



The Newsletter, Fall 2023



Our mission is "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."

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Fondo Quisqueya scholarship recipients from the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) in Santo Domingo with board members Dan Golub and Mike Benson. Read below to learn more!

Peace Corps Program Update

Peace Corps Dominican Republic resumed Volunteer service in March of 2022 and currently has 69 Volunteers serving in 13 provinces and 29 trainees, scheduled to be sworn in on November 1st. The next training group will arrive in March of 2024. The goal is to reach 160 Volunteers by next year. All volunteers are supporting primary and secondary schools, working in childhood literacy, youth, and community economic development.



A number of Peace Corps Volunteers are involved in organizing a digital literacy conference in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce. The 10+ workshops will strengthen small businesses by inviting 43 business-owners and focusing on financial literacy and digital marketing. Learn more about the project [here](#).

Fondo Quisqueya Success Story

Prior to 2015, Fondo Quisqueya partnered directly with Peace Corps Volunteers to identify educational scholarship recipients and serve as the logistical conduit. However, with a shift in Peace Corps' regulations as well as a desire to support more far reaching change, we are also partnering directly with Dominican institutions.



For 8 years we have worked with the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC). We have provided grants to 300 students totaling \$100,000. The grants primarily cover transportation costs. In addition to identifying candidate recipients and disbursing money, ITSC provides academic and socio-emotional support to FQ scholarship recipients. In a recent visit to ITSC this June, student services director, **Carlos**, pictured on the far right, knew the names, stories, coursework, and struggles of all the students we worked with. Great to see that strong on-the-ground support!



Partnership Update: FEM Dominicana

We're thrilled to bring you the latest update on a groundbreaking women's capacity building program, Fundación Empodera Mujer Dominicana (FEM Dominicana). With women's empowerment at the core of the mission, this initiative aims to unleash the untapped potential of women.

What's been happening?

Unveiling. FQ began providing support for FEM Dominicana in January 2023. The program was formed by local Dominican women seeking a way to give back to their community. The program is focused on serving women's empowerment, capacity building, and equal access.

Inspiring Success Stories. There's nothing more gratifying than witnessing the participants' incredible journeys. FEM Dominicana has seen [success stories](#) of women and launching their own businesses. These inspiring stories affirm the belief in the importance of nurturing women's talents and aspirations.

Strengthening Partnerships. Collaboration is the key to fostering change, which is why FEM Dominicana has established strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations and influential leaders. Recently, they worked with a men's training program to apply for a grant that would provide FEM Dominicana women the opportunity to learn to operate heavy equipment. Together, FEM Dominicana is creating a formidable network that inspires and supports women on their path to success.

What's in store for the future?

Volunteer Program. We recognize the critical role of mentorship in women's professional development. In June, FEM Dominicana held a volunteer recruitment and training workshop for new volunteers. Many of the volunteers are from local medical schools. The participants will now have access to more women to guide them on their journey, helping them navigate challenges and unlock their full potential.

Expansion. FEM Dominicana is exploring options for expanding to a second site to enable more women to materialize their dreams.

Stay tuned for more updates on FEM Dominicana. Follow them on [social media](#) and view the [newsletter](#)! Here is a link to their [website](#).

Becario Spotlight

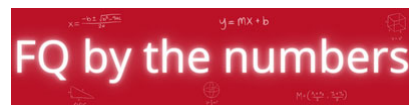


Eduardo Garcia changed his major from music to computer network administration, enrolling at ITSC when his grandmother recommended it. Eduardo received a laptop in 2022 from FQ as well as money to pay his transportation fees (60 pesos daily) and

monthly school costs.



Monica started her studies virtually, but then struggled to attend in-person classes because she had to pay more than 500 pesos daily, traveling from Monte Plata to Santo Domingo for classes. ITSC was the closest academic option. The FQ scholarship covers her transportation costs.



US\$11,910

Total Fondo Quisqueya grant allocations from January-June of 2023.

35

Years that Fondo Quisqueya has existed, providing educational grants.



There were only 23 perfect games pitched in Major League Baseball before this year. But then on June 28th, Domingo Germán from San Pedro de Macoris and pitcher for the

New York Yankees, pitched the first perfect game since 2013. Wow!

From the President

Dear FQ friends and supporters,

Un saludo cariñoso to our FQ friends and supporters from the new board elected at this summer's Annual Meeting, I as President, Minor Anderson as Vice President, Tito Coleman as Secretary and Bill Threlkheld, as treasurer.



First and foremost, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Tito Coleman, who served as FQ President for six years. Tito's leadership carried us through the pandemic as he seized opportunities to keep the mission alive. During the two-year absence of PC Volunteers, Tito maintained our strong link with Peace Corps' leadership and looked for ways to support students' needs, such as quickly recommending switching transportation support for ITSC students to equipping them with laptops for distance learning.

Two themes will define our work for the next year, *Remember the history* and *Look to the future*. FQ remains steadfast in carrying out our mission—to provide grants for educational and training for low-income Dominicans. We are convinced by the Board's work with Peace Corps and by our own on-the-ground site visits to our grantees, that FQ's work is as relevant today as when FQ was founded. We are also well aware of the need to adapt to the changing environment, both in the Dominican Republic and within Peace Corps, as we carry out the mission.

You can expect to see new areas of strategic emphasis in our grants that reflect the Peace Corps' new Strategic Plan. You will hear about the new opportunities we are developing in partnership with like-minded local organizations. These are emerging from across the country! With the recent return of Peace Corps Volunteers, we are already receiving requests from Volunteers for FQ Grants. They too are exploring new ways to provide education and training to surmount the barriers that many Dominican youth still face to gain employment and overcome poverty. Please check our Face Book page and website as we post updates on the new grantees in that space.

Your support during the last three years has been instrumental in our being able to help keep students in school. Thank you. We hope you catch our excitement and enthusiasm about the emerging opportunities that offer both hope and practical skills for a better future. We welcome you to continue to be a part of this journey.

Janet

Announcements

Are you an expert in Filmmaker Pro? We need your help!

Please donate a few hours of time to help us solve some technical issues! To show our appreciation, you'll receive your very own Fondo Quisqueya t-shirt. Please let us know at fondoquisqueyausa@gmail.com.

Donate Now!

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Visit our Website

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We're just getting started!

Donate Now!

