

# Communi-клик

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

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COMMUNI-CLICK JUNE 2004

**LEGISLATURE FUNDS FAVACA FOR RECORD 19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**  
**JAMAICA ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF – A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT**  
**FAVACA IN THE VAN OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
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**HONDURAS MICRO CREDIT PARTNERSHIP ENDURES, EXCELLS**  
**TRINIDAD VOLUNTEER, US AMBASSADOR MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC**

**LEGISLATURE FUNDS FAVACA FOR RECORD 19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR.** The 2004 Florida Legislature appropriated \$650,000 to FAVACA for Florida International Volunteer Corps training and technical assistance activities in 2004-2005. As many as 100 volunteer placements will be made possible through the measure. The appropriation is one-of-a-kind in the United States and underscores the State's inextricable linkage with our sister states in the Caribbean and Central America.

**JAMAICA ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF – A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT.** FAVACA's hallmark is short-term training and technical assistance. Help comes with a long-term commitment however: from the consultant, from the volunteer's institution and from FAVACA. While many consultants are requested for one-time assignments, one-third return to the same overseas partner to provide advanced training and follow-up. JAD, Jamaica Association for the Deaf has been a FAVACA partner since May 2000 hosting fifteen training and technical assistance events. JAD's goals include improving educational opportunities through bilingualism in the classroom and providing professionally trained interpreters for the deaf. Other institutions involved in this collaboration include: JAMAICA - Kingston Deaf Club, University of the West Indies - Mona Campus, Mico Teachers College, and Ministry of Education. From the US - Deaf Service Center of Southwest Florida, Flagler College, Gallaudette University, Global Deaf Connection, North Florida Community College, University of Florida Health Science Center, and Valencia Community College.

**FAVACA IN THE VAN OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.** On May 18, founding members celebrated the formation of VEGA, Volunteers in Economic Growth Alliance, at a Washington event hosted by USAID Director Andrew Natsios. FAVACA President Julieta Valls serves on the VEGA board with representatives of the

nation's premier global development organizations including Winrock International, Partners of the Americas and International Executive Service Corps. VEGA offers economic growth technical assistance using American business leaders, industry experts and technical advisors to assist entrepreneurs, businesses and government officials in developing and transition countries to strengthen their private sectors and encourage sustained economic growth. VEGA members work in more than 142 countries, have sent over 67,000 volunteers, and have managed over \$1.6 million of USAID-funded technical assistance portfolios. <http://www.vegaalliance.us/index.aspx>

**ASHLER FETED.** Rear Admiral (retired) Philip F. Ashler was honored by members of the board and staff June 10 in Tallahassee for his 17 years of sustained effort on behalf of FAVACA. The 89-year-old D-Day Veteran, Florida Legislator, University Chancellor, State Treasurer and Secretary of Commerce participated in 11 development missions and served on three volunteer assignments during his tenure. Dr. Jeff Sharkey, Board Chair, bestowed the title Ambassador Emeritus on Admiral Ashler. FAVACA President Julieta Valls added, "Someone once remarked that some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others stay and leave footprints in our hearts. FAVACA's Board and staff thank you for leaving indelible footprints in our hearts and in those of the people we serve throughout the region."

**HONDURAS MICRO CREDIT PARTNERSHIP ENDURES, EXCELLS.** Adelante Foundation provides rural micro credit for the poor in Honduras. FAVACA provides Adelante accounting training. In a May 23-29 training activity, FAVACA consultant Lazaro Serrano trained 17 office and field staff in loan paperwork, software and audit, improving management of over 2200 loans. According to Adelante's Development Volunteer Kim Stone, "... we are LEAGUES ahead of where we were when Lazaro first came.... His assistance over these various trips, and his knowledge and love of Adelante's program to help extremely poor women in rural Honduras, has helped us maintain our books and our professionalism, which helps us in our administration, growth and fundraising." <http://www.adelantefoundation.org>

**TRINIDAD VOLUNTEER, US AMBASSADOR MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC.** US Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Roy Austin last month received a US\$10,000 cheque from the State Department to support the development of an endowment promoting positive lyrics in indigenous songs. The Ambassador's hope is that the endowment will increase citizens' participation in the creation of music that will influence positive behavior. Ambassador Austin requested resource development expertise from FAVACA in 2002. Planning for the endowment was quickly provided by FAVACA veteran volunteer Thomas Norman, lawyer, charitable gift planner, and development director with the Florida Dental Health Foundation, Tallahassee. Norman has also served as a fund-raising consultant in Jamaica. Recognizing the need for such endowments region-wide, he was instrumental in founding the Caribbean Community Foundation in 2003. <http://www.caribbeancommunityfoundation.org>

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