



## FIT is now FIT Inc

On June 1, 2009, Florida Integrity Training became Florida Integrity Training Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation organized as a charity consistent with federal 501.c.3 specifications. Application for approval is ongoing, but under federal law, the right to use the tax credits under these provisions is retroactive to the date of incorporation should a favorable letter of determination be issued. While we cannot guarantee that the IRS will accept gifts to Florida Integrity Training Inc. as tax deductible until a "letter of determination" settles the issue, a process taking as many as 16 months, we can say it is not unusual or illegal for individuals to submit such information in good faith on their tax returns.



## May Leadership Training Sessions

Saturday, May 16 proved to be an exciting time at **Bradenton, FL** where 5 great new leaders (above) were trained. Included are Melissa Webster, far right (remember Melissa's story in the February issue?) and her father, Paul, next to her. Then just two weeks later, our Women's Director, Helen Campbell, did our very first training in **Orlando** at an urban mission working with women working in the adult entertainment industry. Seven new women received their formal training to become FIT Inc. volunteers.



## Three Leaders receive the top Presidential Award for Volunteer Service.

We are proud to recognize three major supporters for their receiving the Gold Volunteer Award, the highest one given by the Office of the **President of the United States**. This means that each of these men have given in excess of 500 hours of their own personal time to charitable causes. The importance of volunteer work cannot be overestimated. According to Alex Taylor, Chaplaincy Administrator for the Florida Department of Corrections, volunteers are even more effective with prisoners because they know they are there for them and they do not get paid to be there. Also consistent with our philosophy is that a substantial time investment in lives shows individuals they are important and worth our efforts. From left to right are Ed

White, founder of Florida Integrity Training and Men's Director of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, Terry Rayburn, District Superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District of the Assemblies of God, and Fred DeMouey, Treasurer of Florida Integrity Training Inc. and Executive Director of Sowing Seeds, Inc. Recovery Center for Men.

**FIT Inc. Recognizes Sister Mary Hope** Sister Mary Hope, Prison Coordinator for the Diocese of Venice, is shown here receiving her own Certificate of Completion for the Handling Grief and Loss unit. A longtime supporter of our statewide ministry, she has encouraged Catholic participation both locally and statewide. She attends and supports our Recently Released program on Thursday nights. She also has been instrumental in promoting our materials and programs as well as encouraging prison workers to be trained in our program. As a result, half of our local volunteer force is Catholic. How do we all get along? Just wonderfully! We all have the common goal to present Jesus and His gospel in practical ways to the most destitute and needy among us. Sister Mary Hope is very unassuming, but we would like her to know how much she is appreciated.



**Board Member Tom Walter Conducts Large Training in Brooksville, FL.**

Twenty-nine new volunteers joined our ranks in the June training session held at Heaven's Gate Church in Brooksville. Tom has done as much as anyone in bringing together people of different Christian churches and walks of life into our volunteer army. His area now leads all others in terms of total of number of graduates from one of our formal units. Our 100-hour program is based six distinct life-skill units with a formal program and graduation certificate for each.



**Graduation Night at Recently Released, Bradenton, Celebrating the First FIT 100-Hour Graduate Ever and other Graduates**



Honoring Dora Wilson



the Crowd



Fran Owens with 3 of her certificates



John Haas



Deborah Beaulieu



Festive Environment