Reynolds Fellows Aiding in Haiti Relief Efforts

New York, January 25, 2010 – Two 2009 NYU Catherine B Reynolds Fellows, Courtney Montague, (Executive Director of The Global Volunteer Network Foundation (GVNF)), and Alexandre Carvalho (physician), are assisting with the mobilization of an advance assessment team to Haiti.

Carvalho is flying to Haiti today to provide medical support for the assessment team and assist in the development a future Health and Sanitation Volunteer Program. Courtney Montague will lead teams to Haiti in the coming months to facilitate the reconstruction of Haiti based on the recommendations of the assessment team. One volunteer team will likely include NYU Reynolds and NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service students.

The specialist advanced team is headed by Nadine McNeil (GVN Foundation Director) who has over 20 years of extensive experience working in the UN, including a three year assignment in Indonesia following the 2004 tsunami. After landing the team will make its way to Delmas, outside of Port au Prince. There they will connect with Partners in Health, Food for the Poor, the Haitian Office of Disaster Preparedness and Relief, and Haven- All NGO’s/Agencies currently working on the ground in Haiti.

Once the team has established volunteer opportunities on the ground, GVN Foundation and its partner, Global Volunteer Network, will work to mobilize teams of volunteers to go to Haiti. The Founder and President of Global Volunteer Network Colin Salisbury recently said, “We have over 1,500 volunteers ready and waiting to assist in Haiti. GVN and GVN Foundation are committed to helping Haitians rebuild their country.”

For additional information about the Global Volunteer Network Foundation, and their Haiti relief/volunteer efforts please visit http://www.globalvolunteernetwork.org/haiti/

For additional information about the Catherine B Reynolds Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship. please visit.

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Lauren McMahon
GVN Haitian Relief Assessment Team Profiles

Nadine McNeil – Team Lead/Project Coordinator/External Liaison

Nadine McNeil, Jamaican author and global humanitarian, has extensive experience working for the United Nations in a variety of operational roles, primarily within the scope of emergency response and logistics.

Nadine McNeil joined the UN family back in 1986, at UN Headquarters in New York. Her first overseas assignment in 1991, 13 days after Operation Desert Storm, took her to Iraq and Kuwait as part of UN peacekeeping operations activities there. She remained in the region for close to seven years, working with various UN agencies involved in disarming Iraq from weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The next step on her path – joining the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) based in The Hague, the Netherlands in 1997 – seemed a natural progression. This organization responsible for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention was the first of its kind – dealing with countries that produced stored, stockpiled or destroyed chemical weapons. As Logistics and Operations Officer there, she oversaw the co-ordination and dispatch of close to 300 mission assignments across the world. Also during her assignment with the OPCW she worked as Media and Public Affairs Officer at a critical time vis-à-vis the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. She was able to be part of a team responsible for an extensive media campaign that resulted in the Organization enjoying an unprecedented growth rate of 65% of countries acceding to the Convention.

McNeil returned to the UN world of peacekeeping in 2005 when she was posted to the United Nations Mission in Sudan, in the capacity of Operations and Planning Officer. Not long after being there, she was approached to join UNICEF in Indonesia as Logistics and Emergency Response Specialist after the 2004 tsunami where several hundreds of thousands lost their lives.

Driven to play a more ‘humane’ role in the world of conflict resolution, In June 2008 upon completing her 3-year assignment there, she chose to step away from the UN system to pursue her path of yoga, writing and weaving these two passions into her humanitarian work. In addition to working in inner-city communities in Jamaica, her work also brought her to join
Global Volunteer Network (GVN) based in New Zealand. One of the most successful and rapidly growing NGOs today, GVN has managed to place thousands of volunteers primarily in South America and Africa, working in villages and helping to set up orphanages as one example of their scope of work.

**Danica Anderson – Psycho-Social and Trauma Expert**

The Kolo: Women’s Cross Cultural Collaboration (The Kolo: WCCC) was founded a decade ago by Danica Borkovich Anderson. Anderson is a Certified Clinical Criminal Justice Specialist (Forensic Psychotherapist) & a Fellow in the Academy of Trauma Experts & a Nationally Certified Masters in Psychology- Psychologist. She initially began her Kolo work with Bosnian Muslim women war crimes survivors when she traveled to Novi Travnik, Bosnia in March 1999 just prior to NATO-sanctioned air strikes against Serbian forces by the United States military. She continues to develop this unique training/treatment for immediate response in disaster/crisis/violence zones that has expanded to other parts of the world including Uganda, Sudan, Chad, The Congo, Sri Lanka and India.

