

# May Newsletter

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## NOLA Children

### Gil Brenson-Lazan

If the first victim of any war or disaster is the truth, the second is the children.

Seven years ago an earthquake in Armenia, Colombia (the finest coffee-growing region in Colombia), killed one thousand people and left 300,000 homeless. Today, an estimated eight thousand children and adolescents suffer from untreated post-traumatic stress disorder which is ruining their lives. The situation is repeating itself on an even greater scale in New Orleans.

*(NOLA Children, continued on page 2)*

## Building Community Capacity

### 1. Continuing DCI workshops in New Orleans

Tulane's University College and the GFSC NOLA Network are conducting **Disaster & Crisis Intervention: Facilitating Psycho-Social Reconstruction**, June 2-3, for invited participants. A July 14-15 workshop is planned as well.

This workshop is geared to people currently engaged in the day-to-day work with the survivors of Katrina and Rita. The workshop will enable participants to work with other professionals, organizations, communities or agencies that have responsibilities in crisis recovery now or in the future. It is not therapy. The workshop is highly experiential and designed for those who are comfortable with participatory training and group facilitation methods.

**University College** is the part-time studies division of **Tulane University**. This program is presented as a community service to promote continuing education and to help strengthen the local economy through knowledge exchange.

### 2. DCI Workshop\* Schedule

Register for any one of the following at <http://globalfacilitars.org>

Once you register additional information on location and accommodations will be sent.

- 12-13 June, Baltimore, MD, scheduled just days before the IAF North American conference so that experienced facilitators can arrange to attend both.
- 7-8 August, Oakland, CA, scheduled just after the NCDD (National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation) conference in San Francisco so attendees can take advantage of both.
- 12-13 September, Chicago, IL, co-sponsored by ICA (Institute for Cultural Affairs) and GFSC.

\* for experienced facilitators who will train other facilitators and professionals who use facilitation in their work

*(Building Community Capacity, continued on page 3)*

*(NOLA Children, continued)*

The CNN-AP report, <http://www.cnn.com/2006/HEALTH/04/25/katrina.schil dren.ap/index.html> states that more than one million children were affected by Katrina and 8% of those children, one hundred thousand, are expected to develop serious symptoms.

NOLA resident and GFSC volunteer, Lou Furman writes, *"Unfortunately, little is being done in the schools from my perspective. Some schools have brought in (programs); I have seen their training manual and it does not resonate with me. But most schools are trying only to survive, to get through the year and cut their 'losses.' Behavior and stress eat away at the kids and exacerbates teachers' trauma."*

This very same situation happens many times throughout the world, when communities face overwhelming disaster.

There is a lot we can do. Brief interventions directed at teachers, facilitating a social learning model, can prevent thousands from suffering greater losses and requiring clinical intervention later on. GFSC mentor-facilitators, have developed workshops for children and for teachers, as well as for parents, to help children understand their reality and work together to strengthen their community. Some of the workshop manuals for children and adults are available at no cost in the [GFSC Virtual Library](#).

The most effective use of these manuals is in conjunction with a face-to-face workshop. We need volunteer professional facilitators to help us meet this challenge. See below for more information on how you might become a qualified, registered GFSC Facilitator-Trainer.

### Get a head start

In addition to attending a GFSC workshop, if you are interested in becoming a qualified, registered GFSC Facilitator-Mentor or Trainer, sign up now for the GFSC Mentored Pathways program. Complete the volunteer form on the GFSC web site and you will receive the Mentored Pathways information. Any questions, contact Gil Brenson-Lazan, Mentored Pathways Coordinator, [mp@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:mp@globalfacilitators.org). And be sure to participate in a GFSC Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop!

### Do Something for Yourself that Will Do So Much for Others

Hot Conference and Kiosk are proud sponsors of GFSC. Operating in more than 119 countries and with 35 years of experience, Kiosk provides our web hosting and a variety of internet tools. Hot Conference provides its industry-leading Web Conferencing Software so we can communicate with our volunteers and local networks throughout the world.

If you host a website and/or would like to reduce your long distance charges and improve communications within your organization, please consider Kiosk and Hot Conference. By signing up using the link on the GFSC web site (<http://www.hotconference.com/GFSC/partners1.php>), 25% of your Kiosk-Hot Conference fees are donated to GFSC. GFSC benefits every month for as long as you are a Kiosk-Hot Conference client.

This is an easy, cost-effective way to improve your communications while supporting GFSC's continuing development of materials and workshops, as well as our Mentored Pathways program, supporting volunteer facilitators worldwide.



G Brenson, New Orleans, Jan.2006

### 2006 GFSC Officers and Board

- Lenny Diamond, President
- Tim Karpoff, Vice President
- Secretary, Marieann Shovlin
- Treasurer, BJ Diamond
- Gil Brenson Lazan, Mentored Pathways Program Coordinator
- Karen Brill, Member at Large
- Parcia Sansary Gomez, Regional Coordinator for Latin America

*Building Community Capacity, continued*

### 3. Request a DCI workshop

We continue to look for opportunities to conduct workshops in other countries/regions. Interested in helping organize a workshop in your area? We've had requests from Europe (United Kingdom and Sweden), Australia, Asia, Ghana and other locations in the Americas. We can put you in touch with other interested facilitators. If you, your agency or organization would like to sponsor, organize or participate in a GFSC DCI workshop, please click

[http://globalfacilitators.org/workshops/workshop\\_request.htm](http://globalfacilitators.org/workshops/workshop_request.htm)



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## Volunteer Job Board

### Current Openings

**Workshop Planner:** experienced in planning and executing workshops and/or training events; responsibilities include working with GFSC leadership to locate venues and sponsors, supervise specific DCI workshop plans and maintain budgets. This can be done on a local or regional basis.

**Database Manager:** experienced in designing and implementing databases (Access or SQL) to manage volunteers and contacts; responsibilities include researching parameters and selecting an efficient collection, storage and retrieval system.

**Database Administrator:** experienced in entering contact information, database maintenance and searches; responsibilities include collecting and reporting contact information and entering it into the GFSC database on a regular basis.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact [sec@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:sec@globalfacilitators.org)

## La Red Global de Facilitadores de Servicio a la Comunidad

The facilitator networks in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic are reactivated! Ecuador is planning a Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop for its local collaborators. La Red-GFSC is helping to organize and will be available to facilitate and support this event. In the Dominican Republic we are having conversations with a group of facilitators who were involved in the last tragedy in Jimaní. This group was previously brought together by Gil Brenson-Lazan, currently the GFSC Mentored Pathways Coordinator. This group wants to extend their activities and learnings, as well as extend the network to locations where there is need.

The network in Colombia continues to develop agreements with authors at the University UTP in Pereira, Colombia to include their materials regarding psycho-social recovery in the Spanish section of the GFSC Virtual Library.

A new network in Baranquilla is ready to start as a training group.

Gil and Parcia are meeting with those interested in GFSC in Madrid, Spain on May 29.

Videoconferences in Spanish are scheduled to fortify bonds among facilitator networks.

**Parcia Sansary Gomez,  
Regional Coordinator  
for Latin America**

[Red-GFSC@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:Red-GFSC@globalfacilitators.org)

***"I've learned that making a "living" is not the same as "making a life."***

Attributed to Maya Angelou

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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please write to Marieann at [sec@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:sec@globalfacilitators.org).