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

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**JULY 2004**

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN SMALL “BEES-NESS” ALL THE BUZZ  
CUTTING EDGE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON PHILANTHROPY  
FAVACA PRESIDENT ADDRESSES PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS  
FAVACA DIRECTORS STRATEGIZE, ASSESS FUTURE  
NEW FAVACA MIAMI OFFICE**

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN SMALL “BEES-NESS” ALL THE BUZZ**

Eastern Caribbean beekeepers mostly have no commercial use for beeswax removed during extraction of honey. Yet secondary bee products could provide an increase in income of 200 percent according to one government official. FAVACA Volunteer and small business owner Jo Ann Diaz, West Palm Beach, traveled to Dominica, Grenada, and St. Kitts & Nevis June 6-16, 2004, to make just that happen. She trained more than 60 entrepreneurs ages 19-68 in product development and formulation, marketing, pricing, and business planning for secondary bee products. Skincare and homecare products, soaps, candles, candies, and beverages incorporating coconut oil, mangoes and other local raw materials could be in great demand by tourists and residents locally, and regionally. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture collaborated on this initiative. An invitation-only Internet system has been established for members' continuing education and gained knowledge sharing.

**CUTTING EDGE CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON PHILANTHROPY**

The University of the West Indies, Mona, Development and Endowment Fund is sponsoring the Caribbean Regional Conference on Philanthropy September 26-29, 2004 in Kingston. Sessions will explore Philanthropy in Developing Nations, Corporate Social Responsibility and Techniques of Philanthropy. Collaborating institutions include the (US) National Center for Black Philanthropy, The Caribbean Community Foundation, Mott Foundation, and Kellogg Foundation. [www.caribphilanthropy.org.jm](http://www.caribphilanthropy.org.jm)

**FAVACA PRESIDENT ADDRESSES PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS**

July 6, 2004 Julieta Valls served on a panel with Jamaica Consul-General C.P. Ricardo Allicock and select returned Jamaica volunteers in a Peace Corps sponsored staging event held in Miami. Attendees were some 60 new volunteers headed for the island. The event was part of US Ambassador to Jamaica Sue Cobb's Building Bridges Project: (see [www.usembassy.state.gov/Kingston/www.hbuilding\\_bridges.html](http://www.usembassy.state.gov/Kingston/www.hbuilding_bridges.html)) an initiative

bonding US citizens and Jamaicans in business, social services and culture. The new volunteers left for Jamaica July 8<sup>th</sup>, better informed and prepared to embark on their two-year commitments.

#### FAVACA DIRECTORS STRATEGIZE, ASSESS FUTURE

FAVACA's Board of Directors convened its annual retreat July 16-17 in Key West to review progress against the 2002 Strategic Plan and explore new opportunities. Sessions focused on Sustainability, Branding, Alliances and Growth. Representatives of the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED), and US Southern Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) also attended.

#### NEW FAVACA MIAMI OFFICE

Conveniently located at 1330 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite – 207, Miami, FL 33145, FAVACA's new South Florida Office offers improved accessibility and convenience. Stop by, or give us a call (305) 285-8931.

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

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