

# Communi-clik

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

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**DECEMBER 2004**

**ST. LUCIA AGRO-TOURISM THRIVES  
HONDURAN EDUCATORS PACK WORKSHOPS  
PRESIDENT REVIEWS DISASTER STRATEGIES  
NEW INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**

## **ST. LUCIA AGRO-TOURISM THRIVES**

It started in 1999 with a technical assistance request from Dr. Barbara Graham of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to explore a “farm vacation” enterprise with St. Lucia’s Black Bay Farmer’s Association. A FAVACA team from Florida State University provided key guidance to the Association that started the ball rolling. Further marketing assistance was requested by Dr. Graham and the Agro-Tourism Association in 2004. FAVACA provided the expertise of University of Florida professor Taylor V. Stein who consulted last summer and returned November 28 - December 1, 2004 on design and goals of a needed marketing study. Dr. Stein will provide e-mail assistance during the administration of the study, and will return to analyze and implement recommendations of the study.

## **HONDURAN EDUCATORS PACK WORKSHOPS**

A year ago, the Discovery School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras presented its second FAVACA teaching strategies workshops to rave reviews. By popular demand, a third seminar was scheduled. This past November the workshop was conducted and received “standing room only” accolades. Jill Brookner and Sharon McGee, of Miami Dade County Public Schools conducted the sessions for 350 participants from around the country. Topics included classroom management, alternative assessments and reading instruction. Discovery School is an innovative bi-lingual school. Additional workshops are being planned country-wide.

## **PRESIDENT REVIEWS DISASTER STRATEGIES**

At the 28<sup>th</sup> Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin, sponsored by Caribbean-Central American Action (CCAA), December 8, 2004, Julieta N. Valls reviewed lessons learned by FAVACA in its 20 years of technical assistance in disaster mitigation. Highlights included the importance of training first responders and national disaster planning officials, assistance in linking consulates and mobilizing Diaspora communities in Florida, and FAVACA's role as one of three founding members of AmericasRelief Team, a consortium of corporations and non-profits to speed relief to stricken nations. Additionally, FAVACA will play a key role in supporting the Governor's Haiti Advisory Group, and continuation of disaster mitigation and other technical assistance to Haiti, FAVACA's oldest partner. Haiti Prime Minister Gerard LaTortue, in fact, is a former FAVACA volunteer.

### **NEW INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**

Will Guzmán joined the FAVACA Tallahassee Office in December to coordinate placement of volunteer-consultants throughout the region. For the past six years Will was involved in youth development in Tallahassee and Ft. Lauderdale with The Paxen Group's *ABOUT FACE* program. He has a BS in African American - Caribbean/Latin American Studies from Florida A & M University and an MS in Social Science Education from Florida State University. Will is widely traveled in the region, and enjoys strong family ties to Puerto Rico.

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

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<b>Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean and the Americas through volunteer service.</b>			
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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.