



THE NEWSLETTER

Fondo Quisqueya



“To provide for low income Dominicans in the Dominican Republic, grants for educational and training purposes designed to assist them in bettering their lives and designed to help them attain personal development, skills and advancement.” Fondo Quisqueya Bylaws 2005

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FQ Board of Directors



Officers:

- Tito Coleman, President**
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- Janet Kerley, Vice-President**
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- Bill Threlkeld, Treasurer**
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- Christina Houtz
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- Dave Padilla
- David Smith
- Robert Tafelski

Fondo Quisqueya Supported Record Number in 2019



FQ funded a cooking class for **Domingo Ernesto Genao Diaz** at INFOTEP. FQ also supported Domingo attending a bartending class. He was sponsored by PCV Ella Beckman.



“Thank you for the opportunity you have given me” English student, Luz Smeylin Nolasco de la Rosa

The traditional short-term scholarships program for community members recommended by Peace Corps Volunteers has been reinvigorated. Nineteen scholars were funded from a pool of thirty three applications from PCVs.

FQ also provided transportation grants to 38 students at the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario <https://www.itsc.edu.do/>. ITSC’s analysis revealed that the greatest need of lower income students was assistance with the cost of public transportation to get to campus.

Three students received scholarships for university course work:

- Oscar Pablo Sánchez - architecture - Universidad Católica Nordestana in San Francisco de Macorís
- Alicia Alcantra - advising - Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in San Juan
- Miguel Angel Smera - social sciences at the Universidad Nacional Evangélica

FQ Supported Scholars

Scholarships Approved	19
Applications Received	33
Transportation Grants	38
University Scholarships	3

* One person submitted six applications and one withdrew because of timing.

Did You Know?... Dominican Factoids



There are 146 Dominicans playing major league baseball, but only 3 Dominicans in the **Baseball Hall of Fame**. Can you name them?

No Dominican has ever played in an **NFL** game.

Tom Perez, Obama's Secretary of Labor and current Chairman of the Democratic National Committee is the grandson of Trujillo's ambassador to the United States (1934-35). When the ambassador fell out of favor with the notorious dictator, he sought asylum in the US rather than return to near certain death in the DR.



Joanna Mauer

Our long-time newsletter editor has stepped aside because of additions to her family. Her graphic and editorial skills have been obvious to one and all over the years. We wish her well and extend a heartfelt thanks for all of her hard work in making FQ a success.



2019 Honor Roll of Donors



General Donors: Amazon Smile, Randy Adams, Jacqueline Alcom, Rebecca Anderson, Tim Barwick, Larry Blaskopf, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Claudia Campbell, Reid & Irene Chambers, Carmen Chapin, Clint Coleman, Tito Coleman, James Deiter, Frank Deland, Lynda Edwards, Richard Elrauch, John & Jeanne Evans, Loren & Jan Floto, Anita Friedman, Rick Gerber, Art Hansen, Polly F. Harrison, Jerry & Carmen Healy, Michael & Carmen Hirsh, Bob and Marsha Holm, John D Hooper, The Katherine Lindsay Howell Fund, Charlene Hsu-Winges, Gerald Malovany, Janet Kerley, James & Peggy & Matthew Kieras, Gregory Klein, Joanna Mauer, Michael McCabe, Earl McClure, John & Manuela McCormack, Michael & Kristy McGuire, Richard Michaels, John C Miller, Melzer A Morgan Jr., Thomas Moriarty, Minnie Orozco, Faith Ortler, Meg Petersen, Charles Phillips, Bruce Potter, Steven Rabinowitz, Patricia Rambasek, John Rifenbark & Elmira Gilbert, Joel M. Roth, Michael Rothstein, Ada Mo Segura, Brenda Seidman, Sherwood Seigel, Peter & Martha Smith, John Sterling, Verna & Laura Sundquist, John & Michelle Swallow, Robert Tafelski, Bill & Carine Threlkeld, Ron Vaughan, S. Vick, Vincent & Pauline Vlastic, T. & L. Ward, Robert & Clara Webb, Roger Weiss, Geer Wilcox (Wilcox Family Foundation), Kerrie Wilson, Natalie Woodward

