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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY TITO COLEMAN

2018 has launched itself into a dynamic world full of opportunities for activism, response, and mobilization, and the Fondo Quisqueya diaspora continues to contribute in many ways, in our professional, personal, and volunteer lives. Local political races have become more meaningful, while the energy and immediacy of the Me Too, Sane Gun Policy, and Black Lives Matter movements bring more hope for positive change and equilibrium where we live.

FQ has entered this year with many activities underway, and continued support from generous donations despite looming changes in the way the IRS will treat donations to charities. We are pleased to find validation in some of the new areas of scholarship activity, with a new cohort of promising students beginning their university educations with FQ support, while our traditional Peace Corps related support activities continue on an even keel. We continue to adapt with our new partnerships in the DR, learning along the way about what works, and what works less well. We have identified several ways to make our operations more efficient and direct to our recipients, in response to more restrictive guidelines from global Peace Corps policies limiting the direct involvement of PCVs in grant operations. We also begin a migration towards a more digital interaction with our communities, and welcome you to send us your up-to-date contact information. The world seems to be more chaotic this year, but we are pleased to be able to keep a steady hand on our ability to provide essential support in the modest areas of our activities.

In this newsletter, you will find details in the Treasurer's report about the positive support from individual donations this past year, validating that we are on the right path by diversifying our funded activities and broadening our reach through new partners. Our program areas are highlighted, including ongoing Peace Corps scholarships and training, a robust roster of scholars supported under the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) scholarships, and the *Lou Ferrand Memorial* and *BJ Warren* university scholarship programs.

We welcome new energy and activity to the FQ network and would like to welcome you to become more actively engaged. Of particular interest to us are RPCVs who have remained in the Dominican Republic after service who might like to be involved more directly in supporting active programs as mentors, liaisons, and "sandals on the ground." Every contribution goes directly into our program areas, and we have room for growth, so please consider continued donations this year. The needs are constant, as is our careful stewardship of the FQ legacy.



NEW VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS ITSC STUDENTS RECEIVING TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JOANNA MAUER

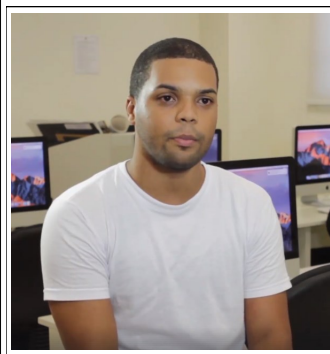
Fondo Q is providing funding to the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), the only community college in the Dominican Republic, to cover the transportation costs of a select group of low-income students who have to travel long distances and take several buses/public cars to reach the college.

ITSC produced a great video highlighting some of the students receiving transportation scholarships from Fondo Q and their stories about how these small grants are helping them to pursue their education. You can find the video on our homepage at fondoq.org.



Odalis Alexandra Rymer

“Mi ausencia ha disminuido mucho. Puedo llegar a tiempo sin ningún problema y sin tener preocupación de tener pasaje o no para llegar a la clase. Siento muy apoyada porque gracias al ITSC y al Fondo Quisqueya puedo tener un incentivo y venir a mi clase sin problema.”



Scarlin Miguel Monción

Two of the ITSC students interviewed in the video are Odalis Alexandra Rymer, who is studying manufacturing, and Scarlin Miguel Monción, who is studying graphic design. In the video, Odalis says: *“Mi ausencia ha disminuido mucho. Puedo llegar a tiempo sin ningún problema y sin tener preocupación de tener pasaje o no para llegar a la clase. Siento muy apoyada porque gracias al ITSC y al Fondo Quisqueya puedo tener un incentivo y venir a mi clase sin problema.”*

Scarlin says: *“He notado la diferencia después de tener la beca ya que antes yo tuve inconvenientes, tenía que faltar, tenía problemas con los materiales. Desde que tengo la beca, ya no me hace falta nada de eso. En periodos anteriores tuve que tomar solamente dos materias para asistir solamente dos días a la semana. Ahora que tengo la beca puedo asistir los cinco días.”*

FONDO Q SCHOLARSHIPS AND GENDER EQUITY

BY JANET KERLEY

Fondo Quisqueya continues to support gender equity in its scholarship programs. Some years ago, FQ supporters established the Mila Brooks Women in Development Training Funds to honor Mila Brooks, a former Director of the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. Nearly \$10,000 has been raised specifically for women in development activities, and all of these funds and more from the general donations generously given by our supporters have been spent to support educational activities and scholarships for women.

