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**Breaking News** from Florida's International Volunteer Agency

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January 2009

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## **FAVACA Gains Washington DC Advocate, Loses President**



During her time as FAVACA president, Rose-Avila greatly expanded the visibility of FAVACA nationally as well as in Florida and with major international organizations throughout the region. Rose-Avila helped to implement the largest and first of its kind in size and scope State-based direct development assistance to Haiti through the Florida-Haiti Initiative. By increasing awareness of the organization, she substantially improved private giving through annual events that received statewide recognition, publicity, and attendance. Through her leadership,

FAVACA received recognition by the Greater Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce. Likewise, her visionary efforts helped FAVACA to reach out to Florida-based diaspora groups, especially the Haitian diaspora, to allow them to actively be involved in the development of their former home countries.

Accepting an opportunity with [Plan International](#) in their Washington D.C. office Mrs. Rose-Avila will transition to the FAVACA Board of Directors and remain a strong advocate for the organization. FAVACA's Board of Directors and staff wish Carolyn success and are extremely happy that she will be helping FAVACA advocate for new programmatic activities at the federal level. FAVACA Director of Programs, Demian Pasquarelli, will serve as Interim Executive Director.

## **Levi Strauss Foundation Collaborates with FAVACA**

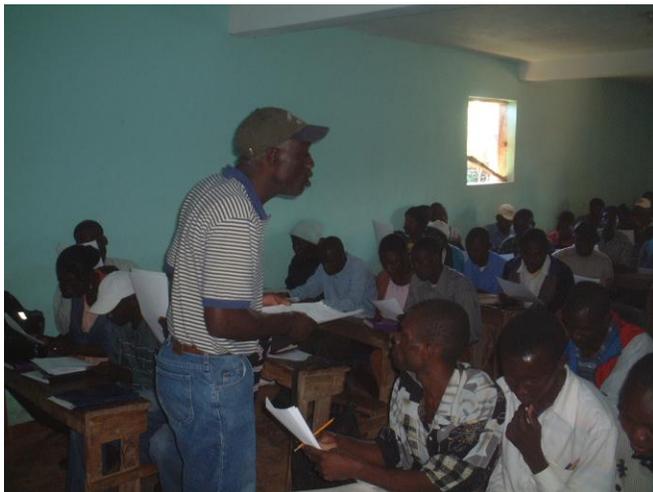
For the past five years, FAVACA and the [Levi Strauss Foundation](#) have teamed up together to provide technical trainings and grants to several organizations providing work in HIV/AIDS prevention and economic development at the free trade zone in the Haiti and Dominica Republic border towns of Ouanaminthe and Dajabon. FAVACA is extremely excited to renew our contact with the Levi Strauss Foundation and provide the much needed training, technical assistance and



grants to well deserving organizations in Ouanaminthe. In the past, FAVACA has provided training to the Volontariat pour le Developpement d'Haiti (VDH) to create radio programs informing residents of Ouanaminthe especially youth about HIV/AIDS prevention. VDH will once again be receiving a grant to provide HIV/AIDS prevention trainings to factory workers in the free trade zone. The Group d'Initiative pour la Promotion de la Technologie (GIPTO) is a small cyber center which provides free computer training to all school age children in Ouanaminthe and the surrounding area. FAVACA provided several volunteers in the past few years in advanced training on information technology. FAVACA has supported other groups in Ouanaminthe such as the mayor of Ouanaminthe to work on public sanitation and FAVACA looks forward to developing more partnerships in the region to assist the people of Ouanaminthe by increasing their health care and economic opportunities.

### **Haitian Teacher Training Focuses on Planning Skills**

The [International Coalition for Family and Education](#) is a small nonprofit organization with members in both South Florida and in the Northwest Department of Haiti working to help provide education to children in Mare Rouge located just outside of [Mole Saint Nicolas](#). Education is a priority for nearly every Haitian however the cost of schooling is often a deterrent



as well as the poor quality of schools across the country. Many of the teachers in both public and private schools lack the necessary teaching tools to provide quality instruction and often the teachers themselves have little more education than the students they are trying to teach. The Government of Haiti and the International Community have all listed training teachers as one of their priorities for improving education in the country. The [United Nations](#) has set up several teacher training schools across the country however these schools are only able to

work with a limited number of teachers each year. The International Coalition requested FAVACA's help to provide an expert in the field of pedagogical training for approximately 120 teachers to participate in a teacher training. Jacques Pierre of Miami, Florida and Kent, Ohio is the main instructor for [The Latin American and Caribbean Center's Creole Summer Institute at Florida International University](#) and who agreed to volunteer his experience in pedagogical training. Pierre traveled to Mare Rouge December 12-21, 2008.

