

GFSC News May, 2010

What's Inside

- ★ GFSC 2010 projects
- ★ IAF Community Outreach Award
- ★ Chilean Facilitators: A Great Beginning
- ★ NOLA Facilitators Share Experiences with Chilean Colleagues
- ★ Authors Supporting GFSC

2010 Projects

Haiti/Dominican Republic [February]

GFSC delivered a workshop at a university in Dominican Republic for Haitian staff and students who were preparing to return to their country and help in reconstruction efforts.

Ecuador/Hartford, CT [March-April]

GFSC facilitated strategic planning with a volunteer group in Hartford, CT sponsoring and working with Mi Cometa, a community center in Guasmol dedicated to improving available medical/health, education and community leadership.

Chile [April-May]

GFSC delivered crisis intervention training for an organization of experienced facilitators. Now, they are coordinating and cascading volunteer training throughout communities affected by the recent earthquake. Three workshops are scheduled in affected communities. [Read more, page 2]

Philippines [July]

GFSC is providing disaster management training, facilitation and collaboration on future research for an education agency that works with local schools in 16 countries across Southeast Asia.

Florida [pending]

GFSC is developing a workshop for the call-center staff of a county-wide agency working with an older population to improve strategies for balancing the stresses of work life and personal well being.

Ottawa, Canada [pending]

GFSC is working with a local agency serving the immigrant population in Ottawa, to provide crisis intervention training for staff and volunteers, preparing for the special needs of new immigrants.

2010 IAF Community Outreach Award Presented to Gil Brenson Lazan



Chicago, IL, One highlight of the 2010 International Association of Facilitators North American conference was the announcement of Gilbert Brenson-Lazan, a founding member (and guiding light) of GFSC, as the recipient of the first IAF Community Outreach Award. This award

recognizes significant volunteer contributions to the community through the art of facilitation.

IAF President, Gary Rush read excerpts from one nomination letter, "...Since 1985, in a totally selfless manner, Gil has affected the lives of thousands of people; trained and mentored hundreds of facilitators around the world, and produced a 'ton' of materials to support these activities, ..."

GFSC President, Lenny Diamond, in accepting the award on behalf of Gil, read a note from Gil, "...I am deeply surprised, humbled, thankful and thrilled to receive this recognition...From the seeds sown by the IAF Community Outreach Initiative begun in 1997...we were able to work with dozens of communities throughout the world and continue that work with Global Facilitator Service Corps. Thank you so much for this memorable moment in my life."

Many colleagues participated in the process of nominating Gil for this award, mentioning his "energy, effort, passion and sensitivity. One testimonial emphasized, "You've sown the seeds that will germinate for many years."

To Gil and to all of GFSC, the perpetuation of this work means that communities have the tools to deal with future challenges. Lenny spoke for all of us, when he shared, "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be your disciple, your colleague and your friend."



Chilean Facilitators: A Great Beginning

GFSC is grateful for the dedication and service of Michael Kane and Ximena Combariza, who together, conducted the first GFSC Intervention in Disaster & Crisis workshop in Sanitago, Chile.

And we are very honored and proud to welcome Yelmo Duran Kreither and his team at 360° Alimentaria as part of the GFSC network of facilitators. They were the heart and soul of this three day workshop. Their first action was contacting Gil Brenson Lazan for his advice and experience in post-disaster work.

Ximena is active in GFSC and has co-facilitated many GFSC workshops in Latin America (as well as volunteering to translate our newsletters and other materials into Spanish).



After the workshop, Ximena wrote, "The participants talked about the workshop as a good experience to heal themselves and to learn how to help other people to do the same."

Mike has been very involved in the New Orleans (NOLA) network of facilitators who have been actively engaged in the long-term (social) recovery efforts there. In planning the workshop for Chile, he reached out to his NOLA colleagues and made wonderful connections between the Chilean and NOLA facilitators.

In a note to the NOLA colleagues, Mike writes, "Just wanted to thank you for the wonderful letters from you that informed the 3-day GFSC session in Santiago. It was so neat to do it with such a committed group and to have you there virtually. Your New Orleans experiences were helpful to the group.

Twenty facilitators of all stripes participated, including 4 firemen and medical personnel from Talca, Concepción, and other areas directly affected.

We worked with a Spanish version of the workshop adapted by NOLA facilitators (Carol Fleischman, Lou Furman, Ted Quant, Julianna Padgett and Michael Kane). Optional topics included: active listening, caring for the caregivers, cortisol and endorphins (a big hit

as we had an expert there and I just turned it over to him). We used ToP brainstorming for action planning.

We spent nearly all of the first day on two topics: the two minutes before and two minutes after the disaster; then denial and immediate reactions in all dimensions. We did skits on the various stages of the model demonstrating effective and ineffective responses. It was very prudent to dedicate so much time to listening to what happened. I quoted a lot from what the whole experience meant to each one of us. Similar to our experience in New Orleans, one of the firemen simply did not have a chance to stop long enough to deal with the reality.



GFSC Workshop, Santiago, Chile 29 April 2010

Next Steps: the Regional Medical Center in Talca is planning the first replication of the major elements of the workshop in Talca on May 24th. The firemen from Concepción are planning follow-up training there. And the high school principal in Talca, is planning a session with his school.

Yelmo and his team at 360° Alimentaria were incredibly focused in their planning and in the flawless execution of the workshop. On May 13, the workshop participants held a follow-up meeting in Santiago to plan additional workshops. It is a highly motivated, diverse, and focused team. Again, thanks to all of you."

