

# May News

## Contents

**Train-the-Trainer Workshops in Australia**  
**Workshops in Austin, TX**  
**NOLA Network News**  
**Community Health Council of Los Angeles**  
**GFSC Volunteers**  
**Meet BJ**  
**Interested in DCI Train-the-Trainer Workshop?**  
**Improve Your Website and Help GFSC Too!**  
**Sharing GFSC Materials**

## GFSC Workshop in Austin, TX

The United Way Capital Area in Austin, TX has secured funding for a GFSC Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop for experienced facilitators in the Austin area. Twenty-five facilitators are registered for this May 1-2 workshop. Participants are committed to replicating the workshop for Central TX area agencies, at no charge, at least once during the next 12 months. Best of all, the United Way is funding continued mentoring of these volunteers' workshop delivery skills during the year.

This workshop will be led by the dedicated and energetic Erness Wright-Irvin, Jean Watts and Wayne Wallace, from the GFSC NOLA Network. They have delivered several GFSC workshops in both the New Orleans area as well as in the Austin area for displaced Katrina survivors. Their experience and insights are tremendous assets.

We are grateful and proud to have Erness, Jean and Wayne representing GFSC, fulfilling our mission and sharing our vision. Thank you!!!

*"This is exciting:  
the NOLA  
Network is  
spreading all  
over the  
Southwest!!!  
More power to  
Jean, Erness and  
to the Network!!!  
It works for  
everybody!"*

Michael Kane



**To all our Aussie Friends**  
**Australia workshops:**  
**28-29 May and**  
**31 May-1 June 2007**  
**Melbourne**

**Facilitative Disaster & Crisis**  
**Intervention Workshop for**  
**experienced facilitators**

## Just a few places still open!

If you are interested in participating in one of these workshops and subsequently volunteering to bring these tools and techniques back to your community, agency or organization, click [here](#) to register or contact Viv McWaters, [viv@thereef.com.au](mailto:viv@thereef.com.au).



*We look forward to telling our readers how you are building community resilience and self-reliance within your community, agency or organization. Write to us at [Editor, GFSC News](#) to share your work!*

## NOLA Network\* News

By Nell Bolton

The most recent GFSC workshop in the New Orleans area was held on April 20-21 for first responders who serve in several different law enforcement and public health and safety agencies.

The tone was intimate, deeply personal, and honest as the participants began to share their Katrina stories. They found common threads in their experiences that helped to develop mutual rapport and a sense of camaraderie that built over the next two days. While grappling with the notion of secondary crisis in the midst of an ongoing series of traumatic events, the group demonstrated remarkable resilience and humor:

- ◆ Participants feel better-prepared to recognize ineffective strategies used by their personnel, and can now identify appropriate support
- ◆ Participants plan to conduct mini-training sessions in their units
- ◆ Participants feel ready to help others perceive and grasp the opportunities in the midst of crisis.

GFSC NOLA Network is teaming up with the Law Enforcement Professionals Association (LEPA) for the next Tulane Elmwood campus, GFSC workshop, July 20-21, 2007.

*\*The NOLA Network is composed of individual practicing facilitators, the Loyola University Twomey Center; the Southern University School of Social Work; Tulane School of Continuing Studies; Facilitative Leader Institute; and Turning Point Partners, with assistance from Shell Exploration and Production.*

\* \* \*

### **Community Health Council of Los Angeles**

While most requests over the past few years have been for GFSC's workshops in Facilitative Disaster and Crisis Intervention, this is not the only path to our helping communities build community resilience and self-reliance. GFSC recently completed a Needs Assessment with the Community Health Council (CHC) of Los Angeles, which primarily focuses on three the expansion and improvement of quality health care coverage; access to and delivery of quality healthcare; and community health (wellness and preventive care). Increasingly, their focus is turning to the public/private disinvestment in South Los Angeles as indicated by the exodus of food retailers, medical services and many of the community assets that support healthy living.

GFSC is working closely with the staff and management of this agency to prioritize and address several areas of staff and community skill development. Several facilitators who participated in our January 2007 workshop for the Mayor's Office of Emergency Preparedness, will be working with GFSC and CHC. Yet another example of how we can continue to share needed skills and techniques in our communities.

