

President's Year-End Report November 2006

Dear Friends,

So, how did GFSC do in 2006?

A year ago, I wrote to you about our upcoming “year of possibilities.” A year that would bring with it a journey filled with many challenges, opportunities to learn from each other and that sweet feeling that comes with a sense of accomplishment. One that we have all felt in our hearts because we have made a contribution towards helping others find a solution or a way to find a more comfortable place on their own journey.

**2006
a year of
possibilities--
a year of
accomplishments!**

I shared with you the possibility of delivering at least four, 2-day Disaster & Crisis Intervention (DCI) Facilitation workshops for experienced facilitators, around the world.

**7 DCI workshops
for more than 100
professionals...**

In 2006, more than 100 professionals participated in DCI Workshops in Phoenix, New Orleans, Baltimore, Oakland, Ottawa, Canada; Pereira, Colombia and Quito, Ecuador, far exceeding our expectations.

There was also the possibility of taking the DCI workshop and model to the local community level.

Through the efforts of community-based networks of volunteer facilitators and other professionals our process for creating local capacity was realized in New Orleans, Oakland, Pereira and Quito. GFSC-trained volunteers worked with first responders, health care and social workers, spiritual leaders, educators and supporting organizations, addressing the personal and social recovery needs of residents and caregivers. In the New Orleans area alone, and with the support of Tulane and Loyola Universities, more than 140 people participated in workshops focused on community needs.

**GFSC-trained
volunteers
worked with 1st
responders,
educators, health
care and social
workers...**

I had also hoped that our workshop alumni would remain connected and support each others' DCI work.

**Mentored
Pathways™ guiding
volunteers who
support
communities...**

The GFSC Mentored Pathways™ Program (MP) has been an effective resource for sustaining relationships, increasing knowledge and sharing experiences, providing guidance for people and organizations that directly support communities. Seven interactive, internet-based MP discussions were held during 2006 in English and in Spanish, enhancing the many ways facilitators can support growth & development in local communities.

The possibility of creating strong, productive alliances for building community capacity seemed like a stretch at the beginning of the year, but we have moved forward with the following initiatives:

GFSC has been invited to present an introduction to GFSC and the Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop at the Australasian Facilitator Conference in late November, exploring the role facilitators can play in individual, family, group, community and organizational recovery following a crisis. This presentation and meetings with representatives of local agencies is in preparation for a series of workshops supporting an Australian Disaster Preparedness Initiative.

GFSC introducing our disaster & crisis intervention model in Australia...

GFSC working with Los Angeles Mayor's Office to kick off the training of 300+ community volunteers...

As a result of our Oakland workshop, GFSC will be working with the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Emergency Preparedness in January 2007 to deliver the DCI workshop to 30 trained volunteers with the commitment to share the tools and techniques learned with at least ten times that number throughout the city. This is another example of the effectiveness and efficiency of our cascade model!

My final hopes were for an increase in the level of financial contributions and active volunteers to support and expand our operations.

We are greatly encouraged by the development of networks in several North American and Latin American cities. Their continued development is a priority for GFSC's growth.

Developing networks of local volunteers...

Your contributions helped us turn possibilities into accomplishments...

We are very grateful for those who have supported us financially. Your contributions subsidize our workshops and Mentored Pathways™ programs. Your donations were critical to all we attempted this year and enabled us to turn possibilities into accomplishments.

Your contribution of \$250, \$100, \$50 or \$25 will enable us to reach more communities in need in 2007.

Click here to donate now:
<http://globalfacilitators.org/donation.html>

Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season.

Lenny Diamond
President