

October Newsletter

What's Inside

Our Guiding Principles

How we wish to function in the global community.

Katrina-Rita-Stan Update

With many requests for materials, training and support, we are organizing and delivering workshops for the mentoring and training of mentors who can support field volunteers in areas affected most directly by these disasters.

Our Guiding Principles

by Karen Brill



These days I'm spending most of my time as a consultant working with a healthcare company in Toronto as they develop their strategic plan and an understanding of how they differentiate themselves from other providers of care. They are at an exciting time of charting the future of their organization and have given some deep thought to who they are, what they will become and what they stand for. This experience has re-sensitized me to the importance of an organization's identity. So it is with this special lens that I have been reflecting on our own identity as the Global Facilitators Service Corps.

As we continue to develop as an organization and expand our network of volunteers, sometimes proactively, sometimes in response to questions we've never thought about before, we need to constantly check in with our Guiding Principles. These form our touchstone for our decision-making and how we will "show up" in the communities we serve.

This is also an important way to get to know us as an organization. So before I break out into song,

"Getting to know you, getting to know all about you ..." here is what we are about; brought to you by our Guiding Principles.

Sustainability

taking care of the present without compromising the future, so that the communities we serve can continue to implement effective strategies to meet future challenges.

It is our fundamental belief that our work needs to continue long after our service has been delivered. Our choice to work through local volunteer networks is a different approach. We do not swoop in and save the day. We offer on-line and/or telephone training and support to people who are in affected areas or developing communities.

Building Capacity

increasing volunteer and community expertise, knowledge, and competency in processes and methods for group development.

We build capacity in facilitation skills and group process. Our volunteers are mentored in the trans-cultural stages of disaster and crisis intervention, critical incident debriefing, and strategic questioning. They are supported in their efforts to engage individuals and groups in a process of building or rebuilding depending on the needs of their community.

Participation

applying methods that stimulate the unique contribution of each member of the group and optimize the motivation to contribute.

As members of this great community and practice of facilitation, we have a deep commitment to participation with and through our volunteers. For healing and reconstruction to take place we believe that all voices are important and must be heard as we work to create sustainable solutions for self-reliant communities.

Serving Communities in Need

directly benefiting communities and the

organizations that serve them (e.g., non-profits, NGOs, governmental organizations, and other community groups), even if they lack sufficient resources to pay for these services.

GFSC volunteers provide training and mentoring to any group, organization or community in need. We do not focus our services on those groups who have the means to bring in trained professionals. We have many materials and resources on our web site that are available to the general public. In that way, we can offer some of our expertise to all.

Local Network Structure

encouraging, enabling and supporting the development of local volunteer networks around the world to identify and meet needs in their own communities.

We are convinced that our structure of Local Volunteer Networks (LVN) promotes self-determination as it builds local strengths. Our LVN's have representation on our Board and are often the voice of our customer.

Neutrality

maintaining neutrality in all our work is essential. We have no political or religious agenda.

Our approach, materials, and leadership do not espouse party politics or any particular religious belief. This neutrality is basic to the dynamic of facilitation. GFSC has no political or religious affiliations with the communities we serve. GFSC volunteers may partner with faith-based groups when we can support their efforts in community building. Communication of their philosophy or doctrine is never a part of our materials or programs.

Altruism

providing opportunities for our volunteers to participate in fulfilling opportunities to improve the quality of community life.

GFSC volunteers share their professional skills for the benefit of others. We understand that with encouragement guidance and learning, each community has the resources to develop their own strengths. By participating in GFSC, our facilitators truly serve communities around the world.

The GFSC Guiding Principles communicate how we wish to function in our global community. They are decision making tools that inform and direct our work. While they don't always provide immediate answers, they do offer a structure for on-going conversations about what's important now.

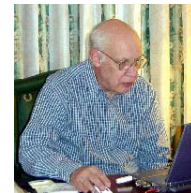
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Virtual Mentoring

For those of you with functioning internet connections, our Virtual Mentoring services on our Hot Conference platform may well be helpful as a virtual gathering place to regroup, share concerns and explore options. Visit the [GFSC website](#) for more information

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President's Message



Gilbert Brenson-Lazan

With many requests for materials, training and support, we are temporarily suspending the Mentored Pathways study program while we organize and deliver workshops to train mentors who can support field volunteers in areas affected most directly by these disasters.

The first DCI Trainers Workshop will be held in Atlanta, GA on 7-8 November 2005. Experienced facilitators who have signed up as GFSC volunteers (form on GFSC web site) and who are working with or are planning to work with communities, organizations and groups coping with the aftermath of the recent hurricanes are the focus of this workshop.

Skilled facilitators may prove invaluable as people begin to deal with rebuilding infrastructure and sense of community. Questions about accessing and allocating often limited resources and how to prioritize needs and create both short and long-term solutions are paramount.



Through the development and support of local networks of volunteer facilitators worldwide, Global Facilitator Service Corps helps build the capacity of communities to work through their challenges and create sustainable solutions.

October 2005

Page 3

If you are currently working with or have knowledge of organizations in need of facilitator assistance, or if you need the resources and support of GFSC to continue your work in these areas, please contact us at info@globalfacilitators.org.

Warm regards,

Gil

For those who are interested in supporting groups that are local to the New Orleans and Gulf area, one place to get started is the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF), which can be reached at <http://www.gnof.org>. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation, <http://www.braf.org>, also is involved in relief, and accepts donations for the GNOF.

Charity Navigator (<http://www.charitynavigator.org>) offers a searchable database of organizations by region, as well as articles about organizations involved in hurricane relief, including "Protecting Yourself From Hurricane Katrina Online Scams" and "Acting Locally: In the Wake of Katrina, What You Can Do in Your Community."

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Many, many thanks

We are extremely grateful to our most recent contributors: Bill Hancy, Marieann Shovlin, Virginia Morrison and Gail West. Many, many thanks for your support.

Your donations help pay volunteers' expenses, workshop costs as well as the distribution of materials. We appreciate all contributions. You can safely donate online at: <http://globalfacilitators.org/donation.html>.

Or you can mail a check to **GFSC**, c/o Lenny Diamond, Treasurer, 11 Sequin Road, West Hartford, CT 06117 USA.