

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



OCTOBER 2005

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS WORKSHOPS TARGET LEADERSHIP

There are more than fifty registered sports, youth, dance/arts, community, and women's groups in St. Kitts and Nevis. Each with varying expertise in management, planning and public relations. The Ministry of Social Development, Community and Gender Affairs, seeking to increase effectiveness of these non-government organizations, hosted consultant Dena Hurst, Tallahassee, October 23-28, 2005. Hurst conducted workshops in: Accepting and Maintaining the Call of Service, Styles of Leadership, Recognizing the Challenges of Leadership, Learning how to be a Community Leader, Developing and Communicating a Vision, Building and Sustaining Commitment, and Influencing People. She is a consultant at the Florida Institute of Government, Florida State University, Tallahassee.

AIRPORT DISASTER SIMULATED IN ST. LUCIA

National agencies collaborated in a full-scale aircraft crash simulation October 25, 2005 at Castries' Charles Municipal Airport. FAVACA volunteer-consultant Captain Wayne Watts, Green Cove Springs, worked with Dawn French, director of the St. Lucia National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), the Air and Sea Ports Authority, Fire Services, Royal St. Lucia Police and the Port Police in fielding the exercise. Watts focused on first responders with training in Incident Command Systems. Watts also moderated an after-action briefing for government officials. Watts was given the honor of lighting the faux fire during the consultation October 16-26, 2005.

MUSEUMS TACKLE NATURAL DISASTERS

The St. Croix Landmarks Society hosted the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Museum Association October 25-28, 2005 with the theme "Disasters: living with, planning for and recovering from them." University of South Florida doctoral candidate

Kelley Scudder and Royce McNeal, St. Petersburg, presented Disaster Plan Management: Before and After the Storm. Scudder focused on preventive measures, minimizing loss, and techniques for soaked paper recovery. McNeal addressed conservation of contaminated artifacts, archives and materials. Thirty Caribbean museum professionals attended the event.

HONDURAS FOUNDATION RECEIVES ACCOUNTING ASSISTANCE

The Adelante Foundation is a micro-credit non-profit organization making loans to economically disadvantaged women in Honduras. Will Bullard, Adelante's director of development hosted FAVACA return volunteer, Lázaro J. Serrano Cid, Tampa, September 21 to October 2, 2005. Serrano has a MBA, is a Certified Public Accountant, and owns an accounting firm. He addressed, among other things, operational policies; short, intermediate, and long term strategic plans; and, evaluation of five-year micro-finance projections.

VENEZUELA FIRE MANAGEMENT TAUGHT

Nearly 400 firefighters and managers attended the inaugural Fire Management Conference sponsored by the Bomberos Forestales de la Universidad de los Andes, in Merida, Venezuela October 17-23, 2005. FAVACA first-time volunteers Patrocinio Velasco, Payson, Arizona, and James Brenner, Tallahassee, presented sessions on various fire management techniques. Velasco is a retired 36-year veteran of the USDA Forest Service and since 1999, operator of Fire Behavior International, a consulting company specializing in Wildland Fire Management. Brenner is Fire Management Administrator for the Florida Division of Forestry. FAVACA participation was requested by Gabriela Gamboa, cultural affairs specialist, US Embassy, Caracas.

DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FAVACA's Florida International Volunteer Corps and the Caribbean Assistance and Recovery Grants Program were represented in the Dominican Republic by FAVACA International Programs Manager, Will Guzmán, October 10-14, 2005. Guzmán briefed government and private agencies and monitored grant recipient performance during the development and evaluation mission.

DISASTER GRANTS

FAVACA's Caribbean Assistance and Recovery Grants Program is made possible by contributions from Jimmy Buffett's Singing For Change Foundation, Outback Steakhouse®, and Carrabba's Italian Grill. The following grants were awarded in October.

Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands' Habitat for Humanity received \$10,000 to purchase raw materials to build the foundation of two new homes within West Bay and East End, Grand Cayman.

Dominican Republic. The Habitat para la Humanidad República Dominicana received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to repair homes that were damaged by hurricanes within the coastal city of Nagua, Maria Trinidad Sanchez.

Haiti. The Haitian Resource Development Foundation was awarded a \$9,300 grant for repairs at the Vocational School of Aquin that was damaged from Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne. Repairs include the roof, exterior and interior painting, the delivery and installation of 1 diesel generator, the delivery and installation of six 80-watt solar panels, and the delivery and installation of 12 charging batteries.

FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean and the Americas through volunteer service.

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The logo consists of a stylized globe with a grid pattern. Behind the globe are several flags, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the flag of the Dominican Republic. Several pencils are positioned as if they are writing on the globe.

The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982. FAVACA was founded in the belief that Florida's future is interwoven with that of our Caribbean neighbors. The organization's mission is the improvement of social and economic conditions in the Caribbean and Central America through volunteer service. FAVACA provides technical assistance and training through a diverse combination of federal, private and State of Florida funding sources. To date, more than 1,200 volunteer missions to 29 nations and territories of the region have been completed. A wide variety of training is offered in health and social issues, agriculture, education, environment, disaster mitigation, women's leadership, capacity building and more.