to the SDGs so that we can all create a safer, healthier, and more stable home for everyone."

Renee Larios, Community Outreach Coordinator at Polytechnic School, offered to assist the students by overseeing the administration of the project. Christina DeBono, CVSA Executive Committee member, introduced the project to Kate Gale and Mark E. Cull of Red Hen Press, asking for their assistance in working with the students on the production at their facility, which is not far from Polytechnic School campus.

Xanders and Walsh brought together a larger team of students who have volunteered with various nonprofits and community groups in Pasadena. These students met with each of the organizations to explain the 2030 SDGs and get their information for the 50-page local volunteer guide.

An Example for Other Schools and Organizations



The team of PolyTech students compiling the *INVEST YOURSELF: Pasadena* with Renee Larios (Front right) and Liz Arnold of Young & Healthy (front left).

Pasadena is a city in Los Angeles County known for the Rose Bowl, the annual Rose Parade, the beautiful homes, its wealth and lush green beauty. However, like every urban center in the U.S. now, Pasadena is a tale of two cities. Official records show

that 21% of the population in Pasadena lives at or below the poverty line. Low-income neighborhoods are tucked away in various parts of the city.

Young & Healthy, an organization in Pasadena that is already a member of CVSA and listed in *INVEST YOURSELF*, provides children with free medical, dental and mental healthcare through the services of volunteer doctors, and non-medical volunteers who do the follow-up and advocacy for services needed. This winter, CVSA brought Renee Larios, head of the Community Outreach program of Polytechnic School together with Liz Arnold, Program, Education and Volunteers Coordinator for Young & Healthy and they established an exciting collaborative relationship making it possible for more Polytechnic School students to be involved with Young & Healthy's work. Arnold then assisted Walsh and Xanders with training in conducting meetings with the dozens of other organizations in Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area the students put together.

Taking it to the UN

"We are looking forward to bringing the new 2019 edition of *INVEST YOURSELF*, along with the special Pasadena edition, to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at the UN in New York," explained DeBono. "We want to present the work being done at the grassroots level for the implementation of the 2030 SDGs even though our federal government is ignoring them. We will continue to build constructive alliances for this work with other NGOs, universities, businesses and volunteer groups. The Polytech students hope to be part of CVSA's delegation to the UN this summer to inspire other youth in the U.S. and around the world to promote the 2030 SDGs and volunteer involvement in their communities in the same way."



INVEST YOURSELF is ON!

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CVSA has published *INVEST YOURSELF* since the organization was founded in 1945. Originally it was designed to recruit American volunteers to go to war-destroyed communities throughout Europe to help rebuild homes, schools and lives directly after WWII. Then a small pamphlet called *Invest Your Summer*, the guide was renamed *INVEST YOURSELF* in 1965 when it had grown to be the most comprehensive compendium of full-time volunteer opportunities with nongovernmental community-based organizations serving people in need throughout the U.S. as well as Canada and Mexico and other parts of the world. *INVEST YOURSELF* continues to be widely used by college students, church groups, retirees and many others to find organizations where they can effect change by investing a summer, a year, or perhaps, a life-time.

CVSA has remained free of U.S. government funding throughout its history. During the U.S. war in Vietnam in the 60s and 70s, *INVEST YOURSELF* became a resource relied on by the growing number of young men who gained Conscientious Objector status with the Selective Service and sought socially relevant civilian Alternate Service Opportunities.

INVEST YOURSELF is now internationally recognized as the authoritative reference guide to independent volunteer opportunities serving people in need and organizing for change. Close to 300 pages of organizational descriptions with photos and indexes provide readers with listings of organizations that need volunteers to end hunger and homelessness, to organize for access to health care, legal justice, decent work, affordable housing, fight against global warming and all environmental degradation, work with children, the elderly and disabled, building community and ending exclusion, and more. In addition to the listings, contributing writers describe personal experiences as volunteers, and organization leaders speak to the importance of their work, the value of volunteer participation and the need for more volunteers.

A Guide to Investing Yourself in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

"This will be the first issue of *INVEST YOURSELF* since we moved our headquarters to Los Angeles from New York in 2017, and the first issue since the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Our goal is to provide an up-to-date guide for people looking for volunteer involvement with independent non-government organizations that provide an opportunity to serve those in need, save the planet and to organize for systemic change," Christina DeBono, CVSA Executive Committee member, explained. "This issue will also serve as a significant organizing tool for increasing community involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals at local and regional levels."

Volunteers Urgently Needed

"Dozens of volunteers are needed to conduct phone interviews and in-person meetings to collect the updated listings for the catalogue," explained Angus. "This work takes 100s of hours and needs to be accomplished by late Spring for us to publish by summer." CVSA is including in these discussions with each organization, how their work is advancing the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which aim at systemic, long-lasting solutions to the problems of poverty, environmental degradation and extreme inequality.

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INVEST YOURSELF is ON!

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The hundreds of organizational listings of full-time and part-time volunteer opportunities illustrate the tremendous amount of work going on at grassroots level in the U.S. to tackle the problems that official government policy and programs have failed to solve and, in many cases, have caused or made worse.

