

# Communi-**clik**

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

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COMMUNI-CLIK AUGUST 2005

## PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Julieta N. Valls announced her resignation September 14, capping three years at the helm of Florida's premier international development agency. Her legacy includes: co-founding AmericasRelief Team, effective advocacy for Florida's Free Trade Area of the Americas Secretariat and DR-CAFTA, creating the FAVACA Corporate Council; and collaborations with the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Levi Strauss Foundation, the Pan American Development Foundation, and Partners of the Americas. Valls also counseled the Governor's Haiti Advisory Group in the development of a strategy to assist Haiti's rebuilding efforts. FAVACA's Caribbean Technical Assistance, Training and Disaster Recovery Grants Program, funded by the Jimmy Buffett Foundation, was launched with her guidance. In response to FAVACA's solid performance under her leadership, Governor Bush presented to the 2005 Florida Legislature the largest-ever FAVACA budget request, \$750,000. Valls' tenure will be noted as one during which FAVACA's recognition and reputation in the region and throughout the State was greatly strengthened.

## STATE CONTRACT AWARDED

Every year since 1986 Florida's Legislature has awarded FAVACA an appropriation to conduct technical assistance in Central America and the Caribbean . This year's \$650,000 contract will underwrite 120 Florida International Volunteer Corps placements and associated activities. Private and federal cost-sharing funds, attracted by the state appropriation, are expected to support 40 volunteer missions. FAVACA's Florida International Volunteer Corps is one-of-a kind in the United States.

## 17th CENTURY BLACKSMITH FOR NEVIS

The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society is creating a replica 17th century blacksmith shop in Fothergill Heritage Village with the help of veteran volunteers Kelly Scudder and Michael Temple of St. Petersburg. The pair conducted seminars and consulted with officials of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, July 22 through August

6, 2005. Dr. Skeeter Prather, Tallahassee, former FAVACA blacksmith volunteer in Barbados, and John Scanlon, Friends of Hearthside, Rhode Island, loaned rare handcrafted tools from their private collections for this activity. Scudder is president of Cultural Resource Solutions. Temple is a representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees with extensive experience in cultural site assessment and computer hardware.

#### 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 August:

Haiti. Môle St. Nicolas in Action (MOTION) received \$9,890 to purchase a diesel back-up generator, twelve charging batteries, six solar 80-watt panels, and labor, electrical wiring and other materials to repair the roof of their community center located in Haiti's oldest city, Môle St. Nicolas. Humanitarian and environmental NGO MOTION has served this community for the past nine years. MOTION will also receive in-kind contributions from the Haitian Resource Development Foundation, Haitian-American Engineers, and Operation Green Leaves to complement this FAVACA grant.

GALATA was awarded \$7,000 to repair the roof of the Centre Social located in the city of Cotes-de-Fer. The grant will purchase five solar 80-watt panels, roofing supplies, twelve charging batteries, and a diesel generator. For the past five years GALATA's mission has been to promote community development in the city of Cotes-de-Fer through education and cultural awareness. La Foundation Bellevue, Inc. will also assist GALATA with this project.

Grenada. The Science and Technology Council of Grenada (STC) was awarded \$5,000 to purchase five Dell Dimension 3000PC computers for STC's Learning Centre, which was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan. The Centre serves students of TA Marryshow Community College and the Grenada Boys Secondary School. Headed by Dr. James S. DeVere Pitt, STC's purpose is to promote and advance science and technology in Grenada.

#### USAID-HAITI GRANT ANNOUNCED

FAVACA has received \$150,000 to support USAID/Haiti's economic growth strategic objectives including technical assistance to small businesses, micro-credit organizations and agricultural associations, and organization of diaspora outreach events in South Florida. The goal of the technical assistance is to increase sales and income, improve quality and quantity of products and services, create new employment, increase trade partners, enhance access to credit and loans, increase exports, and improve client satisfaction. Diaspora outreach events in South Florida inform the Haitian-American community about development programs and highlight the role diaspora and hometown associations can play in promoting investment in these programs and Haiti's development in general. Governor's Office staff William Large and Mike Pilver were instrumental in securing this support.

## WRAGG & CASAS A LONGTIME FAVACA FRIEND.

Christina Denis, vice president of Client Services at Miami's Wragg & Casas Public Relations pledged the firm's continuing commitment to FAVACA started by Otis Wragg who first served as a FAVACA volunteer to Barbados. Ms. Denis has an extensive background in international development and a deep understanding of Caribbean culture. The pro bono services will help publicize FAVACA's work and initiatives in the region.

## FAVACA DIRECTOR TAPPED BY PRESIDENT BUSH.

Emilio Gonzalez, a senior managing director of Tew Cardenas law firm and member of the FAVACA Board of Directors has been tapped by President Bush to head the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a federal agency with a \$1.8 billion budget, and 15,000 employees and contractors, with 250 offices in the United States and world-wide. Senate confirmation is pending.

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

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean  
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.