### **Trauma Counseling for Storm Victims in Haiti.**

[Hosean International Ministries](#) in Pignon, Haiti has been actively involved in the relief effort from hurricanes [Gustave](#), [Fay](#), [Hannah](#), and [Ike](#) by providing much needed relief supplies to those areas that have been most affected by the four hurricanes that have devastated the country in 2008. Although Hosean International Ministries has been able to provide supplies there was a noticeable need in some of the population who were exhibiting signs of [post traumatic stress disorder \(PTSD\)](#) due to the tragic losses



each person has faced due to the storms. Many of those exhibiting signs of PSD were children who were unable to attend school due to the trauma they have suffered. In order to help with the psychosocial stress, Hosean International Ministries' country director Caleb Lucien requested FAVACA's help in sourcing several counselors to travel to affected regions of the country to provide trauma counseling to storm victims. Four Haitian-American counselors traveled to Haiti December 26-31, 2008 to work with families and children in [Gonaives](#) to relieve the fears and stress caused from the storms. **Israel Francois**, from Margate, Florida, **Tania Delinois**, from Coconut Creek, Florida, **Niky Clervil** from Jacksonville, Florida and **Lory Servil**, from Deerfield Beach, Florida provided counseling for 300 Haitians in Gonaives, Haiti. The team of counselors was able to diagnose several individuals and families who need follow up trauma counseling within the coming months.

### **Nicaragua Exchange Program Comes to South Florida**

FAVACA is eagerly awaiting the arrival of 30 Nicaraguan participants for the upcoming professional exchange program. The goal of the program is to empower young Nicaraguan entrepreneurs through creative thinking and improved business skills to help increase the revenue and productivity of their companies and be better able to better address residents' needs in their communities. The professional exchange program is designed to capitalize on the emerging tourism sector by educating young entrepreneurs engaged in the industry and other tourism-related businesses and organizations to build their business skills that lead to stronger, more efficient enterprises. The participants will learn about tourism promotion, and small business development in a 10 day series of seminars, study tours, and site visits.



Nicaragua is a member of the [Central America Trade Agreement \(CAFTA\)](#) and is Miami's 24<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner. Professional Exchanges, such as these, serve to strengthen the ties between the two and promote self-reliance among entrepreneurs in neighboring Central American counties. FAVACA will be collaborating with:

FAVACA Board Member, Guillermo Palomo and his colleague Michelle d'Arbelles, the President of the Nicaraguan American Chamber of Commerce, are collaborating on planning a social networking event for all of the participants. The event will be held in the evening on Saturday March 21, 2009. All are welcome to attend. For more details please contact [Angie@favaca.org](mailto:Angie@favaca.org).

- [Nicaraguan American Chamber of Commerce](#),
- [Enterprise Florida](#)
- [Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce](#)
- Greg Madson of [CR Surf](#)
- [The Miccosukee Indian Tribe of Florida](#)
- [Visit Florida](#)
- [The Beacon Council](#)
- [The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce](#),
- Cacao Grill, Nancy del Risco,
- Shake-a-Leg
- Volunteers Joanie Quintinilla and Gabriel Parra and many from our network of FAVACA friends.

## **FAVACA Fundraiser at SET Night Club on Miami Beach, Saturday, February 28th**

In collaboration with the [Caribbean Consular Corps](#), and the [Opium Night Club-SET](#) FAVACA will have a fundraiser; *“Carnival for the Development of the Caribbean”* geared towards increasing the number of volunteers to the region. On Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11 pm FAVACA urges you to come out to SET night club at 320 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach to be a part of strengthening a united Caribbean and launching off the Carnival season with complimentary cocktails, [DJ John Cash](#),



and an exciting program. This event represents an unprecedented collaborative effort for Floridians to reach out to their Caribbean neighbors. Party with a conscience and join the movement of FAVACA supporters who empower experts to empower others.

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

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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 2,000 volunteer missions to 30 nations and territories of the region have been completed reaching approximately 40,000 individuals. 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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