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

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October 2009

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**HAITIAN DIASPORA WORKSHOP - November 7, 2009**

Made possible through a grant from [Western Union](#), FAVACA will be hosting a Haitian Hometown Association Workshop to provide training to local Haitian organizations on fundraising, grant writing, business plan creation, and organizational strengthening. Veteran volunteers Terrie Temkin and Gail Meltzer of [Core Strategies for Nonprofits](#) will lead the workshop with the aim to help the Haitian diaspora's efforts to improve conditions in Haiti.



The workshop will take place on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> in the Southern Breeze Room located in Building #68 at [Broward College](#), 7200 Pines Boulevard in Pembroke Pines. Arrive early for the morning registration and network with the organizations attending. Coffee and pastries will be available at the registration beginning at 8:00 am. The workshop will be from 9:00am until 4:00pm and we are looking forward to seeing many of our old friends and making some new ones.

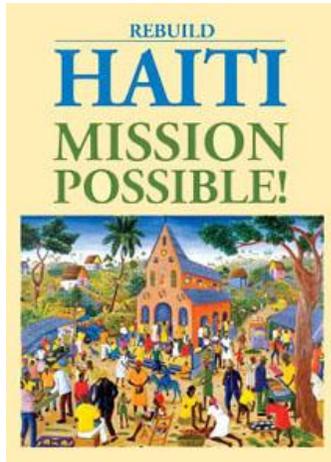


Discussion leaders will include:

- **Gail Meltzer**, CFRE & **Terrie Temkin**, Ph.D., Principals, CoreStrategies for Nonprofits, Inc.
- **Doreen Hemlock**, Business Reporter, [Sun-Sentinel](#)
- **Trenton Daniel**, Staff Writer, [Miami Herald](#)
- **Nancy Paull**, GPC, Principal, SmartGrants!
- **Joan Milord** of [Accion USA](#)

All interested should contact Angie Klouthis at [angie@favaca.org](mailto:angie@favaca.org) or call 305.470.5035.

### **REBUILD HAITI: MISSION POSSIBLE - November 13, 2009**



Please join the members of [Coral Gables Congregational Church](#) as they host an exciting evening with special guest: [Edwidge Danticat](#) 2009 recipient of the MacArthur "Genius Award"

Organizations partnering for this event include [FAVACA](#), [the Lambi Fund of Haiti](#), [Project Medishare](#), [HELP](#). The fundraiser will include a silent auction, wine reception, entertainment, and Haitian crafts display.

Monies raised will go directly toward Haitian development programs that promote sustainability. The event will take place Friday, November, 13 from 7pm-10pm at the Coral Gables Congregational Church 3010 De Soto Blvd, Coral Gables, Florida (across for the Biltmore Hotel). RSVP by November 10th; (305) 448-7421.

### **CARIBBEAN COAST OF NICARAGUA FEATURED AT EXPONICA- November 13-15, 2009**



For the first time in 19 years, entrepreneurs for Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast will participate in the EXPONICA trade fair at the [Tamiami Park and Expo Center](#) November 13-15. The event exhibits Latin American arts, crafts, cultural customs, music, and food. FAVACA along with the [American Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce](#) and EXPONICA will partner to support 13 participants from the Atlantic Coast.

Recent FAVACA cultural exchange program participant, Calmore Tatham Williams, President of the Association of the Atlantic Coast Artisans, will lead the group at the invitation of Eduardo Arroyo, Executive Director of EXPONICA. FAVACA is thrilled to collaborate with the groups to continue to build lasting connections between Floridians and the indigenous entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout Nicaragua.

A section of the festival will be exclusively reserved to promote the Atlantic Coast. Artisans will feature arts and crafts as well as Caribbean food. For more information, please visit [www.exponica.org](http://www.exponica.org).

