

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



September-October 2008

Rebuild Haiti: MISSION POSSIBLE

Relief Response Focus of Haiti Delegation

Jamaica Gang Violence Reduction Conference

Barbados Nonprofits Receive Training on NGO Strengthening

FAVACA Website Changes

REBUILD HAITI: MISSION POSSIBLE



FAVACA invites you to join us on November 14, 2008 starting at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall of [Coral Gables Congregational Church](#) for a joint fundraiser for Haiti entitled **REBUILD HAITI: MISSION POSSIBLE**. Haiti has suffered unspeakable tragedy as hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hannah, and Ike devastated the region killing over 800 people and leaving thousands of families homeless. The overwhelming challenges this tiny island nation faces to rebuild would be insurmountable without the help of the international community and private donors.

All proceeds raised from this event will be donated equally amongst three leading international organizations from the South Florida community to provide urgently needed assistance and support to those affected. The [Lambi Fund of Haiti](#), Florida Association of Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and Americas (FAVACA), and [Project Medishare](#) all provide extremely necessary social programs in Haiti and strive towards helping Haitians rebuild and recover from their traumatic losses.

RELIEF RESPONSE FOCUS OF HAITI DELEGATION

In response to the four hurricanes that decimated Haiti, Miami residents donated countless items (food, water and shoes) to Haitians who lost all their material goods. A 20 member delegation from the [City of Miami](#) and was led by the [City Commissioner Michelle Spence Jones](#) and the [Vice Mayor of the City of North Miami, Jacques Despinosse](#) to accompany 26 pallets of relief supplies to Haiti. FAVACA President, Carolyn Rose-Avila, was invited to participate on the relief mission by [World Vision](#), the NGO selected by the city of Miami to receive the donation and distribute to impacted communities. Two notable delegation members included [State Representative Yolly Roberson](#), and Marlene Bastien from [Fanm Ayisyen nan Miyami](#) (Haitian Women in Miami).



Rose-Avila met with Haiti's new Minister of Commerce and Industry, Marie Josee Garnie, who expressed interest in targeting business development in four principal communities along the border with the Dominican Republic. Garnier requested FAVACA's help with expertise in collateral business development in and around the free trade zone in the city of Ouanaminthe.

Rose-Avila, Roberson, and Bastien visited the Interuniversity Research and Development Institute (INURED) and met with Dr. HERNANDEZ Marcelin. The three delegation members joined him for a meeting in Cité Soleil addressing the program's efforts in the area. Rose-Avila also met with Glenn Smucker, a private consultant currently working with the Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment project ([Développement Economique pour un Environnement Durable-DEED](#)).

JAMAICA GANG VIOLENCE REDUCTION CONFERENCE

FAVACA in collaboration with [USAID/Jamaica's Community Empowerment and Transformation Project \(COMET\)](#) organized a Diaspora conference and study tour for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and Jamaican community-based organizations in Miami, Florida August 5-6, 2008. The purpose of the conference was to establish a collaborative group effort that will provide input, resources, technical support and advocacy for the Jamaica Gang Violence Prevention Strategy.



FAVACA and USAID/Jamaica's COMET program arranged for officials and civil society representatives from Jamaica, as well as USAID mission team members to meet with US based representatives of various state institutions, law enforcement agencies, and Jamaican or American representatives of organizations already successfully taking action in diaspora communities. Eight officials from Jamaica traveled to Miami, Florida to participate in the event. Participants included: Bert Laurent and Sharene McKenzie from Management Systems International (MSI); Sasha Parke from USAID/Jamaica; Merrick Watson, Allan Bernard, Willoughby Saunders, Stephanie Lindsay-Clarke all from the Jamaican Constabulary Force.

Panelist for the conference included:

- **Chief Andrew Smalling**, a native of Westmoreland, Jamaica, was a 15-year veteran with the [Broward County Sheriffs Office](#). Smalling, a former member of the U.S. Marine

Corps, is currently serving as the president of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officials.

- **Magdaleno Rose-Avila**, founder of [Homies Unidos](#), an organization that works directly with the gang members to empower them to understand non-violence and the creative resolution of conflicts through nonviolent approaches.
- **Laura Kallus**, the Executive director of the [PanZou Project](#), which is a nationally recognized gang prevention and intervention agency program. PanZou developed a comprehensive gang-reduction program incorporating the best practices in primary prevention, secondary prevention and other preventative measures, especially in the Haitian-American community in North Miami Beach.
- **Cindy Guerra** the Deputy Regional [Attorney General for Florida/Gang Reduction Strategy Executive Committee](#) works with Florida law enforcement officers to help prevent gang violence in Florida.



From Left to Right: Magdaleno Rose-Avila, Cindy Guerra, and Chief Andrew Smalling at the Intercontinental Hotel West in Miami August 6, 2008.

The Jamaican delegation participated in a site tour of the [Juvenile Assessment Center of Miami](#) to observe the variety of law enforcement and correctional facilities available to Florida law enforcement. The delegation also visited with Marie Osborne, an attorney with the [Miami-Dade Public Defenders Office](#) and spent part of the afternoon talking with Laura Kallus while touring the PanZou project.

BARBADOS NONPROFITS RECEIVE TRAINING ON NGO STRENGTHENING

The recent worldwide food and energy shortages have increased the need for social services on the island of Barbados and around the globe. During times of difficulty, citizens flock to the social service sector to receive assistance they are unable to afford and governments are unable to finance. Recently, demand for these services has outpaced supply and pressed budgetary and organizational constraints.

The [Barbados Association of Nongovernmental Organizations \(BANGO\)](#), an



FAVACA Board Chairman, Dr. Fred Seamon

umbrella organization for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Barbados, requested FAVACA to help build capacity by strengthening their ability to write proposals and by addressing topics of leadership and governance. BANGO Director, Roosevelt King, established the organization in 1997 to deliver services to civil society organizations and to serve as a resource for NGO leaders.



Three experts in the sector of nonprofit strengthening and fundraising traveled August 5-9, 2008, included FAVACA Board Chair and long time volunteer **Dr. Fred Seamon**, [MGT Consultants](#) in Tallahassee, long time volunteer **Dr. Dena Hurst** from [Florida State University's John Scott Dailey Institute of Government](#) in Tallahassee, and first time volunteer **James Mueller** of James

Mueller and Associates in Delray Beach. The three day training seminar emphasized skills and techniques to increase each organization's capability to write proposals, further their capacity to address organizational structure, operations, and systems necessary for effective service delivery. Over 40 leaders participated in the training, and as a result now meet regularly to discuss their successes and struggles in implementing skills learned.

FAVACA WEBSITE CHANGES

Visit our updated websites and notice the new look as well as new content and program activities. Updated features include:

- Easy to use and enjoyable web browsing environment;
- News updates from recent work in the region;
- Disaster response links
- New pictures and projects;
- Link to the Florida Haiti Initiative;
- New videos in our Media Gallery;
- Updated list of domestic and international partners;



FAVACA is continually looking for new partners in the region or projects that would be of interest to our viewers. If you might know of organizations in the region looking for assistance or if you know of interesting events in the region, please inform FAVACA so we can inform our viewers. Please visit us at www.favaca.org and www.floridahaiti.org.

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

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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.

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