

## THANK YOU NIAGRA COUNTY CERT VOLUNTEERS!

On Saturday, December 6, 2008, the Niagara County Department of Health operated a special combined animal and human vaccination clinic ("FluRab" Point of Dispensing or "POD") at the Department of Public Works at 758 Erie Avenue in North Tonawanda.

At this POD, nurses and doctors administered standard flu vaccine to humans 3 years and older, and veterinarians vaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets against rabies. This concept of simultaneous animal and human vaccination at a POD is a unique idea developed by the Emergency Preparedness Program in Niagara County to test animal and human disease emergency response plans.

While pet owners received their flu shots, specially trained animal handlers assisted them with their pets. This clinic was open to family members (aged 3 and older) and their pets.

CERT-Trained volunteers from the Buffalo Erie Niagara region assisted with non-medical tasks. Special thanks to **Greater North Tonawanda CERT** volunteers Peggy Bartolomei and Rich Snyder; **City of Buffalo CERT** volunteers Cynthia Blest, Patti Carrol, Jennifer Falt, Linda Freidenberg, Ada Hopson-Clemons, Donald & Leslie Learman, Sam Leone, Joann Schuster, and Dave Spinda; **Greater Niagara Falls CERT** volunteer Dorothy Carter; **Grand Island CERT** volunteer Laurel Waltman-Moher; **Central Niagara County CERT** volunteers Marianne Evans, Sandy Switzer and Jim Maw; and **Tonawanda CERT** volunteer Bethany Peacock.

## Niagara County Receives Citizen Corps Grant Funding!

Niagara County was recently notified by the New York State Emergency Management Office that its application for a Citizen Corps grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will receive a \$133,000 award.

Niagara County, in partnership with Border Community SERVICE and other regional entities, will use these new funds to continue to work towards ensuring that all persons within the region are fully aware, trained and practiced on how to prevent, prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from an all-hazards event.

Future activities will include outreach awareness and educational programs for community organizations and community members, additional CERT trainings for new volunteers, Skills Enhancement Trainings for those already trained, and the develop of a cadre of highly trained volunteers to assist with community-based initiatives such as the "Map Your Neighborhood" Program and "Ready America" training throughout the region.

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On November 22nd, thirty-eight members graduated from the City of Buffalo CERT course. The City is lucky to have these tremendous volunteers and our neighborhoods will be much better off because of their great training and skills! This is good news as the Meals on Wheels organization is looking at having a much closer relationship with City of Buffalo CERT. They see the skills that CERT members develop as critical to their organization should an emergency, such as a snow storm, arise.

On November 14, Michael Torrie, Nancy Blundell and I attended a presentation on utilizing digital technology for training delivery at the Jacobs Management Center at the University at Buffalo which is offered in collaboration with the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. This technology will allow us to record training and educational sessions on emergency preparedness which means we may be able to reach more individuals in a variety of ways – including allowing them to view presentations in the comfort of their own homes! Watch for future updates on this exciting opportunity for BCS!

I continue to “discover” great neighborhoods all over Buffalo as I present emergency preparedness material in our community. I am also enjoying making new acquaintances in the communities I visit and meeting up with old friends at different block clubs around the city. Thank you to the Senior Center at the Northwest Community Center, Bloomfield Choate Block Club, Belvedere/Choate Block Club, Walden Park Senior Apartments, Elmwood Square Senior Apartments, St. Gerard's and the Decker Street Block Club for hosting these important presentations for your communities.

As you know, a neighborhood that is well prepared and working together creates a stronger community. I still have many available dates in December, January and February and invite interested block clubs, community agencies/centers, religious organizations, schools, and businesses in the City of Buffalo to contact me via email at [destrada@bpdny.org](mailto:destrada@bpdny.org) or to call me at 716 851-4299 to schedule this free emergency preparedness training.

Happy and Safe Holidays to you all!

Congratulations go out to our forty-two new members of the CERT community. We recently completed classes in the City of Lockport and at the New York Power Authority. Border Community SERVICE is very proud of the effort and commitment that you have showed and look forward to working with all of you in the future.

A special thank you goes out to Howard Morgan (Instructor Coordinator, Lockport) and Jon Schultz (Instructor Coordinator, NYPA) and all the instructors for these classes. Without your efforts, these classes would have not been possible.

During the month of November we held two organizational meetings in the city of Niagara Falls for the Greater Niagara Falls CERT team. Thank you to all who attended. A great deal of information was gathered at these meetings. We plan to go over this information over the upcoming weeks and look forward to helping establish a strong leadership group for the Greater Niagara Falls CERT team.

I realize that there were people who could not attend these meetings due to other commitments but still want to remain involved. We will continue to inform you of upcoming meetings and events through our newsletter and emails so please update your information with our office as soon as possible.

On Wednesday, December 17, 2008 from 6:30 to 9:30pm we will hold American Heart Association CPR /AED here at Niagara University. If you want to receive a certification card there will be a \$10.00 fee per participant. Please contact me at the office if you would like to participate in this class.

The holidays are upon us and we must remember to think safety. Please remember to use surge protectors when plugging in multiple strands of lights. Water Christmas trees regularly to keep them from drying up and becoming fire hazards. When lighting candles keep them in open areas free from materials that can catch fire, and make sure they are extinguished before retiring for the night. I would like to wish all of you a very safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in 2009.

## Community Announcements

### Free flu shots\*

**Thursday, December 18, 6 - 8PM**

Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building  
3001 Ninth Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

The best way to prevent illness is by getting a flu vaccination. People who should get vaccinated each year are:

- Children as directed by a physician
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions

There will be a raffle auction, information on mental health and health insurance, an Ask the pharmacist/Ask the doctor table, a free Farmer's Market, and activities for children. There will also be free health screenings, to include blood pressure, cholesterol testing, blood sugars, and lead testing. Adults who complete a health screening and risk assessment will receive a free t-shirt (available on a first come, first serve basis).

Flu shots are available for everyone ages 9 years and up. Children under 18 need to have a parent or guardian present to receive a flu shot.

*\* If you have insurance, please bring your card.*

**Please call 635-4959 for more information.**

### Congratulations to Elaine Roman!

Elaine Roman, Public Health Planning and Information Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Niagara County Department of Health and a dear friend and valued partner of Border Community SERVICE, was recently named to the Members of the 2008 Public Health Works' Honor Roll.

Elaine spends countless hours training staff and preparing for Point of Dispensing (POD) and other emergency preparedness drills. She provided critical leadership during the December 6 POD in North Tonawanda.

Elaine also continues to seek ways to get help to those who are "at-risk", also known as the "special needs" population (e.g., elderly, disabled).

Elaine is truly a dedicated professional. She manages project development teams with Niagara County's local, regional, state, federal and international partners. She also belongs to several committees and workgroups involving a diverse group of citizens, including the Tribal Nations and migrant workers.

## Skills Enhancement Trainings!

**All Border Community SERVICE volunteers are welcome at all trainings. RSVP as indicated.**

### City of Buffalo

To be announced

Contact **Dana Estrada** at **851-4299**  
or [destrada@bpdny.org](mailto:destrada@bpdny.org) to register.

### Niagara County

**Wednesday December 17, 2008, 6:30 to 9:30pm**

American Heart Association CPR /AED  
Niagara University in Dunleavy 227

*If you want to receive a certification card,*

*a fee of \$10.00 per participant will be charged.*

Please contact **Michael Torrie** at **286-8023**

or [mtorrie@niagara.edu](mailto:mtorrie@niagara.edu) to register.