

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



JULY 2005

HAITI COMMUNITY RECEIVES TRAINING IN ENGLISH. Hosean International Ministries (H.I.M.) hosted FAVACA consultants July 12-16 to help H.I.M. staff teach English to students of all ages in Pignon, Haiti. First-time volunteers Gloria P. Holmes and Frank McDonald, both of Tallahassee, worked with nearly 80 staff and students. The training was conducted at College de la Grace, a secondary school that offers free education to community members. Holmes and McDonald were part of a contingent of volunteers from a variety of non-profit organizations in Arkansas and Florida.

GRENADA HOSTS SIXTH OPERATION SAFE SUMMER. As part of a collaboration that dates from 1999, FAVACA supported Operation Safe Summer in Grenada July 3-17, 2005. This youth leadership training program is organized by the Drug Control Secretariat (DCS) of the Ministry of Education. The sessions were lead by volunteer-consultants Majken Peterzen, Tallahassee and Terry Allen Jones, Clearwater and co-directed by DCS staff Dave Alexander and Terence Walters. FAVACA provided training for twenty teachers in Grenada and 15 youth leaders in the neighboring island of Carriacou . Topics included conflict resolution, anger management, communication, leadership skills and drug abuse.

ANTIGUA CONTINUES YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. Ministry of Education, Youth and Community Development Director Dale O'Brian hosted follow-up training in IMPROV, the popular teen improvisational theater, for 25 Antigua youth and teachers, July 10-25, 2005. Bonnie Harrison and Elizabeth Edger, Jacksonville, provided training on ways to combat risky behavior such as drug use and HIV/AIDS.

CULTURAL HERITAGE FOCUS OF GRENADA DOCUMENTARY. Valerie, Cecil and Casmir Scoon, traveled June 26 - July 7, 2005 to record a documentary on the social and cultural factors surrounding Grenada's Maurice Bishop era and the 1983 US intervention. Professor Scoon, a Florida State University Filmmaker in Residence has family ties to the Caribbean, and was born in Antigua. She conducted two seminars for students and faculty of St. George's University and lead a community-wide discussion of the ABC Television film "Oprah Winfrey Presents: Their Eyes Were Watching God" for

which she earned an associate producer credit when working in Hollywood. Soon involved four Florida State University graduate students and two St. George's University students in the project.

CARIBBEAN ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM. FAVACA's Caribbean Assistance and Recovery Grants Program, made possible by grants from Jimmy Buffett's Singing For Change Foundation, Outback Steakhouse®, and Carrabba's Italian Grill, made the following awards in July:

Haiti. Hosean International Ministries (H.I.M.) received \$10,000 to assist with high-speed internet access at the Hospital La Providence and to purchase furniture and supplies for the College Cobaha. Both sites are in the coastal community of Gonaives, which was particularly hard-hit with massive flooding in September 2004. H.I.M. has been involved since 1985 with disaster relief and rebuilding efforts, medical assistance, homeless children, homes for families, and creating an electrical co-op in Pignon.

The Salvation Army received \$8,000 to assist 40 families repair their homes in Gonaives, Gros Morne, and Petit Goave, damaged by hurricanes within the past 12 months. The Salvation Army has been in Haiti for over 50 years and will leverage FAVACA funds with monies from Projector (Projects Spain) and Cross International.

Grenada. The Programme for Adolescent Mothers (P.A.M.) was granted \$4,500 to purchase folding tables, chairs, and 12 fire extinguishers, lost when the roof of their building was torn off by winds of Hurricane Ivan. P.A.M.'s building is located in Mt. Parnassus, St. George's and is on the National Heritage List. The only program of its kind, P.A.M. has provided pregnant and teenage mothers a new start outside the traditional educational setting since 1984. P.A.M. will compliment FAVACA funds with monies from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

Jamaica. The Association of Clubs in Jamaica was awarded \$9,438 to replace the zinc roof at the Petersfield Community Centre, to replant 450 fruit trees, and help chicken and pig farmers replace damaged equipment and stock. The Petersfield Community Centre and the Association of Clubs have served the Westmoreland area since 1988. The Community Centre is host to a computer lab, library & home work study center, high school equivalency and adult literacy programmes, and various community meetings.

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

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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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