ACS Newsletter ~ Adventist Community Services
North American Division
301-680-6438

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACS Convention Cruise - March 16-23, 2014

Join us for the Adventist Community Services Convention and enjoy an unforgettable Mexican Riviera Cruise.

The Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is pleased to host the 2014 Adventist Community Services (ACS) Convention. Individuals from all across North America will come together aboard the Norwegian Cruise Line’s Norwegian Star to learn how to better follow Christ’s example of meeting the needs of others.

For more information visit: www.inspirationcruises.com/SDA

STORIES & TIDBITS

Colorado Flood - Survivors need your help.

Youth and young adults distributed school supplies to children and teens in the Super Storm Sandy affected areas.

Demand rises for school supplies among needy families

International institute of Christian Ministries (IICM) Community Services & Urban Ministries Certification Program

The IICM Community Services & Urban Ministries Certification Program provides a basic foundation and practical tools for equipping church members to be change agents in their communities. Jesus’ method of facilitating physical, mental, and spiritual healing and restoration in the lives of the people around the church is emphasized. The 38-contact hour curriculum contains 19 modules that cover the biblical, philosophical, and logistical aspects of effective wholistic ministry. For more information, and a list and content of the modules Click Here

www.communityservices.org
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www.facebook.com/ACSDisasterResponse
www.facebook.com/AdventistYES
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Flooding of great magnitude has hit Colorado. Relentless rains poured down for days and flash flooding ensued, crashing down canyons and flooding everything in its path. Over 1,500 homes have been destroyed or damaged, and thousands of survivors have been evacuated. The rescue effort has been the largest since Hurricane Katrina. Sections of roads have been washed away, and the residents who live up in the high country are not able to get down to safety, and are being rescued by helicopter. Once brought out, they will not be able to return home until the roads are rebuilt, which may take up to 12 months or more.

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) volunteers are responding to this disaster with compassion. They are quickly working in cooperation with cities, counties and the state with donations management. ACS DR is collecting much needed emergency supplies, such as cleaning supplies (flood buckets), personal care items, blankets, along with other items, and distributing them to the flood survivors. Even if the survivors have not lost everything to the floods, they may not be able to return to their homes for months. They will not only need emergency supplies, but they will need supplies to help them with living in temporary housing until they can return to their homes or until their homes can be repaired or rebuilt.

ACS DR personnel are working with the City of Loveland to open a Collection/Distribution Center. Please donate generously to ACS Disaster Relief, so that ACS DR can continue this compassion ministry to help these survivors through this difficult time.

You may donate in several ways:

Mark offering envelope: “ACS Disaster Response”
Go to: www.communityservices.org
Call 1-800-381-7171
Send check payable to NAD ACS
12501 Old Columbia Pike | Silver Spring, MD 20904

Thank you for your generosity!

ACS Disaster Response Ministry Video
Donation Center Set to Open in Loveland
Demand rises for school supplies among needy families

By Jonathan Bell

With the school year looming, the Island’s Seventh-day Adventists had their hands full over Labour Day holiday giving out school supplies to needy families. The church’s Community Services Federation has seen an increase in the number of parents struggling to make ends meet — giving out 200 school backpacks in the run-up to school, up from about 140 packets of school supplies handed out last year.

“We gave out more in terms of numbers this year,” federation president Dora Baker said after the group’s Sunday giveaway. “We see a lot in the area of single mothers, particularly in the East End. Here in St David’s we have the Government emergency housing where most residents are single mothers with their children. Because some of them have younger children, they’re not able to work. They’re the population in greatest need.”

Precise numbers of families are difficult to estimate, since demand is based on the number of children. However, asked if the need was rising, she said: “There’s definitely more.”

Adventists gave out school supplies in St George’s on August 18, and again on Sunday at their Somerset Church on Beacon Hill.

Explained Ms Baker: “We try to attend to the needs of people in the community, not just church members — there are those who come to us for various reasons, such as clothing and food.”

Unemployment has become a major driver of financial pressure in Bermuda, she said.

“But also there is the ability to be employed,” Ms Baker added. “Some of them are not qualified enough. They’ve been doing jobs like being a supermarket cashier or bag packer; some have worked in hotels in housekeeping. Others worked in security and those types of jobs. They don’t really have the educational level that they need to be employed.

“That’s why we have developed, especially in the East End, a GED programme where we invite them to attend classes. The only thing they’re required to pay for is the examination itself, which they pay directly to the organising office. We feel that is the greatest need — mothers who are not educated and cannot get a reasonable job.”

The Adventists maintain a clothing drive collecting school uniforms, as well as ongoing food programmes — and Ms Baker and her husband Charles were also busy yesterday giving out free health screenings to around 40 people in the Bermuda Industrial Union hall at Hamilton’s Union Square, where the Labour Day Parade set out.

The church giveaways are managed by Pastor Howard Ebbin, Director for Adventist Community Services in Bermuda.

Ms Baker thanked also Butterfield & Vallis, BGA Wholesale Distributors and FIL Limited for their support. To get in touch for assistance, contact the church’s administrative offices at 292-4110.