

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



SEPTEMBER 2005

DISASTER GRANTS PROGRAM BENEFITS BEQUIA

FAVACA's Caribbean Assistance and Recovery Grants Program (CARGP) awarded the Rotary Club of Bequia \$7,200 for replacement of the roof of the Community, Skills, Training, and Youth Center located in Lower Bay, Port Elizabeth. Bequia is part of the island chain encompassing St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The roof of the community center was blown away by Hurricane Ivan, and building contents destroyed, including computers, fax, copier, and overhead projector. The grant will be used to purchase building materials. Labor is donated by Rotary Club members whose motto is "Service above Self." CARGP is made possible through support from Jimmy Buffett's *Singing For Change Foundation*, Outback Steakhouse®, and Carrabba's Italian Grill.

GRENADA SOCIAL SCIENCE PROGRAM GROWS

James S. DeVere Pitt, vice principal for Academic Affairs at T.A. Marryshow Community College (TAMCC) requested consultation under the college's ongoing partnership with Florida State University (FSU) to develop a social work curriculum. James Hinterlong, FSU School of Social Work, consulted on social policy and aging September 15-20. There are no certified counselors on the island. Hinterlong also consulted with Clement Francis, newly appointed Coordinator for the Elderly, on establishment of a national policy on the elderly.

DOMINICAN DISASTER AGENCY RECEIVES LIBRARY, WEB BOOST

The Asociacion Dominicana de Mitigacion de Desastres (ADMD) is a non-governmental organization established in 1996 to reduce the vulnerability of those living in areas prone to floods, landslides, hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes. ADMD's new research center and library will benefit from library science techniques and technology as recommended by veteran Tallahassee volunteer Maria Chavez-Hernandez, Sept. 25-30, 2005. A professor of library science at Florida State University, Chavez-Hernandez has conducted a number of research projects and seminars in Central America.

Megan Waters, systems librarian for the Florida Center for Library Automation, Gainesville, traveled to Santo Domingo September 18-23 to provide Web technology training for 13 ADMD members and associates. She conducted four workshops on: 1) what is a "virtual library" and why do people use them, 2) creating an online public access catalog, 3) current database-driven Web technologies, and 4) elements of Web site design to enhance public awareness and understanding. These volunteer missions were made possible through funds from the Jimmy Buffett's *Singing For Change Foundation*, State of Florida, Outback Steakhouse®, and Carrabba's Italian Grill.

ALTERNATIVE FARMING IN HONDURAS

Jorge Yanes, director of the Cuevas de Talgua Parque Arqueologico in Catacamas, hosted training September 4-11, 2005 for farmers whose land surrounds this Honduran National Forest. The sessions included soil conservation, organic farming, and developing small cooperatives for eco-tourism. First-time FAVACA volunteer Philip Myers, a biological scientist for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, conducted the training. The goal of Myers' training was to identify activities that would improve farmer income while being environmentally sensitive. Myers served in forestry management for two years in the Peace Corps in Ecuador and was a rural development officer for Concern America in El Salvador.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES REVIEWED IN HAITI.

FAVACA consultant Ms. Virginie Andre facilitated a workshop in Port-au-Prince for regional emergency managers and the Haitian Department of Civil Protection September 13-17, 2005. The well-attended sessions covered procedures for emergency operation centers in a disaster. Workshop participants developed procedures for basic emergency response infrastructure, logistics, shelters, and emergency relief and operations control. Ms. Andre also reviewed construction of the Killick Coast Guard Clinic and the General Hospital, and consulted with Haiti's police and fire chiefs to identify additional training needs. This consultation was conducted under the auspices of the US Southern Command.

SWIFT-WATER RESCUE IN JAMAICA

Dr. Barbara Carby, director of Jamaica's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), hosted Florida volunteers Jason Fair, Fort Myers; Shane Sibert, Bonita Springs; and California volunteer-consultant Jim Segerstrom, San Francisco, September 25-30 for training in swift water rescue for first-responders. The training was conducted at Rio Cobre at Dam Head, St. Catherine and Black River in St. Elizabeth. Over 55 first-responders from ODPEM, the Jamaican Defense Forces, the Caribbean Maritime Marine Institute, Jamaican Red Cross, Jamaican Coast Guard, Jamaican Fire

Brigade, Ministry of the Environment were represented. Fair and Sibert are Lieutenant Paramedics and Special Operation Coordinators for Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. Segerstrom is president and CEO of Special Rescue Services Group. Support for this mission was rendered by Jimmy Buffett's *Singing For Change Foundation*, State of Florida, Outback Steakhouse®, and Carrabba's Italian Grill.

SHARKEY INTERIM PRESIDENT

Past Chair of the Board and successful long-time Tallahassee governmental affairs consultant Dr. Jeffrey Sharkey will act as interim head of FAVACA for three months during the recruitment process for the new president. He can be reached at favaca@favaca.org.

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

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