

# Communi-clik

**Breaking News** from Florida's International Volunteer Agency

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**NOVEMBER 2005**

## **ANTIGUA SEEKS END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Antigua's Directorate of Gender Affairs, in the wake of a recent attack on a female senior officer of government, staged a national conference and rally November 24-25 to raise awareness, and influence lawmakers on gender violence issues. The conference coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Over 100 women and men from 20 public and private organizations participated. Return volunteer-consultant Dr. Mary Ann Jones, consulted November 22-26, 2005. Her technical assistance included development of a strategic plan to reduce the victimization of women and presentations at the national conference on: Overview of Violence Against Women: Nature, Extent, Causes and Consequences; Prevention and Response Strategies; and Integrated Approach to Eliminating Gender-Based Violence. Media coverage included ABS Television 10 and a front page article in The Daily Observer.

## **BOYS' BRIGADE, MEN'S ASSOCIATION PLAN STRATEGICALLY**

The Boys' Brigade, based in St. Kitts and Nevis, hosted a regional training in strategic planning, fundraising, public relations and organizational development for 30 participants November 6-10, 2005. The Boys' Brigade is a nonprofit organization serving over 900 youth in: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten/St. Martin, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and The British Virgin Islands. It provides after school and weekend activities for youth, including many who are at-risk due to poverty and limited adult supervision. Former Kodak executive, and FAVACA board member, Frank O'Connor, lead the workshops using "Train the Trainer" techniques so that the representatives can duplicate the training when they return home.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Directorate of Gender Affairs also hosted an O'Connor workshop in strategic planning, organizational capacity building, and community needs assessment for the National Men's Association. Major social problems for men in St. Kitts include unemployment, underachievement in school, limited vocational skills training, drug and

alcohol abuse, crime, emotional neglect, domestic violence, and gender tension. The National Men's Association plans to develop a Men's Agenda on gender relations and stewardship for families and nation.

### **HAITIAN ENTREPRENEURS EXPLORE E-COMMERCE**

The mission of Haiti's Foundation for the Development of Feminine Entrepreneurship (Foundation DEFI) is to reduce poverty, accelerate economic development, and enhance social integration of businesswomen. To further these goals, Foundation DEFI sponsored Miamian Gina Hortance, November 28-30, 2005 for workshops in Port-au-Prince. The sessions included information and communication technologies (ICT), particularly the use of the Internet in marketing and business networking. Hortance, Founder of the Trade Portal of the Americas, LLC in Aventura, Florida discussed commercial opportunities for Haitian women entrepreneurs and how to fully exploit the possibilities of E-Commerce.

### **HONDURAS TARGETS EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

At the request of Honduras' Discovery School, Miamians Josefina S. Derby, and Jill D. Brookner conducted training in educational assessment at a nation-wide conference in Tegucigalpa, November 17-20, 2005. Among other topics, the pair covered Behavior Management, ADD & ADHD Students, Performance Based Assessment, and, ESL Strategies. Derby is a staffing specialist and Brookner – a FAVACA veteran – an instructional supervisor in the Division of Special Education, Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

### **EMERGENCY POWER ASSESSED IN THE CAYMANS**

At the request of the Cayman Islands' National Trust, FAVACA volunteer-consultants Bill Young and Drew Gillett conducted workshops for over fifty participants in Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman, November 13-19, 2005. Their course was designed to provide basics for the solar industry, decision makers, managers, disaster organizations, shelter managers and people within affected communities. The workshop also focused on photovoltaic and emergency plans. Young is a senior research engineer at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa. Gillett, of Manchester, New Hampshire, is a professional engineering consultant on thermal technology. The National Trust is a non-profit statutory body charged with preservation of natural environments and places of historical significance. This volunteer mission was made possible in-part by Jimmy Buffett's Singing for Change Charitable Foundation, Outback Steakhouse, and Carrabba's Italian Grill.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HOST BEEKEEPING CONGRESS

The 4th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress, November 14-18, 2005, sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Agriculture and the beekeeping community attracted more than 100 participants. Veteran FAVACA volunteer Tom Mozer presented information on the Small Hive Beetle as well as provided an overview of FAVACA resources. Mozer has provided training and technical assistance in eight countries of the Caribbean.

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean  
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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.