In 2007-8 Danica Anderson worked for the UN World Food Program, the largest humanitarian force on the planet as the staff counselor for the entire organization, of nearly 4,000 people. The Kolo: WCCC presence provides the trauma/crisis treatment, training and disaster relief along with a response protocol to deal with catastrophic trauma events with collaborating women internationally.

**Lawrence Pomillio – HIV/AIDS & Logistics Specialist**

Lawrence F. Pomilio’s background spans a wide variety of fields, including the Zen and martial arts, philosophy, psychology, education, counseling and consulting. He taught Zen and martial arts, researching their spiritual and cultural influence on society and psychology.

He developed HIV/AIDS and substance abuse therapeutic programs and provided counseling services for the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services. He also has developed HIV/AIDS education and counseling programs and taught at the University of Miami, Florida International University; Barry University, Miami-Dade College; and Florida Memorial University. He continues to provide training to medical, psychological and social-service professionals.

Lawrence presented one of the first HIV/AIDS conferences to the Chinese Ministry of Health, at the Capital University of Medical Sciences, Beijing, in 2001, helping China develop initial protocols in prevention, treatment and counseling. He has consulted with governmental, non-governmental and community-based organizations in South Florida, and has written and lectured
nationally and internationally on HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, domestic violence, comprehensive provision of social services and comparative philosophy and religion

**Steve Kalenich – Logistics Support & Security**

Steve is a retired former president and owner of a construction related business in south Florida which employed 80 individuals, and operated a fleet of 50 vehicles, with $15,000,000 in annual sales. Steve has extensive experience with disaster relief, including during Hurricane Andrew, where he used his highly developed construction, logistical and communication skills. He is proficient in the repair and operation of land, air and sea vehicles. Steve has performed previous volunteer work in Mexico, Jamaica and Peru.

**Joseph Fons – IT, Health & Safety/Emergency Response Specialist**

Joe is a Spanish/US Citizen with over 12 years of experience in planning tasks and in the coordination of various logistical arrangements and schedules in the international demilitarization field. He holds a Telecommunications Engineering degree. A good communicator and team player who works well on own initiative to deliver results and meet deadlines in high pressure environments.

**Chuk Cameron – IT & Communication Outreach**

Chuk is a Jamaican national, practicing law for over a decade. He is an attorney of 11 years standing with a Masters in Information Technology and Management for Lawyers. During his tenure as a lawyer, Chuck was legal counsel for Cable & Wireless Jamaica, responsible for broadband and sponsorship, where he participated in the successful rollout of broadband in Jamaica.

In addition to his law career, he operates and manages his own TV channel, and has operated his own web casting company for 2 years where he streamed live concerts. Chuk is an active member of the Optimist Club of Mona (Charter President).

**Alexandre Carvalho – Physician**

Alexandre is pursuing his MPH at NYU’s Master’s Program in Global Public Health, where he is a Catherine B Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship (http://www.nyu.edu/reynolds/index.flash.html). Alexandre is acquiring the tools needed to effect major change in health efforts throughout the developing world. He attended medical
school of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 2002, after a national – and very competitive – selection process.

During his community and family health internship in Piraí – Rio de Janeiro, Alexandre devised his most recent health promotion/disease prevention project, called “Lights, Camera and… Health in Action!” “Lights, Camera, and...Health in Action!” aims to challenge the traditional and apparently ineffective approach of mainstream health education, which is based on lectures to disease groups. The project is founded on profound community-involvement and multidisciplinary values, and its goal is to empower a group of locals to not only diffuse health information among their neighbors as lay references, but also to master the skills needed to write a script, shoot, act, edit, direct, and distribute the community-made films.

Andrea Suica – PR & Communications

Based in San Francisco, CA, Andrea Suica balances a corporate career, with almost 15 years in leadership positions for major corporations, with an active humanitarian role in her local community, and abroad. Corporate leadership roles across Philip Morris USA, PepsiCo and currently Del Monte Foods, have enabled her to refine her highly developed communication skills, which she applies to her ongoing humanitarian work.

Andrea has taken an active role in the growing anti-trafficking movement, through local involvement with organizations such as “Stop Child Trafficking Now,” and most recently, by partnering with GVN Foundation to develop their Anti-Trafficking Fund, scheduled to go live in 2010. Andrea recently travelled to Northern Thailand to work with sexually exploited women in a safe house, and gain on the ground insight into the scope of the growing issue.

International and local outreach has not only been focused around anti-sex trafficking issues, but also around at-risk youth. In 2008, Andrea travelled to Northern Romania to work in an at-risk orphanage. Locally, she is actively involved with the support and mentorship of at-risk youth in the juvenile hall system. In her role, she supports the rehab of an at-risk youth through the reinforcement of self control, self awareness and self discipline through the philosophy of yoga.