CVSA has been receiving inquiries from young people in other countries looking for opportunities to help with things like disaster relief and poverty reduction here in the U.S. To accommodate this growing interest, listing organizations based in the U.S. who are interested in applications from volunteers from abroad will have that noted in their *INVEST YOURSELF* information. “CVSA has always been building international friendship and solidarity between people of all nations trying to build a better world,” explained Angus. “During these times of growing tensions and uncertainty, continuing to promote people-to-people international cultural exchanges is more important than ever, and coming to the U.S. to volunteer with grassroots organizations who need their skills and experience is the best way for others to learn about the American spirit and current challenges.”

IY also includes international listings of volunteer opportunities outside the U.S., which will include service and development projects that are rooted in communities abroad, willing to take applications from eligible volunteers from the U.S. and other countries. These international efforts are also carrying on work they have determined as necessary to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in their nations and the world.

Promote Volunteer Service and Action Opportunities: Expand IY’s Distribution

“The mainstream media keeps claiming we have record low unemployment levels and a solid economy. Speak with leaders and members of volunteer service organizations throughout the U.S., dealing with economy-based issues and you will hear that the reality is quite the opposite for the majority of the people,” explained Angus at CVSA’s staff meeting.

“Record numbers of people in the U.S. have dropped out of the workforce – young and old – for lack of decent work. Cities have record numbers of homeless people, including women, families and children. Record catastrophic mega-storms and fires have destroyed whole communities of people in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, California, North and South Carolina, and many other areas where people were living paycheck to paycheck – recovery is not in sight. We have life expectancy statistics, and infant and maternal mortality rates now in both urban and rural areas, that parallel some of the poorest developing nations due to lack of access to proper nutrition and health care,” Angus recounted. “Most people we talk to at the grass-roots level who are involved

in volunteer service of some kind see that it is our own government policies and priorities that need changing, and that we need to organize and address these needs in new ways.”

INVEST YOURSELF has traditionally been distributed to colleges, high schools, faith-based organizations, public libraries and civic organizations across the globe. The distribution of the new edition will be expanded through coupling it to CVSA’s Nationwide Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and involving distribution to professional associations of all kinds as well. The goal is to generate more volunteers for all the organizations listed in IY and increase partnerships between volunteer organizations, businesses, faith-based groups, schools, professional associations and others towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S. together.

Distribution of IY is primarily through grassroots methods: information tables after religious services, conference and events; phone outreach to colleges and faith-based organizations; and an army of volunteers as “IY representatives” who promote and distribute the book in their communities. CVSA will be enlisting more volunteers to aid the expansion of this distribution.

Join CVSA as a volunteer or a sponsor

CVSA is calling for volunteers to join the *INVEST YOURSELF* production team at the LA office. “We need volunteers who can put in a few hours a week, a few days a week, or can organize with us full-time for a month or more!” announced Angus. “Site visits, phone calls to organizations across the country and the world, editing, compiling photos, writing captions, proof reading, leading community education presentations on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals – there is a great deal of organizing to do and CVSA provides all the training needed as well as education about the volunteer service and action movement.”

DeBono is building a team to generate business sponsorships, as well as academic, church and other organizational sponsors needed to support the production and distribution of this issue of *INVEST YOURSELF*. “Those who cannot volunteer can make donations or place a display in IY to promote their business and demonstrate their support of the SDGs and the field of volunteer service,” DeBono said.

“Building partnerships between the business community and academic community with organizations that are on the ground dealing with poverty, access to health care, nutrition, affordable housing, problems with environmental degradation, legal recourse, and social exclusion in their communities, is critically important right now. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals will not become a reality in American life without the strengthening of these alliances and volunteer involvement,” DeBono explained. Call CVSA about how you can sponsor *INVEST YOURSELF* and about volunteering to join the *INVEST YOURSELF* production team today!



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Government representatives from over 156 countries and NGO leaders from around the world gathered for the Closing Ceremony of the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the at UN headquarters in New York.

CVSA prepares for 2019 High Level Political Forum at UN

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with the peoples of all nations struggling to transform and save our world from destruction.”

“Our ongoing participation in the HLPF gives CVSA the opportunity to build and maintain alliances with other NGOs from around the world and learn from what other countries are doing. We will share the information and insights gained with our member organizations to further energize the grassroots mobilization for the SDGs in the U.S.,” Angus added.

Focus of the 2019 HLPF

The theme for the 2019 July HLPF will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.” The specific Goals cited for the five days of in-depth thematic reviews are: Goal 4, Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 8, Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 10, Reduce inequality within and among countries; Goal 13, Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for Sustainable Development.

CVSA’s Take-away from the 2018 HLPF

The CVSA delegation attending the 2018 HLPF included Angus, Christina DeBono and Caryn Maxim, CVSA Executive Committee members, and volunteer Robert Garcia. This was DeBono’s first opportunity to represent CVSA at the UN. She

said about her experience, “I was so impressed with the high level of energy, passion and determination towards achieving the 2030 SDGs that was evident in all the formal discussions and presentations as well as all the informal discussions going on in the hallways and in-house cafés! This drive for sustainable development policies and practices across the globe, the depth and extent of the work being done, and this urgent determination to achieve a shift in how we treat the planet and the people on it — well, we just don’t hear about it in our mainstream media. Most Americans don’t know this is going on!”

