

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



MAY 2007

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URGENT: FAVACA'S STATE FUNDING THREATENED FOR FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS

For the first time since FAVACA's inception in 1982 we are in danger of losing our state-appropriated funding. This loss could mean a drastic cut in the number of programs we can provide that have been benefiting the State of Florida for a quarter-century. As in previous year's, the Governor's recommendation for our funding was ratified by the State Legislature; then in a surprising move Governor Charlie Crist vetoed all of the very funding he had requested. Many of you have already received a personal letter from our President and we sincerely thank all that have taken the time to fight for FAVACA. For those that have not had the opportunity, we would like to urge you to take a minute and view the attached letter and contact Governor Crist's office as soon as possible. This is a very critical time in our history and we appreciate all of the efforts that our community of FAVACA friends, volunteers, and contributors has made to ensure that the unique and effective programs that represent all Floridians continue to be one of the State's greatest assets. For more information please contact [FAVACA](#).

TRAINING IN FUNDRAISING RAISES HOPES OF HAITIAN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

According to [UNICEF](#), there are over 200,000 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Haiti. The Foundation of Assistance of Mentorat for Instruction of Children (FONDAMIE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating youth about HIV/AIDS prevention, while also offering classes and services to youth who have contracted the fatal virus. With such a clear need for attention to youth,

FONDAMIE is planning on creating an After-School Program for orphans and at-risk youth. In order to find the necessary financing to create such a project, Mr. Maxo Rousseau, FONDAMIE President, has asked FAVACA to recruit several experienced volunteers to train the FONDAMIE staff in the essentials of grant writing and fundraising. Terrie Temkin, Gail Meltzer, and Robyn Perlman, the principals of Core Strategies for Nonprofits in Ft. Lauderdale, conducted a seminar for board members, staff, and university student volunteers by teaching them the essentials in grant writing, how to find donors, and the messages that FONDAMIE needs to create in order to fundraise for their after-school programs. Thirty people participated in these events held at the Villa Creole in Petion Ville, Haiti from April 16th through the 19th. This project was funded in large part by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN HAITI WORKS TO BETTER ITS CURRICULUM

With more than two-thirds of the Haitian workforce either unemployed or underemployed, and secondary school attendance for men and women at a net ratio of 17 and 20 % of eligible students respectively, sustainable and effective career training is a must. The Univers Tech Institut in Haiti's North East Department is doing its part to improve the situation by looking to better its programs and curriculum. Mr. Hugues Bastien, the school director, requested FAVACA's assistance in achieving this goal. Ms. Yolette Mezadiou and Dr. Marlene Felix Marcelin, instructors at Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center in Miami, traveled on April 4th to assist Univers Tech's staff in their request. They helped develop a comprehensive vocational curriculum in areas such as automotive service technology, computers, hospitality management and industrial sewing, with strong emphasis on developing training programs geared for women in business enterprise and entrepreneurship. Through a three-day workshop, 23 members of the Univers Tech staff reviewed a wide-ranging curriculum based on community needs, and together developed a training plan for instructors and training personnel, as well as one for obtaining vital resources such as software, staff and textbooks. This project was funded in large part by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.

HAITIAN ORGANIZATION BENEFITS FROM ACCOUNTABLE ACCOUNTING

Caravane de la Paix is an organization that works to reduce the flow of arms and violence in Haiti by sensitizing gangs through outreach programs, and assisting in the capacity building of other pro-peace groups. Their current funding comes in several different currencies and sources. This prompted them to contact FAVACA for assistance in creating a unified and effective set of financial protocols and best-practice models for them to implement. Past FAVACA volunteer Mr. Marvin Dejean, the former director of Minority Development and Empowerment, Broward County's largest Haitian community center and Mr. Francois Leconte, a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Health Leadership Program Award -- the nation's highest honor for community health leadership -- conducted the financial systems training from April 24-28, 2007. The training reached over a dozen financial officers and was aimed to enhance Caravane de la Paix's capacity in managing funding and improve their financial reporting. This project was funded in large part by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.

DOCUMENTS, INTERNET & MORE: TEACHERS RECEIVE COMPUTER TRAINING

The NorthWest Center for Community Development strives to reduce and eliminate illiteracy among disadvantaged children in Haiti. As part of their region wide effort, they run two elementary schools in the Northwest city of Port-de-Paix. In an attempt to take advantage of their limited computer resources, they requested assistance in an extensive computer skills training program for their staff of teachers and institutional professionals. Four-time volunteer and Ft. Lauderdale resident Mr. Antoine Brunvil, who was an intricate part in the development of a computer learning center in Burry College in

Haiti, was accompanied by first timer Ms. Rene Berthange, who has an extensive background in running computer labs at Miami Dade College, in traveling to Port-de-Paix on April 1-10, 2007. The pair administered a week long certification course for over 100 teachers from the surrounding area. From use of word processing programs to an introduction to Internet, the training, through a participative method catered to a variety of interests and skill sets. This project was funded in large part by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.

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

Miami Office

**7220 NW 36th Street, Suite 535
Miami, Florida 33166
(305) 470-5070
favaca@favaca.org**

Tallahassee Office

**1310 N. Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850 410 3100
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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For questions or comments regarding the Communi-clip please contact the Publications Coordinator [Mauricio Suarez](mailto:Mauricio.Suarez@favaca.org)