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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency

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US SOUTHCOM – FAVACA PARTNERSHIP FOSTERS SELF-HELP

A recent agreement between old partners, FAVACA and Miami-based [US Southern Command](#) is tailored to help community organizations in Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua: Particularly those that have been affected by disaster or hardship, to improve healthcare, education, economic stabilization, agricultural development, and environmental resource management, and ensure sustainable community development. FAVACA plans to work in two communities in the Southeast of Haiti, the villages of Vallue and Pliché. In Honduras, FAVACA partner the [Adelante Foundation](#) is a micro-finance institution based in La Ceiba that serves the poorest of the poor in surrounding rural communities with the aim of offering “a hand-up instead of a hand-out.” The Nicaragua site is Tipitapa, 12 miles from Managua on the Pan-American Highway. The population around the area is 100,000 and Tipitapa is home to the large free trade zone - Las Mercedes - with over 30,000 workers battling poor working conditions.

FAVACA COMPETITIVENESS ROLE TOUTED

As a discussant in the [CCAA \(formerly CLAA\)](#) Conference December 9 in Miami Beach FAVACA President Julieta Valls promoted the value of FAVACA as an advocate and implementer for technical assistance and training to increase competitiveness in the region. As FTAA looms in 2005, it is feared that mini-economies will be gobbled up without special attention. In the CCAA Concurrent Workshops "Transformation Agenda" she supported the notion that traditional

sources of support, are no longer sufficient and that FAVACA can take a lead in driving the Transformation Agenda – Capacity Building, Integration, Harmonization and Governance. Her paper, “FAVACA Improves Competitiveness of its Caribbean and Central American Partners” is available from FAVACA.

BIVAC JOINS AT&T ON FAVACA CORPORATE COUNCIL

[Bureau Veritas, \(BIVAC\)](#) is a service company specializing in QHSE management (quality, health, safety and environment) and social accountability, with a network that covers 140 countries and includes nearly 600 offices and laboratories. It offers an extensive range of technical services and solutions in the fields of certification, conformity assessment, training and consulting. Mr. Jean-Michel Caffin is President and CEO of BIVAC North America which has operations in Mexico, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

Companies who contribute \$1,000 annually to finance FAVACA activities become Corporate Council members. Members benefit by increased exposure at FAVACA's special events, in its publications, and to its partners, including government officials, business leaders, universities, and non-governmental organizations in 29 countries in the region. The Council aims to offer companies the opportunity to fulfill their corporate responsibility by assisting FAVACA in carrying out its programs in the region. We look forward to exploring exciting new avenues of collaboration with companies who can help.

To find out more about becoming a member of the FAVACA Corporate Council, contact Valls at (954) 924-3865 or jnvals@favaca.org.

FEBRUARY TRADE MISSION TO COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA

Governor Jeb Bush has mobilized Florida's prominent business interests to join him in a February 15-18 trade mission to San Jose and Managua. Organized by [Enterprise Florida](#) and [Florida FTAA](#), the traveling “Team Florida” will aggressively promote the benefits of a Florida-based Free Trade Area of the Americas secretariat. FAVACA participates in these missions as a demonstration of Florida's 22-year commitment to social and economic development in the region.

AT & T VOLUNTEER TEACHES E-COMMERCE IN DOMINICA

FAVACA volunteer Dr. Gopal Iyer, professor of marketing at [Florida Atlantic University](#), trained twenty agro-processors in Internet marketing November 20-23, 2003. The training was co-sponsored by the [InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture \(IICA\)](#) and the [Organization of Eastern Caribbean States \(OECS\)](#) Economic Development Unit. [AT&T](#) provided a grant that made this project possible.

FAVACA ANNUAL MEETING SET

Saturday, January 31 is the date and the Omni Colonnade; Coral Gables is the venue for this annual function. Board newcomer Dr. Rudy Moise preceding the event will host a social gathering. Contact Demian Pasquarelli at FAVACA for details.

SCHMELING TRANSITIONS TO SENIOR ADVISOR POST

FAVACA's Dave Schmeling January 1 replaced the vice president title he has carried for eighteen years with the new appellation, senior advisor. Co-developer of the Florida International Volunteer Corps with FAVACA creator David A. Pasquarelli, Schmeling came to FAVACA as a volunteer in 1985 following 14 years in state government. He will continue to serve FAVACA in the areas of evaluation, board and administrative support, program development and writing projects. With a few friends who also love the Caribbean, Schmeling has formed the Caribbean Community Foundation to generate additional funding for projects, training and technical assistance. Contact Dave at: schmelingdave@earthlink.net

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

South Florida Office

**713 SE 1st Avenue
Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009
954 924 3865**

favaca@favaca.org



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

Visit us on the Web! 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.