

# Border Community SERVICE

Special Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative for Community Empowerment

[www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice](http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice)

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

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## It's 2009! This year I will...

- Learn emergency preparedness skills
- Be ready to help my family and neighbors
- Serve my community during a disaster

## CERT Training! A Resolution to Keep

A Town of Tonawanda CERT Training course began on **Monday, January 19, 2009** at the Town of Tonawanda Fire Training Facility, 70 Fire Tower Drive. It will continue for six (6) consecutive Monday evenings (January 19 & 26 and February 2, 9, 16 & 23) and two Saturdays including February 21 for "Fire Safety" and "Light Search & Rescue" and February 28 when the course will conclude with a course review and simulated disaster training exercise.

The Town of Wheatfield has accepted an invitation from Border Community SERVICE to offer CERT training in the Town of Wheatfield. The course is tentatively scheduled to begin Monday, February 23 (6:30-9:30PM) at the Town of Wheatfield Community Center, 2790 Church Road. Subsequent Monday night classes will be held at the five Town of Wheatfield Fire Company Halls on a schedule to be announced. There will be two Saturday (9AM-2PM) classes: Fire Safety and Light Search & Rescue will be taught on February 28 and the course will conclude on April 4 with a course review and simulated disaster training exercise.

Online registration is available at [www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice](http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice). **CERT training is FREE.** For more information, or to enroll, please contact Nancy Brennan Blundell of Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University at 716 286-8304 or e-mail [nbb@niagara.edu](mailto:nbb@niagara.edu). Please share this information with your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors.

## Farewell to Michael Torrie!

Border Community SERVICE would like to say thank you and farewell to Niagara County Project Coordinator, Michael Torrie. Michael, who joined the project last May, has accepted a position with Venture Forthe Inc., an agency that serves individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury. Michael's last day at BCS was January 16, 2009. We wish Michael the very best in the future!

## City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada  
Community  
Preparedness  
and Participation  
Coordinator  
716 851-4299

There is no better reminder for the need to be prepared than a winter storm or two rolling through our region! As we dig out of the mounds of snow, please take a few minutes to remember how important it is to have supplies on hand for emergency weather situations and begin to assemble a kit for your home and for your car. Think of it as your New Year's Resolution to help to keep your family safe and comfortable in 2009! Last month the Dearborn Avenue Block Club and the Lovejoy Block Club Coalition showed their commitment to emergency preparedness by hosting preparedness presentations for their neighborhoods. Now it's your turn to commit to being prepared in the New Year!

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Roger Lander, Director of Homeland Security in the City of Buffalo, and I met with Mayor Brown's Citizen Academy at the City of Buffalo Police Department to discuss emergency preparedness and response in the City of Buffalo. The group had the opportunity to visit different offices and organizations in the city throughout their time in the academy and we're so happy that we were asked to meet with the group. Roger discussed the history of Homeland Security and the Emergency Management Office and the policy and protocol for emergency response. I gave a brief synopsis on the types of presentations that I can conduct in the city, including the "Ready America" program and the wonderful and new "Map Your Neighborhood" program that outlines the steps neighborhoods can take before and after an emergency to better care for themselves and their community members. As always, please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on either program.

Also in December, I worked with the City of Buffalo Public Schools to distribute take home "Ready America" information to six schools in the City of Buffalo. Each child received "Preparing Makes Sense" and "Emergency Supply List" brochures to share with family members. The first roll out of brochures went to Early Childhood Center #17; Hillery Park Elementary #27; Martin Luther King Multicultural Institute #29; Dr. Charles R. Drew Science Magnet Museum Site #59, Roosevelt ECC #65; and Houghton Academy #69. In all, more than 3300 children received the materials. We hope that we'll be able to supply more schools with this information in 2009.

City of Buffalo CERT was also busy in December as we were asked to participate in a Flu/Rabies P.O.D. (Point of Dispensing) clinic in North Tonawanda on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The POD was interesting as flu shots were offered in conjunction with rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats and ferrets. Special thanks to City of Buffalo CERT members David Spinda, Jennifer Falt, Joanne Schuster, Patti Carroll, Sam Leone, Leslie Learman, Don Learman, Ada Hopkins-Clemons, Linda Friedenbergl and Cynthia Blest for their participation and assistance. These training opportunities provide invaluable skills to City of Buffalo CERT members.

