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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY TOM GITTINS

In March, a Fondo Q board team convened in Santo Domingo to meet with partners in our scholarship programs and funding, determine potential expansions of those activities, and seek new opportunities for scholarship outreach. The team included Tom Gittins (FQ President), Rik Laird (FQ Vice President), Kaley Marino, Mike Benson, Minor Anderson, Bob Tafelski, and Dave and Kathy Padilla.

### Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC)

At the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), we met with Mtra. María Corporán, Vice Rectora Académica, along with seven faculty members and administrators. Also attending the meeting were eight students who are current Fondo Q scholarship recipients. There are about 5,000 students attending ITSC. About 10% of the students receive scholarships, while the need is about 30%. In previous meetings with ITSC leadership they identified transportation as the largest 'gap.' For the past two years, Fondo Q has sponsored transportation scholarships for 23 ITSC students. The results have been excellent: the students' average GPA is around 3.4. Scholarship recipients are pursuing studies in areas such as medical imaging, tourism lodging, logistics, dental hygiene, gastronomy, photography, automotive mechanics, nursing, and construction.

ITSC serves a wide geographic area with a low-income population base. The students who attended our meeting stressed how important the transportation scholarships are as they have to travel long distances, sometimes using several modes of transport, and internships off campus also require transportation. Fondo Q will continue to fund this program, which is providing opportunities for job skill and career development. At our most recent board meeting, we approved a modest increase in scholarship funding for ITSC, which will increase the number of scholarships from 23 to 30.

### Peace Corps DR

The team met with new Peace Corps DR Director, Kristin Kaper, and new Program & Training Director, Tess De Los Rios. Discussion centered around: (a) continuing to evaluate *Escojo Enseñar* teacher training proposals from PC/DR through the Peace Corps Partnership Program; and (b) working with PC/DR in outreach to PCVs to recommend local leaders for training and career development scholarships. Third-year PCV Connor, coordinator of the *Escojo Enseñar* program, reported on trainings to date as well as some current complications due to a country-wide teacher strike. Fondo Q has provided funding for six training conferences this year. Three have been completed (before the teacher strike), which have reached 147 teachers, 14

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ITSC scholarship recipients, academic and administrative staff, and Fondo Q board members



*‘Fondo Q is having a significant impact on the lives of deserving Dominican leaders of all ages in supporting skill development, career development, and greater job opportunities.’*

(Continued from page 1)

directors, and 22 técnicos in 82 schools in 10 districts. PC/DR will increase its outreach to PCVs about Fondo Q scholarship opportunities, and Fondo Q will continue to respond to PCV-sponsored requests for non-traditional education and training for Dominican leaders they recommend for personal and skill development advancing career and job opportunities. Fondo Q will also continue to review *Escojo Enseñar* proposals on a case-by-case basis.

#### Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI)

Last year, when a DR board team met with the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI), we learned about an excellent education project. The project is a joint venture between IDDI and the cigar family enterprises in the region surrounding Bonao. This year, the team traveled to Bonao with David (Scotty) Luther, the executive director of IDDI, to visit the Cigar Family Center for Integral Development. This center/school now serves about 450 students in a very poor, rural region, with education and life skill development from pre-school through high school. We learned that they also have a scholarship program for graduates to pursue advanced studies, which includes a community service component. We also met several of the outstanding scholarship students who are now studying at universities in the DR.



ITSC scholarship recipients at a meeting with FQ board members

Subsequently, at our recent board meeting, the Fondo Q board approved a recommendation from the team to establish a *BJ Warren Scholarship* for a graduate of the school for university study. The scholarship will be administered by IDDI.

#### A final word

Fondo Q is having a significant impact on the lives of deserving Dominican leaders of all ages in supporting skill development, career development, and greater job opportunities. We will continue to seek ways to enhance our outreach and increase our impact to benefit more Dominicans. We often hear from scholarship recipients that the support from Fondo Q is a “life changer” and “an opening to economic security.” Thank you to all of you who currently contribute. Please continue to support Fondo Q—it is more important now than ever. If you haven’t yet contributed to Fondo Q, please consider including us in your giving plans.



Students at the Cigar Family Center for Integral Development in Bonao

## UPDATE ON ITSC STUDENTS RECEIVING TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JOANNA MAUER

Fondo Q is providing funding to the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), the only community college in the Dominican Republic, 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. These students are enrolled in various areas of study including medical imaging, dental hygiene, tourism lodging, automotive mechanics, nursing, and photography.

In the third quarter of 2016, five scholarship recipients completed their studies at ITSC:

1. **Diana Carolina Zabala Cabrera:** Dental hygiene
2. **Eduverki Turbi Montero:** Photography
3. **Sara Albanilis Familia Mosquea:** Gastronomy
4. **Yeimy Belen Rodriguez:** Nursing
5. **Deuri Antonio Polanco Perez:** Automotive mechanics

In its report to the Fondo Q board, ITSC conveyed the following message:

“De manera general hemos podido observar el avance que han tenido los estudiantes beneficiados con estas becas, pues 6 han culminado con su plan de estudios de manera satisfactoria y su totalidad ha expresado su regocijo por la ayuda recibida. El presente programa ha aportado para que un grupo de estudiantes puedan cubrir sus gastos de transporte, disminuyendo esto el absentismo y la deserción de los mismos.”

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## THE LOU FERRAND SCHOLARSHIP

BY TITO COLEMAN

The FQ board has approved a new pilot program focused on promoting community leadership efforts by creating an annual university scholarship award, which will be called “The Lou Ferrand Leadership Scholarship.” Lou Ferrand, who was one of the founders of Fondo Quisqueya, passed away in 2012. Lou was also a former FQ treasurer and president who worked tirelessly for FQ’s mission.