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS PREVENT GANG ACTIVITY**

In May 2009, FAVACA in conjunction with United States Agency for International Development's [Community Empowerment and Transformation \(COMET\)](#) project and the US Department of State's [Narcotics Affairs Sections in Jamaica](#), Haiti and the Dominican Republic held a regional gang violence reduction strategy workshop and study tour. As a result, the [Jamaican Ministry of National Security](#) and the [Jamaica Constabulary Force](#) identified the need to enhance the training of School Resource Officers (SROs) in crime prevention in schools, violence reduction, and the dismantling of gangs. SROs are police officers trained to operate in schools and provide assistance to leadership in dealing with incidents of violence, drugs, and gangs.

The SRO program is the link between crime prevention in communities and crime prevention in schools. FAVACA, the Ministry of National Security and COMET held the training in [Ocho Rios, Jamaica](#) September 24-27, 2009 to train best practices in dealing with the prevention of youth gang activities. First time volunteers, Ian Moffett and William Taggle, Miami, are Police Officers with the [Miami-Dade Schools Police Department](#) along with first time volunteer Renee Parker, a Project Coordinator from the [Miami Partnership for Actions in Communities Task Force \(MPACT\)](#), provided three days of training to help SROs to recognize potential at-risk youth, methods to reduce gang presence in schools, and methods to involve the community in keeping schools safe from drugs and gangs. As a result of the training, over 20 SROs were trained from across the country who will in turn train SROs in their local communities.



#### **HISPANIOLA YOUTH LOG-ON TO NEW SKILLS**

For the past several years, the Levi-Strauss Foundation and FAVACA have provided small grants and short-term technical assistance to build the capacity of local institutions who work to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the free trade zone located on the border region of [Ouanaminthe](#), Haiti and [Dajabon](#), Dominican Republic. Two organizations in Ouanaminthe who work with at-risk youth to provide safe environments to the young men and women of the city requested assistance in computer diagnostics, networking and basic computer maintenance: the Group d'Initiative pour la Promotion de la Technologie (GIPTO), a cyber cafe which runs educational programs for the youth in the community, and Volontariat pour le Developpement d'Haiti (VDH), an organization that provides HIV/AIDS education aimed at local youth.

FAVACA volunteers Kerry Dera of Dera Computers, Naples Florida, and Samuel Perales, an independent



consultant, traveled to Ouanaminthe September 25-October 3, 2009 and taught the 39 participants how to dismantle and reassemble their desktop computers, which included lessons on basic diagnostic skills. Participants were also taught basic networking skills. Both organizations brought computers to the training, many of which were old and the majority was not functioning properly. Before leaving, the volunteers were able to work with the participants to fix many of the computers and provide a diagnosis for the remainder of the computers. Several nonfunctioning computers will need new parts most of which can be found locally.

## FIRE SAFETY IN HAITI

The [Hotel Villa Creole](#) was established in 1948 in Petion Ville, Haiti. The hotel employs 155 people to oversee 70 rooms. In the past, FAVACA has provided fire and rescue training to hotels in Port-au-Prince and Petion Ville but many of the employees who partook in the training have not used the training often or due to the high turnover rate in the hospitality sector, have not been trained in fire and rescue safety. Roger Dunwell, owner and general manager, requested a training in basic medical and water rescue including training on proper techniques for CPR and the Heimlich maneuver to enable the hotel staff to respond to emergencies in and around the hotel premises. Additionally, Dunwell requested training in basic fire safety to teach employees the correct method to suppress fires through the use of fire extinguishers. Experienced FAVACA volunteers Gayl Nye, Vero Beach, works for [Florida Heart and CPR](#) and Lt. Nathan Lasseur, of the [West Palm Beach Fire Rescue](#) traveled October 4-8, 2009 to train the hotel staff from several hotels in the Port-au-Prince and Petion Ville area. Haitian National Fire Chief, Commander Donald Gregory William volunteered his time and expertise to provide a lecture on fire extinguisher safety. Approximately 50 people from the [Plaza Hotel](#), [Citibank](#) and the Hotel Villa Creole attended the training. “Our employees...were very satisfied, to the point where they can't stop talking about what they had learned and seem to be passing on their knowledge to others, including family and neighbors, as well as other employees,” said Hotel Villa Creole owner Roger Dunwell. “I have never seen a reaction like this before, and can only thank Nate and Gayl for their outstanding work.”



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

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean  
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