

September News

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2008 Strategic Plan Update

The GFSC Board spent an intense 2 days evaluating this past year and planning for next year. Our goals for 2007-08:

- 1) **Collaboratively create dynamic relationships** by stimulating multipoint sharing & learning among GFSC volunteers, supporters, networks & communities
- 2) **Improve the GFSC program delivery System** including workshops, materials, mentoring, consulting, program development, volunteer registration and communications
- 3) **Create a sustainable & resilient business structure** addressing our business plan, administrative functions and processes, fund raising and Board development.

With these 3 goals we hope to become a nexus of sharing learning regularly, interactively and creatively:

- Adapting our cascade model (and "Ripples") to local culture and needs
- Encouraging local groups to exchange strategies and techniques which have been successful, with other GFSC volunteers and with other communities
- Assuring product & service integrity
- Improving our attractiveness and service to our volunteers



**GFSC Board of Directors
at our Strategic Planning Meeting**

Front (left to right): Parcia Sansary Gomez, Martha & Tim Karpoff (our hosts), Back: Gil Brenson-Lazan, BJ & Lenny Diamond, Marieann Shovlin

We are exploring several new ways to communicate with our volunteers and supporters. We are also developing new materials to enhance our volunteers' expertise.

We will be focusing more efforts to secure sponsorships, grants and corporate funding so that we can reach more communities all over the world.

We hope to schedule at least 4 "open" workshops on Disaster & Crisis Intervention Techniques for volunteers who will bring these tools for building resilience and self-reliance to their communities around the world. We are planning workshops in North America (Atlanta, GA, April, 2008; Austin, TX, October 2008), Latin America, Australia and Asia. We are scheduling only a few workshops so that we can respond to specific requests from other locations and organizations.

*"Be the change you wish
to see in the world."*

~Gandhi

~~~ RIPPLES ~~~

**NOLA Network\* News**

*\*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 Leadership Institute; and Turning Point Partners, with assistance from Shell Exploration and Production.*

Ted Quant and Mike Kane will conduct a Disaster & Crisis Intervention workshop, October 19-20 at the Elmwood campus of Tulane University. It is open to teachers, nonprofit administrators, counselors, social workers and members of other helping professions.



**From Latin America...**

**Sharing is in Our Nature**

By Parcia Sansary Gomez

Often when seeing the news or when finding out about disastrous and crisis situations that affect other people, our natural instinct is to want to help, to share and hopefully mitigate the tragedy. And often it raises the questions: How we can contribute something to alleviate the suffering of the affected ones? What can we do?

There are many different alternatives. Most of the time we think only of sending economic aid or of donating some of the things we have accumulated in our garages or cellars. This is good, but we can do so much more.

Many activities planned to aid the survivors of the earthquake in Peru have come to my attention. This week I received an invitation to combine a social encounter with humanitarian aid! There will be a "fiesta" at a local restaurant that will send the proceeds to aid organizations in Peru.

GFSC has designed a series of culturally appropriate facilitation and mentoring processes, so that communities and the organizations can help themselves as well as contribute to the professional development of the community, organization leaders and GFSC volunteers.

In Latin America, local networks of GFSC volunteers are the foundation of our organization. By means of the Local Coordinators, we support and mentor the development of sustainable networks, offering collaboration and expertise in the design and implementation of strategies and projects

Currently, in "la red-GFSC" we are coordinating efforts and joint operations of others interested in helping in the psycho-social recovery in Peru and elsewhere. Several facilitators in Texas with experience in Latin America are interested in supporting workshops on psycho-social recovery with local organizations in Peru.

Other active facilitators in "la red-GFSC" are ready to assist local communities to develop their capacities in a social recovery process. Right now, while recovery is focused on providing safety and security, we are working on our logistics for workshops in the near future.

What you want to do? Click this link for some options...

[http://www.globalfacilitators.org/esp\\_index.htm](http://www.globalfacilitators.org/esp_index.htm)



**You Can Create Ripples, Too!**

What are your experiences with actual crises, chronic community trauma or disaster? Where do you think preparation is important in your community? Our work with the Disaster Preparedness Unit and the Community Health Councils in Los Angeles and multiple organizations in New Orleans are helping these organizations in their crises. Let us know where you see GFSC can provide support. Contact BJ, [info@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org) or Marieann, [sec@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:sec@globalfacilitators.org).

We look forward to sharing more examples of how you are building community resilience and self-reliance within your community, agency or organization. Write to us at Editor, GFSC News.

## Help GFSC

You can help GFSC continue to build local community capacity, as we are in New Orleans, Los Angeles and Australia.\* Click on our donation page or mail a check to  
GFSC  
c/o BJ Diamond  
11 Sequin Road  
West Hartford, CT 06117

*\* Your donations offset program and workshop costs, volunteers' expenses as well as the cost of development and distribution of materials.*

\* \* \*

There are many ways to support GFSC and your communities. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with database management, web support, workshop and meeting planning, etc. as well as training GFSC Workshop Facilitator-Trainers and Mentors.

If you are interested, please contact us at [info@globalfacilitators.org](mailto:info@globalfacilitators.org) or register as a volunteer at the GFSC website: [www.globalfacilitators.org](http://www.globalfacilitators.org). Be sure to indicate how you would like to apply your particular interests and skills to serve with GFSC.

\* \* \*

## Improve Your Website

Hot Conference and Kiosk host our website and provide a variety of internet tools. With Hot Conference we can communicate with our volunteers throughout the world. They have 35 years of experience, operating in more than 119 countries.

If you host a website, want to reduce your long distance phone charges and/or improve communications consider Kiosk and Hot Conference. For more information or to sign up, click the link on the GFSC web site (<http://www.hotconference.com/GFSC/partners1.php>), and 25% of your Kiosk-Hot Conference fees will be donated to GFSC.

## Sharing GFSC Materials

GFSC offers materials to the public in our Virtual Library. We also publish a monthly e-newsletter and provide e-conference rooms for worldwide communications. We invite our volunteers to participate in continuous learning and sharing through our Mentored Pathways™ program.

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 a token fee is paid 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!

\* \* \*

## Other Organizations' Events

### Australia/Asia:

Australasian Facilitator Network & the International Association of Facilitators (IAF)

[28 - 30 November, 2007, Adelaide, S. Australia](#)

IAF Asia

27 - 28 August 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

### Africa

IAF Africa "Imbizo"

24 - 25 July 2008, Pilanesburg, South Africa

### Europe

IAF Europe

[5 - 7 October 2007, Edinburgh, Scotland](#)

### North America:

IAF North America

[10 - 12 April 2008, Atlanta, Georgia](#)

National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD)

[3-5 October 2008, Austin Texas](#)

***Share our newsletter with a friend!***

Please check our partner organizations offering learning opportunities:

Center for Strategic Facilitation,  
<http://www.strategicfacilitation.com/>

Community at Work,  
<http://www.communityatwork.com/>

Facilitator U., <http://www.facilitatoru.com/>

Amauta International, <http://amauta-international.com/>



### ***Gratitude/Gracias***

Our thanks to Ximena Combariza for translating our newsletter from English to Spanish.

Our thanks to Peggy Bushee Services for administrative support!

#### **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