

Communi-**clik**

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



MARCH 2005

GRENADA OFFICIALS TRAINED IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, COUNSELING

Cecil Fredrick, of Grenada's National Water and Sewage Authority (NAWASA) hosted the first of three management workshops March 13-16, 2005 designed to train supervisors in stress management, coping, trauma, loss, and individual and group counseling. Conducted by veteran volunteer consultant, Karen Ring, Tallahassee, the sessions trained 20 NAWASA employees how to alleviate psychological and social trauma caused by Hurricane Ivan. Ring is a temporary Lecturer in Social Work at the University of the West Indies, Bridgetown Barbados.

ST. LUCIA RED CROSS INSTRUCTORS' SKILLS BOOSTED

St. Lucia Red Cross Director General Terencia Gaillard, hosted instructor training in Castries March 7-11. Tallahassee Helen Michel, director of Health and Safety Services of the Capital Area, American Red Cross Chapter, conducted sessions in First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for 10 instructors.

SPECIAL EDUCATORS IN ST. KITTS IMPROVE CURRICULUM/EVALUATION

The Ministry of Education Special Education Unit, based in Basseterre, provides education and training for students with disabilities. The Unit was established in 1982 and caters to children ages 3-19. Clarice Cotton, principal of the St. Kitts/Nevis Special Education Unit and Jill Brookner, Miami-Dade County Public Schools worked with teachers responsible for administration, evaluation, curriculum development, and literacy March 2-5, 2005. These teachers supervise children with Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, and other learning disabilities. Brookner reviewed evaluation processes, made

recommendations for future needs, and determined next steps for professional development.

HAITI WOMEN PUSH EXPORTS

"Femmes en Production," a Haitian non-governmental women's organization is interested in promoting member exports of crafts, foods, apparel, linen, and furniture. Erna Rodriguez, "Femmes en Production" program manager, hosted FAVACA volunteer Philip John Corrigan in a follow-up visit at the second annual three-day trade promotion show March 10-13 in Port-Au-Prince. Over sixty exhibitors, all micro-entrepreneurs and members of Femmes en Production, displayed their products. Corrigan consulted on overcoming bureaucratic hurdles to exportation, particularly to the Dominican Republic and the United States. Haiti President Boniface Alexandre opened the event with thanks to FAVACA. Funding for this mission was provided by USAID-Haiti. "Femmes en Production" will sponsor a Miami trade show in May 2005.

ANTIGUA STRENGTHENS BEEKEEPING

Bee keeping is a good source of income for small farmers, women and youth groups. It is environmentally friendly and can be easily integrated into other projects such as agro-forestry. However, pests and diseases can threaten production and export. In order to be competitive in the market place, the beehives must be certified free from pests and diseases. That's where the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) comes in. Julie-Ann Laudat, Technical Specialist for the IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda, hosted veteran volunteer Tomas Mozer, St. Augustine, to determine the health of the honeybee population in Antigua and Barbuda. Mozer inspected hives March 19-27, 2005; reported on their health status; and determined the quality of the products for market.

SOUTHCOM EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA MISSION EXPLORES NEW PROJECTS

Will Guzmán, FAVACA International Programs Coordinator, traveled with a team to El Salvador and Nicaragua, March 16-22, 2005, to consult with staff of schools and community medical clinics being built by the US Southern Command's New Horizons program. The team was led by Southcom officer Maj. Dave Tavassoli and also included Audra Murray and Dave Gallardo of the Admiral Jeremiah Denton Foundation, a provider of donated materiel overseas. The team visited rural communities of San Vicente and Santa Ana in El Salvador and various communities within the state of Chinandega, Nicaragua to assess equipment, training and technical assistance needs.

IICA AGREEMENT UPDATED, RENEWED

The Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the hemisphere's leading agricultural development agency. It seeks to modernize the rural sector, promote food security, improve technology and foster competitiveness. IICA operates from permanent offices in 34 member states. Since 1997 IICA and FAVACA have collaborated under a Memorandum of Understanding that was renewed as a Technical Cooperation Agreement in March by FAVACA President Julieta N. Valls and IICA Director General Chelston W. D. Brathwaite. In partnership with IICA, FAVACA has provided more than 133 volunteer technical consultants, training over 1,800 individuals for an estimated value of \$1.9 million.

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

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and the Americas through volunteer service.**

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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.

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