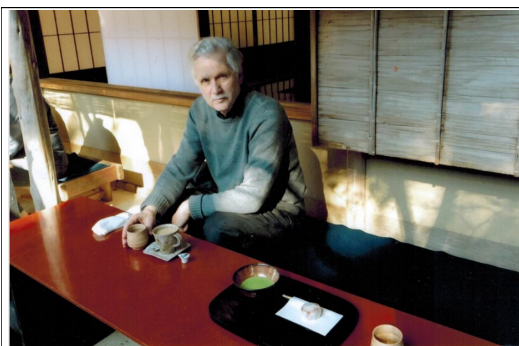
Women are recipients of two of the four university scholarships that FQ introduced in the last two years. Alicia Alcantra received one of the *Lou Ferrand Memorial University Scholarships* in the amount of US \$1,500 to study Counseling at the UASD (San Juan). Heidi de Dios de Dios is the first recipient of the *BJ Warren University Scholarship*. Heidi graduated from the Cigar Family Center for Integral Development in Bonaó, in the top 1% of the country, and is currently pursuing university studies in modern languages at the Universidad Abierta Para Adultos (UAPA).

The scholarships that FQ supports for students at the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), the only community college in the Dominican Republic, are also benefitting women. Of the 30 students receiving transportation assistance for the last semester, 80% (24) were women. Four of the five new scholarship recipients are also women.

Donations are always welcome to the Mila Brooks Fund.

IN MEMORY OF STEVE SLATER

Steve Slater passed away rather suddenly on November 26, 2017, 18 months after being diagnosed with cancer. He wished to have no funeral service and chose instead to make a donation to Fondo Quisqueya.



Steve was a life-long human rights activist and a world traveler. His heart always belonged to peoples and cultures of faraway places. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in the DR from 1966-68, working as a community organizer and youth worker, and he attributed his tenacity and ability to work with people of different backgrounds to his experiences during those two years.

Through Steve's career transitions (from social worker to bilingual teacher to therapeutic/cultural awareness counselor for young immigrants in English, Spanish, and Portuguese), his commitment to helping people from adverse backgrounds remained unwavering. When he faced a headwind of anti-minority politics, school budget cuts, or opposition within the school system, and felt trapped by a dysfunctional work environment, he plunged into a foreign culture to refresh himself—he lived and worked in Japan, Spain, and Italy, traveling extensively in each area.

During the frequent hospital visits in the last six months of his life, Steve was often helped by a Dominican caregiver, with whom he would always strike up a conversation. He became alive and animated as the two of them rattled on in Spanish about specific places, politicians, events they both knew—often at great length until they finally had to stop because the caregiver was needed by another patient.

He was determined to remain as self-reliant as possible (and largely did) and continued to make his own decisions in all aspects of his life until the very end. Always optimistic, never a brooder, Steve was a joy to be with.

Miyo Slater

FQ GRANTS SUPPORT TEACHER TRAINING

BY JOANNA MAUER

In early 2018, Fondo Q funded two grants for teacher training through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP): one in Dajabón and one in San Juan.

Escojo Enseñar Teacher Training Conference- Dajabón

PCV Mariela Vazquez received a PCPP grant to conduct an *Escojo Enseñar* conference to train 75 teachers and directors from 23 schools and 15 district-wide technicians in new and effective ways to utilize resources they already have as well as how to incorporate new ones into their lessons/practices. As part of the conference, participants created didactic materials to use in their classrooms. Mariela wrote: "Restauración is the southernmost municipality of the Dajabón province along the northern flanks of the



"Steve was a life-long human rights activist and a world traveler. His heart always belonged to peoples and cultures of faraway places. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in the DR from 1966-68, working as a community organizer and youth worker, and he attributed his tenacity and ability to work with people of different backgrounds to his experiences during those two years."

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

Cordillera Central, near the Haitian border. This frontier region has been largely neglected by the national government and is less economically developed than many other regions of the country. In turn, the educational environment suffers from a lack of resources and a shortage of teachers. The educators in this district need and want professional development opportunities to improve their pedagogy and resource utilization.” The community donated the space where the conference was held, materials, and equipment, and local stores gave discounts to help with the costs.

Escojo Enseñar Teacher Training Conference- San Juan

PCV Jamie Haller received a PCPP grant to conduct an *Escojo Enseñar* conference in San Juan for 50 teachers from 15 rural schools. The themes of the conference included classroom management, teaching for different learning styles, and literacy acquisition materials. Jamie wrote: “The region of San Juan has one of the highest rates of overage students in the Dominican Republic, with 20% of students repeating at least one grade during their elementary school education. Many students in 4th, 5th, and even 6th grade still have trouble reading and writing. In addition to the expressed need for improved literacy instruction, local educators also desperately want to improve classroom management techniques in order to implement more effective lessons, and also gain new skill sets to teach to different types of learners.” The school district was actively involved in every aspect of the planning and implementation of the conference. After the conference, the participants will plan local teacher training sessions to implement the same strategies and activities in their own schools.

“In addition to the expressed need for improved literacy instruction, local educators also desperately want to improve classroom management techniques in order to implement more effective lessons, and also gain new skill sets to teach to different types of learners.”

