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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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VISUALLY IMPAIRED RECEIVE COMPUTER TRAINING IN BARBADOS

The National Disabilities Unit works to facilitate, advocate, and promote the advancement and empowerment of persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal opportunities for integration and participation in all aspects of community living in Barbados. The National Disabilities Unit contacted FAVACA to follow up on several previous trainings to teach information technology to the staff and constituents of the National Disabilities Unit. First time volunteer **Donna Rogalski**, the former President of the [Inter-County Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind](#) and currently a technology specialist with the [Florida Division of Blind Services](#) traveled to Bridgetown, Barbados from May 10-21, 2009 to facilitate a training on specialized computer software for visually impaired computer users. Rogalski was accompanied by her colleague **Chris Kelly**.



TWO HAITIAN HOSPITALS RECEIVE ADVANCED LIFE-SUPPORT TRAINING

FAVACA in collaboration with the [Haitian Resource and Development Foundation \(HRDF\)](#), a nonprofit organization helping with the development of Haiti, and the [International Medical Equipment Collaborative \(IMEC\)](#), shipped a variety of emergency room medical equipment to the Hospital de L'Universite d'Etat d'Haiti, commonly known as the General Hospital located in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Following up on an [April 2009 FAVACA volunteer project](#) to assess and ensure the condition of the medical equipment, the FAVACA volunteers began training hospital staff on how to maintain and use the equipment in emergency situations, FAVACA and HRDF secured two Haitian-American medical personnel to travel to Haiti to provide training to hospital staff from the General Hospital and the

Community Hospital (located in Petion Ville, Haiti) on the recently donated medical equipment. Dr. **Jocelyn David** from Seminole, Florida is a staff physician at the [Veterans Medical Center in Bay Pines](#) and **Anssie Blot**, a registered nurse from Davie, Florida traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti June 19-26, 2009. The FAVACA volunteers trained approximately 40 hospital staff in advanced life-support techniques such as using an EKG machine, advanced respiratory and ventilation techniques in emergency situations, and urgent care in the emergency room just to name a few. On the final day of training all participants were given an exam to ensure that everyone learned the new techniques.



NICARAGUA WEBSITE DESIGN LINKS INDIGENOUS WOMEN TO NEW MARKETS

The Association of Indigenous Women in the Atlantic Coast (AMICA- la Asociacion de Mujeres Indigenas de la Costa Atlantica) is an indigenous women's group which promotes the integral development of indigenous woman, the defense of their rights, the participation of woman in the decision-making process in their communities, and the integration of indigenous women into economic activities. AMICA offers a variety of programs such as women and the environment, women in politics and public policy, women and reproductive rights, as well as continuing education classes on sewing, cooking, and computer literacy. In order to help expand the courses offered by AMICA in computer literacy and small business development, AMICA requested assistance in website design from FAVACA to help local businesswomen to market their products to a larger audience. Miami resident and FAVACA volunteer Greg Gordon of [CRsurf](#) agreed to travel to [Puerto Cabezas](#), Nicaragua June 28-July 9, 2009 to work with AMICA and twelve other groups by providing a training on [website design](#). Many of the participating organizations were small businesses, women's groups and community groups.



In March 2009 FAVACA hosted and facilitated workshops on entrepreneurship, tourism and small business development during a 10-day exchange program for 29 Nicaraguan entrepreneurs in Miami, Florida. One of these workshops, which focused on webpage development and Internet promotion, was given by Greg Gordon from CRsurf. As a result of the March training, more than half of the group has designed web pages, and most of the others have an Internet presence through the creation of blogs, Facebook, Myspace pages, and other social networking sites.

FAVACA VOLUNTEER BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF A HAITIAN NGO

The Institute of Interuniversity Research and Development [*Institut Interuniversitaire de Recherche et Development*] (INURED) was created to promote and institutionalize social research and post-graduate training in partnership with academic and non-academic institutions in Haiti and elsewhere. INURED has developed trans-disciplinary research and training activities in a wide range of fields. Its scientific programs as well as exchanges and agreements among researchers from various institutions is complemented by ongoing activities in Haitian universities and research centers. For the past several

years, INURED has had incredibly successful programs in [Cite Soleil](#) and has developed the reputation of a Haitian organization that is serious about activist research, which has encompassed not just research but research skills that teach community members to learn to reflect on their own situation and to create recommendations for the donor community. Brooklyn, New York resident Jocelyn McCalla traveled to Port-au-Prince to help INURED formulate a clear strategy to assist Haitian institutions in different social categories at INURED's first ever board meeting. McCalla is the President/CEO of [JMC STRATEGIES LLC.](#), which provides management, fundraising and development expertise, and grassroots campaign consulting services to public and private sector entities, for profit and non-profits alike. INURED's board retreat allowed the group to increase their exposure and relations between organizations and groups in Haiti.



FAVACA RECEPTION A SUCCESS IN WASHINGTON D.C.



On Wednesday, July 8th over forty people joined members of FAVACA at the [Florida House](#) in Washington DC. Many of FAVACA's current and past partners, legislators, board members, and friends came out to celebrate the many years of successful projects and partnerships exploring ways to build on more than a quarter century of grassroots development in the Caribbean and the Americas.

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