

# Communi-clik

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

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**DECEMBER 2006**

## **NATIONWIDE TEACHING CONFERENCE UNIQUE IN HONDURAS**

Four hundred fifty educators eagerly gathered in Tegucigalpa, November 15-19, 2006 for Discovery School's one-of-a-kind annual national conference. The popular event features the latest teaching techniques and research. The conference is valued by teachers at all levels because it presents practical plans and techniques that can be employed immediately. Workshops focused on assessment, ESOL strategies, positive behavioral support, team building, science strategies and multiple intelligences. Miami-Dade Schools' conference headliners included veteran FAVACA volunteers Jill Brookner and Josefina Derby, and first time consultant, instructional supervisor Rosalia Gallo.

## **ST. LUCIA, JACKSONVILLE COLLABORATE ON CRASH TRAINING**

NEMO, St. Lucia's National Emergency Management Organization, led multiple agencies in a full-scale aircraft crash simulation November 6-9, 2006 at the Hewanorra International Airport. FAVACA return volunteer, Captain Wayne Watts of Jacksonville,(Florida) Fire & Rescue, worked with NEMO to develop Incident Command and other measures. Capt. Watts also served as chief evaluator, with members of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and NEMO staff. Five hundred first responders from the Saint Lucia Fire and Emergency Services, Police, Hospitals, and Air and Seaports Authority participated in the training.

## **BELIZE ELDER CAREGIVERS TRAINED**

Qualified health professionals and facilities for seniors in Belize are in short supply. The National Council on Ageing seeks to mitigate this situation by increasing skills of persons who care for senior citizens living at home. More than 80 participants were trained November 5-13, 2006 in Belize City and the Toledo District on home nursing care, nutrition, health promotion and disease prevention including Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, and diabetes. University of Miami trainers included: Dr. Pamela Elfenbein, director of education and training, The Center on Aging; Dr. Helen Cornely, chair and associate professor, Department of Physical Therapy; Dr. Yvonne Parchment, associate professor, School of Nursing, and Dr. Nancy Wellman, professor, Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, and director, National Policy and Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging.

## **HAITI, FLORIDA SURGEONS TACKLE HYDROCEPHALUS**

Dr. John Ragheb of Miami Children's Hospital, University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital led a team of neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, November 12-15, 2006 to perform surgeries on 17 children with hydrocephalus. The FAVACA medical team worked with Haitian surgeons and pediatricians during the operations and for follow-up medical care. The children traveled from diverse areas of Haiti for the surgery and stayed at the Sonia B. Green House under the care of Healing Hands for Haiti. Bernard Mevs Hospital donated the operating room, and the Miami hospitals donated much of the medical equipment for the surgeries. While in Haiti, the team also consulted with Minister of Health Dr. Robert Auguste to make testing for hydrocephalus part of routine medical training. The medical mission was conducted in cooperation with Project Medishare and made possible by the Florida Haiti Initiative.

### **JAMAICA NATIVE RETURNS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY**

Andrew Smalling, chief of the Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, Police Force, conducted a workshop on school safety in Jamaica, November 20-22, 2006. Like so many West Indian Floridians and FAVACA consultants, Chief Smalling is particularly tuned-in culturally. He is from Jamaica, and serves a community in Florida with a large Jamaican population. More than 200 school resource officers from inner city schools in Kingston, Spanish Town and Montego Bay attended the event tailored after Chief Smalling's successful school safety program in the Sunshine State. The training focused on physical security of school grounds, response to incidents, and media relations. Chief Smalling also conducted a performance review of school resource officers that had been trained earlier in the year. This consultation was provided in collaboration with Management Systems International and the United States Agency for International Development.

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