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Next Disaster & Crisis Intervention Facilitator Training Workshop*

- **30-31 October, Ottawa, ON Canada, co-sponsored by GFSC and Your Leadership Works.** Register at <http://globalfacilitators.org>

* For experienced facilitators who will train other professionals and community service personnel.

We are putting together our workshop schedule for 2007. 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

September is National Preparedness Month— What is our Response-Ability?

By Karen Trader-Leigh

Editorial reprinted from the Manassas Journal/Potomac News, 1 September 2006

The commemoration of Katrina, should not only be a time of reflection and renewed commitment to help the victims, but an opportunity to ask ourselves about our community level of preparedness to respond to a crisis. This means not only looking at institutional emergency response capacity but includes individual and community readiness and the ability to respond to the social recuperation needs of people during and after a crisis. Much of the crisis and disaster planning, and training that occurs seems to limit its focus to physical mitigation, prevention and effects (See *8 Steps to Recovery—Commonwealth of VA Dept of Emergency Management* website). Not enough attention is given to the personal and social aspects of such profoundly traumatic events.

After 9-11, the Prince William County Health District participated in group discussions with community residents as part of a national study on terrorism preparedness planning (*Redefining Readiness: Center for the Advancement of Collaborative Strategies in Health, NYC, 2004*).

That study found that official plans would be far less than effective than planners want and the public deserves, because they have not taken in to consideration the actual behaviors of people during a crisis, nor had much work occurred with community residents directly to benefit from their insights about their needs and issues in responding to emergency situations. This means that community residents need a participative voice in developing protection (protective) strategies, and our planners need to know better how to engage them in meaningful ways in order to make sure they address the issues the public worries about. Otherwise the public may not be responsive to nor trust information and directives

provided by government officials. Certainly there are many lessons from Katrina with respect to trust, shortfalls in planning, and shortfalls in meeting fundamental needs during the crisis as well as in the journey to crisis recovery.

In addition to engaging the community, training preparedness to facilitate psychosocial reconstruction is vital. Perhaps more has occurred since the referenced study, but I as a participant in the process and citizen have not heard of those actions. Volunteer organizations like Global Facilitation Service Corps, are available to work with professionals and communities in developing intervention facilitation skills and building community capacity to work through the challenges of recuperation and survival in the aftermath of disaster. We must strengthen our **response-ability** among communities of citizens ensuring that they are informed and involved in preparedness and in reconstruction.

Karen Trader-Leigh, EdD is a specialist in Organization Development, the management of change and cross-cultural work with experience in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and a GFSC volunteer. She attended the GFSC Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop for experienced facilitators this past June in Baltimore.

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Building Community Preparedness Before Disaster Strikes

By Marieann Shovlin

On August 7 & 8, GFSC and co sponsors, the Center for Strategic Facilitation, Community at Work and Facilitator U hosted the GFSC Disaster & Crisis Intervention Workshop: Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance in Oakland, CA.



Aug., 2006, Oakland, CA GFSC DCI workshop

Facilitated by Gil Brenson-Lazan, Tim Karpoff and Ted Quant, 30 experienced professional facilitators had an intense experience as they went through the grief cycle and grief management exercises focused on community disaster. They reviewed models of crisis and change, identified & applied resilience strategies that support groups & individuals, looked at the importance of caring for caregivers. They began to develop their action plans to share their learning in their communities.



Aug. 2006, Oakland, CA, GFSC DCI Workshop – One hand doesn't know what the other is doing!

Among the participants were representative from the Environmental Protection Agency, City of Los Angeles Dispute Resolution Program, Community at Work, Center for Strategic Facilitation, Facilitator U, Fabulous Facilitators, University of California Santa Cruz, Facilitate.com, University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs, Association for Dispute Resolution for Northern California, Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations, Institute on the Common Good, Arizona State University, Edgewood Center for Children & Families, and the Alameda County Public Health Department.

As part of our GFSC workshops, each participant is asked to make a commitment to teach the model and methods to a group in their communities so that the knowledge and skills cascade and spread, building community resilience and self-reliance. Some of these participants are making arrangements to deliver workshops in their communities, others are committed to working in multiple areas related to community self-reliance.