The Chilean facilitators created a Facebook page, **Facilitadores Chile**, with some photos from the workshop. It is a cool way to stay tuned.

Yelmo just sent this update, "Maria Francia has already done two small versions [of the workshop] in the affected zones; a team has been selected to do the workshop in Talca. Laura Castro, Crespa, Mariangeles LaPena,

Nigel Blackburn, Juan Carlos Carreno, and Enrique Rabajille Quique will be the team. Four other workshops are planned: one in Santiago itself. Enrique Rabillaje is opening contacts with the government to secure funding, and all the facilitators have agreed to meet after each workshop to debrief, at least one meeting each month."

GFSC is grateful to Mike, Ximena, Yelmo and the team, for a very successful beginning to the GFSC-Chile network.



New Orleans Facilitators Share Experiences with Chilean Colleagues

Kathy McGraw, Julianna Padgett, Lou Furman, and others, wrote in response to a request from Michael Kane for the GFSC NOLA facilitators, to share their experiences after Hurricane Katrina with the Chilean facilitators.



"... the GFSC process continues to benefit my clients and me.

GFSC and Dr. Gil Brenson-Lazan provided me with information and experiences that I continue to use to this day. Facilitating

workshops at the Tulane University Continuing Studies program helped to cement the importance of the information and experiences.

I have been working with the survivors and their family members of the recent oil rig explosion off the coast of Venice, Louisiana. I am a mental health provider who does Critical Incident Debriefings in Louisiana. I travel to a disaster, crisis, or traumatic event and provide crisis intervention, facilitation, and education services on site. I also provide post-incident services. On my way to Port Fourchon (which is where the survivors were first taken after the incident), I reviewed my Critical Incident Debriefing, Crisis Intervention, and GFSC materials.

I was asked by BP (whose employees were on the oil rig) to stay on the platform/dock with the family members of the survivors to wait for the boat to arrive which carried approximately 99 men. Throughout the six hour period, I made myself available to the family members who wanted or needed to

talk. I met with family members individually and in groups. The GFSC materials were the most helpful when the family members asked questions such as, "Why can't I sleep or eat even though I know my husband made it and is ok?" or "What kind of changes might my dad be going through after something like this?"

Because the GFSC process was so helpful in my own healing after Hurricane Katrina, I continue to use it as I assist in the healing of others."

Kathleen Oqueli McGraw, MPH, MSW, LCSW



"I was one of the lucky ones - my house was safe and all my friends and family are alive. What I did experience was a huge disruption of community. I remember coming back to the city and feeling so touched whenever I saw someone I

knew - how glad I was to know they had survived.

In those early days of uncertainty, GFSC pulled together familiar knowledge in a form that supported my own healing process and allowed me to pass on important tools to others. It was also great to work with colleagues who I have known for years and feel our commitment to each other.

...My most memorable [workshops were] the ones I did at my own workplace. I teach at a university which was heavily flooded during Katrina. It was almost 8 months before we got back on campus, not in buildings, but in trailers. It was in those trailers that faculty groups gathered and I shared some of the GFSC concepts. Most often the comment was, 'Why couldn't we do this earlier?' Months after the storm, many of my colleagues were still not in their homes and were still carrying enormous sadness. As their students suffered, so did these faculty. They needed support so they could, in turn, support their students.

I was saddened to hear of Chile's earthquake. I know that GFSC will provide needed support."

Julianna Padgett





"...the most memorable experience I had with GFSC training was at Tulane when we did it for first responders. One of the participants was a police officer who was in charge of the unit at the Super Dome. It was clear that he had not begun the process of healing [even] after all the time that had passed (perhaps a year out). He wore his trauma valiantly, but had yet to take any time to think about his own needs. He had taken no time off and was still trying to piece together his life and support the officers under his command dealing with their issues, if not his own.

It was at the training that he first expressed some of the feelings he had during that time. My heart went out to him."

Lou Furman



Authors Supporting GFSC



Anywhere and everywhere, people can learn to overcome the most dire circumstances. GFSC is honored and proud to help that process. We hope you want to help, too. Please consider making a contribution to GFSC today.

Thanks to their generous support, the first 50 donors of \$100 or more will receive an autographed book by one of the following authors: Gil Brenson Lazan, Larry Dressler, Izzy Gesell, Mirja Hanson, Sybil Stershic, Chris Roland, Dale Hunter/Stephen Thorpe.

And donors of \$50 or more will receive Izzy Gesell's new pamphlet, *Accentuate the Positive: Changing Negative Self-Talk*.

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*Global Facilitator Service Corps...
helping people build resilient,
self-reliant communities*

Related Materials in GFSC Library

[Bearing the Pain of Others: How to Help the Helpers](#)

Practical suggestions for recognizing and taking care of yourself and others in helping roles

[Working With Groups After A Crisis](#)

Sharing, Processing, Learning. Suggestions for working with people under stress, several weeks after initial rescue/recovery, when the shock and initial reactions wear off and the emotional impact and overwhelming long-term effects begin to sink in.

[Bad Things Happen to Good People](#)

what is important when coping with the painful, but normal, necessary feelings that are part of every crisis and loss.

For more free resources and materials, visit the [GFSC Library](#).

[\[http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/VirtLib.htm\]](http://globalfacilitators.org/VirtLib/VirtLib.htm)



Gratitude/Gracias

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GFSC Advisory Council for their patience, expertise, advice and caring.



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