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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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BAJALIA TRADING COMPANY HOSTS FAVACA RECEPTION- July 29 in Winter Park



[Bajalia Trading Company](http://www.bajalia.com) and the Board of FAVACA will be holding a reception Friday, July 29 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the Bajalia Winter Park Store located at 520 South Park Avenue in Winter Park, Florida. Bajalia is a fair trade organization that provides fair wages and goods to empower employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and entrepreneurs worldwide. Bajalia has a diverse line of products from women's accessories and jewelry, to metalwork and handmade baskets to stationery goods and a wide variety of other products. Owner and Founder Debbie Farah is a FAVACA volunteer

who has provided technical assistance at a Haitian trade show hosted by Femmes en Production. The Daily Beast and Newsweek named Farah as one of the "[150 Women Who Shake the World](#)" for the work Bajalia International is doing with women globally. Bajalia also launched a show on the Home Shopping Network (HSN) selling jewelry, fashion accessories and home furnishing from women around the world.

If you are interested in attending the reception please RSVP to favaca@favaca.org.

MICROMENTOR PROGRAM LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Do you speak Spanish, French or Haitian Creole? Have you owned a business or do you have experience working in a field relevant to small business ownership such as marketing, website development, sales or law? FAVACA is partnering with Mercy Corps's MicroMentor to connect business professionals with entrepreneurs in Nicaragua and Haiti for rewarding one-on-one business mentoring.

Volunteering a few hours of your time each month can have a large and immediate impact on economic growth in developing countries. As business and communications become more globalized, particularly in Florida, the experience gained through participation in the MicroMentor program can serve to explore international markets as well as to enhance international credentials. Because mentoring takes place over email, phone and Skype you can volunteer from anywhere. Learn more at <http://www.micromentor.org/groups/view/201>.

HAITIAN MAYOR EXCHANGE AT THE GOVERNOR'S HURRICANE CONFERENCE

FAVACA in coordination with the [Florida League of Cities](#) organized a delegation of five Haitian government officials to travel to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to meet with the Florida League of Cities President Mayor Joy Cooper of Hallandale Beach and participate in the 25th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference from May 15-20, 2011. The Haitian Mayor Exchange and Civics Training took place on May 16th. The Haitian delegation was led by Karl Jean-Louis, Advisor on

Disaster Preparedness from the Office of President Martelly; and included Yvon Jerome, Mayor of the City of Carrefour, Haiti; Wilson Jeudi, Mayor of the City of Delmas, Haiti; Abel Nazaire, Deputy Coordinator of the Permanent *Secretariat for the Management of Risks and Disasters* of the Department of Civil Protection; and Rethone Jose, Coordinator for



the Department of Civil Protection in the Northwest Department. Additionally, Mayor Jerome had the opportunity to attend a city commission meeting in Hallandale Beach, which took place on Wednesday May 18th. Mayor Jerome met with Dr. Alvin B. Jackson Jr., Director of the Community Redevelopment Agency for the City of Hallandale Beach. Dr. Jackson provided the mayor with advice on how best to require local labor and supplies during contract negotiations.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPED FOR HAITIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

The [Fund for Social and Economic Assistance \(FAES\)](#) has been working on behalf of the Haitian Ministry of Education and Vocational Training for over ten years in the development of educational infrastructure through the implementation of various programs including the Local Development Program, the Basic Education Program of the Government of Haiti, the Program of Emergency Reconstruction for Educational Establishments, and the Support Program for the Reconstruction of Educational Facilities. Following the earthquake, the Government of Haiti requested the support of FAES to help rebuild educational infrastructure in several departments of Haiti.

The newly elected President of Haiti, Michel Martelly has made education a priority for his administration. Despite all efforts, several challenges to the education sector still persist particularly in the areas of curriculum development and organizational strengthening. To help support FAES, FAVACA recruited Dr. Valerie Smith, Professor and Director of International Program and Education at Florida Gulf Coast University, to effectively analyze the problems of the education sector and propose viable solutions for the short, medium and long term goals of both FAES and the Ministry of Education. In the weeks leading up to her travel and while in Port-au-Prince, Haiti from March 29 - April 2, 2011, Smith worked closely with members of FAES and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to provide advice and recommendations for better interaction between the policies of the Ministry of Education and members of FAES. Likewise, Smith was able to provide tools to analyze the problems in the educational system and to provide a comprehensive next-steps document for curriculum development and capacity building.



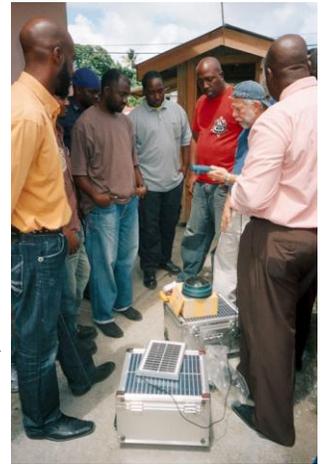
STRATEGIC PLANNING BENEFITS COLOMBIAN INSTITUTE

