

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2005



## Recent Visits

This past August saw Terry and Marcie Schmunk conduct (3) dental clinics on the Island nation of Jamaica.

During the month of October a team of VHP Volunteers conducted medical and dental clinics on the Island of Kadavu, Fiji.

### Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Terry and Marcie Schmunk provided dental services to the St. Marys Dental Clinic and St. Marys Infirmary. They were able to treat over 100 patients consisting primarily of cleanings and extractions. The dental clinic was provided with a good supply of dental medications and supplies to support the resident dental nurses with their patient care.

### Beaches Boscobel Resort

A dental treatment site was provided by the resort and Terry and Marcie were able to treat many of the staff providing extractions and cleanings. The Beaches Boscobel Resort by Sandals was very gracious in providing all inclusive accommodation and transportation needs while there. Beaches Boscobel's commitment to the community has been long standing. This is the sixth mission trip of VHP volunteers receiving support from this wonderful resort.

The resort as well as the clinic and infirmary in St. Marys parish are looking forward to a future visit the beginning of 2006 to include not only dental but also medical and optometry care.

### St. Anns Bay Dental Clinic

While in Jamaica, Terry and Marcie were able to supply the dental clinic with much needed supplies and medications. This clinic has benefited many times from VHP volunteer visits and is planning to assist VHP in conducting off-site dental treatment to elderly shut-ins in the St. Ann and Runaway Bay parishes.

### Tiliva Village Clinics

A team of four VHP volunteers provided medical and dental care to the Fiji Island of Kadavu in October, Betty Hayhurst, Nurse Practitioner, was assisted by Marcie Schmunk in treating over 100 residents of Tiliva. The village is only able to get a visit from the provincial doctor 3 or 4 times a year. Although there is a Ministry of Health Clinic at Kavala Bay and a Hospital at Vunisea, the distance, time and cost prevents all but a very few of receiving much needed healthcare.



Terry Schmunk, Dentist, was not only able to perform extractions this visit but was also able to reline and repair the few villagers who have dentures and most of all take impressions and bite relationships on many others that have been missing teeth for years. This was the realization of a long time goal of Terry's to start replacing the teeth he has had to extract during 9 visits over the past 8 years.



#### Water Source Discovered

Doug Hayhurst, Engineer, surveyed the mountains and forests with the Mataqali (a local clan) and discovered a mountain spring with abundant pure water. The spring is on Mataqali land about 2,000 meters from the Tiliva Health Centre site. We already have enough pipe on the site for half of the distance. We will purchase enough flexible hose to bring the water around the mountain to join the water pipe already there.



There will be a need to purchase 3 water storage tanks of 5,000 liter capacity to store the water to feed the site. Gravity flow will provide the pressure necessary for the property.

Although a well was dug 6 months ago and provided water for the garden, it will need to be developed more to provide adequate water for the garden and an alternative source of water for the Tiliva Health Centre and supporting buildings.

#### Charitable Foundation Status Achieved

Volunteer Health Professionals, Inc. will now be recognized as a nonprofit charitable organization in Fiji. This will allow VHP to be exempt from the 12.5% VAT (value added tax) as well become eligible for financial funding from both Fiji government and non government organizations.



The first Board of Trustees met on Friday, October 25, 2005.

#### Air Pacific support of the project

Air Pacific, Fiji's international carrier, was contacted and the groundwork was started for the airline to provide space A flights available for VHP's volunteers in service. This would greatly reduce the cost of travel to Fiji.

#### Fiji Ministry of Health was updated

Rigieta V. Nadakuitavuki, Director Nursing Services, kindly met with the team and provided us with valuable assistance and information on how we can work together with the Fijian Ministry of Health. The team promised a full report on the project thus far and the assurance of continued cooperation in the future.

