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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY TITO COLEMAN

May we live in interesting times!!! The one bedrock reliable element is the ongoing support and activity levels from the FQ community.

Meanwhile, the broader FQ community continues to support our current level of funded activities, with great potential to increase and expand the programs as funding is available. We continue with a conservative approach to spending, but have been on the lookout for good opportunities to invest in good programs at a larger scale.

We have an increase in requests submitted by active PCVs, in support of a range of professional development grants for their counterparts, and the PC/DR office is enthusiastic about our partnership. FQ receives the requests via an online submission generator, and the DR-based FQ committee reviews and recommends the grantees for funding support.

One of the proven winners has been our support of the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) transportation scholarships over the past three years. ITSC has consistently provided excellent reporting, and we have been very impressed by the grantees we have met on our site visits—bright, fresh talent with compelling stories about how our modest support makes their continuing education possible. Transportation continues to be the single largest obstacle for them to complete their education. The FQ board has approved an increase in the funding level to ITSC, noting that it is a very cost-effective way to make a significant impact on a large group of people, with 39 students currently supported with modest but “game-changing” travel support. We would like to consider expansion, with your support and encouragement!!

The Lou Ferrand University Scholarship program continues with three current grantees, providing us with a more robust view into the difference a full university program can make in a life. We are evaluating this pilot program, recognizing that it requires a higher degree of hands-on effort and administrative systems in place, and will be discussing the best options going forward. Funding is a constraint, as it does carry a higher cost per grantee than our other programs, and having an efficient administrative system in place that does not rely completely on the goodwill of our partner organizations will be an important factor.

Please let us know if you would like to become personally involved in FQ. We continue to need on-the-ground presence and support for our grantees, if you are still in country. The personal touch makes a big difference, and the satisfaction of mentoring is boundless.

We know that you have many competing and compelling candidates for your generosity. The numbers of political candidates seems to be growing epidemically at both the state

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“Our hope is that you continue to see Fondo Quisqueya as a permanent and ongoing part of your giving strategy, and we invite your feedback as well as donations!”

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and national levels, and they seem to be more persistent and omnipresent on social media. That is all good and necessary, and part of an inevitable evolution. Our hope is that you continue to see Fondo Quisqueya as a permanent and ongoing part of your giving strategy, and we invite your feedback as well as donations!

The FQ board is a volunteer board, self-funded in our level of participation throughout the year. We can only do this with your support, and we think we can do better: only 12% of those in our database contribute funding for our programs. Please take a few minutes to show your support. Similar to our electoral participation rates, imagine what is possible if TWICE the number of people participated!! Or THREE TIMES!!!! Endless potential indeed. The new tax laws remove the old incentives to make charitable contributions for most people, but it is clear that tax law changes have not been a deterrent or motivator for most of you. Please continue!!!

Our donors vary widely across the United States, and we love you large and small!!! Not surprisingly, Virginia, Maryland and DC dominate in contributions, with New York and Michigan in robust top five positions. We welcome any of you to apply your many skills to increase our potential by initiating FQ networking and fundraising efforts.

TWO FQ BOARD MEMBERS VISIT THE INSTITUTO TÉCNICO

In December 2018, two FQ board members (Bill Threlkeld and Mike Benson) visited the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) in Santo Domingo. Fondo Quisqueya has been providing funding to ITSC to cover the transportation costs of a select group of low-income students who have to travel long distances and take several buses/ public cars to reach the college.

The board members met with ITSC staff members, including the Rector and Vice Rectors and the Director of Student Services, as well as 10 students who are receiving FQ transportation scholarships. ITSC staff gave several presentations, and each of the students talked about the

importance of their scholarship in helping them be able to continue their education. After the meeting, the board members were given a tour of the campus.



NINE GRANTEES RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRAINING COURSES

In early 2019, Fondo Quisqueya awarded scholarships to nine grantees for training activities such as barber, secretarial, pharmacy, and information technology courses. Each of the grantees is sponsored by a current Peace Corps Volunteer. The grantees live in communities across the DR including Barahona, Peravia, Monte Cristi, Monte Plata, Hato Mayor, and Santo Domingo.

