

# May Newsletter

## What's Inside

**The Heart of GFSC:** What keeps our heart pumping...

**Lessons from the Public Sector:** Supporting our Guiding Principles with ...

**GFSC at the IAF conference:** Tampa, FL, June 9-11, 2005. For more conference information, go to [iaf-world.org](http://iaf-world.org). Stop by the GFSC booth!

## The Heart of GFSC

by Lenny Diamond

Do all the good you can  
 By all the means you can  
 In all the ways you can  
 In all the places you can  
 To all the people you can  
 As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

Why do you volunteer? What makes you want to contribute your time? For me, the answers are simple: I volunteer because I enjoy giving something back and making even the smallest bit of difference. Watching or reading about the impact of world or local events on communities in need and the people who live in them is my personal driver for making the time to volunteer.

While our desire to "give back" can be accomplished one volunteer at a time and/or one project at a time, think about the impact on project outcomes and the intensity/gratification of the volunteer experience when volunteers join together in groups to assist their communities. Within GFSC, these groups, known as Local Volunteer Networks (LVN), provide a global capability for our volunteers to connect with and support their communities around the world. Our local volunteer networks are truly the heart of GFSC.

Presently there are 28 LVNs and 15 more in various stages of development around the globe. Each is distinct and unique in reflecting and supporting the cultural identity and needs of the local area. Initially each must define network structure characteristics and goals, and be responsive to changes within the local area that will influence this thinking as time goes on. Some networks begin as study groups dedicated to creating awareness of issues in the region, or possibly

for learning about/sharing new methods and techniques. Other networks are actively involved with organizations devoted to regional environmental issues. Still others work with neighborhood groups to improve economic conditions.

Volunteers are the core of our local networks – they keep the heart of GFSC pumping! And not everyone who volunteers with GFSC is a facilitator. The organization needs more than a few skill sets to grow and function. So, in addition to experienced facilitators, you will find professionals who use facilitation techniques in their work, teachers, psychologists, strategic planners, human resources professionals, public relations specialists, and many others. In return for contributing their time and effort, volunteers have the opportunity to share knowledge, experience and learning within their local network and with other local networks around the world. Being a part of GFSC also offers direct communication with experts in a variety of fields and facilitation techniques, access to workshops and training, an on-line library of resource materials and our unique Mentored Pathways program designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of our volunteers.



If you are interested in forming a network in your own area/region, here are some questions to ask:

- Who else might be interested in forming a network?
- What are some of the issues/needs in our area or community?
- How can I find out about other issues in our area?
- Who (groups and/or individuals) have requested help to address these issues, but do not have the means to pay for services?
- What kinds of projects do I like to work on?
- How can I find others who are asking themselves these same questions?
- How much time am I willing to donate?
- What skills and interests can I share as a volunteer?

You can count on GFSC for supporting interested local volunteers when forming or sustaining local networks in many ways:

- Helping you to find the answers to the above questions
- Face-to-face or virtual, facilitated LVN organizational meetings to help clarify needs, goals and structure
- Delivering workshops on specific methodology for building community resilience, preparing for disaster and crisis intervention, strategic planning for NGOs and others
- Mentoring facilitators or those who use facilitation techniques in their work
- Access to our (virtual) library of resource materials
- Learning, collaboration and exchange of ideas with other volunteers and LVNs worldwide

If you are reading this newsletter, I believe there is a place in your heart for volunteering. What moves you to volunteer? What makes your heart beat faster and drives your decision to act upon the idea of making the world a better place – actually making the commitment of your time to do this? Feel what is in your heart and if it resonates with GFSC, please give me a call (860-233-5456) or send an email ( [ldiamond@prodigy.net](mailto:ldiamond@prodigy.net) ). Your participation is invaluable!

Visit our web site, [globalfacilitators.org](http://globalfacilitators.org) to read more about our history, Mentored Pathways, our virtual library and to sign up a GFSC volunteer.

**GFSC at the IAF Conference**

Tampa, FL, June 9-11, 2005

Hope to see you there!

