Disaster Training Conference: Volunteers Needed

Border Community SERVICE and Niagara University are proud to host "Are We Ready?" bi-national disaster preparedness conference on Friday and Saturday, August 19 and 20.

Volunteers are needed before the conference to assemble registration material.

On the first day of the conference, volunteers will be needed to assist with registration of conference attendees, transportation of presenters to and from area hotels and many other general organizational duties.

A disaster simulation will take place on Saturday which will require 60-100 Border Community SERVICE volunteers to portray disaster victims while safety personnel work to respond to a simulated disaster. Upon completion of the disaster simulation, emergency personnel will discuss the success of the simulation and identify areas for improvement.

The morning will conclude with a BBQ celebration to reward all participants for their hard work.

A large numbers of volunteers are needed to make the conference successful. We would like to have all Border Community SERVICE volunteers participate by helping out on Friday or Saturday and by recruiting friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to volunteer. We would also appreciate help before the conference to prepare for it.

Since recruiting takes time, every person you recruit will give you credit for one hour of volunteer time. By volunteering on both Friday and Saturday, all volunteers will also have the opportunity to earn as many as 16 hours of service.

To sign up as a volunteer for the Bi-National Disaster Preparedness Conference, please contact either Nancy or Nola at the Border Community SERVICE office, 205-0070 or 205-0074 or via email at the addresses listed on this page.

Help Wanted: Border Community SERVICE Volunteer Opportunities

In the coming months, there will be a variety of opportunities for Border Community SERVICE volunteers to earn their monthly hours. Many of these opportunities are aimed at recruiting new volunteers to help increase our numbers and to assist with the daily operation of the Border Community SERVICE office.

Volunteer Coordinator:
A volunteer is needed to help fellow volunteers find places in the community to serve their hours. This volunteer placement could be done from home or from the office. The volunteer would need to have access to a phone and email in order to communicate effectively with agencies and Border Community SERVICE volunteers.

Newsletter Editor:
This position would place a volunteer in charge of creating and publishing the monthly Border Community SERVICE newsletter. The volunteer would collaborate with Border Community SERVICE staff to educate and inform volunteers on opportunities that are available and to assist with the dissemination of information, including recruitment and training dates.

If you are interested in either one of these positions, please contact Nancy at 205-0070.

Rose Hovivian is splinted by Carol Scott during First Aid Basics Training.

Check Out Our Website!
Please check out the Border Community SERVICE website at www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice. There is a lot of wonderful information and resources including CERT and Together We Prepare materials. Feel free to share this information with friends, family, neighbors and co-workers so they too can know what it means to be a Border Community SERVICE volunteer.

In addition you will find a link to each addition of the monthly newsletter.
First Aid Kit Distribution: Volunteers Needed

The Border Community SERVICE office has over 1,300 First Aid kits that need to be distributed within the Niagara Falls community. The First Aid kits include 170 items such as cleaning wipes, a variety of bandages, aspirin, Tylenol, a cold pack and many other items useful in disaster preparedness.

The Border Community SERVICE office is looking for volunteers to distribute emergency kits within their communities, which would include their work, home and faith communities. In addition to sharing the emergency kits, the volunteers will also be asked to talk with each recipient to make sure they understand what it means to be prepared for a disaster and to then follow up this conversation with a receipt of acknowledgement that shows an emergency kit was distributed.

The volunteer commitment for this project would also involve a follow up call to each individual who received an emergency kit one month after it was received and again six months later. The purpose of the follow-up is to ensure that the recipient has created a disaster preparedness plan and to answer any additional questions they may have.

The Border Community SERVICE office is in need of all volunteers to distribute kits within the community. This is a great opportunity to earn a variety of hours towards your volunteer commitment and to share with the community all that the Border Community SERVICE office is doing for the local community.

Please contact Nancy or Nola in the Border Community SERVICE office to pick up your kits.

Focus Group Members Needed for Grant Compliance Visit

Border Community SERVICE is funded by a grant from The Corporation for National and Community Service. As with all grants, specific objectives must be met in order to receive continued funding.

On Tuesday, June 14 and Wednesday, June 15, Donna Smith from CNCS will be in the area to see the wonderful work that the Border Community SERVICE office has been doing since September.

The office is in urgent need of trained Border Community SERVICE volunteers to sit in on a focus group with Donna on Tuesday, June 14 from 9:30-11:30 to discuss volunteer training, to share their experiences and to provide constructive feedback that will help the Border Community SERVICE grant meet the designated goals for its first year of implementation. Attendance in the session would count towards your volunteer hours. Coffee and pastries will be served.

Volunteers interested in joining the focus group should contact Nancy ASAP at the Border Community SERVICE office at 205-0070.
Summer Volunteer Opportunities

The season of summer fairs has begun and Border Community SERVICE needs volunteers who are willing to invest their time for outreach education and new member recruitment. The first event is Old Sanborn Days on July 9 and 10. Can you help?

Border Community SERVICE Volunteers are needed for both days to disseminate information on being a Border Community SERVICE volunteer and to give informal discussions about disaster preparedness.

Volunteers are asked to work a two hour block on Saturday, July 9 from 10 to 6 and/or on Sunday, July 10 from 11 to 5. Volunteers who are able to stay longer than 2 hours would be of tremendous assistance to Nola who is coordinating this event.

At least seven volunteers are needed to make the event a success. Please contact Nola in the Border Community SERVICE office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday to sign up to help.

Don’t forget 1,350 first aid kits will be given to community members by Border Community SERVICE volunteers in coming months. Volunteers will teach how to prepare for disaster, create a disaster plan and build a disaster kit as part of this distribution. Distribution will take place at various community centers and in the home, work and faith “communities” of volunteers. Please call to volunteer your time. We need you!

Border Community SERVICE Training Dates

Have you completed your training in all 4 components of basic training? All volunteers should complete training in Adult CPR with AED Skills, Infant & Child CPR, First Aid Basics, and “Together We Prepare.” If you haven’t completed all four, you can attend classes as they’re offered. You must let us know that you’re coming so enough supplies and materials are available.

There’s a lot of work to be done to help prepare the community for emergencies. We need your help with recruitment.

As you recruit friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to join you as a Border Community SERVICE volunteer, please pass along the following training dates for their consideration.

A new training series has been scheduled on Saturday July 9 and Saturday July 16. The July 9 training will include Adult CPR with AED from 9-12:30 and Infant/Child CPR from 1-4:30.

Training on July 16th will include First Aid Basics from 9-12 and Together We Prepare from 12:30-3:30.

Please assist the Border Community SERVICE office by recruiting individuals to attend the trainings and become a Border Community SERVICE Volunteer.

All potential volunteers should contact the Border Community SERVICE office to sign up for training or enroll online at our website.

Niagara Falls Citizen Corps:
Front. Roger Spurbach President, Niagara Falls Block Club Council; Priscilla Dolling, Director, RSVP; Nancy Brennan Blundell, Coordinator, Border Community SERVICE;
Back. Phil Buffone, VP United Way of Niagara; Melvin Dyster, M.D., Director Niagara Medical Reserve Corps; David Taylor PhD, Director, Border Community SERVICE; Norma Higgs, Community Engagement Committee Member; Richard Horne, NFFD; Officer Nicholas Ligammari, NFPD; and James Snell, Executive Director, American Red Cross—Niagara Falls Chapter.