

## Mental Health Facilitator Program Continues to Grow

NBCC-I continues to work with training partners in different parts of the world to develop and update the Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) program. As interest in the program continues to grow, NBCC-I staff is constantly evaluating the MHF curriculum and the program administration in order to ensure that the MHF program remains dynamic and responsive to the needs of those it is meant to serve.

In December 2009, the Tanzania Network of Community Health Funds and the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA), located in Malawi, partnered to hold a training of trainers in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The



*A recent Mental Health Facilitator training session*

20 participants—representing a national mental health center and a mental health organization, among others—became MHF trainers with the knowledge and skills necessary to carry the MHF program into the future. GCYDCA continues to be a leader in working with NBCC-I to develop this program in Africa.

In January 2010, NBCC-I conducted the first Master Training of Trainers in order to begin to build a cadre of master trainers who can assist NBCC-I in program development. NBCC/NBCC-I staff members—Dr. Scott Hinkle, Dr. Wendi Schweiger, Ms. Kristi McCaskill and Dr. Thomas Clawson—facilitated the training of nine participants who were invited because of their commitment to the MHF program. Dr. Jane Campbell, Mr. John Conteh, Dr. Judi Durham, Dr. LaVerne Hanes Stevens, Dr. Richard Percy, Dr. Atsuko Seto, Mr. Chris Townsend and the Rev. Gwendolyn Young took part in the training, which was held at NBCC headquarters, and became registered as MHF master trainers. NBCC-I staff was pleased to be able to work with these individuals to take this program further in its progression.

Organizations and universities in countries such as Botswana, Israel, Liberia and Romania have been discussing MHF program possibilities with NBCC-I, and staff will continue to dialogue with international colleagues interested in establishing the MHF program within their own countries.

## Haitian Relief Effort

NBCC and NBCC-I are assisting the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO) office for the Americas, in response to the mental health crisis caused by the recent earthquake in Haiti.

We continue to compile a list of counselors who speak French and/or Creole and who may be able to assist in the mental health relief effort in Haiti. This is not a volunteer forum, but an effort to organize possible trauma experts and volunteers. As we do this, PAHO is developing its strategy to address the mental health needs of individuals in Haiti.

If you would like to be included on the list, send an e-mail to Dr. Wendi Schweiger, associate vice president of NBCC-I, at [schweiger@nbcc.org](mailto:schweiger@nbcc.org). Please include your name, ID number, telephone number, mailing address and e-mail address, and be sure to mention any involvement you have with current relief efforts or any plans you have to travel to the affected areas. Also mention if you have responded previously to international or national crises. This information will enable us to avoid duplicating efforts that may already be in place. We will be sharing the contact information we gather with PAHO and its affiliates as needed.

Please forward this e-newsletter to other NCCs who may be able to assist. Questions or inquiries should be directed to Dr. Schweiger at [schweiger@nbcc.org](mailto:schweiger@nbcc.org).