Over 2200 people participated in the 2018 forum at the UN headquarters — people from governments, UN agencies, NGOs and other major stakeholder groups from around the world, as well as from business, academic and private sectors. More than 125 heads and deputy heads of State and government, ministers, vice-ministers and other ministerial level officials participated in five days of thematic reviews, side events and the final three days of national reports. Forty-six countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the progress, obstacles, and plans of their nations in pursuit of achieving the SDGs, including Canada and Mexico; seven countries from Latin America, nine from Africa, 15 from Europe and 13 from Asia-Pacific. In the last three years 111 countries have given reports, and 51 more have signed up to give reports in 2019 — ten of them for the second time.

The UN reported that “a record number of country leaders, private sector and civil society actors” gathered at the 2018 HLPF to review progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

U.S. Government Absent from Global Drive for the Goals

Representatives of the United States government were largely absent during the week of round-table discussions led by expert panels that provided in-depth review of six of the 17 SDGs, as well as the VNRs.

On the last day of Ministerial Level sessions, during the discussion and vote to adopt a final Declaration from the 2018 HLPF on the achievements of the eight days of work, a representative of the U.S. Mission to the UN took the floor, introducing four objections to wording in the text that the body was about to adopt. All four of the U.S. objections were rejected and the 10-page Ministerial Declaration that was adopted reaffirmed the body of nations' commitment to "...effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind."

Bringing these Principles and 17 Goals Home

"Our grassroots campaign to mobilize our member organizations at the local level for the implementation of the 2030 SDGs is so important towards the future of this country," explained Angus. "Discussions about how we will achieve these Goals must take place at the local level every day. We must build the understanding of how obtainable these goals

actually are, the consequences of not achieving them and the action needed to get past the obstacles.

"You don't see any commercials on TV or other major news outlets about the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S. We have to be the commercials and provide that leadership," Angus said in relation to the role of nongovernmental community-based organizations that are already acting to remedy the problems created by the lack of these Goals being prioritized in policy development of the U.S. government.

Mobilization for CVSA's attendance to the July 2019 Forum requires many more volunteers to help with the hundreds of phone calls to organizations who want to list in the upcoming edition of CVSA's catalogue *INVEST YOURSELF*, and as many hours of production work to complete the catalogue so it can get to press in time to be completed and in hand by July. Contact Susan at CVSA about how you can help and who else you can bring with you!



Highlights of 2018 HLPF: Three Side Events of Note

Fighting for Water as a Human Right in the U.S. and Globally

Caryn Maxim, CVSA Executive Board member, attended the side event titled "Defining the Value of Water from a Rights-based Perspective" held on July 17 at the UN Church Center, sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Detroit. The featured panel of speakers included Maureen Taylor from Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Sr. Mary Ellen Howard, member of Sisters of Mercy and Detroit Peoples' Water Board Coalition, Meera Karunanathan from Blue Planet Project Council of Canadians, and Sandra Vermuyten from Public Services International.

Each spoke of strategies their organizations are leading on national, international and local levels to defeat the current global trend of commodification of water to be sold for profit — causing hundreds of millions of people to be denied access to water.

Taylor spoke of the ongoing fight of low-income people in Detroit, Michigan to stop water shut-offs to

tens of thousands of households due to unaffordable rate hikes. Despite years of protests and a report filed with the city of Detroit by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation, who visited the city in 2014, the shutoffs have continued.

The median household income in Detroit is \$25,193. According to the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, a family of four pays between \$150 and \$200 per month for water and sewerage services, which can represent up to 20 per cent of their monthly income, an exorbitant rate for lower income households.

Taylor gave a brief overview of the situation in Detroit: After WWII, at the height of development of the U.S. auto industry, Detroit had 100,000 workers in its factories; that industry now employs less than 9,000. In 2014 the city declared bankruptcy and began raising the municipal water rates to unaffordable levels for most working people, most of whom now work low-wage service jobs or live on government welfare benefits due to lack of employment. After tripling the rates, the city hired a private company to disconnect 120,000 households from their water service because they were two months behind on their bills.

Meanwhile, in 2006 the city had adopted a workable plan for the management of the municipal water system without raising people's rates and without privatization presented by the Peoples' Water Board, a citizen-led organization. But the city failed to implement it and continued to shut off water to households in arrears by 60 days or more.

The cities of Detroit and Flint, Michigan have become

Continued on page 10

Photo: Agenzia info Salesiana



Maureen Taylor from Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, (front, left) with the other panelists (counter clockwise), Sr. Mary Ellen Howard, member of Sisters of Mercy, Sandra Vermuyten from Public Services International, Meera Karunanathan from Blue Planet Project Council of Canadians, and Nicholas Anton, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Detroit

Highlights from 2018 HLPF: Three Side Events

Continued from page 9

the epicenter of the fight in the U.S. for the human right to affordable, clean water, but this fight spans the country, just as it does in developing countries around the world.