### **GFSC Volunteers**

We are in the process of revising our volunteer sign up form to better meet our needs and capture your experience in different areas of community facilitation. If you are on our volunteer list, please watch for an email note to revisit the volunteer sign up page on the GFSC web site.

GFSC seeks volunteer facilitators who wish to serve their communities and support GFSC in various ways. In addition to facilitating workshops, GFSC also needs volunteers who can work behind the scenes to coordinate workshops, manage databases, research and write grants, coordinate financial support from corporations and foundations.

If you *wish* to become a *facilitator*, but do not have any training or experience as such, please contact us for other organizations we can recommend.

One of the unique characteristics we seek in our volunteers is the "self-starter" quality. Our most active volunteers see a need in their communities and have the time and energy to work with us to meet that need, often beginning with coordinating a GFSC workshop there. Other active volunteers contribute their expertise in marketing, fund-raising, and data management.

Especially because we are a small (governing) organization with big dreams, we need people who can continue the momentum to attract and inspire others. Our New Orleans (NOLA network) and the GFSC volunteers there are a perfect example of how the GFSC vision can spread throughout a region.

If you'd like to help GFSC continue to build community resilience and self-reliance, as we are doing in New Orleans, Los Angeles and Australia, click on our [donation page](#) or mail a check to

GFSC  
11 Sequin Road  
West Hartford, CT 06117

***Share this newsletter with a friend!***

### Meet BJ...

To date, GFSC has been functioning and growing under the leadership and dedication of a small group who volunteer their time as the Board of Directors. One of our 2007 goals was to hire an Executive Director to run daily GFSC operations. While we will always be volunteer-driven, our vitality and expansion depends on raising enough money to hire staff to expand and administer our programs. BJ Diamond, one of our founding members, is our first (part time) Executive Director. She was instrumental in the research and creation of GFSC, as well as playing a continuing role in organization development, communications, workshop coordination, materials and project development. You can reach BJ at [info@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org).



\* \* \*

### Improve Your Website & Help GFSC Too!

Here's an easy, cost-effective way to improve your communications and support GFSC programs at the same time. 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 have 35 years of experience, operating in more than 119 countries. They host our website and provide a variety of internet tools. With Hot Conference we can communicate with our volunteers throughout the world.

If you host a website, want to reduce your long distance phone charges and/or improve communications consider Kiosk and Hot Conference.

#### Newsletter Information

Editor: BJ Diamond  
 Translation English-Spanish: Ximena Combariza  
 To subscribe to our monthly newsletter, submit news or letters to the Editor, click [Editor, GFSC News](#)  
 We are looking for updates from Latin America. Please send your news to Parcia, [red-gfsc@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:red-gfsc@globalfacilitators.org).

### Interested in a DCI Train-the-Trainer Workshop?

We have received several requests for DCI Train-the-Trainer workshops for experienced facilitators in the San Francisco, CA; Houston, TX and Atlanta, GA areas.

If you are interested in participating in one of these, please send an email to

<b>To:</b>	<b>For:</b>
Julia Young at <a href="mailto:Julia.Young@Facilitate.com">Julia.Young@Facilitate.com</a>	San Francisco, CA
David Johnson at <a href="mailto:davidjohnsonshell@yahoo.com">davidjohnsonshell@yahoo.com</a>	Houston, TX
BJ at <a href="mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org">info@globalfacilitators.org</a> .	Atlanta, GA

\* \* \*

### Sharing GFSC Materials

We continue develop new materials, as well as refine our existing materials. We want to know about and share how our materials are being used. So, if you are using or planning to use GFSC materials, be sure to complete and send us the [permission request form](#). If you are getting paid for your work (i.e., for profit), then you pay a token fee back to GFSC to support the organization. If you are not getting paid (i.e., you are volunteering your time), you do not have to pay the Use of Materials fee to GFSC. In either case, please complete the permission to use GFSC materials form. Thanks!



#### 2007 GFSC Board

President: Lenny Diamond  
 Vice President: Tim Karpoff  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Marieann Shovlin  
 Latin America Coordinator: Parcia Sansary Gomez  
 Mentored Pathways Program Coordinator:  
 Gil Brenson-Lazan  
 Executive Director: BJ Diamond