

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

On April 29, volunteers for the information desk, traffic court and guardianship visitors' programs at South County gathered to be honored for their hours of selfless work.

At a recognition luncheon at Duffy's Restaurant in Delray Beach, **Judge John Phillips** praised the group for their dedication and effort over many years of volunteer activity. "Although we do not often have the opportunity to say thank you, we want you to know how important you are to the functioning of the South County Courthouse," Phillips said. Each volunteer was presented a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by Judge Phillips and **Court Administrator Barbara Dawicke**, on behalf of the Circuit.

In preparation for the opening of the South County expansion, **Chief Deputy Court Administrator Krista Garber** explained upcoming changes to the group and reviewed a floor plan of the expanded facilities. An additional information desk is slated to be staffed on the second floor of the South County Courthouse in July.

John Cohen, a retired Judge from England, was recognized by the Palm Beach Post for his work with prisoners in South Bay Correctional Center. John has developed five programs, in which he teaches mediation skills to inmates who then act as mediators.

Although he uses standard mediation principles, he has modified them to become core life skills that teach communication, negotiation, and listening abilities. The more the inmates are able to express themselves, the fewer conflicts. John is also using a similar program in the community, and has volunteered to take over the Court's pre-filing program for the Bar.

He believes in encouraging people to communicate before moving to either violence or the courts. As for inmate Kempst Gilles, 30, of Haiti, he wishes he'd met Cohen long ago. "If I knew before what I have learned here," he says, "I wouldn't be in here."



We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give. --Winston Churchill

Dedicated volunteers **Gordon Cohen & Terry Mahoney** now conduct tours of the main courthouse



for students and civic groups every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Gordon's background as a probation officer provides valuable knowledge of the Court's functions. Terry excels with younger students and also volunteers at the Wellington civil traffic hearings and in the Administrative Office.

RoseAnn Raymond brings excellent customer service skills, acquired over a long career with the telephone company, to



her role helping callers to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) telephone line. Each Wednesday, RoseAnn's expertise calms and informs those who call this special phone line, as she answers questions on court facilities, ADA services and jury duty.