FQ’s partner organizations including Peace Corps, Alianza ONG, and other local development organizations will be able to nominate young leaders for this scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded to two *becarios* per year who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their communities.

This scholarship program builds on FQ’s legacy of supporting career development for local counterparts of Peace Corps volunteers by promoting volunteerism and leadership at the community level, and rewarding exceptional young volunteer leaders with the opportunity to obtain university-level training. The scholarship will be administrated by FQ’s partner, Alianza ONG, which is a national network resource for the non-profit development sector. The scholarships, which will be awarded based on applicants’ proposals for career and leadership development, will support an approved program at any accredited Dominican university. Scholarship recipients will be provided up to \$1,500 per year to support tuition, travel, and incidental expenses, with annual renewability based on performance and need. FQ will also support scholarship recipients with a mentoring program tailored to each candidate, with FQ board and local expert network participation.



*“De manera general hemos podido observar el avance que han tenido los estudiantes beneficiados con estas becas, pues 6 han culminado con su plan de estudios de manera satisfactoria y su totalidad ha expresado su regocijo por la ayuda recibida.”*



*“The first Escojo Enseñar conference was received with high praise by all 15 school directors whose educational centers participated during the 2015-2016 school year.”*

## SUPPORTING TEACHER TRAINING THROUGH PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

BY JOANNA MAUER

At the end of 2016, Fondo Q funded two grants for teacher training through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP): one in Samaná and one in San Juan.

### Escojo Enseñar Regional Conference- Samaná

PCV Tayler Stuger received a PCPP grant to conduct an *Escojo Enseñar* regional conference to provide 50 teachers from 25 schools in Samaná with teaching activities and strategies, with a focus on teachers who teach reading and writing. This is the second *Escojo Enseñar* conference in Samaná. Tayler wrote that “The first *Escojo Enseñar* conference was received with high praise by all 15 school directors whose educational centers participated during the 2015-2016 school year. These directors explicitly told the Samaná school district director how needed and useful this conference was for their school communities; according to these educators, it was the most valuable and practical workshop they had received in years.” The conference committee includes the Samaná district director, four district technicians, and two local teachers. In order to reach more teachers, the school district requires that after the conference the participants work in pairs to replicate a training session at their own schools.

### Escojo Enseñar Regional Conference- San Juan

PCV Hannah Barrentine received a PCPP grant to conduct an *Escojo Enseñar* regional conference in San Juan to provide practice-based workshops for 40 teachers from 12 rural schools. The practice-based workshops are aimed at improving teaching methodology; introducing the utilization of literacy materials in the classroom; providing practical ways to increase parent involvement; and implementing new strategies regarding discipline and classroom management. Hannah wrote that “Within the San Juan region, school district technicians, local directors, and school teachers all highlight the need to introduce new teaching strategies and techniques to improve low reading and writing levels. In addition to this expressed need for improved literacy instruction, local educators also desperately want to increase parent involvement in the school community and home to create and maintain a positive learning environment for each student.” After the conference, the participants will plan teacher training sessions at their own schools to share the strategies and activities they learned at the conference.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

At the April 2 Board meeting, I was happy to report another \$2,175 in contributions since our January meeting, bringing our year-to-date total to \$6,250. Normally, approaching the half-way point of the year, I would say we are tracking fairly well to covering our programs through yearly contributions. However, as you will read in other articles in this newsletter, FQ is expanding its grants and scholarships program. We are building on the strong partnerships we have already forged for delivering scholarships AND creating additional partnerships for piloting awards for university-based scholarships.

It is exciting for FQ to have identified these needs and be in a position to recalibrate its giving to meet the new demands. And, just as we have institutional partners to help us be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us, we also have you, our donors, who partner with us in providing the continuity and sustainability for our grants and scholarships program. Without you, FQ’s impact withers.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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I estimate that our commitments for grants and scholarships this year will total in the low \$20Ks, recognizing that we have already, in three months, provided more than \$9K. Will you step up your giving to help us reach more low-income Dominicans working hard to build a future for themselves and their families? Let us know with your check or online contribution—where do you want your dollars going most? Community college scholarships? University scholarships? Peace Corps Partnership Programs? Technical and vocational training? There's a lot going on—we look forward to hearing from you!



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(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1— DECEMBER 31, 2016)

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**IN HONOR OF TOM & SUE GITTINS:** Gina Caceci

**BJ WARREN ENDOWMENT** Judith Light

*“Will you step up your giving to help us reach more low-income Dominicans working hard to build a future for themselves and their families?”*



*“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).”*

## 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](http://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 projects: a Program Development Fund, which supports Volunteers and PC programs with donations such as equipment and software, and a Community Challenge Fund, which provides grants for small-scale community infrastructure projects in poor communities. For more information, go to [www.fotdr.org](http://www.fotdr.org). Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.



# JOIN US AT FQ'S ANNUAL MEETING & BBQ AT 4 PM ON JUNE 25!

Join us for Fondo Q's Annual meeting and BBQ on **Sunday, June 25** from **4-7 p.m.** at Tom and Sue Gittins' home in Falls Church, Virginia. The BBQ will feature Tom's famous chicken and sausage and homemade delicacies contributed by attendees.

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 Tom Gittins.

**Sunday, June 25, 4-7 p.m.**

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

**6834 Woodland Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046**

**E-mail: [GITASOCINC@aol.com](mailto:GITASOCINC@aol.com)**

**(703) 241-0634**

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**When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.**