“We talk about the value of water but it seems to me like people don’t have value anymore. If you have a dog and the dog is on your front porch and children walk by and see you have not given that dog water in three days — every agency in the city is going to be called to punish anybody who does not give the dog water. But the same situation does not occur for water for humans,” Taylor noted.

Each of the panelists discussed ways in which market-based corporate solutions to management of the increasing scarcity of water in the world are leading to human rights violations and deepening the inequalities the SDGs seek to combat.

“[Global] Coalitions are extremely important,” elaborated Taylor, “but this fight about water cannot be won without grassroots coalitions being involved and taking a leadership role. What we have seen in Michigan ... Poor folk don’t give up the fight — they go all the way because there’s nothing to lose.” Taylor closed with inviting everyone to come visit them in Detroit to see what is going on and stay awhile to help out. CVSA will include Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and other nongovernment organizations organizing for access to affordable clean water, per Goal #6, in the upcoming new edition of *INVEST YOURSELF*.

Addressing Unbalanced and Inadequate Development to Achieve the SDGs: Learning from China

The Chinese Mission to the United Nations, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), co-hosted a High-level Side Event during the 2018 HLPF titled “Addressing Unbalanced and Inadequate Development to Achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).” Angus and Maxim attended this event, arriving early to get seats in a conference room filled to standing room only capacity.

Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP gave an overview describing how the SDGs are a huge challenge to reinvent the business of government and development, stating that governance as it has been carried out in most of the world will not accomplish the SDGs; transformations are needed. He warned that a focus on data collection systems can



Photo: Xinhuanet/Li Muzi

Achim Steiner, Administrator of UN Development Programme, (far right, top at speakers panel) introduced Ma Zhaoxu, China’s Permanent Representative to the UN, (second from right at speakers panel) saying “We know that in China, SDGs is not something that simply sits on the bookshelf.” The audience of representatives from many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America enthusiastically participated in the discussion that followed the panel presentations.

become a “thing in itself,” rather than a means towards an end. He said the countries with the most success in achieving the SDGs are those where citizens are most engaged in the process. He introduced Ma Zhaoxu, China’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, saying that in China the SDGs are not just on bookshelves or posters, their entire government is going about the business of achieving each of the 17 Goals.

Ambassador Ma discussed how China has been tackling the problem of unbalanced and inadequate development within China: raising living standards, alleviating poverty, and working to narrow income gaps and disparity among regions. He said, “Unbalanced and inadequate development is a common challenge facing countries across the world.”

“To achieve shared prosperity, countries need to work together to pursue fair, open, comprehensive and innovative development; while making efforts to reduce poverty and improve lives, we must uphold social fairness and justice to make sure no one is left behind. We also must strike a balance between economic, social and environmental progress,” which the Ambassador noted “is highly important for implementing the 2030 Agenda and fostering a global community with a shared future.”

Representatives from seven countries in Africa, Asia and the South Pacific including Togo, Vanuatu, Fiji and Nepal, participated in the discussion, giving examples of what they have changed in their approach to development and poverty-eradication that has brought good results. They each also thanked both UNDP and China for their partnership and investment in development projects through the UN Peace

and Development Trust Fund which was established in 2016 with a \$1 billion pledge from China. Over the previous three years, the Fund had been used to implement 24 projects in 49 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, helping these countries and their people in advancing sustainable development.

The statement by the Laotian representative was particularly elucidating. He described their development plan and the reforms they have undertaken based on what they have learned from other countries. A landlocked country with only 6 million people, they have been going out to the far-flung, sparsely populated areas to involve everyone in the development plan. The problem they face is that, until they develop further, they cannot attract foreign investment. But to develop further, they need foreign investment and do not want it with strings attached not consistent with their plan.

He pointed out that during the U.S. war against Vietnam more bombs were dropped on his country than all the bombs dropped during WWII, and even though that war ended 40 years ago, they still have much to overcome from that destruction. He said the continued partnerships with and assistance from UNDP and China are critical to their ability to reach these goals and achieve the level of development they need.

Speaking of China's global commitment to the 2030 SDGs, the Chinese ambassador concluded, "China will continue to work with the rest of the world for peaceful and sustainable development. With stronger partnerships, we can create a better environment for balanced and adequate development. Together, we will make the goals of the 2030 Agenda and a community with a shared future for mankind a reality."

Canadian Nongovernment Organization Shares their Strategy for Challenging Government to Do More

The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC), a Canadian nongovernment organization based in Vancouver, came to the 2018 HLPF with a 108-page Shadow Report to the official Canadian National Voluntary Review (NVR). The Canadian government's report on their progress in achieving the SDGs highlighted its efforts to improve the lives of women and girls, lead the fight against climate change, and create better economic opportunities for Canada's Indigenous Peoples. BCCIC's Shadow Report, titled *Where Canada Stands 2018*, provided data and analysis showing that in Canada food insecurity grew, the percentage of Canadians in core housing need expanded, and access to water in indigenous communities decreased. BCCIC's report made a clear case that Canada's already marginalized communities were being left even further behind — contrary to the SDGs and to the government's claim of progress — and called on the

government to do more to include all of society in the planning and implementing of the SDGs.

