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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



January 2010

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HELP REBUILD HAITI

In response to the January 12th tragedy that struck Haiti, FAVACA staff in Haiti and Florida has reached out to our numerous partners to assess need and supported feeding of 60 displaced persons outside Port-au-Prince. In meetings aimed to ensure our recovery efforts are in coordination with the Haitian Government, officials requested assistance in creation of effective disaster field offices, structural needs analysis, shelter management, and communication during disasters.

In the coming weeks and months, FAVACA will send volunteer consultants to assist in these areas. In addition, two recovery teams of 4-5 individuals will visit several communities assess damaged infrastructure and provide post traumatic stress counseling. Teams will include 2 structural engineers, 2-3 trauma counselors depending on the predetermined needs of the communities. These will be supported by a team of 2-3 emergency responders and firefighters to provide trainings on first aid and community disaster management and preparedness. FAVACA is actively searching for Haitian Creole or French speaking fire fighters, trauma counselors, and structural engineers to volunteer in Haiti.

At the time of the earthquake, FAVACA did not have any volunteers in Haiti. A FAVACA representative was in the town of Les Cayes but was unharmed. Many of our partners are requesting assistance; through donations FAVACA is supporting both the short term and long term recovery efforts in Haiti.

[We are reaching out to our friends, volunteers, and supporters in this crisis to raise funds and awareness of this disaster and tragedy – Click to Donate.](#)

[All donations made on the FAVACA website during this period will be used to support Haiti.](#)

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IMPROVES THE TOURISM SECTOR IN NICARAGUA

Sponsored by the [State Department's Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs](#), FAVACA hosted a leadership seminar on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast in the town of Waspam from January 7-11, 2010. Rodrigo Huete, President of the American-Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce, Miriam Y Rodriguez, Consultant-Corporate Social Responsibility, and Rochelle Beck President of Culturas del Sol, Inc. guided discussions for 40 seminar participants on developing leadership skills, overcoming obstacles faced by the indigenous community, advocating changes at the municipal and national levels, and improving economic and social well-being of the community. The program was designed to capitalize on the emerging tourism sector of the Atlantic coast. The participants spent an intensive week in trainings and interactive activities to build their management and teamwork skills with the goal of helping the businesses and their communities.



SECOND HAITIAN HOMETOWN ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

FAVACA will be hosting a Haitian Hometown Association and organization training on Saturday February 20th from 8am-5pm. Hugo Cardona of [Core Strategies for Non-Profits](#) and Les Weil of [Les Weil Consulting LLC](#) will be presenting on financial accountability, project management, and fundraising. The training will take place at [Florida Atlantic University](#) and is being hosted under a grant from [Western Union Foundation](#) and in collaboration with [Florida Atlantic University's School of Social Work](#). The workshop is free to attend but registration is mandatory. Please RSVP no later than February 10th to angie@favaca.org or 305.470.5035.

SOCIAL VENTURE CAPITAL and SUSTAINABLE HAITI FORUM

FAVACA is collaborating to hold a Social Venture Capital/Social Enterprise Conference March 17-19, 2010 in Miami, Florida. The *Sustainable Haiti Forum* is a unique conference within a conference focused entirely on investment opportunities. In light of the January 12th disaster, the forum has been expanded to include topics and speakers focused on stimulating the Haitian economy and spurring investments to aid in the long term recovery. The Sustainable Haiti Forum will contain 45 workshops/panels and over 100 speakers from around the world. Find out more and register by visiting: <http://www.haiticonference.com>.



CASUELITA'S CARIBBEAN CAFÉ HOLDS FUNDRAISER FOR HAITI

A fundraising event was held January 21, 2009 at [Casuelita's Caribbean Cafe](#) in Seattle, Washington to



support FAVACA's efforts in Haiti. The event was a tremendous success and well supported throughout the night. Longtime FAVACA volunteer Aaron Rose co-organized the event which will see 100% of the donations go towards recovery efforts in Haiti. Richard Dwyer, owner of Casuelita's stated "Right as soon as it happened (the Haiti earthquake) I said 'Man, I have to get involved somehow.'" Enter Aaron Rose who approached Dwyer about holding an event at the restaurant to raise funds for Haiti. "One hundred percent of our profit is going to the Haiti fund. We're also selling all of our artwork. We're taking a hit, but it's worth it" stated Dwyer. FAVACA would like to thank

Aaron Rose, Richard Dwyer and all the people who came out to support FAVACA's efforts to help rebuild Haiti.

FAMU CANDLELIGHT VIGIL TO HELP HAITI

The [Haitian Cultural Club \(HCC\)](#) hosted a candlelight vigil January 20, 2010 at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida. The vigil aimed to raise funds and donated goods for programs helping Haiti. FAVACA, [Most High Ministries: Hope to Haiti Project](#), and the [Bethel Mission](#) were the three beneficiaries of raised funds and donated goods. FAVACA would like to thank all the members of HCC for their hard work and effort in raising funds and awareness for the relief effort.



TALLAHASSEE DANCE COMMUNITY'S HAITIAN EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS (H.E.R.O.)

Joy Myers, Sandy Chase and the dance community of Tallahassee held a fundraising dance to benefit FAVACA's Haiti relief project. The benefit dance took place at 7:00pm on January 31, 2010 at the American Legion Hall, Post 13 located at 229 Lake Ella Drive, in Tallahassee, Florida. The Tallahassee dance community is encouraging everyone to donate to the Haiti Relief. Swing, Ballroom, Latin and Country was played by DJ Hubert. For more information please call 850-566-0915 or 850-566-1410.

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