TREASURER’S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

It is always exciting to report the surge of support we get each year-end/start-of-the-New-Year. In our fall newsletter, we reported that we needed another \$11,000 or so to meet our programming goals. We are happy to report that from October through mid-January, the period when most of our donations come in, we received donations totaling 17,150!! Congratulations to all our donors for helping us to exceed our target and giving FQ a good running start into 2018!

Some of you may have heard about the tax legislation signed into law at the end of 2017. It has left many charities, including FQ, wondering if their donors will continue to give next year, when many donors will no longer need to itemize their charitable contributions due to changes in the tax law. While the tax deductibility of contributions might go away for some in 2018, the education needs supported by Fondo Quisqueya's programs do not.

We look forward to your continued support in 2018 and beyond. Our 2018 goal for scholarship awards is approximately \$24,000, and we have raised about \$10,000 so far this year. If you have not donated this year, or would like to donate again, click on the donate button on our website or Facebook page to see how you can continue to make a difference in the lives of low-income Dominicans. Each and every one of our “becarios” is pursuing educational opportunities so that they and their family members (now or in the future) can break the generational poverty that is so prevalent in our beloved Dominican Republic.

Happy Spring!

2017 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1— DECEMBER 2017)

GENERAL DONORS

Randy Adams, Roberta Albracht, Jacqueline Alcorn, Amazon Smile, Victor Amram & Anita Friedman, Minor & Linda Anderson, Blair Bertaccini, Joe & Janice Blackburn, Larry Blaskopf, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Teresa Chapa, Tito Coleman, James & Colleen Dillon, Lynda Edwards, John Evans, Joanne de Falla, Jacqueline Ferrand, Mary Ferrand, Brendan Fields, Loren & Jan Floto, Ingrid Fournier, John Frank, Stuart Frisch, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Tom Gittins, Jim Good & Ted Paiva, David & Susan Hayes, Jerry & Carmen Healy, Robert & Marsha Holm, John Hopper, Christina Houtz, Kirby Jones & Linda Jennings, Davis Jones, Janet Kerley, James & Peggy & Matthew Kieras, Rik Laird, Ana Linares & Greg Michaels, Janet Lowenthal, Mary Lunsford, Julianne Mattson, Joanna Mauer, Mike McCabe & Rosemarie Hidalgo-McCabe, Venus McDonald, Pat Melzer, Robert Meyers, Harold Meyerson, Donna Miller-Zajac, Jorge Navarro, James & Anne O'Connor, Gary & Julia Orso, David & Kathy Padilla, William & Manuela Pernisek, Meg Petersen, Charles Phillips, John Prusia, T. H. Quinn & R.A. Wolf, Steven Rabinowitz, Patricia Rambasek, John Rifenbark & Elmira Gilbert, Rick Rominger, Sherwood & Jaclyn Seigel, Stephen & Miyo Slater, David Smith, Peter & Martha Smith, Van Smith, John Sterling, Patricia Stiegel, Robert & Carolyn Tafelski, Anne Ternes, Judith Thoms, Bill & Carine Threlkeld, JoAnn Threlkeld, S. Vick, Peter Vitakis, T & L Ward, Robert & Clara Webb, Sarah Wells, Redford & Virginia Williams, Gregory & Alvera Wilson, Wilcox Family Foundation (Geer Wilcox), Natalie Woodward

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IN HONOR OF DR5: Frederick Kalhammer & Ana Matilde de Windt

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

IN MEMORY OF LUIS B. CROUCH and MARIANA CROUCH: Pat Morgan, Janet Lowenthal

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

IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN SLATER, PCDR 66-68: Miyo Slater (widow), Anonymous

BJ WARREN ENDOWMENT: Judith Light, Wilcox Family Foundation (Geer Wilcox)

BJ WARREN SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Antoinette S. Russin

LOU FERRAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND: John Sterling, Friends of the DR, David & Kathy Padilla, Mary B. Ferrand

2018 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1— MARCH 2018)

GENERAL DONORS

Larry Blaskopf, Steven & Claudia Campbell, Robert & Marsha Holm, Mike McCabe & Rosemarie Hidalgo-McCabe, James & Anne O'Connor, James Petersen, John Sterling, Judith & John Thoms, Robert & Clara Webb, Natalie Woodward

BJ WARREN SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Charles Wannan III & Judith Light



*Honor Roll of
Donors*



NEW FQ ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Fondo Quisqueya plans to start sending out an electronic newsletter beginning in the fall of 2018. To make sure that we have your correct email address, please send a message to Minor Anderson at minoranderson@mac.com.

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 www.fondoq.org/donatesupport_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. 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 24!

Join us for Fondo Q's Annual meeting and Potluck BBQ on **Sunday, June 24** from 4-7 p.m. at Tito Coleman's (new) 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. Grillables, Sides, Sweet things, and Bebibles are welcome!

Sunday June 24, 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 now 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 AT
FQ'S
ANNUAL
MEETING
& BBQ”*



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22040-6628

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P.O. BOX 6628

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www.fondoq.org

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

When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.