BCCIC co-organized a side event titled "The Global Invisible Mosaic" held on July 11, which Caryn Maxim and Robert Garcia attended to learn more about how BCCIC involved hundreds of nonprofits and community-based organizations throughout British Columbia in compiling their shadow report and mobilizing for the SDGs. The purpose of the side event was to showcase tools and strategies developed by civil society organizations to be used for implementing and monitoring the SDGs at a local level.

In February 2018 BCCIC held a civil society-led workshop with various government departments, including Global Affairs Canada, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Statistics Canada, to provide national input and recommendations to Canada's VNR hoping that civil society and the government of Canada would be able to collaboratively develop a VNR that reflected inclusivity and showed global leadership in this regard. However, the government declined, and BCCIC produced this shadow report to represent the "on-the-ground" civil society perspective. Their report included comprehensive recommendations for policy changes and actions the government should take to remedy each of the problems identified in relation to achieving each of the Goals.

BCCIC announced it was launching a public engagement campaign called BC2030 to take a non-partisan approach to bring focus on the SDGs as a pan-Canadian vision for sustainable development and challenge politicians of all stripes to show how their leadership would move Canada towards the achievement of these Goals.

BCCIC relies on volunteers to take roles assisting a full-time paid staff to carry out its programs. The BCCIC organizers we met at the UN were impressed with CVSA's *INVEST YOURSELF* catalogue and noted that a number of their member organizations are already listed in it. BCCIC and more of their member organizations that serve communities in need will be included in the upcoming new edition.



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CVSA Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S.: UPDATES



Photo: CVSA

Fifteen high school students from the Global Teens program of the YMCA in New York City at CVSA's new headquarters for a day.

New York City YMCA Global Teens Visit CVSA in California

A team of 15 Global Teens from New York City high schools and their counselors spent an afternoon helping clean up the yard around the CVSA office, followed by a discussion on how the 2030 SDGs directly relate to problems in their communities. Students spoke of how they want to promote the Goals in their schools and communities. This visit took place on the last day of the teens' 10-day tour studying environmental challenges in Southern California region and had just completed a five-day camping excursion on the Channel Islands, known as the "Galapagos of North America," off the Santa Barbara County Coast.

Cody Gordon, one of the Global Teens counselors and a high school teacher in the New York City public school system, arranged for this visit with CVSA. YMCA Global Teens is a leadership development and service learning program that engages teens in a year-long empowering international experience culminating with a summer service experience. CVSA held SDG workshops with the Global Teens program in NYC in 2017 before the move to California, and the program is listed in *INVEST YOURSELF*.

CVSA Making Presentations in Local College Classrooms

When Joseph Marfi, Regional Sustainability Manager, Southwest, for Turner Construction, heard CVSA's presentation about the 2030 SDGs to a Los Angeles Business Council meeting last year, he invited CVSA to make a presentation



Photo: CVSA

California State University at Northridge engineering students learn about the 2030 SDGs and volunteer opportunities with CVSA.

to a Green Buildings certification class he teaches at CSU Northridge where he is an adjunct professor. He said these students know about the need for some sustainability practices in relation to building construction, but it is limited to what is currently required for LEED certification [Leadership in Environmental & Energy Design]. "They need the big picture about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the urgency of achieving them, which goes beyond what they are currently studying," he said.

CVSA has spoken to classrooms at both the Northridge and Domingo Hills CSU campuses, and will be speaking at UCLA this spring semester. CVSA is seeking more opportunities to engage students beyond the academics of "sustainability" studies to direct involvement with grassroots organizations dealing with eliminating poverty, gaining access to comprehensive good health care and healthy environments, the development of decent work at living wages and all the other aspects of all 17 Goals.

Educators for Service Learning Meet with CVSA about How to Teach the 2030 SDGs

Leaders from the Educators Consortium for Service Learning (ECSL), based in Los Angeles, California, came to the CVSA office to discuss how to teach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in elementary and high school classes in a meaningful way. They had already started introducing the 2030 Goals in classrooms, but were looking for insight on how to teach the Goals in ways students could connect academics to real world problems and needs, and that would help youth engage in a lifelong passion for addressing local and global issues through service and community action.



Photo: CVSA

Leaders of Educators Consortium for Service Learning discuss at the CVSA office how to give students of all ages experience in 'Thinking Globally and Acting Locally' through actions they can take to promote the 2030 SDGs.

ECSL's mission is to provide educators with innovative ideas, practical resources and collegial experiences that bring service learning to life in K-12 classrooms. The group was founded in 1994 after the Los Angeles Riots of '92, to provide teachers with tools to better educate youth in how to understand the needs in their community.

The group of teachers and parents decided they will change how they are teaching the SDGs: instead of something the UN is doing for the world, they will teach it as something we all have to advocate for and organize to keep our own government accountable to carrying them out here in the U.S.

Phu Tranchi, Director of Experiential Learning at Oakwood School, Los Angeles, invited CVSA to make a presentation about CVSA's Community Education Campaign for the 2030 SDGs to an assembly of 8th graders in April, to give them framework for their high school studies and ideas for community action they could engage in over the summer.

