

Communi-**clik**

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



SEPTEMBER 2004 COMMUNI-CLIK

**FAVACA LEADS IN DISASTER MITIGATION, RELIEF, RECOVERY.
HAITI TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED.
GPS TRACKS BELIZE CROCS.
SOUTHCOM PROJECTS STRENGTHEN HONDURAS, NICARAGUA NGOS.
SEABOARD ON BOARD WITH CORPORATE COUNCIL.
STATE RENEWS FAVACA CONTRACT FOR 18TH YEAR.**

FAVACA LEADS IN DISASTER MITIGATION, RELIEF, RECOVERY.

For twenty years FAVACA's role in the Caribbean has been minimizing the effects of natural calamities through preparedness. Scores of volunteer-consultants have helped virtually every nation in the region, including recently hard-hit Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, and Grenada, prepare for the worst. Caribbean participation in the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference also was made possible by FAVACA. The effectiveness of this technical assistance and training in the wake of the recent hurricane strikes is yet to be assessed. We can only hope that lives and property have been saved as a result of our work.

FAVACA partners have included US Southern Command, the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, University of South Florida's Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Pan American Development Foundation and Florida's Department of Community Affairs.

In the aftermath of the deadly storms FAVACA is also collaborating with consular offices and disaster relief and recovery organizations to speed help to Florida's neighbors in the region. One prominent newcomer is AmericasRELIEF TEAM, a public-private organization working to effectively channel aid to stricken countries from its Logistics Relief Center in Miami. Among the members of AmericasRELIEF TEAM are FAVACA, Pan American Development Foundation, Florida Stevedoring, Inc., Harvest International, The Miami Herald and major global business partners G.O.A.L

International, Carnival Corporation, Seaboard Marine, FedEx, Pharmed Group Corporation, and Lucent Technologies.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush met with representatives of The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and AmericasRELIEF September 23 in Miami to assess assistance needs and review progress in relief and recovery.

Contact AmericasRELIEF TEAM at (305) 591-2149.

HAITI TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED.

Donations for relief and recovery in Haiti are streaming in, but donors are also asking what can be done for the longer term. FAVACA offers an alternative giving strategy. Cash donations to FAVACA are now being accepted for programs in training and technical assistance to reduce the devastation from the next natural disaster.

Check out www.favaca.org for additional opportunities to make a difference.

GPS TRACKS BELIZE CROCS.

Crocodiles collide with mankind when development squeezes habitat. The result, sadly, is, too often, loss of life. Marcelo Windsor, wildlife officer, Belize Forest Department recently hosted FAVACA training in GPS (Global Positioning System) technology as a tool in crocodile management in order to mitigate this danger. University of Florida veteran volunteer Dr. Frank Mazzotti, Ft. Lauderdale, and first time volunteer and biological scientist Aletris Neils, conducted GPS training in August and followed up on management of captive crocodiles being held in a defunct tourist attraction. Along with the training, Mazzotti donated two GPS units and software to the department.

SOUTHCOM PROJECTS STRENGTHEN HONDURAS, NICARAGUA NGOS.

HONDURAS. SOUTHCOM/FAVACA projects strengthen community development efforts to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters. Under an agreement with the US Southern Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program FAVACA delivered its fifth training session to a wide variety of non-profit organizations in La Ceiba, Honduras August 19-24, 2004. The training, in effective communication skills and organizational communication, was organized by local partner the Adelante Foundation and reached 43 staff from 13 organizations reaching potentially thousands in surrounding communities that still show the effects of hurricane Mitch in 1998. The workshop was lead by veteran volunteer Gabriel Parra, Pembroke Pines. Parra is executive director of New Directions Employment and Training Service in Miami. New Directions provides job-training courses for the disabled. Parra also conducted a previous workshop in La Ceiba on human resources management.

Participating organizations included not-for-profit, non-political and non-sectarian groups including social service agencies, environmental, health and community development institutions. The organizations were: COCSIDA, Cruz Roja Hondureña, Foro SIDA, FUCSA, Fundación Adelante, GAPVIH, Gemelos de Honduras, Proyecto Bosque Menonita, Proyecto Paz y Justicia and REHDES.

NICARAGUA. Following her strategic planning consultation in late July, volunteer-consultant Alayne Unterberger maintained contact via electronic mail with Tipitapa NGO COMPALCIHT, an organization that provides school feeding and community health programs and services. Tipitapa also was devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Due to the rapid growth in Tipitapa government infrastructure is lacking and nongovernmental organizations like COMPALCIHT have stepped in to fill the void but are poorly prepared to apply more sophisticated planning tools. The strategic plan will serve as a guide to the organization's activities and help to guide future decision-making, assisting the group in becoming self-sufficient.

SEABOARD ON BOARD WITH CORPORATE COUNCIL.

Seaboard Marine, a major ocean carrier providing direct, regular service between the United States and the Caribbean Basin, Central and South America has signed on to FAVACA's prestigious Corporate Council, bolstering Florida's commitment to the region with significant financial support.

STATE RENEWS FAVACA CONTRACT FOR 18TH YEAR

Florida Legislative leaders and Governor Jeb Bush again voiced their faith in FAVACA while underscoring the international stature and obligations of our state. Funding of \$650,000 for 2004-5 will underwrite 80 volunteer consultants and provide support for the Governor's new Haiti Advisory Group.

FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas

Tallahassee Office

**1310 N. Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850 410 3100**

favaca@favaca.org

Miami Office

**1330 S.W. 22nd Street, Suite 207
Miami, Florida 33145
305 377 5500**

favaca@favaca.org

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

www.favaca.org



The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982. FAVACA was founded in the belief that Florida's future is interwoven with that of our Caribbean neighbors. The organization's mission is the improvement of social and economic conditions in the Caribbean and Central America through volunteer service. FAVACA provides technical assistance and training through a diverse combination of federal, private and State of Florida funding sources. To date, more than 1,200 volunteer missions to 29 nations and territories of the region have been completed. A wide variety of training is offered in health and social issues, agriculture, education, environment, disaster mitigation, women's leadership, capacity building and more.