If you have some free time between workshops and would like to help us staff our booth, please write to BJ at [bj@afsc@amauta.org](mailto:bj@afsc@amauta.org), with "Staffing Booth" on the subject line.

For more information about the conference, go to [iaf-world.org](http://iaf-world.org).

**President's Column      Gilbert Brenson-Lazan**



**Lessons from the Public Sector**

There are many things that we third-sector organizations (not-for-profit service organizations – NPOs) can learn from one another and from the private sector, but it is unusual that we have a model from the **public** sector. The "Canadian Quality Criteria for the Public Sector" offers the following principles which relate GFSC and our [Guiding Principles](#):

- **Cooperation, teamwork and partnering:** Our priority has been and should continue to be a relationship of partnering with and serving local networks of volunteer facilitators, and not the creation of a vertical, paternalistic megastructure.
- **Leadership through involvement and by example:** Talking about "walking the talk" has become as trite as it is rare in many NPOs. Our leadership must model the [Guiding Principles](#) and behaviors that we promote.
- **Primary focus on clients:** Who are our clients? The local networks? The people they serve? The volunteer facilitators? The society in general? We'll talk more about that in next month's newsletter.
- **Respect for the individual and encouragement for people to develop their full potential:** Our first four [Guiding Principles](#) – Sustainability, Capacity Building, Participation and Community Commitment – speak of our commitment to helping people and communities build their capacity and reach their potential.
- **Contribution of each and every individual:** GFSC continues to be an empowering organization, very different from some of the

models that Tim Karpoff talked about in last month's newsletter.

- **Process-oriented and prevention-based strategy:** This is a critical issue for GFSC (and every other NPO). This is not the same as saying that the processes must be the same. We continue to encourage local networks around the world to develop the most relevant and useful processes for themselves and their reality.
- **Continuous improvement of methods and outcomes:** In Spanish, Antonio Machado said "*Caminante no hay camino...se hace camino al andar.*" GFSC has no path to follow; we must be very heuristic and learn from our mistakes, as we open up new paths in our journey.
- **Factual approach to decision making:** In many NPOs, common sense is the most uncommon of the senses. We have a responsibility to ourselves, our profession and to those we serve to be good stewards of our time, energy and material resources. In the words of an old "Law and Order" rerun I saw last night: "Those who live on hope die of hunger."
- **Obligations to stakeholders include a concern for responsibility to society:** Many might say that this is obvious for an NPO. I certainly hope it is for us.

Read more about the Canadian Quality Criteria for the Public Sector at:

[http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs\\_pol/opepubs/otherpubs/cqcps1\\_e.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs_pol/opepubs/otherpubs/cqcps1_e.asp).

- **To contribute toward IAF conference scholarships** for facilitators working with communities in need so that they can enhance their skills, go to [globalfacilitators.org](http://globalfacilitators.org) and click on



**Support Scholarships**  
for facilitators committed to  
building community sustainability

## Letters to the Editor

We welcome your comments and ideas. Please write to us at [gfdc@amauta.org](mailto:gfdc@amauta.org) and write "Attention Editor" on the subject line.

Greetings to you. Thank you for the April Newsletter. Thank you too for highlighting the significance of "facilitative being". I am glad that there are like-minded persons like your good selves who subscribe to such thinking. The Mercy Corp in Malaysia is also doing great work especially in Indonesia, etc, and especially in the wake of Tsunami and the likes.

Warm regards,  
Theresa Ratnam Thong  
Maylasia

~~~~~

ICA SriLanka is in operation now and we are doing a community rebuilding program in the Southern Province of Srilanka. We use ToP leadership methods and would like to also use the GFSC models. I agree what is important is Facilitation of being. So nice to read your article; keep in touch.

In peace,  
Puthrika Moonesinghe  
ICA SriLanka

~~~~~

The (March) newsletter was great - the topics discussed are fascinating. I would love to see more of this stuff in South Africa. Thanks for the info!

Best wishes and regards,  
Tania Hogg