In memory of Tom W Gittins, Jr.: Minor & Linda Anderson, Najia Arsalayee, Jeffrey Barber, Dawn Y. Schiller Behrens, Norma & Ned Benner, Lawrence Blaskopf, Todd & Rebecca Breitmaier, George Burnham, Jennifer Clinton, Roger Mark De Souza, John Drain, Lorna and Michael Fitzgerald, Rick Gerrard, Thomas M. Gittins (son), Alexander Gorev, Carol Hardman, Robert & Gloria Hartman, Karl & Lyn Hellman, Michael Kim Herman, Susan Housholder, Chaz Hunter, Stefanie Hutchison, Emily Huttar, Hannah & Jeffery Jordan, Ketayoun Darvich Kodjouri, Monica Donna Lisle, Mary D. Marlowe, Michael Moriarty, David Padilla, Suzanne Petroni, Kevin Pettitt, John Prusia, Julia Read, John Reitz, Pamela Santimore, Nancy Schnieder, Stephen & Ann Schodde, Susan Shaheen, Donald Spero, Thomas Stillitano, Bill & Carine Threlkeld, Vincent & Pauline Vlastic, Mark Werblood, Margaret Willingham

In memory of Daniel B. Edwards: Minor & Linda Anderson, Edwin & Linda Bennett, Jo & Janice Blackburn, Michele C. Blum, Diana & Frank Bomberg, Kathryn Hanowell & David McMurry, Cheryl & Thomas Hanrahan, Thomas Olson, Suzanne Ostrem & Douglas Loomer

In memory of John Max Grunewald (PCDR 93-95): Andrew Chandler

In memory of Tami Smith: Patricia Erwin & Janie Hillyer

In memory of Lousie Robertson and Diann Streator: Susan Menendez

BJ Warren Endowment Fund

Geer Wilcox (Wilcox Family Foundation)

Mila Brooks Fund

Frank Deland, Redford & Virginia Williams

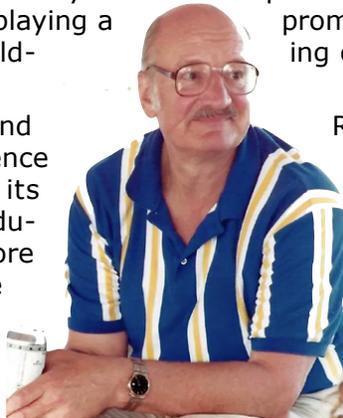
Remembering Two of Fondo's Founders

Tom Gittins

It's hard to believe that Tom is no longer with us. He was one of those forces of nature that was never supposed to pass from the scene. You could always count on Tom no matter what. You knew when he was in the room because you could hear his laugh from every corner. And as he "worked" the room he made everyone feel as if they were the reason he was there. He was equally at ease and always the same person whether meeting a peasant farmer in Latin America or a head of state in the former Soviet Union.

It was fitting that Tom would have spent an important period of his life in the Dominican Republic, surrounded by water. Water was always a part of his life, whether being on the championship crew team at Cornell, playing a prominent role in the management and promotion of High Point pool, or building one of the first houses in Whalehead in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The following passage from Bertrand Russell seems to fit Tom particularly well: "An individual human existence should be like a river — small at first, narrowly contained within its banks, and rushing passionately past rocks and over waterfalls. Gradually the river grows wider, the banks recede, the waters flow more quietly, and in the end, without any visible break, they become merged in the sea, and painlessly lose their individual being."



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Tom had many passions in his life, also loved politics as a spectator. Politics was always special to him, even in the Dominican Republic after visiting countless other countries around the world. And he lived the principles of world peace believing it could only be achieved through countless individual human interactions.

He was one of the founders of Fondo Quisqueya and was instrumental in its success over the years. He always had strong ideas and, while we didn't always agree, no one ever questioned Tom's motives. He was always ready to help Dominicans who needed a hand.

He courageously fought a failing body for the last several years and never gave in. He remained active with family, community affairs, politics, and yes, FQ. He left this life the way he lived it — surrounded by family, in control, cracking jokes, and singing.

And again from Bertrand Russell: "The man who, in old age, can see his life in this way, will not suffer from the fear of death, since the things he cares for will continue. And if, with the decay of vitality, weariness increases, the thought of rest will not be unwelcome. I should wish to die while still at work, knowing that others will carry on what I can no longer do and content in the thought that what was possible has been done."

Tom's family asked that he be remembered through contributions to Fondo Quisqueya.

Dan Edwards



A longtime friend and one of the founders of Fondo Quisqueya passed away on Thanksgiving Day after a long struggle with COPD. Dan was well known to many as he had been a Volunteer in the DR, a Peace Corps trainer in Puerto Rico and a staff member in Panamá. Dan spent his professional life teaching organizational development around the world. He was a gourmet cook, musician, artist, and overall bon vivant. He treasured his wife of 53 years Lynda, who was also a Volunteer in the DR, and was a joy to his family and many friends. **Lynda asks that anyone wishing to remember Dan make a contribution to your local food pantry or to Fondo Q.**

How Can You Help FQ? Let me count the ways....

