



September Issue

# Ministry of Health

Monthly Publication



## KHMH receives donation from BNE Trust

The Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital received a donation of Thirty thousand dollars from the Belize Natural Energy Trust at a small handing over ceremony on September 14<sup>th</sup>; 2011. The donation will be used for the refurbishment of the doctors and nurses' station in the Accident and Emergency Unit of the hospital. It will also be used to assist the with several upgrades and expansions to other facility stations.



Unveiling of plaque at Emergency Station, KHMH

Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin was present at the handing-over ceremony where he congratulated and

celebrated in the official opening of the new refurbished station for Belize's national referral hospital. He expressed government's commitment to continue to assist in improving the facilities not only at KHMH but also in public hospitals across the country.

Dr. Francis Longworth, Chief Executive Officer, KHMH also spoke at the ceremony where he expressed his gratitude on behalf of the staff for the project that will benefit all Belizeans.

An unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the occasion was also done with all partners involved.

## Ministry of Health officially distributes materials from World Bank Grant

The Ministry of Health held a handing-over ceremony for a grant donation from the World Bank as well as distributed medical equipment and signed a contract for the construction of Phase 4 of the Surgical Wing at the Corozal Community Hospital on September 20<sup>th</sup> at El Rancho Restaurant on the Western Highway.

The Ministry received among other office materials and equipment sixty (60) laptop computers, twelve (3) Hilux Toyota Pick-up vehicles. The three vehicles will be distributed to the San Ignacio Hospital, Corozal Community Hospital and the Epidemiology Unit in the



Hon. Pabl Marin preparing to hand out equipment to Regional Managers

Ministry of Health headquarters.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Peter Allen mentioned that the Ministry was very appreciative of the donation and that the items will be used wisely in order to improve the functions of the Ministry. The grant was funded under the Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) Facility. The items were distributed among the four regions across the country.

The Minister of Health, Hon. Pablo Marin also officially signed a contract for Phase 4 of the construction of the Surgical Wing at the Corozal Community Hospital. The project is funded by the Government of Belize and is scheduled for completion in March, 2012.

## MOH launches suicide resource pamphlet

The Ministry of Health in partnership with the Mental Health Association of Belize conducted its third annual Mental Health Conference on September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at the Belize Institute of Management (BIM) offices in Belize City.

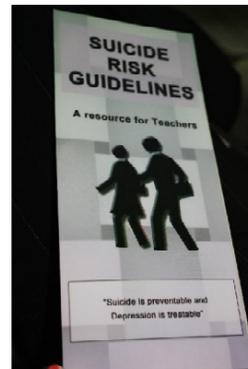
During its opening ceremony on Thursday, the Mental Health congratulated over 170 nurse practitioners who completed a thirteen week training sponsored by the Royal Marsden Foundation Trust. The Ministry of Health also launched a suicide resource pamphlet entitled "Suicide Risk

Guidelines: A Resource for Teachers."

The pamphlet has information that will serve as a resource tool to assist teachers confronted with this preventable disorder.

The Mental Health Program of the Ministry of Health is assisting teachers in this instance because they are seen as one of the main partners, aside from parents, that have a major influence on adolescence.

The Suicide Risk Guidelines was produced in association with the Mental Health Association of Belize and supported by the Ministry of Education.



## Caribbean Wellness Day in Belize

The Ministry of Health joined the rest of the Caribbean Community to observe Caribbean Wellness Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. This year Belize celebrated with a week of activities from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The focus was on eating healthy foods, regular exercise, checking and controlling blood pressure and quitting tobacco use which can all be achieved through regular practice activities to promote healthy living for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

The Ministry and the health regions across the country planned activities for their staff during this week such as staff clinics, sporting competitions and dance lessons among others. Karl Heusner

Memorial Hospital had a bike ride which included first place prizes for both male and female competitors.

Community activities in other regions across the country include health fairs and healthy snack distribution to visiting patients in the hospitals. The Ministry had also invited schools, private organizations, Government offices, and other Non-Governmental Organizations to participate in wellness activities during that week.

The theme for Wellness Week was "Love that Body, Love that Mind, Practice Healthy Living."

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