CVSA Brings Volunteer Opportunities and the 2030 SDGs to Businesses in Los Angeles Area



Photo: CVSA

Pam Kalmus (l), Mike Morris (c), members of the San Fernando Chapter of IFMA, with Susan Angus (r) after the CVSA presentation.

owner Christina DeBono enthusiastically shared her facility and has made her company a sponsor of *INVEST YOURSELF* and CVSA's SDG campaign. IFMA promotes education and resource development for Facility Managers and is the world's largest widely recognized international association for facility manage-

ment professionals. Pat Kalmus, an IFMA member and CVSA volunteer, said "The 2030 SDGs fit well with IFMA's vision and plans for future operations."

Mike Morris, Area Manager for AT&T SoCal said, "Facility managers' efforts will make a difference but no one company or country can do this alone. Working toward the accomplishment of the SDGs from the ground up can help corporations to understand that making business strategies consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals will ensure the existence and expansion of world markets and the well-being of the world's citizens and environment."



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Continued from page 3

Our mainstream corporate media is equally silent about this global movement for sustainable and equitable economic and environmental policy shifts.

Hundreds of nongovernment organizations, universities, faith organizations, and professional associations around the world are directly involved in their countries working to achieve the 17 Goals, and over 110 countries have already given voluntary reports in the last three years at the UN on their progress and plans for achieving the SDGs.

To succeed, these Goals must also be achieved here, in the largest economy in the world, where per person consumption of resources is nearly double that of the next closest nation, where economic inequality is at the highest levels in our history, and where government policy is enabling greenhouse gas emissions to keep increasing while most of the rest of the world is desperately trying to eliminate them.

The 2030 Goals are designed to be owned “by the people” of every nation, to be achieved in every nation. It also says, “We

can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet.”

To build the necessary groundswell of involvement and action in the U.S. for the 2030 SDGs to become the nation’s agenda in action, we must make the SDGs come alive through action at the community level. We must bring together the volunteer service organizations who are already on the front lines of dealing with the 17 priorities enumerated in the SDGs — bring them together with schools, universities, businesses, faith-based organizations and professional associations around the common goal of working together to achieve the Goals by 2030.

This takes organization. And growing organizations need organizers. This is where you have an opportunity to make a choice.

We know what to do and how to do it. We just need more people doing it. What are you doing right now after reading this article? What are you doing this summer? This year? CVSA urgently needs full-time and part-time volunteers who are committed to building a sustainable and just world, willing to do the work to learn how to organize for change with us. We provide the training and education needed. Find your part in this history-making movement. Call CVSA today to learn more. Don’t wait – the time is NOW!



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UN General Assembly Plans 2020 Global Meeting

“Reimagining Volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda”

On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled, “Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” It encourages the participation of all people — including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups — in volunteer activities. It encourages governments, in partnership with the United Nations, non-government organizations and others to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies.

The resolution details ways for governments to integrate volunteerism within the processes for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The resolution also calls for the UN Volunteer Programme (UNV) to support member states and the UN System in preparations leading up to a Global Technical Meeting “to appraise and share in a more concrete manner volunteering solutions among development actors, including countries in special situations” which will take place in 2020.

CVSA Looks Forward to Participation

How the U.S. government might participate in this event is not known since, at this time, the U.S. government does not acknowledge that the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals apply to the U.S., has not enacted any mechanism for implementing the 2030 SDGs in the U.S., does not have a “national development strategy.”

However, CVSA has been carrying out a grassroots community education campaign for the implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. since 2016. CVSA is mobilizing nongovernmental volunteer-involving organizations to promote the SDGs at the local level and build a groundswell of demand for the 2030 SDGs across the country. CVSA looks forward to bringing grassroots leadership and lessons from the experience of CVSA member organizations to this event. It will also be an opportunity to gain from the experience of many other countries and share that with CVSA members and other SDG stakeholders in the U.S.

Highlights of the 2018 Report and Resolution

A report from Secretary General António Guterres on July 25, 2018 that preceded the December General Assembly resolution stated: “The unanimous adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by United Nations Member States in September 2015 fostered increased efforts by stakeholders to engage people to become drivers of their own development. Citizen engagement has become a core component of many national strategies for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and is reflected in the organizational approaches of development partners, including Governments, intergovernmental entities, civil society and the private sector.

“... A shift from ad hoc and isolated volunteer projects to sustainable investment at scale is needed to widen volunteering opportunities and ensure the inclusion of all types of people. Increased practice-sharing and knowledge development, in particular on informal volunteering and volunteering in fragile and low-income contexts, are required.

“... To accelerate progress under the 2030 Agenda, a plan of action calls for the holding of a global technical meeting in 2020, preceded by regional preparatory meetings in 2019, to appraise and share in a more concrete manner volunteering solutions among development actors, including countries in special situations. As the designated focal point, the United Nations Volunteer Programme is working with member states and partners to provide support in regional and global consultations.”

The December 17, 2018 resolution states that the General Assembly “Encourages all member states to include information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in future Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals,” and “...requests the United Nations Volunteer Programme, and invites the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to jointly organize the global technical meeting to be held in 2020 on the theme “Reimagining volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda,” to be held as a special event on the margins of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development in [July] 2020.