Grantee: Alexander Torres Sabala

From: Monte Cristi

For: Barber Course

Alexander wrote: *“Me gustaría seguir mi educación en barbería para seguir mejorando la calidad de mi servicio y habilidades.”*

Grantee: Yafreisy Castillo

From: Villa Fundación, Peravia

For: Secretarial Course

Yafreisy wrote: *“Mi deseo de hacer dicho curso de secretariado es para prepararme, superarme y poder sustentar económicamente mis estudios universitarios en un futuro.”*

Grantee: Tatiana Feliz Dotel

From: Los Robles, Barahona

For: Beauty Course

Tatiana wrote: *“Me gustaría empezar un salón aquí en mi comunidad de Los Robles. Me gusta mucho la belleza y a ayudar a mi comunidad.”*

Grantee: Carlos Enrique Gómez

From: Punta Rucia, Puerto Plata

For: Cosmetics Course

Carlos wrote: *“Con cumplir este curso, yo podría realizar mi sueño de abrir mi propio salón en Punta Rucia.”*

Grantee: Danna Marquelis Mateo

From: Villa Fundación, Peravia

For: Secretarial Course

Grantee: Mayori Jazmin Martínez García

From: Santo Domingo

For: English Class

Grantee: Mairoby Chalas Genao

From: Sabana Grande de Boya, Monte Plata

For: Pharmacy Course

Grantee: Massiel Felix

From: La Romana

For: Information Technology Course

Grantee: Luz Smeylin Nolasco

From: El Valle, Hato Mayor

For: English Class



“Con cumplir este curso, yo podría realizar mi sueño de abrir mi propio salón en Punta Rucia.”



SPOTLIGHT ON TWO ITSC STUDENTS RECEIVING TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Francia Jiménez Bonilla is studying medical imaging.

“Me he sentido muy beneficiada. Gracias al ITSC y al Fondo Quisqueya que me han dado la oportunidad de obtener la beca. Gracias a ellos he podido desarrollarme más en mi carrera ya que mi situación económica me atrasaba y no me permitía seguir adelante.”



“Me han brindado la oportunidad de continuar con mis estudios.”



Bryan Silverio is studying graphic design.

“Mi ausencia en clases ha disminuido notablemente. Antes venía solo dos días a la semana, pero ahora puedo venir la semana completa. Me han brindado la oportunidad de continuar con mis estudios.”

TREASURER’S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

First, thank you for your outstanding support as we rounded the corner from 2018 to 2019. Closing out 2018, we received just a tad above \$19,000 in income from contributions which, with added dividend income of about \$4,600, brought our total revenues for the year to \$23,600. Our expenses for 2018 were about \$28,200, 80% of which were the approximately \$23,000 we gave out in grants and scholarships supporting low-income Dominicans in their training and education pursuits. As an all-volunteer organization, FQ’s administrative costs were only 3.5% of its total yearly expenses.

A month into 2019, those year-end checks boosted our revenue by about \$9,600, and we have since added close to \$3,000 in contributions, bringing our 2019 year-to-date total revenues to approximately \$12,600. This is in the ballpark of the halfway mark, in terms of our income target for the year. Again, thank you!

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Other good news is that we are starting to see a regular flow of scholarship applications recommended by current Peace Corps Volunteers. Some re-energized communications strategies have resulted in FQ having the pleasure to approve more than \$2,200 in small scholarships in 2019 for nine community members seeking to improve opportunities for themselves and their communities. We are so pleased to reconnect with the Peace Corps community, and those they serve, in this way.

We have budgeted about \$29,000 for grants and scholarships this year, so we look forward to your continued support and, if you are reading this and have not given to FQ before, please consider donating in some way. A small amount each month through automatic bill-pay can add up to a nice annual contribution. Maybe your employer has a matching program? You can even make FQ the beneficiary of your purchases on Amazon, through the AmazonSmile program (smile.amazon.com). Did you know that only about 300 of those who receive this newsletter (about 2,400 people) make a contribution? If half of our readers made just a \$20 donation, that comes out to \$24,000!

Enjoy your spring/summer, and I look forward to updating you again in the fall.

2018 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1—DECEMBER 2018)

