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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



June 2009

JOIN FAVACA PARTNERS AND FRIENDS JULY 8TH AT WASHINGTON D.C. RECEPTION 4TH ANNUAL POISON CONTROL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS IN JAMAICA EVACUATION PLAN AND FIRE SAFETY FOCUS FOR CAP HAITIEN HOSPITAL

FAVACA RECEPTION: JULY 8TH IN WASHINGTON D.C. JOIN US!

We cordially invite you celebrate many years of successful projects and partnerships, Wednesday, July 8th at the Florida House in Washington DC from 6-8 pm. Join us in exploring ways to build on more than a quarter century of grassroots development in the Caribbean and the Americas.

As many of you know, FAVACA was founded in 1982 by then Governor Bob Graham and enjoys statutory authority in Florida. Since that time more than 2,000 FAVACA volunteers have trained 50,000 in 30 countries in the region.

Please find the invitation attached. We hope you will join us!



The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a private non-profit 501c3 charitable organization whose mission is to promote social and economic development in the Caribbean and the Americas.

www.FAVACA.org
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4TH ANNUAL POISON CONTROL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS IN JAMAICA



The [Caribbean Poison Information Network \(CARPIN\)](#) is an organization with the goal of increasing awareness throughout the Caribbean on poison and poison prevention strategies. In order to achieve their goals, CARPIN embarks on a weeklong poison prevention campaign which includes a two day scientific conference. The theme for this year's conference is: "Are We Poisoning Ourselves?" CARPIN Program Manager Yvonne Reid contacted FAVACA to request several experts to present at the 4th annual scientific conference and to train staff members of

CARPIN and Jamaican regulatory agencies in a variety of poison control and laboratory safety issues. FAVACA volunteer **Bart Bibler** of Tallahassee, Florida is the Bureau Chief at the [Bureau of Water Programs for the Division of Environmental Health](#) traveled to Kingston, Jamaica May 29-June 2, 2009 to provide a presentation on "Is the Water Safe" and to serve as a facilitator at a post-conference workshop with Jamaican regulatory agencies for safe water. **Janice Dodge** of Tallahassee, Florida is a Laboratory Safety Officer from the [Department of Environmental Health and Safety at Florida State University](#) traveled to Kingston, Jamaica May 29-June 4, 2009 to also facilitate post-conference workshops as well as to provide training on laboratory safety to staff at CARPIN and Jamaican regulatory agencies.

EVACUATION PLAN AND FIRE SAFETY FOCUS FOR CAP HAITIEN HOSPITAL

Servicing a large majority of the healthcare needs in the Northern part of Haiti, the Justinian Hospital in Cap Haitien, Haiti is a vital resource for providing much needed medical services for a large sector of the population. Unfortunately, fires in the recent past have caused an entire wing of the hospital to be shut down which has forced the hospital to cut some services and has forced the hospital staff to merge hospital units together which has caused overcrowding and could lead to more serious problems such as an outbreak of a major disease. In order to help provide the hospital staff with the basic knowledge of fire safety, [Konbit Sante](#), a nonprofit organization in Maine with the mission to save lives and improve health care in northern Haiti works in the Justinian hospital and requested assistance from FAVACA to provide training on fire safety such as prevention methods and hazardous materials recognition, creating an emergency evacuation plan which incorporated the local municipal fire department in the hospitals fire prevention plan, and basic first responder training for ambulance drivers. FAVACA Volunteers **Nathan Lasseur** from Palm Beach, Florida; **Gayl Nye** from Vero Beach, Florida; **Robert Belizaire** from Lake Worth, Florida; and **Gina Lasseur** form Palm Beach, Florida traveled to Cap Haitien, Haiti June 14-19, 2009. The four volunteers were able to have several Florida fire departments donate four boxes of fire alarms to place throughout the hospital. The training served as a first step in helping the hospital staff to identify many potential fire hazards as well as providing a working relationship between the hospital and local fire department.



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and the Americas through volunteer service.

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