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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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HIV/AIDS TRAINING FOR HAITIAN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

NURSING SCHOOL IN HAITI RECEIVES CPR TRAINING

FAVACA'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND COORDINATOR IN HAITI

ST. KITTS' FIRST RESPONDERS HONE SKILLS FOR CRICKET WORLD CUP

DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO CENTRAL AMERICA FOSTERS PARTNERSHIPS

HIV/AIDS TRAINING FOR HAITIAN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

With HIV/AIDS infection rates as high as 13% in some rural areas, training in the lethal virus is essential for healthcare providers in Haiti. The Foundation of Compassionate American Samaritans ([FOCAS](#)) does work in Haiti's rural communities with healthcare agents to improve the welfare of the community. They requested FAVACA's assistance in providing HIV/AIDS prevention training for 30 nurses and agents from various rural towns. Dr. Colin Jessie from [Barry University](#), Ft. Lauderdale, Jennifer Harris from Barry University, Miami, and Marie Anglin of [Miami Dade College](#) Nursing School, also from Miami, put on a training workshop on February 15th in Petion-Ville. The professionals trained will be able to provide home based support for people suffering from the affliction. This project was made possible by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.

NURSING SCHOOL IN HAITI RECEIVES CPR TRAINING

Haiti's [Faculte des Sciences Infirmieres de Leogane](#) applied for, and was granted, FAVACA's assistance in providing training in responding to basic cardiopulmonary emergencies. Dr. Colin Jessie, Ft. Lauderdale, Jennifer Harris, Miami, and Marie Anglin, also from Miami, traveled to Leogane from February 16th – 20th, to conduct CPR training to 70 nursing students. Upon satisfactory completion of the course the students were certified to deliver this same training to other nursing students, healthcare providers, community leaders, and Haiti's National Police. A follow-up mission will be scheduled for July to assess the effectiveness of the training, reinforce the teachings, and to assure that FAVACA's goal to help those better help others was met. This project was made possible by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.



FAVACA'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND COORDINATOR IN HAITI

Director of Programs Demian Pasquarelli and International Program Coordinator Chris Beyer traveled to Haiti February 15-21, 2007. While in Haiti they met [USAID](#) advisors on trade and investment, to discuss FAVACA's cooperative agreement as well as USAID's plans for future Request for Assistance. In anticipation of a distance learning program between Florida and Haitian Universities, Demian and Chris met with Deans from several local universities and Mirvil Guillaumette, Cabinet Minister for the Minister of Education. Meetings were also held with [FONKOZE](#) officials, an alternative bank in Haiti that provides start-up funds and technical assistance to micro-businesses in numerous provinces, customs experts and others to explore further partnerships geared towards helping our neighbors in Haiti.

ST. KITTS' FIRST RESPONDERS HONE SKILLS FOR CRICKET WORLD CUP



Mr. Carl Herbert, director of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in St. Kitts requested assistance from FAVACA to train its first responders in preparation for the Cricket World Cup Tournament to begin in March 2007 which attracts thousands of fans from around the world. The FAVACA training team was made up of four first time volunteers that included Lt. Michael Livingston from the St. Petersburg Fire and Rescue Services, Mr. Pete Hill, a technical and medical rescue specialist, also from St. Petersburg and Captain Jack

Swerdloff and Mr. Shane Anderson, both professionals from the Miami Fire and Rescue Services. The training on various areas of Land, Search and Rescue was held from February 11th through the 16th, and reached more than 40 first responders from around St. Kitts.

DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO CENTRAL AMERICA FOSTERS PARTNERSHIPS

International Program Coordinator Oscar Martinez traveled to the Central American countries of [Nicaragua](#) and [Guatemala](#) from February 26th – March 3rd to foster partnerships with community organizations, governmental institutions and international agencies and to apprise them of the professional assistance and training available through FAVACA volunteers. While in Nicaragua Mr. Martinez held group meetings with representatives from Ministry of Education, community health, Central America Health Network, small business enterprises and small animal farmers, as well as [USAID](#) officials. In Guatemala he met with representatives from Share Guatemala, Save Children and [Catholic Relief Services](#) whose objectives were to promote economic and social development. The fruits of his labor can already be seen as two new projects have already been generated in Nicaragua as a result of his hard work; one dealing with waste disposal and entrepreneurship, and one working with local universities of the Caribbean coast.

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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.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Publications Coordinator at mauricio@favaca.org