The Institute of Family Well-Being ([Instituto Colombiano de Bienstar Familiar - ICBF](#)) in Bogota, Colombia is a public service institution committed to the comprehensive protection of at-risk families and children. Additionally ICBF processes domestic and international adoptions, provides welfare services, and has offices in every department of Colombia. In an ongoing effort to provide more and better services to their more than 10 million beneficiaries, ICBF wanted to design and implement an organizational fundraising and international cooperation plan since current funding levels don't cover the amount of services required by their constituents. FAVACA volunteer Carlos Zepeda, President/CEO of Organizational Management Advisors, LLC., a Miami based company that provides multilingual organizational development and infrastructure implementation with a passion for helping nonprofits, government organizations, NGOs, business startups, and socially responsible businesses to further their mission and impact in the communities they serve. For nearly ten years, Zepeda worked with the State of Florida's Department of Children and Families as a program administrator where he implemented a variety of operational activities to ensure that performance indicators were met. Zepeda provided ICBF with technical training in fundraising to diversify funding

sources for their essential programs and developed, in collaboration with their staff, a strategic plan from April 3-9, 2011. The training helped to create a long-term relationship between the volunteer and ICBF. Since the training, Zepeda has provided further support in the implementation of the strategic plan.

SOLAR OFFERS VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN TOBAGO & FLORIDA

The [Empowerment Foundation of Tobago \(EFOT\)](#) was designed to address basic skills and computer training for the entire island of Tobago with its central focus on the unemployed, unskilled, disadvantaged, young persons, single parents and women of Tobago society. Courses are provided in small appliance repairs, food processing, and video programming and production, Auto Cad, basic literacy, and computer literacy especially for the blind. The Foundation also acts as a facilitator for empowerment and development in Tobago and does this by providing information and accommodations for classes such as plumbing, carpentry, and construction. However a new focus towards environmental sustainability has arisen and EFOT has implemented the utilization of a solar energy center, providing solar energy training for adults through the installation of solar panels. To help create the solar panel curriculum, Bill Young, Senior Research Engineer for Photovoltaics and Distributed Generation Division of the [Florida Solar Energy Center](#), traveled to Scarborough, Tobago April 30 - May 7, 2011 to train 15 individuals on solar panel installation. The workshop provided by Young enabled participants to understand the use of solar and renewable energy for electric power. The course helped participants be better prepared and capable of meeting their energy needs and provide for the energy security of their buildings. The participants now have the skills necessary to begin working for solar energy companies on the island. Young connected participants with solar energy equipment providers in Florida as a source for purchasing photovoltaic systems.



BEEKEEPING INSPECTION SYSTEM SOUGHT IN HAITI

Beekeeping and honey production in Haiti has always been a small market enterprise, but in the past several years beekeeping is quickly becoming a major industry where selling honey and wax products are increasing revenues for families. Beekeepers in Haiti have no inspection criteria or way to categorize hives to help them with the identification and treatment of disease and pests. Makouti Agro-Enterprise's is a farmers' organization in Haiti whose long term goal is to create an inspection system which will be available and utilized in all major honey production centers throughout Haiti. To help institute an inspection system, FAVACA in collaboration with [Partners of the Americas](#), recruited first time volunteer Rob Horsburgh, Gainesville, and Doug Corbin, Pensacola, both of whom work for the [Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry's Apiary Inspection Section](#) to work with local beekeepers in beginning to categorize hives. Horsburgh and Corbin traveled to Haiti May 7-22, 2011 to work with a variety of beekeepers across Haiti to begin inspecting hives for disease and pests and to show how beekeepers could begin categorizing hives. While a national inspection unit in Haiti may still take some time to institute, both volunteers were able to provide beekeepers with a good foundation on how to inspect hives for disease and pests. Horsburgh and Corbin both recommended that beekeepers needed to begin using extractors to harvest honey. The current method of crushing the combs to remove honey reduces production since honeybees have to rebuild the combs. An extractor keeps the combs intact allowing beekeepers to simply place the comb back into the hive for the bees to refill the holes in the combs. Corbin had been in Haiti two years prior and remarked at how the industry had grown since the time of his last visit. Much of the improvements made can be attributed to the FAVACA and Partners of the Americas' trainings provided over the years according to the beekeepers.



ST. KITTS AND NEVIS DEVELOPS GANG VIOLENCE REDUCTION PLAN

The [Ministry of Education in St. Kitts and Nevis](#) has launched the Violence Prevention Project whose aim is to ensure a peaceful atmosphere in schools while maintaining the twin-island federation's performance in education. Five schools are involved in a one-year pilot project - Verchilds, Cayon, and Basseterre High Schools and the Charles E. Mills and Charlestown Secondary Schools - which will include an assessment of the schools' climate, risk behavior and needs. Charles Hurley, Chief of [Police for Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#) traveled to St. Kitts and Nevis May 22-28, 2011 to provide training on best practices on youth violence intervention. While in St. Kitts & Nevis, Hurley met with several key officials from the Ministry of Education, officials from the Police High Command, and members from the Ministry of Social Development and Community Services to provide training on best methods in reducing violence in schools and the community. As a result of the training, key policy and legislative changes necessary to the successful implementation of programming were identified. A summary of the Violence in our Schools Project, and recommendations were submitted to the cabinet for consideration which could affect national policy. Recommendations were made to introduce a school resource office model as currently security in schools is poor to non-existent.

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean
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