Welcome to the Newest Member of the Border Community SERVICE Family: Ava Grace Taylor

Congratulations to Border Community SERVICE Project Director Dr. David Taylor and his wife Christina on the birth of their first child!

Dave and Christina joyfully welcomed their baby daughter, Ava Grace, at 2:19 PM on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Ava weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Ava and her parents are doing very well.

Right: Dr. Taylor proudly introduces Ava Grace.

Greater Niagara Falls CERT

On Saturday, March 10th nearly fifty CERT-trained residents of the City of Niagara Falls and the Towns of Niagara, Lewiston, and Youngstown participated in a meeting to establish and organize “Greater Niagara Falls CERT.” We’re very grateful for the leadership of NFFD Chief William MacKay and Niagara Falls Block Club Council President Roger Spurbach and also for the enthusiastic participation of so many terrific Border Community SERVICE volunteers.

A Time for CERT to Shine

We’ve been given a wonderful opportunity to volunteer at the Patricia A. Parete Fundraiser on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the Buffalo Convention Center. Many of you know that Patty Parete is a Buffalo Police Officer who was seriously injured on duty a few months ago and now faces a difficult recovery and challenging future.

About 500 individuals completed CERT Training during the past two years. All CERT volunteers know how important CERT-trained individuals can be during times that test the will and spirit of the community.

Volunteering our help at this fundraiser is a wonderful way to show our gratitude to the First Responders (police officers, firefighters, emergency medical service providers) who protect and serve us. It’s also a great way to let the larger community see that we, as CERT-trained volunteers, are ready to help when needed.

Please check your calendar as soon as possible. We’ve been asked to volunteer as a group and to provide the names of 50 to 75 volunteers who are to help to make the evening a success. Many thanks to the 55 wonderful people who have already volunteered.

Your help is so important at this time. Let us know if you’re willing to help by calling us at 205-0070. Thank you very much!
When you changed your clocks last weekend, perhaps you also remembered to do a few more to increase your personal emergency preparedness.

When we must remember to change our clocks twice a year, we have a great opportunity to prepare ourselves and our families.

Batteries in smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, emergency flashlights and portable radios should be changed every six months. Check your fire extinguisher to make sure it is fully charged and ready for use (be sure that the gauge is in the green).

Review and practice emergency plans with your family. Update emergency contact information and lists of prescription medications.

A Basic Emergency Supplies Kit includes:
- Water: one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation
- Food: at least a three day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Battery-powered Radio & extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Filter Mask or cotton T-shirt to help filter air
- Moist Towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or Pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual Can Opener (if kit contains canned food)
- Plastic Sheeting and Duct Tape to shelter in-place
- Garbage Bags and Plastic Ties for personal sanitation
- Unique Family Needs daily prescription medications, infant formula and diapers, important family documents
- Blanket or Seasonal Change of Clothing

Please pack these items in an appropriate container. An individual emergency kit can be packed in a backpack. Family or group emergency kits can be packed in a tote box or clean garbage can with wheels.

Check the dates on the water and “non-perishable” food in your disaster kit. It's a good practice to replace stored water, food and medications and use what you removed from the kit at your earliest convenience. Change clothing in the kit for the season (winter/summer). If you’ve added a baby to your family, be sure to add supplies for the newest family member. Be certain your emergency documents include copies of birth certificates and the declaration page of insurance policies (car, life, health, renters, homeowners).

If you don’t already have a disaster kit, now is a good time to stock up on disaster supplies and to plan for your family’s safety. Please remember that outside resources may not be available for several days after a catastrophic event. so it’s essential that every household and family be prepared to survive on its own for 5-7 days until services can be restored.