We WERE Ready!!

Pictured above: Conference attendees, including Roger Spurback, Candace Corsaro and Trudy Christman, take notes during a workshop presentation on the topic of “Threat Analysis & Risk Assessment for Communities.” More photos are available on our website.

We WERE Ready! The 2005 Bi-National Disaster Preparedness Conference was a great success for the Border Community SERVICE program. With over 200 participants, a broad range of occupations and experiences were brought together for a day full of information.

Thomas Creamer, the keynote speaker, received outstanding reviews from our conference attendees. His opening remarks set the tone and pace for a great learning experience. One conference evaluation stated that Creamer was “one of the best speakers I have seen in a long time…” while another said that his presentation was “very dynamic and engaging.” Border Community SERVICE is delighted that Thomas Creamer was such a success, and are very happy that we were able to bring such a wonderful speaker to our conference.

Michael Battle, Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, was our closing speaker. He came prepared to impart knowledge on the Patriot Act to our conference attendees. Mr. Battle reflected on its role in helping our nation as a whole become better prepared for disasters and terrorist attacks. Border Community SERVICE was honored that such a distinguished presenter was able to participate in our conference.

The disaster simulation exercise was also a great learning experience for all those who were involved! On Saturday, August 20, Niagara University was transformed into Border Town, USA, where “attendees” at a bi-national agricultural conference were exposed to a “nerve agent” and confined to their conference center. The exercise gave local fire, EMS, HAZ-MAT teams, and other disaster response agencies a great opportunity to

Continued on Page
Border Community Service would like to reach out to local communities. Here are several opportunities provided through Border Community SERVICE to volunteer time in the local community and to get to know your community better.

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

**First Aid Kit Distributions**
Throughout the upcoming months, Border Community SERVICE will be distributing disaster preparedness information and first aid kits to local families. Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis to discuss the information and to conduct follow-up surveys with the families/households.

**Healthy Neighborhoods**
Healthy Neighborhoods needs volunteers on an ongoing basis on weekdays to work with them at the homes of their clients and assist with the distribution of first aid kits and completion of disaster preparedness surveys.

**Survey Follow-ups**
The Border Community SERVICE office needs help conducting one-month and six-month follow-up surveys regarding disaster preparation. Follow-up surveys would be done by phone at the Border Community SERVICE office.

**Community Presentations**
Various organizations have asked our program to provide information to their members, staff and/or clients about disaster preparedness. These presentations are coupled with first aid kits distribution and completion of disaster preparedness surveys. Please volunteer to assist a Border Community SERVICE staff member with this.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities, please contact Nola at 716-205-0070. If you know of any other volunteer activities that the Border Community SERVICE program may be interested in, please contact the office with that information.

As a reminder, please maintain a personal log of all the volunteer hours you have completed. In the beginning of each month, our office will email volunteers a reminder to report any hours they have accrued. Border Community SERVICE is required to report our volunteer hours and any help our volunteers can give us in the collection of those hours is greatly appreciated.

Border Community SERVICE would like to thank all the agencies that participated in the drill and all of the volunteers that came to participate as victims. Without them, the Disaster Training Exercise would not have been the success that it was!

For a more information about conference workshops, attendees, and photographs, please visit the conference section at our program website:

www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice.

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**“We Were Ready!” Continued**

Practice their mass casualty response systems. Several volunteers were also transported to local hospitals so the facilities could test their procedures as well. The exercise was visited by David H. Wilkins, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Ambassador Wilkins spoke briefly during the opening ceremony, thanking emergency rescue personnel for their brave, selfless actions. In his opening remarks, he stated that “it was good to be back on American soil...even if for a short time.” The project was certainly happy to be able to bring him back into the country.

The simulation began when volunteer victims were escorted into the “contaminated” building and the initial rescue call was made. The exercise ended shortly before noon and was followed by a BBQ picnic for the rescue workers and volunteers. The simulation exercise received coverage on local television news Channels 4 and 7. Channel 7 coverage will soon be available at our website.

Border Community SERVICE would like to thank everyone involved in the planning and carrying out of the conference. Their time, effort, and help was greatly appreciated. The project would also like to thank all the agencies that participated in the drill and all of the volunteers that came to participate as victims. Without them, the Disaster Training Exercise would not have been the success that it was!

For a more information about conference workshops, attendees, and photographs, please visit the conference section at our program website:

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Border Community SERVICE

Upcoming Trainings
Share the Dates!

Volunteer Trainings

Our September classes have been scheduled! For volunteers who are still missing some training components, we hope that you will be able to attend the missing components and complete your training. At your earliest convenience please let us know which classes you plan to attend. At that time we will tell you the locations.

