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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency

November 2003

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NEW HORIZONS SYNERGY

FAVACA staff are often requested to participate in [US Southern Command](#) (Southcom) New Horizons planning activities overseas in order to potentiate these humanitarian health and engineering exercises. New Horizons exercises enhance the capabilities of US Armed Forces to deploy and train in foreign environments, and benefit overseas communities through medical services and construction of clinics and schools. FAVACA's Maria Malterer staffed a mission to Grenada with Southcom's Major David Tavassoli on November 2-7, 2003 to plan upcoming activities with the Grenada Ministry of Health & the Environment and Ministry of Education. Following Southcom's completion of a home for the elderly and two school buildings, FAVACA consultants will be available to provide technical assistance for health workers and teachers.

FAVACA-FSU-UWI BOOSTS SOCIAL WORK ALLIANCE

FAVACA, with Florida State University (FSU), and the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine (Trinidad) submitted a proposal to the Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO) to establish the Institute for Caribbean Health and Social Services. The Institute will facilitate and coordinate faculty and student exchanges to enhance social work and provide international service learning opportunities. The partnership will focus on the development of services to individuals infected with HIV/AIDS. In addition, it will provide further technical assistance to develop the UWI Masters Program in

Social Work. ALO, established in 1992, builds U.S. universities - [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) partnerships to foster cooperative development alliances with colleges and universities abroad.

GOVERNOR HYPES FAVACA TO TRADE MINISTERS

Speaking in Miami November 18 before 1,300 participants to the Free Trade of the Americas' (FTAA) Business Forum, Governor Jeb Bush commended [FAVACA](#) for almost twenty-two years of providing technical assistance and training in the Caribbean and Central America. Later that week, trade ministers from 34 nations approved a draft agreement that would receive final approval by January, 2005. FAVACA's International Volunteer Corps, funded by the State and enjoying statutory reference, is unique in the nation. Florida's commitment to the region, as a Caribbean State, argues for a favorable vote for Miami as the site of the FTAA Secretariat in 2005.

FAVACA CORPORATE COUNCIL LAUNCHED

As state and federal funding cuts of thirty percent this year have limited the number of missions [FAVACA](#) has been able to fund, the support of a Corporate Council can make a significant difference in the lives of Florida's neighbors. "The Council aims to offer companies the opportunity to fulfill their corporate responsibility by assisting FAVACA in carrying out its programs in the region," says FAVACA President Julieta N. Valls. "We look forward to exploring exciting new avenues of collaboration with companies who can help." To find out more about becoming a member of the FAVACA Corporate Council, contact Rebecca Reichert at (954) 924-3867 or Rebecca@favaca.org.

FAVACA AIMS TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS

FAVACA President Julieta N. Valls, addressing the Americas Trade and Sustainable Development Forum during the [FTAA Ministerial](#) in Miami November 17, outlined a plan to mitigate the dangers to small producers if the Free Trade Area of the Americas is approved in 2005. Valls said: "With the establishment of FTAA, farmers, producers, corporations and government officials throughout the Caribbean and the Americas will have to respond and adjust to dramatic changes in import and export flows, comply with international standards and retrain displaced workers. FAVACA is prepared to provide the necessary technical expertise on appropriate uses of technology, more efficient production practices, diversification of economies and improvements in competitiveness in response to the needs that arise in the region and we look forward to continuing to assist our partners in acquiring these skills, thereby ensuring the future success of the entire region in the global market."

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

South Florida Office

**713 SE 1st Avenue
Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009
954 924 3865**

favaca@favaca.org



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

Visit us on the Web! 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.

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