I have moved to a new office and am happy to report that telephone service has been restored. I look forward to hearing from you and to working with you in 2009. Happy New Year to you all!

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a year full of health and activity. Border Community SERVICE looks forward to a year full of activity and education for all volunteers.

Border Community SERVICE would like to share some very exciting news. With Niagara County as the lead agency, the Buffalo, Erie, Niagara UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) Region applied for a Citizen Corps Grant. The grant application, which was written at Niagara University, was awarded \$133,000. The grant will augment existing funding in order to enhance trainings throughout our region. We look forward to training and equipping volunteers to go out and train community members. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward with this regional initiative.

BCS and the Niagara County Department of Health would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the Niagara County Flu/Rabies POD at the North Tonawanda Public Works Building. The event was a success and your help was greatly appreciated. Another thank you to the volunteers who participated in the December Skills Enhancement training. The AHA CPR/ AED class is an important training for all to have and I appreciate your attendance.

The first skills enhancement training of 2009 was held on Thursday January 15, 2009 at Niagara University. The topic of the training was "How Important is Communication" and "Introduction to Network Operations". The evening's presenter, Mike Duff, did a wonderful job with his presentation. Mike is the Telecom Administrator at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute and a Grand Island CERT team member. Many thanks, Mike!!

I would like to remind all of you to please make sure you have working smoke detectors on every level of your homes. The recent tragedy in the eastern end of Niagara County which resulted in the deaths of three young children serves as a reminder to all of us that **working smoke detectors can prevent tragedy**. Please remind your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. If you know of anyone who cannot afford to purchase a detector, I hope you will encourage them to contact Niagara County Emergency Services at 438-3171 or your local fire department to see if they can assist.



## Niagara County

Michael Torrie  
Community  
Preparedness  
and Participation  
Coordinator  
716 286-8023

## Homeland Security: The Reality Show\*

ABC recently announced a new show called "Homeland Security USA." The network said the series will give viewers an unprecedented look at the work of the men and women at the DHS "while they use the newest technology to safeguard our country and enforce our law." ABC says the producers were given access to the agencies of the Department of Homeland Security and had the full cooperation of Customs & Border Protection (including its Border Patrol); Immigration & Customs Enforcement; the Transportation Security Administration; the United States Coast Guard; and United States Citizenship & Immigration Services. The first episode, "This is Your Car on Drugs," premiered on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, at 8:00 p.m.

*\* Information taken from [http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009\\_3-10113802-83.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10113802-83.html)*

## Cancer affects us all. You can make a difference!

Roswell Park Cancer Institute and members of the Niagara Falls community have teamed up to provide educational workshops about the fight to cure cancer. Come share your voice about this important issue and find out how you can make a difference and represent your community.

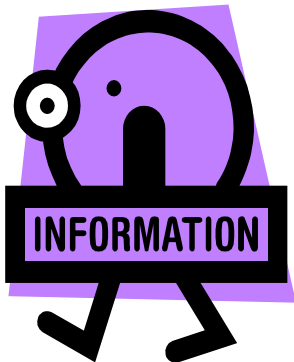
**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2009

**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Location:** Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Auditorium

For more information, please contact: Mr. Charles Walker, Community Health Advocate at 285-2382

## Please Update Your Contact Information!



Have you moved recently? Perhaps you changed your phone number or added a cell phone? Have you changed your email address? As BCS and CERT move forward to better serve the community, it is extremely important that we maintain correct, updated contact information for CERT-trained volunteers. In the event of an emergency it is essential that new addresses, new email addresses, new or changed phone numbers (cell phones included), and any other pertinent information are on file. As CERT teams become better organized and more active, this information is vital.

Please contact the BCS office with any updated information you may have so our records are as complete as possible. Thank you very much for your assistance!

## A farewell note from Michael Torrie

As some of you may have heard, I have accepted a position with Venture Forthe Inc., a human service agency that works with people who have traumatic brain injuries. It has been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated volunteers. As the program grows and continues to move to more of a regional effort, remember to keep your original groups going strong. Establish a leadership group to support and advocate for your group's efforts. Although I am leaving the day to day operations of Border Community SERVICE, I will still be around. I hope to assist with upcoming CERT Trainings and other events. My best wishes to all of the Niagara County volunteers and to the continued success of the Border Community SERVICE program.