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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



COMMUNI-CLIK March 2004

**FAVACA VOLUNTEER TAPPED AS HAITI PRIME MINISTER
FAVACA HELPS GUYANA LAW SOCIETY LAUNCH CLINICS
VOLUNTEERS TO HAITI ON HOLD. FLORIDA INITIATIVES CONTINUE
PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS – FAVACA NETWORK PAYS OFF AGAIN**

FAVACA VOLUNTEER TAPPED AS HAITI PRIME MINISTER. Haiti's new prime minister is Gerard Latortue, a lawyer and economist who served as Haiti's Foreign Minister under President Leslie Manigat in 1988. Manigat was overthrown less than a year after taking power. Latortue was selected by an American-backed council of "eminent Haitians" according to Lydia Polgreen, (New York Times, March 10). He will head a power-sharing government comprised of Aristide's Lavalas party and members of the opposition. (U.N. Wire, March 10, 2004). Latortue served as a FAVACA consultant to the Northern Association of Haitian Mayors, and local Chambers of Commerce and Industry, November 15-19, 1998. He led a three-day workshop on economic development and the mayors' role in promoting public and private sector partnerships.

FAVACA HELPS GUYANA LAW SOCIETY LAUNCH CLINICS. Free legal advice for the indigent is very difficult to come by in Georgetown, Guyana. The students of the University of Guyana Law Society have taken the first steps to alleviating this situation with the launch of a legal advisory clinic. The clinic is staffed by students under the supervision of faculty and local attorneys. But the student leaders recognized their need for specialized advice in running the clinic and approached the Democracy Project of Guyana's Carter Center. Center Director Melanie Reimer contacted FAVACA. Florida State University School of Law Clinical Professor Dr. Paolo G. Annino, Tallahassee, traveled to Georgetown February 1-8, 2004. Dr. Annino directs FSU's Children's Advocacy Center. The clinic provides legal assistance to the community while offering students valuable hands-on experience in the legal system. Annino worked with over 40 Guyanese faculty and students on issues such as interviewing clients, giving legal advice and confidentiality. He also met with university officials to discuss the importance to law students of clinical experience and the possibility of future student exchanges.

VOLUNTEERS TO HAITI ON HOLD. FLORIDA INITIATIVES CONTINUE.

Planned volunteer placements to Haiti are on hold pending the return of stability to that beleaguered nation. Haiti is one of FAVACA's most active development assistance partners. Haiti projects include health, environment, business development, governance and agriculture. A total of 235 consultant projects have been conducted since 1991. More than 2600 participants have been trained. An estimated \$2.5 million has been invested in FAVACA assistance from state, federal and private sources. FAVACA continues its work with Haitian interests in Florida in the interim, planning projects and mobilizing resources.

PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS – FAVACA NETWORK PAYS OFF AGAIN.

FAVACA's relationship with Partners of the Americas is long standing, mutually beneficial and, well, warm. Like family. From 1980s joint projects in drug abuse prevention in the Eastern Caribbean to the present day's collaborative USAID-Farmer-to-Farmer contract in Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica, the agencies are synergistic. Recently Partners was designing regional training for Volunteer Days in Trinidad and Tobago and needed additional expertise in program evaluation. FAVACA's programs director Ben Fleming put Partners in touch with long-time FAVACA partner Marcus Day, in St. Lucia and the problem was solved. In a small world story kind of way, turns out that Marcus is no stranger to Partners, having participated in some of the Rockland County, NY/St. Lucia projects. In other recent collaboration, in February FAVACA President Julieta N. Valls presented a session on fundraising strategies to representatives attending a joint meeting of the Central American Partners chapters. And, FAVACA is also working with the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partnership on capacity building training in the Nicaragua community of Tipitapa.

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