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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



September 2007

ANNOUNCEMENT: 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER 16TH

PIG FARMING PRACTICES LOOK TO IMPROVE AFTER TRAINING IN ST. LUCIA

FAVACA PRESIDENT COMPLETES FIRST YEAR AT HELM

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM IN HAITI GOES HI TECH

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FAVACA is pleased to announce that in honor of completing a quarter century of reaching thousands of people in dozens of countries and spreading Florida's good will throughout the region, a celebration paying tribute to FAVACA founder, Senator Bob Graham will be held Friday, November 16th aboard the docked [Norwegian Pearl](#). Senator Graham's foresight and vision of Florida lead him to create the Florida International Volunteer Corps, and 25 years later his recognition of regional interconnectedness is more accurate than ever. The luncheon event is sure to draw many friends of FAVACA and will make for a delightful afternoon of memories, words by Senator Graham, and visions of what the future holds for the Corps. Guests will enjoy complimentary spirits, a four-course meal, and live entertainment.

For information on the event and sponsorship forms, please contact [Kay Cranley](#) at 850.410.3100.

PIG FARMING PRACTICES LOOK TO IMPROVE AFTER TRAINING IN ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia, like several Caribbean nations, depends on imports to meet their beef and pork demands. There has been a push however, over the past decade to improve their domestic production. Mr. Everton Ambrose, a specialist in plant protection at the [Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture \(IICA\)](#), requested assistance from FAVACA to help small pig farmers in St. Lucia. IICA is a specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American system. They aim to



provide innovative and technical cooperation to its member states, with the objective of achieving sustainable development in aid of the people of the Americas. IICA saw the need to improve and standardize pig farming practices and develop a certification process to improve production quality, yield and confidence among producers and consumers. Dr. Pamela Ann Hunter, an expert on small ruminants, swine and poultry, was selected by IICA to deliver technical assistance and training in

Castries August 25-31, 2007. Dr. Hunter, a first time volunteer from Tallahassee, is a graduate from Tuskegee University and works for the [Division of Animal Industry of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#). Hunter visited small farms and consulted with farm owners and officials from IICA and the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) on issues involving production, hygiene, packaging, storage and transportation of raw and unprocessed food. During the mission to St. Lucia, Dr. Hunter delivered a workshop on Good Production Practices in pig production and slaughter and began composing a manual that will serve as the industry standard for pig farming certification. Over 80 agricultural officials, farmers and technicians took part in the trainings.

FAVACA PRESIDENT COMPLETES FIRST YEAR AT HELM



August 21st marked the one year anniversary of Mrs. Carolyn Rose-Avila as President of FAVACA. Under Mrs. Rose-Avila's direction FAVACA has undergone an unprecedented diversification of its programs. Aside from the traditional projects that have given FAVACA the reputation in the region of providing immediate, request-driven assistance efficiently and effectively, this past year has seen FAVACA expand into grants management, educational scholarships, micro lending programs, and the production of public service announcements. The success of the State's Florida-Haiti Initiative has been a major accomplishment for Rose-Avila who has been instrumental in fostering new partnerships and renewing existing ones. As FAVACA enters year two of Carolyn Rose-Avila's leadership, excitement and commitment to FAVACA's cause has never been higher.

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM IN HAITI GOES HI TECH

Distance learning has been around since the mid 19th century when postal correspondence grew in regularity. Since then it has flourished through five generations of technological advancements, none however, having as great of an effect as the internet. In an effort to take advantage of the medium and expand Haitian students' access to education and information, Mrs. Lunise Cerin, Executive Director of [Fondation Haitienne de l' Enseignement Privé \(FONHEP\)](#), contacted FAVACA hoping to acquire new and updated technologies to fulfill their mission of promoting quality education for Haitian children. FONHEP applied for support under the [Florida Haiti Initiative](#), and after careful review of the technological challenges affecting FONHEP, FAVACA provided assistance in the amount of \$8,847.00 to secure the necessary equipment and software. The purchase involved the acquisition of a MAC PRO CTO computer, latest version of the Final Cut Pro editing software and a Sony Video Camera. With this considerable upgrade in editing equipment, FONHEP will continue developing its Distance Learning Programming in its fifth year, and focus on educational subjects such as Social Sciences, History, Natural Science, Reading and Mathematics. FONHEP will also remain in the path to modernization by applying up to date pedagogical concepts to record, edit and produce educational programs, short documentaries and game-play formats to instruct the children of Haiti. Future missions have already been planned to bring experts trained in the use of the equipment, to assure that FONHEP is getting the most out of its purchase. This support was made possible by the Florida – Haiti Initiative.

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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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