

JN's ACT!ON Jamaica Volunteer Corps recruits 35

Thirty-five persons were officially recruited on February 7 as part of the ACT!ON Jamaica Volunteer Corps, a project of the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation, which brings the total number of persons affiliated with the volunteer group to 500.

In an orientation exercise, held at the New Kingston Conference Centre recently, the newly installed volunteers, who included working professionals, university and high-

school students, were briefed about the operation of the corps.

Project Officer Chevanese Peters explained that the volunteer group, created by the JN Foundation, has been well received in recent years, particularly among tertiary students. This, she noted, was influenced by the requirement of many educational institutions that their students should become involved in their community and contribute to voluntary service.

"You find that universities locally

and overseas have identified voluntary service and hours completed by students as part of their requirement to graduate; or, as it relates to prospective students, they need to fulfil a certain amount of voluntary hours to matriculate into some programmes," Peters said.

She said it was commendable because it was only when citizens are truly involved in volunteerism that they can appreciate its impact

on the lives of other people and national development.

Instituted in 2011, ACT!ON Jamaica, through its volunteers, support a wide range of initiatives across the island, and has partnered with several non-governmental organisations, community-based groups and international development agencies, to assist in areas such as rural regeneration, education, youth empowerment, community development, crime reduction, and safety.