

Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



MAY 2005

FAVACA SPONSORS SEVEN AT GOVERNOR'S HURRICANE CONFERENCE

With support from Governor Bush's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, The Jimmy Buffett Foundation, OUTBACK Steakhouse, and CARRABBA'S Italian Grill, FAVACA underwrote participation by the following disaster and emergency management officials at the 2005 Governor's Hurricane Conference in Tampa, May 9-13, 2005: Marie Katleen Mompont, program manager, Civil Protection, Government of Haiti; Ann-Denise Ashton, National Emergency Relief Organization (NERO), Grenada; Michelle V. Forbes, deputy national disaster coordinator, National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Dr. Barbara Carby, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Jamaica; Carl Francis Smith, under secretary/national disaster coordinator, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Bahamas; Lester Blackett, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nevis; and Goldwin Caines, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), St. Kitts.

HAITI-FLORIDA TOURISM & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT PLANNED

With topics ranging from tourism development, dual citizenship, and security, to recommendations of the Governor's Haiti Advisory Group, the Haiti-Florida Tourism & Economic Empowerment Summit promises to be a comprehensive and spirited event June 25 at Miami Beach's Deauville Beach Resort. Sponsored by FAVACA and a host of who's who in Haiti affairs, the Summit convenes at 830a.m. and runs all day. For more information contact the organizers, MWM & Associates (305) 249-6966, email: MWMandASSOCIATES@aol.com.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BATTLES BUGS

Dominican sugarcane, citrus, strawberries, cassava, sweet potato, beans, as well as turf, cocoa, coffee, and tobacco are prime targets for white grubs, the larval stage of June

beetles . The economic damage caused by these underground pests is enormous. In order to control the threat it is first necessary to understand the creatures' taxonomy and nomenclature: where they fit in the bug world. That's where veteran volunteer Dr. Bob Woodruff comes in. He has recently published a taxonomic study providing a stable nomenclature for 48 species. Woodruff consulted with Dr. Carmelo A. Núñez, curator in entomology, Department of Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, April 28-May 11, 2005 in surveying, rearing, and studying of these pests. Eleven personnel from Vida Silvestre, Ministry of Agriculture, Foundation for Biodiversity and Development, Museum of National History, and other agencies participated.

SENIOR SERVICES IMPROVED IN ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Elders are disproportionately vulnerable to physical and emotional ailments. Elder service experts sharing best care practices and how to support care-givers are important to upgrading senior services. With that in mind, Jovil Martin, director of community and social development, St. Kitts & Nevis Ministry of Social Development, Community and Gender Affairs, hosted follow-up training for 25 staff of the Social Assistance Unit, May 1-8, 2005. Workshops covered: Care of the Elderly, Diabetes and the Care of Diabetics, Psychology of Aging, Physical Therapy, Nutrition, Blood Pressure Monitoring, Dealing with Alzheimer's, and Support for Providers. The training was provided by Dr. Pamela Elfenbein, The Center on Aging at Florida International University; and, Yvonne Parchment, clinical professor, School of Nursing, and Helen Cornely, chair and associate professor, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Miami.

GRENADA CHILDREN SCREENED FOR TRAUMA

Natural disasters affect the emotional landscape as well as the physical. Disaster-related stress hits relief workers hard, but children are close behind when it comes to suffering post-traumatic stress. Recognizing the threat to children living through and suffering the after-effects of last year's devastating hurricanes, Sister Francis Nelson, chairperson of the Board of Directors, Grenada Child Welfare Authority (GCWA), organized a one week seminar called Post Traumatic Stress Management for Caregivers at Child Care Homes. Long-time FAVACA volunteer Pat Lager, LCSW, Florida State University College of Social Work consulted with 45 GCWA child care providers, 40 community participants and 35 students, May 1-8, 2005, in identification of stressors in children, strategies for minimizing trauma in future disasters, and preventing and intervening in cases of post traumatic stress.

MULTI-TASKING FOR BAHAMAS FIRST RESPONDERS

Paul Newbold, field director/NEMS, The Bahamas Public Hospitals Authority, appreciates the value of on-going, diversified in-service training, and the effectiveness colleagues bring to learning in the first-responder business. May 22-28, 2005, Newbold hosted Captain Wayne Watts, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue who provided technical assistance to five Bahamas emergency response personnel in vehicle operation, pharmacology, strengthening management, and enhancing leadership skills. This project

was funded in part by FAVACA's Caribbean Assistance and Recovery Grants Program, made possible through the generosity of the Jimmy Buffett Foundation, OUTBACK Steakhouse, and CARRABBA'S Italian Grill.

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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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