This workshop generated increasing interest and requests for additional sessions in California.

Mentored Pathways™

In the last few months, dozens of participants from twelve countries have participated in our monthly Mentored Pathways™ (MP) Virtual Conferences. We have discussed subjects such as the *GFSC Intervention Model*; *Use of the GFSC Psychosocial Recuperation Model*; the *Conflict De-Escalation Model*; and the *Transcultural Critical Incident Debriefing Model*.

Our Virtual Conferences are open to all registered GFSC Volunteers who are actively participating in the Mentored Pathways™ Program and who have completed the MP Basic Orientation Readings and the Strengths Self-Evaluation.

You can sign up for Mentored Pathways™ by completing the volunteer form on the GFSC web site. You will then receive the Mentored Pathways information.

Mentored Pathways™ is also an integral part of the preparation for becoming a GFSC workshop facilitator-trainer or mentor, along with participation in one of the GFSC workshops.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Gil Brenson-Lazan,
Mentored Pathways Coordinator,
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New Orleans (NOLA) Network Continues to Build Community Capacity

- ♦ The next workshop for the NOLA community (October 27-28) is focused on healthcare and hospital workers. The workshop on November 10-11 is focused on first responders. Tentatively scheduled for January 2007 is a workshop (in conjunction with Teacher Corps) directed toward the needs of teachers and other educators.
- ♦ To date 8 local facilitators have conducted 6 workshops for approximately 70 people who are actively engaged in building community capacity locally (NOLA) and in Austin, Texas for Katrina Diaspora residents.
- ♦ The local Facilitator Network was selected to help plan and facilitate the beginnings of the

Unified New Orleans Plan. Several of the local facilitators are now working directly with the neighborhoods and professional urban planning teams in neighborhood infrastructure planning projects

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News from Latin America

The 19 20 of August in the city of Quito, Ecuador, Gilberto Brenson and Parcia Sansary facilitated the GFSC workshop, ***Facilitating Processes in Disaster & Crisis Intervention***, (in Spanish) for those interested in volunteering to lead similar workshop in Ecuador.

This workshop is focused on enhancing the GFSC Network in Latin America, by develop the local capacity in our communities to face their challenges, particularly in response to crisis caused by the continuing eruption of the Tungurahua volcano.

Many facilitators who had hoped to attend were not able to travel due to the blockages caused by the volcano. Those who were able to attend will be working with others in their communities, sharing the tools and techniques they learned. Hopefully another workshop will be scheduled in the near future to address the continuing needs of this area.

Parcia Sansary Gomez
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2006 GFSC Board

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

Common Goals

While in Baltimore, we were fortunate to have visited the **American Visionary Art Museum**. Their Educational Goals have much in common with our goals:

1. Expand the definition of a worthwhile life.
2. Engender respect for and delight in the gifts of others.
3. Increase awareness of the wide variety of choices available in life for all, particularly students.
4. Encourage each individual to build upon his or her own special knowledge and inner strengths.
5. Promote the use of innate intelligence, intuition, self-exploration, and creative self-reliance.
6. Confirm the great hunger for finding out just what each of us can do best, in our own voice, at any age.
7. Empower the individual to choose to do that something really, really well.



Gil Brenson-Lazan accepting donation to GFSC from Cookie Murphy, Pettie, on behalf of Bay Area Facilitators Guild.

Improve Your Communications

Here is an easy, cost-effective way to improve your communications while supporting GFSC and our volunteer facilitators worldwide.

If you host a website and/or would like to reduce your long distance charges and improve communications within your organization, 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.

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 throughout the world.

Volunteer Job Board

Event Planner: experienced in planning and managing workshops and/or training events; responsibilities include working with GFSC leadership to locate venues and sponsors, supervise specific DCI workshop plans, printing & shipping materials, maintain budgets, registrations. This can be done for single, local workshops or for multiple workshops in various locations.

Database Manager: experienced in designing and implementing SQL databases to manage volunteers and contacts; responsibilities include researching parameters and selecting an efficient collection, storage and retrieval system. Coordinating with web server to upload and test.

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

GFSC Newsletter Staff

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