GENERAL DONORS

Amazon Smile, Randy Adams, Jacqueline Alcorn, A.W. & Mary Amour, Tim Barwick, Blair Bertaccini, Elizabeth Bivings & Graham Pallett, Joe & Janice Blackburn, Larry Blaskopf, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Carla Briceno, Cristiano & Amy Castello, David Clary, Caitlin Collins, Eric Colman, Frank Deland III, John Duenes, Kyle Dumler, Lynda Edwards, Richard Elrauch (Forlorn Family LP), John & Jean Evans, Bridget Farrelly, Loren & Jan Floto, Jerrold Foltz, Lucy & Williams Friedman, Tom Gittins, Art Hansen, Jerry & Carmen Healy, Michael Hirsh, Robert & Marsha Holm, Christina Houtz, Davis & Charo Jones, Harry Keramidas, Janet Kerley, Jeffery Kutier, Karen Levin, James Linn & Pamela DeMatteo-Linn, Janet Lowenthal, Gerald Malovany, Joanna Mauer, Mike McCabe & Rosemarie Hidalgo-McCabe, J John & Manuela McCormack, Richard Michaels, John Miller, Donna Miller-Zajac, Dan & Alicia Mizroch, Pat Morgan, Jr., Robert Myers, James & Anne O'Connor, Faith Ortler, David & Kathy Padilla, Nora Palmatier, James Petersen, Charles Phillips, John Prusia, Patricia Rambasek & Rik Laird, Antoinette Russin, Sherwood & Jaclyn Seigel, Peter & Martha Smith, John Sterling, Robert & Carolyn Tafelski, Anne Ternes, Judith & John Thoms, Bill Threlkeld, Jesus Trevino, Michael & Carolyn Vale, Ron Vaughan, Hazel Vespa, Peter Vitakis, Vicent Vlastic, Asahi Wada, Mary A Walker, Robert & Clara Webb, Geer Wilcox (Wilcox Family Foundation), Natalie Woodward

IN MEMORY OF JOHN MAX GRUNEWALD, PCDR 93-95: Andrew Chandler

IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN SLATER: Thomas Burton, Steven & Claudia Campbell

IN MEMORY OF TAMI PIERSON, KRISTIN FISKE, TOM KING, TONY MENENDEZ, TIM SWEENEY, LINDA NEAU DE SCOTT, AND JOHN SCOTT: V. Diann Streator



“We have budgeted about \$29,000 for grants and scholarships this year, so we look forward to your continued support.”



IN HONOR OF THE ESCUELA DE KUNG-FU CULEBRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Larry & Aida Osborne

BJ WARREN SCHOLARSHIP FUND: David McMurry & Kathryn Hanowell, Charles Wannan III & Judith Light, Bruce Potter

BJ WARREN ENDOWMENT FUND: Geer Wilcox (Wilcox Family Foundation)

LOU FERRAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Mary Ferrand

MILA BROOKS FUND: Redford & Virginia Williams

2019 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1—MAY 2019)

GENERAL DONORS

Larry Blaskopf, Frank Deland, Loren & Jan Floto, Bob and Marsha Holm, The Katherine Lindsay Howell Fund, James & Peggy & Matthew Kieras, John C Miller, Steven Rabinowitz, John Rifenbark & Elmira Gilbert, Michael McCabe, Earl McClure, Michael Rothstein, John Sterling, Bill Threlkeld, S. Vick, T. & L. Ward, Natalie Woodward

IN HONOR OF TOM GITTINS (FATHER): Thomas M. Gittins (son)

MILA BROOKS FUND: Frank Deland

Contribute!

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE OR BY CHECK

FONDO Q

In addition to making tax deductible donations to Fondo Q by check, you can make them through **PayPal**, **justgive.org**, and by using the **Network for Good Giving System** (NGGS). To donate online, follow the links at the bottom of FQ's "Ways to Contribute" page at fondoq.org/donatesuppor_our_work.aspx.

MILA BROOKS FUND- WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

If you wish to focus your FQ giving on low-income women in the Dominican Republic, please send your tax deductible donations to: FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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.

JOIN US AT FQ'S ANNUAL MEETING & BBQ AT 4 PM ON JULY 13!

Join us for Fondo Q's Annual Meeting and Potluck BBQ on **Saturday, July 13** from 4-7 p.m. at Tito Coleman's home in Ellicott City, Maryland.

All current and past DR PCVs, Staff, and other friends of FQ and their families are invited!

Elections for new Officers and Board members will be held, the annual report on finances and grants and scholarships awarded during the past 12 months will be given, and ideas and plans for grant and scholarship activities for the next 12 months will be discussed.

Please come! Confirm your attendance with Tito Coleman.

Saturday, July 13, 4-7 p.m.

Tito's mailing and email addresses and telephone number are:

13224 Triadelphia Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

E-mail: titocoleman@gmail.com

(703) 507-7160

Directions: We are near where route 32 connects to Rt 70 between Baltimore and Frederick, in a community known as Glenelg. Your phone app will take you to the entrance of a long private road with a "Triadelphia Meadows" round sign, and we are at the very end (just under a mile) of that road. Ignore the numbers on the mailboxes as they only confuse new visitors.



*Join us for
Fondo Q's
Annual
Meeting and
Potluck!*



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**The Dominican Republic and
Peace Corps benefit from your
continued support.**

When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.