CVSA will keep members and interested volunteers informed of the planning and preparatory conferences leading up to the 2020 meeting. Call Susan at CVSA for more information: (323) 933-2872.



Thank You
Julie and Bryan Min
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In Memoriam STAN BROCK

April 21, 1936 - August 29, 2018

It was with great sadness that CVSA learned of the passing of Stan Brock, founder and President of Remote Area Medical (RAM) on August 29, 2018 at the age of 82 in Rockford, Tennessee. A tireless advocate for those in need, Brock built the largest volunteer-based medical aid operation of its type in the U.S. to address the injustice faced by millions of working and disabled people in both rural and urban areas throughout the U.S. who do not receive the medical care they need to live healthy lives simply because they cannot afford it.



Photo: RAM USA

CVSA met Stan in 2014 when he signed RAM as a member of CVSA and listed RAM in *INVEST YOURSELF*, the catalogue of volunteer opportunities, with a full description of how medical professionals and non-medical professionals can volunteer with RAM. A true example of the power of goal-oriented volunteer action Stan said, "Our volunteer organization started out with a volunteer of one: me. And we've gone past the 85,000 volunteers who are involved now."

In the U.S. the use of the term "refugee" has changed over the years. Traditionally, it has meant that a crisis has reached a point where it is bad enough that you must leave your home for some period of time. Who would ever think that people in the United States would voluntarily leave their home to endure the rigors of sleeping in cars and



Photo: CVSA

Stan Brock speaking at the United Nations at CVSA's event "Strengthening Voluntary Service & Action for Social Development," in 2015 thanking CVSA for publishing *INVEST YOURSELF*.

in tents on the ground in all kinds of weather for 12 hours to as much as two or three days, to be in line for a RAM mobile clinic where they can get basic medical attention. At any RAM clinic in America, you will find hundreds, sometimes thousands, who have chosen to subject themselves to such conditions and depend on the generosity of volunteers who have been brought together by RAM founded in 1985 by Stan Brock.

Stan brought this dire need to light at the United

Nations when CVSA Executive Director Susan Angus asked Stan to join the panel at a CVSA side event promoting the power of volunteerism during the 53rd Session of the Commission on Social Development held in February 2015 at UN headquarters in New York City. The event was attended by 35 diplomatic and NGO representatives from 12 different countries, who were amazed to see the images of hundreds of low-income working and disabled people in the U.S. lined up for free medical care.

After showing a video about how RAM's massive mobile clinics are organized and have provided free dental, vision and medical care to over 600,000 patients since it began, Stan said, "So, this is a pretty sad situation in the richest country in the world... to have 45 million people who don't have access to health care. In the world organization rankings, the U.S. is number 37 in health care, and yet in the U.S. we spend about three times as much per capita on health care than they do in my home country of Britain."

From England to South America to the U.S.

Born in England, Stan traveled around the world with his father, ending up in British Guyana running a 3000-acre cattle ranch. His vision for Remote Area Medical originated from that time, after a serious horse-riding accident found him 26 days away from the nearest medical facility. RAM was founded to bring medical care closer to the people who need it. Originally, its focus was serving remote areas of Latin America, Haiti and other parts of the world. But in 1985, while visiting the Appalachian region of the U.S., Stan was appalled to see the void in the American healthcare system. He set out to develop an organization of volunteers to run mobile clinics that would move around the country to provide basic medical, dental, and vision services to underserved communities in the U.S.

RAM's mobile clinics have treated close to one million men, women, and children and provided close to \$120,000,000 in free medical care. They run a truck fleet of specialized trucks including an optical lab truck that can produce 300 pairs of glasses a day and a dental service-equipped truck. RAM only holds free clinics in communities that invite them. Motivated community members, community leaders, and/or local nonprofits join together to host

RAM. Education is provided to help the local volunteer organizations continue the outreach and find ways to continue meeting the healthcare needs of those people after the RAM clinic leaves the area.

RAM is headquartered in Rockford, Tennessee, an area selected because of the great need in the surrounding poor communities. Originally designed for rural communities, RAM also works in urban America and has been to cities such as Oakland, Los Angeles and Houston. Basic services provided include dental, vision, medical prevention and education. RAM air freighters carry in supplies to disaster ravaged areas. RAM ran several disaster relief teams into Puerto Rico soon after the devastating Hurricane Maria hit and followed up by flying in for several clinic sessions.

One segment of RAM's population is senior citizens on fixed incomes that don't cover the necessities of their lives. One of these necessities to go first is routine healthcare. This has become an important segment of the organization's focus. Seniors also volunteer at RAM clinics, where they can share skills and experience in their communities.

Stan discovered that another underserved segment of the population is veterans. Government services in many areas are deficient or there is a total absence of care. RAM steps up to serve this segment by holding special clinic events that are not announced to the general public so they can focus on veterans.

When interviewed at one of the clinic sessions Stan said that RAM is broken-hearted to see so many go to extreme lengths to get basic medical care in America. "We are doing everything we can to change this and we ask everyone we come in contact with to join the great task of guarding our country from becoming a 'tent city' of temporary homeless people facing a crisis that is beyond reach."