No contribution is too small or too large - give us your time or moolah.

Participate in FQ - Would you like to be on FQ's **Board of Directors**? We need new blood to replace some of us old fogies. If you're interested and can commit to 4 meetings a year, contact one of the officers shown on the first page. You don't need to be in the DC area - you can participate via Skype.



For all you geeks out there, we need help managing the **database**. The time commitment is 4-6 hours/year, updating member information after each newsletter.

Are you looking to satisfy that inner publisher/editor/author? Can't stand the thought of more meetings in your life but want some invaluable marketing experience? How about taking over our

newsletter. Surely you can do better than what you're looking at now!

Or if you want to contribute **money**, needless to say, that is always welcome. To contribute you can:

Send a check or money order to PO Box 6626, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

Want to contribute via credit card or Pay-Pal? You can do both through our website: www.fondoq.org.

Or go to www.justgiving.com/fondokuisqueyafoundation. (your donation will be reduced somewhat to cover their costs)

Remember us in your will - that's what BJ Warren did and it made a big difference. None of the above work for you? You can always hand us cash in a paper bag.

Speaking of Friends...

Our sister organization, FDR, like FQ, is a 501(c) (3) organization. FDR focuses on helping bring together the community of DR Returned PC Volunteers and staff in the US. It also raises money for two funds: the Program Support Fund, which assists Volunteers and PC programs with donations such as equipment, software and workshops; and the Community Challenge Fund, which provides grants for small-scale community infrastructure projects in poor communities. For more information, go to www.fotdr.org. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to Mary Britt, FDR Treasurer, 2-2nd St Apt 3604, Jersey City, NJ 07302



Looking for...??

A word about our mailing list. We don't share it. BUT, if you are trying to find a long-lost Peace Corps friend, we'll be happy to put a "looking for" notice in our next newsletter. Just send your message to: DominicanRepublicPCV@gmail.com

LOST FRIEND



Last seen planning his wedding.

If you have any information, please contact James, Greg, Tom & Dave



Great friends are waiting. Register your own today at LostFriend.ca



Reports

2019 Treasurer's Report

2019 was a very good year for FQ - we exceeded our budget for contributions and saw an increase in requests for support in the DR.

I would encourage everyone to consider a Facebook Fundraiser to support



2019 Results	
Contributions	\$ 27,000
Scholarships	\$ 9,000
Obligated for Jan 2020	\$ 10,000
Net Gain	\$ 8,000

FQ. Thanks to everyone who contributed to my Facebook fundraiser for FQ this year on #GivingTuesday. That fundraiser brings with it the potential for donations made on GivingTuesday (the Tuesday after Black Friday) to be matched by Facebook. In my effort, \$1,275 has been raised so far, with the potential for \$320 of that amount to be matched! If you're on Facebook, you can do a fundraiser on behalf of FQ anytime (birthdays are popular) but I encourage all of you to do your own on #GivingTuesday due to the potential for matching funds.

Bill Threlkeld, Treasurer

President's Year-End Report

So we begin the third decade of the New Millennium vividly reminded why the mission of the US Peace Corps remains so important.

Empathy, Compassion, Understanding, Common Ground, Trust, Solidarity.....



all are embodied in the three goals originally rolled out and still so dynamically important. The relationships that are built between people working together, by the thousands, across the globe, still count tremendously in building the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

Fondo Quisqueya continues to contribute to this in its special, modest way. 2019 saw a marked increase in grant requests through the PCV network, and our partnership with the Instituto Técnico continues to assist young Dominican students with support for crucial basic transportation and logistical expenses. We are encouraged by the strong performance from our 38 grantees (with an average 3.10 GPA !), and the solid reporting and feedback from the Instituto, and have committed to increase the level of funding for this program area.

The FQ board continues to be a volunteer-driven organization, with 100% of donations going directly to our grantees. Our impact is only limited by the demand for our programs, our funding capacity and the efforts of the volunteers active on the board. We have sadly had to say goodbye to several founding members recently, including Tom Gittins and Dan Edwards (highlighted in this newsletter), whose inspiration provides a warm beacon to new members. There continues to be a special need for volunteers who are in the DR as resources for our programs and grantees, and we are actively seeking new talent to help with communications and outreach. Don't be shy.

FQ hopes that 2020 is full of good news and satisfaction for all of you! Thank you for all that you do.

Tito Coleman, President