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**Subject:** NOTES from May 2012 DOVIA meeting @ MSCC  
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May 17, 2012

Present:

- Fran Baker, Born Free of Mississippi
- Michele Baker, Crossroads Film Festival
- Elizabeth Coleman, MS Department of Archives and History
- Dawn Jones, Catholic Charities of Jackson – Rape Crisis Center
- Robby Scucchi, Methodist Specialty Care Center
- Cynthia Armstrong, Sta-Home Hospice
- Michael Gentry, Tougaloo Rainbow Garden
- Anita Bonar, Pet Therapist

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

Robby Scucchi, director of volunteers at [Methodist Specialty Care Center](#), hosted Mississippi DOVIA on May 17. One of Robby's 93 active volunteers is Mrs. Anita Bonar, a pet therapist whose dog, Trigger, is certified through [Therapy Dogs International](#). Mrs. Bonar has been a pet therapist for 4 years. Therapy dogs must pass 15 "tests" including sitting quietly for petting, walking through a crowd, ignoring distractions (including food and other items on the floor) and reacting well to children and loud noises. Says Mrs. Bonar: "Sharing my time is the most important thing; pet therapy is the most enjoyable thing I've ever done!"

MEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CCVA (Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration) sponsors the **CVA (Certified in Volunteer Administration) credential**, the only international professional certification in the field of volunteer resources management. Originally developed by the Association for Volunteer Administration (AVA) several decades ago, the program is intended for individuals who lead and direct volunteer engagement in **all types of organizations and settings**.

[Read more about the CVA program.](#)

CCVA also manages the **CAVS (Certified Administrator of Volunteer Services)** certification, a program especially for leaders of volunteers in **healthcare settings**.

[Read more about the CAVS program.](#)

[What's the difference between these two credentials?](#)

Read a brief comparison of the CVA and the CAVS programs.

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The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has an amazing lineup of programs and workshops this summer. [See the full lineup here.](#) MDAH is also sponsoring a summer camp for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders teaching them how to run a museum! For more information, please [contact Elizabeth Coleman.](#)

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April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month – among the projects sponsored by [Catholic Charities of Jackson's Rape Crisis Center](#) was the “Clothesline Project” where women were given the opportunity to paint a T-shirt reflecting their feelings and thoughts. For more information or to volunteer for the Rape Crisis Center, [contact Dawn Jones.](#)

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[Sta-Home Hospice](#) in the greater Jackson area covers 9 counties. Volunteer director Ms. Cynthia Armstrong and two other coordinators share responsibility. Cynthia works directly with families to discover their individualized hospice needs and then recruits the perfect candidate for that family. Volunteers most often sit with patients just to visit, allowing the full time caregiver a chance to take a break. Other volunteers make crafts, including Easter bunnies, quilts, scrapbooks, and more. One volunteer even took a hospice patient's old T-shirt and made it into a keepsake teddy bear for the man's grandchild! Volunteer for hospice by [contacting Cynthia Armstrong.](#)

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[Born Free of Mississippi](#) is seeking donations of gently-used women's and children's clothing as well as small household items. Please [contact Fran Baker](#) to make a tax-deductible donation.

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The [Tougaloo-Rainbow Garden](#) has received approval to build a stage on the campus of Tougaloo College. They are also seeking to do more training. Good news: community gardens have decided to come together as a coalition, realizing they are strong as a group. This new group can write grants, lobby legislators, etc. For more information on the Tougaloo-Rainbow Garden or organic, sustainable gardening in the greater Jackson area, [contact Michael Gentry](#) or [take a look at the Yahoo Group.](#)