Stan was heartened when he joined CVSA and was introduced to other non-government, community-based, volunteer driven organizations working in the U.S. to address basic unmet needs of low-income people. Stan's opening words at CVSA's side event at the UN in February 2015 on the power of volunteerism in social change were, "I am very glad to be here at the UN to talk about Remote Area Medical, but first I want to say, this volume (holding up a copy of *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action*) is a real bible for where to find people who are doing the kind of work that this world really needs, and I thank you very much, CVSA, for that."

Thousands of dedicated RAM volunteers, using RAM's fleet of trucks and planes, bring medical and healthcare services to the underserved in all parts of our communities. RAM has pledged to sow the seeds for continuing services and building communities committed to organizing for lasting change.

Stan leaves behind a strong organization of people fully dedicated to continuing to do the work so dear to his heart and spirit, led by a committed 12-member Board of Directors, 34 staff members, and tens of thousands of volunteers. Stan Brock's legacy will live on through saving and improving the many lives serviced by the growing number of volunteers of Remote Area Medical.



Photo: RAM USA

Stan Brock with a volunteer doctor in front of one of RAM's mobile medical clinic vans.



Photo: RAM USA

Dozens of dentists volunteering with a RAM mobile clinic.



Photo: RAM USA

Stan Brock overseeing the operations of one of the RAM clinics.

Transforming Our World: The 2030

On September 25, 2015, all 193 member nations of the UN, including the United States, voted unanimously to strive for the achievement of these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in every country — developing and developed — as national domestic and international policy priority. Each country, including the U.S., signed on, stating: “On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030...”

From the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Preamble and Call to Action:

“...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.”

“... We can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet. The world will be a better place in 2030 if we succeed in our objectives.

“...We the peoples” are the celebrated opening words of the Charter of the United Nations. It is “we the peoples” who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community — and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. It is an Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people — and this, we believe, will ensure its success.

Read the whole 35-page document: Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>.

CVSA’s Call for the Implementation of the SDGs in the U.S.:

CVSA calls on the U.S. government to carry out its pledge to implement the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. and form a national SDG Coordinating Council.

State councils should also be set up to oversee data collection, draw up implementation plans, coordinate policies and monitor the progress or implementation in their state and submit those to the national coordinating body. *Make the process public and open.*

Members on the councils at all levels should include representatives from nongovernment volunteer organizations, faith-based service organizations, social service administrators, educators, labor leaders, scientists, poor people’s representatives, family farm leaders, health advocates, legal justice specialists, environmental specialists, religious leaders, credit unions and community banks, small business representatives and other stakeholders.

In the absence of governmental action to date commensurate with the task, we call on CVSA member organizations to “take ownership” of the SDGs in your work. CVSA provides consultation, coordination and tools to assist you.

- * Promote the SDGs in your community through the work your organization is already doing. Bring more people into this discussion and build alliances.
- * Make plans to advance the SDGs locally; monitor and keep government accountable to them.
- * Contribute information for CVSA to include in reports to the UN on status of implementation of these Goals in your area based on your organization’s direct experience.
- * Join CVSA in building this movement to increase our collective strength and transform our world, insuring no one is left behind.

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 1. End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Goal 2. End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable, quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



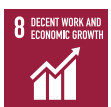
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.



Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.*



Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



Goal 15. Protect, restore, promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.



Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for Sustainable Development.

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Join CVSA's nationwide
**"Take Ownership of the
 2030 SDGs"**
 Community Education Campaign
 for the implementation of the 2030
 Sustainable Development Agenda in
 the U.S. as well as around the world.

Call CVSA (323) 933-2872
 to schedule a presentation to your
 organization, school, workplace or place of
 worship or in your community at large;
 and for a copy of CVSA's
 SDG Organizer's Toolkit.

July 9 to 18, 2019
**The 2019 High Level Political Forum
 (HPLF) will be held at UN Headquarters**

Send CVSA your reports on the status of any
 of the 17 SDGs in your area!

Share with the international community
 the realities in the U.S., your proposals for
 solutions and the work your organization
 is doing to get there.

**Call CVSA today for deadlines
 and more information**



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**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 (323) 933-2872 and let us know we have the wrong address for the person the publication is addressed to so we may update our records.

Volunteer with CVSA

Organizing Our Volunteer Power to Build a Better World!

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.

Publications Production

On-the-job training is provided through work sessions to produce CVSA's publications: *INVEST YOURSELF*, the catalogue of volunteer opportunities, and CVSA's membership newsletter — learn to write, edit, proofread, do desktop publishing and Photoshop. If you have these skills, you can become one of the trainers!

Community Outreach Events

Volunteers participate in information tables and speaking engagements, CVSA's most valuable means of connecting with people from all walks of life looking for meaningful and productive volunteer opportunities.

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.

Nationwide Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Volunteers learn to give presentations to community groups; coordinate the collection of reports to be submitted to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN; do research and develop tools for CVSA member organizations; mobilize community groups, businesses and faith-based groups to build a groundswell of involvement for implementation and monitoring of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. On-the-job training provided.

There is all this and more to do at our new headquarters in Los Angeles. You can also volunteer with CVSA from wherever you are, take on special projects and assignments. Call us at (323) 933-2872 for more information on how you can participate in and support CVSA's efforts.