SATURDAY TRAINING SERIES

Saturday September 17: Adult CPR with AED Skills (9 AM to 12:30 PM) and Infant & Child CPR (1 PM to 4:30 PM).

Saturday September 24: First Aid Basics (9 AM - Noon) and Together We Prepare (12:30 to 3:30 PM).

WEEKNIGHT TRAINING SERIES

Monday September 19: Adult CPR with AED Skills (5 - 8 PM).

Wednesday September 21: Infant & Child CPR (5 - 8 PM).

Monday September 26: First Aid Basics (5 - 8 PM).

Wednesday September 28: Together We Prepare (5 to 8 PM).

Skills Enhancement Trainings

Border Community SERVICE has scheduled three upcoming Skills Enhancement sessions. We hope that many people will keep these dates open and attend this additional free training. Please reserve your spot now by calling the office at 205-0070 or by sending an email to nch@niagara.edu.

On Tuesday September 13, BCS is delighted to present Cindy Goss. She was recently a presenter at our Bi-National Conference and will present “The Psychological Impact of Responding to Disaster.” In addition to work with law enforcement agencies, Cindy has served as a consultant to HBO and appeared in an A&E documentary. This training will be held in Room 238 of Dunleavy Hall at Niagara University from 6 PM to 8 PM.

On Thursday September 22, Sergeant Thomas Garrepy will present “Tactical Emergency Medical Support.” The concept of Tactical Emergency Medical Support includes the provision of medical services under hostile conditions. This is a unique opportunity for all, especially those in the medical fields. It will be held from 6 PM to 8 PM in St. Vincent’s Hall, Room 112.

On Tuesday October 11, Captain Gregg Blosat will present “Threat Analysis and Risk Assessment for Communities.” Capt. Blosat was also a presenter at our Bi-National Conference. The workshop will be held from 6 PM to 8 PM in Room 127 of Dunleavy Hall.
Volunteer Profile: Priscilla Baker & Julia Largo

“Volunteer Profile is a new monthly feature of the Border Community SERVICE newsletter that will highlight some of the remarkable BCS volunteers and give some information about the featured person(s).

This month we’d like to introduce you to the mother-daughter duo of Priscilla Baker, RN and Julia Largo, RN. These volunteers joined the program together and have been very active at various Border Community SERVICE functions. They’ve both completed basic level training, CERT training at Upper Mountain Fire Co. and Disaster Action Team training through the American Red Cross—Niagara Falls Chapter.

Priscilla Baker, RN

Spouse & Children: I’m a widow. My children are Julia Largo and Curtiss Bailey.

Why did you join BCS? We were interested in helping the community. With our nursing backgrounds and my public health background, we thought it was a good idea to give back to the community.

Ways I’ve been involved in the program: Basic Level Training, CERT, ARC-DAT.

What has been your favorite part of the program so far? The interesting people that have been involved with it. The training has been excellent and of superb quality. It has been a refresher for me and I have also learned a lot.

How have you prepared your family for an emergency? Since taking the training, we have been doing first aid kits and are geared up. We now have an emergency kit that we didn’t have before. The smoke alarms are up to date. We’ve explained to my grandsons the importance of the information.

What would you save from your house in an emergency such as a fire or a flood? I would save us—anybody who’s in the house. That’s absolute essential and my important papers. I try not to become attached to stuff.

Words of Wisdom/Favorite Quote: We have so much to be grateful for—especially if we have our health, good friends, and good family. We should be willing to give back.

Julia Largo, RN

Spouse & Children: My husband is Donald. Kyle and Michael are my two sons.

Why did you join BCS? I felt the need to volunteer. I’m really a promoter of personal safety. I wanted to learn more.

Ways I’ve been involved in the program: Basic Level Training, CERT, ARC-DAT, First Aid Kit presentations and distributions.

What has been your favorite part of the program so far? CERT training. It was really informative and a good reinforcement of previous knowledge.

How have you prepared your family for an emergency? Since taking the classes, we are more aware or fire safety and evacuations for the community. My sons are told the information I’ve learned almost every time we are in the car.

What would you save from your house in an emergency such as a fire or a flood? My children and then the pets. We have 1 cat, 2 dogs, as well as 2 fish. I would grab as many photos as we could.

Words of Wisdom/Favorite Quote: Keep yourself safe and healthy. If you don’t take care of yourself, you’re not any good for anybody else.

* This month’s volunteers are camera shy so their pictures were not included in this edition.