

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



APRIL 2005

EDUCATION RECEIVES ATTENTION IN HONDURAS

Veteran FAVACA volunteer Lisa Green, West Palm Beach, returned to La Ceiba, Honduras January 26, 2004 to April 25th, 2005 to revamp Adelante Foundation's education program. She created a plan of action, performed observations in the field, experimented with a variety of methodologies and conducted in-office training. Green worked on self-sufficiency with Adelante's Edna Rivera and 25 rural children and women in the local communities of La Ceiba, and nearby towns of Pela and Aguan.

HAITIAN PATHOLOGISTS TRAINED

Miamian Dr. Winfried Reichelt conducted a workshop in breast, cervix, and prostate cancer, April 25-29, 2005, in Port-au-Prince for 12 Haitian pathologists. Groupe de Support Contre le Cancer (GSCC) hosted the consultation. GSCC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in Haiti. FAVACA is grateful to Roger M. Dunwell, owner of Hotel Villa Creole who donated the meeting space, food and accommodations for the Haitian pathologists and Dr. Reichelt.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RECEIVES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING

Dr. Ludovina Rodriguez, president of La Fundación Familia Sana, Inc., hosted training in Santo Domingo, April 13-16, 2005 for domestic violence shelter operators and the government Office of Women's Affairs staff in organization, barriers, staffing, funding, and daily operations. First-time FAVACA volunteers Magaly Ferlita, Temple Terrace, and Dr. Carla VandeWeerd, Wesley Chapel, in conjunction with the University of South Florida's Harrell Center conducted the workshops.

BELIZE POULTRY ASSOCIATION SEEKS MARKET EXPANSION

Philip John Corrigan, Miami, with Orlando Habet, manager of the Belize Poultry Association, held meetings with officials of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority and the Ministries of Trade and Agriculture April 10-15, 2005. Corrigan addressed cost recovery policies and certification standards and presented eleven recommendations that should result in the expansion of the domestic and international poultry market.

NEVIS ADDRESSES HIV/AIDS AMONG TEENS

Nicole Slack, health educator with the Nevis's Ministry of Health Information Unit, requested FAVACA assistance on behalf of the Nevis HIV/AIDS Committee (NEHAC) to create a youth theatrical production for World AIDS Day. Three FAVACA volunteers from the Hippodrome State Theatre project in Gainesville, Kelly Dugan, Samantha Sudduth, and Jennifer Tyler consulted on HIV/AIDS and STD prevention strategies, safe sex, healthy relationships, self-esteem, and the suppression of peer pressure. Their play entitled, "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" involved more than 47 youths. It was performed, live to a capacity audience.

GOVERNOR - HAITI RECOMMENDATIONS "DOABLE"

Following six months of deliberations, Governor Bush's Haiti Advisory Group submitted their recommendations targeting economic development, disaster preparedness and security. Governor Bush pronounced the recommendations "doable." The Governor presented the report to Haiti interim Prime Minister (and former FAVACA volunteer) Gerard Latortue, and US Ambassador to Haiti James Foley at a Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Miami, April 11. FAVACA provided administrative support to the group during its tenure.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS NAMED

The Outstanding Volunteer Achievement Awards are conferred annually to consultants who exhibit superlative performance, sustained effort and exemplary outcomes. Since the first award in 1989, eighty-one individuals have been honored. The 2004 recipients are:

JILL BROOKNER

Miamian Jill Brookner is instructional supervisor for Miami-Dade County Schools' Mentally Handicapped and Physically Impaired Programs. Two of her six missions have been to St. Kitts and Nevis. In Honduras, Jill has worked on four occasions with the Discovery School, an innovative bi-lingual institution in Tegucigalpa. Over 1080 teachers from around the country attended Jill's Discovery School workshops in behavior management and alternative assessments, the only opportunity for in-service training many of them will have.

TERRY ALLEN JONES

Terry Allen Jones has given over 5,500 presentations and workshops nationwide to schools, churches, businesses, communities, and social service agencies. He is the president of CATT, Creating Alternative Thinking Through Theater, a Florida-based training provider that uses theater to teach positive decision making to youth. Terry is a ten-time FAVACA volunteer in youth development, serving in Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and training 175 participants.

JONATHAN LOFGREN

Jonathan is vice president of PAR Village and Therapeutic Community Campus, St. Petersburg. He is the president of the Florida Certification Board, the oversight agency for Florida's drug abuse professionals. Since 1996, Jonathan has consulted on five volunteer missions to Barbados and Grenada providing prison guards, probation officers and social workers with counseling training. Thanks to Jonathan, the Inmate Rehabilitation Counseling Program (IRCP) at Glendary Prison, Barbados, has demonstrated an impressive 90 per cent success rate.

FRANK MAZZOTTI

Dr. Mazzotti is an associate professor at the University of Florida Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center, a branch of UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. His work with FAVACA spans four years. In 2001 Frank first consulted with the Belize Ministry of Natural Resources in how to deal with increasing human-crocodile "interactions." Frank's current projects focus on developing long term, integrated research, monitoring, and education programs to support ecological conservation efforts in South Florida, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

AIXA NUÑO

Aixa Nuño, Miami Beach, served with the Chamber of Commerce in Cartago, Costa Rica as a Peace Corps volunteer consultant in small business. As a six-year FAVACA volunteer, Aixa has trained 61 individuals in her consultations with a micro-credit organization in La Ceiba, Honduras; a Belize bed and breakfast women's group in St. Margaret's Village; a rural women's group, Organización Empresarial in El Salvador; and, at the request of a representative of the Costa Rica Legislature, Axia served as a port and small business development consultant in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica.

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

Tallahassee Office

**1310 N. Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850 410 3100**

favaca@favaca.org

Miami Office

**1330 S.W. 22nd Street, Suite 207
Miami, Florida 33145
305 377 5500**

favaca@favaca.org

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

www.favaca.org



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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