



From the President's Corner

This year's annual Board of Director's meeting was held at the home of Tom and Sue Gittins in Falls Church Va. A big thanks to both of them for their wonderful hospitality and for hosting this event for yet another year! Lively horseshoe games, fun, talk, and good cheer preceded the meeting. Anne Ternes and Janet Kerlev were re-elected to the Board, and the current slate of Fondo Q Officers was reelected, (I as President, Anne Ternes as Vice-President, Lou Ferrand as Treasurer, and Bill Threlkeld as Secretary.). The Fondo Q members who came from the longest distance were Minor and Linda Anderson from Miami, Florida. Sarah Padilla, who served a one-year term, is leaving the Board to plan her upcoming wedding. Many thanks to Sarah for serving on the Board and helping to write the scholarship grant article included in this newsletter. We are looking for some volunteers with desktop publishing skills to help us out with the newsletter and/or are interested in writing articles. If you are interested in helping, please contact Anne Ternes at aternes@starpower.net or yours truly: rwarren@msi-inc.com.

I am pleased to announce that the Board authorized a special contribution of up to US\$10,000 to be given to the Dominican Republic (DR) for educational purposes in areas affected by the recent flood devastation. The money can be used for the same type of school re-building that Fondo Q funded after Hurricane Georges and/or for additional scholarships or for other activities in the education area. Dominican education and training is our mandate. The Board also voted to raise the minimum amount from \$2,500 to \$3000 for scholarships and grants to be given out each quarter. This means that we hope to award US\$12,000 this year in addition to the special contribution for flood-related education relief. Further on in the newsletter is the Treasurer's Report and a list of the scholarships and grants that



FQ President B.J. Warren commences the annual meeting under the watchful eyes of board members Tom Gittins and Stu Frisch.



Treasurer Lou Ferrand reviews the status of FO's finances as Stu double checks the math.



(from the President's Corner continued)

have been awarded so far this year. Computer training still seems very popular as a result of the Peace Corps Volunteers' work with the Information Technology centers in the DR.

Tom Goodwin, who has done a wonderful job as the third year PCV Coordinator of the local Fondo Q selection process, is finishing his time in the DR. Tom, we want to thank you very much and wish you all the best in your next venture. We want to welcome Ryan Reid who has been well oriented by Tom and who will be the PCV Coordinator for the coming year. Please see the letter by Ryan in this newsletter.

Fondo Q's local committee in the DR is benefiting once again from the energetic and wise input of Jennifer McGowan who has returned to the DR with her baby and husband from a temporary residence in Spain. Jennifer, welcome back!! We owe a special thanks to Diane Partl for her outstanding work while Jennifer was away.

I am pleased to announce that we have been selected by SEED, an NGO web page builder, so that we will have less to pay for our website and we can more easily make online changes. Please check out our website and send us any comments or suggestions. The website is www.fondog.org. This address will not change.

For those of you who remember Andy Hernandez, the first Peace Corps Director in the DR, and for those PCVs who would like to learn about the early days of Peace Corps in the DR, you are welcome to attend a reunion this fall in Albuquerque. Dates are October 15-17th at the Rio Grand Inn. (1-800-959-3500) Please contact Jess Stone for more details at 1-208-798-7043 or jessstone@aol.com. Andy has many wonderful stories.



Replete with barbecue, FQ members discuss policy. Note Florida visitors Minor and Linda Anderson in the middle.



Minor beams at his first grandchild.

We were delighted that former DR PC Director Anita Friedman joined us at a spring gathering to update local DC Fondo Q members on what is happening in the DR. Anita will soon be leaving her position in Peace Corps Washington, and we wish her all the very best.

We want to thank the Brown family very much. In December 2003, they decided to honor PCV Becky Brown and donate to Fondo Quisqueya instead of giving Christmas gifts. Becky has many wonderful relatives, and we received approximately \$3500. We feel this is a wonderful precedent and hope that other families and individuals will consider following suit.

As you may know, the Dominican peso has taken a dive and sometimes reaches 50 pesos to one US\$. This means that we have had to go back and increase the level of funding for scholarship awardees as their costs of transportation etc. have increased. We do hope that you will continue to help support us, and we encourage those who have not yet donated to join the Fondo Q "family".

The need is particularly acute at this time - we need your help to raise the \$10,000 we've committed to this year's flood victims, in addition to our \$12,000 commitments for this year's scholarships and grants. For those of you have been generous in the past, we thank you, and we hope you will continue to help Dominicans achieve a better life. For those of you who will be making your first donation to Fondo Q, we welcome you.

All the best,
BJ Warren
President



FQ Offers 10K Support for Education in Flood Areas

The following are e-mail excerpts after the decision taken at the June 6th, 2004 FQ Annual meeting.

<p>Javier L. Garza Country Director Peace Corps--Dominican Republic</p> <p>“Dear Javier, Just wanted to let you know that our Fondo Quisqueya board authorized \$10,000 for help in the re-building of schools and helping to meet other education needs in the flood areas. Education is the area where our funds may be used. For example, after Hurricane David, one of the local members of our committee, Mike Benson, set up a fund with the local hardware store in Hato Mayor (Ferrateria Americana). The PCVs involved with the rebuilding of the schools- (I think we helped repair about 14) then went there and got the materials they needed for school repairs. ... I know that through our donation, money was leveraged from the Government of Spain for additional funding.</p> <p>We can be very flexible but we need to keep to our Fondo Quisqueya purpose that is to assist Dominicans in the education area. ...</p> <p>All the best, BJ Warren”</p>	<p>Javier responded as follows:</p> <p>“Dear B.J.:</p> <p>This donation is wonderful! Thanks again so much for your continued kindness and care for the people of the DR. I am so heartened to know that folks like you are out there and are still truly involved in the well-being of this Paradise. I think that the school rebuilding is a great pinpoint target for the fund given the other assistance that has come in. Education is certainly a critical element in the development of the DR. I wholeheartedly support the Fondo's focus in this area. ...</p> <p>Thanks again for your support and for your kindness toward this very special place. I must say that our thrust is to fully support the work of the volunteer. You all continue to be volunteers and we are so much better for it.</p> <p>Fuertes Saludos, Javier”</p>
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Lou Ferrand, FQ Treasurer

In the first quarter of this year, Fondo Q awarded 21 grants and scholarships to low income Dominicans in the amount of approximately US\$3,000 for computer training, nursing training, beauty school, the formation of a Girl Scout troop, and English and eco-tourism school. From January 1, 2003 to the present, Fondo Q awarded 72 grants and scholarships in the amount of approximately US\$12,300. With the aid of Peace Corps Volunteers who sponsor Fondo Q's scholarship and grant recipients and Fondo Q's local committee in the DR, whose members perform most of application screening process, we plan and expect to award at least US\$9,000 more for additional grants and scholarships before the end of 2004.



Treasurer's Report (con't)

From January 1, 2003, to the present, Fondo Q received approximately 120 donations from individuals and institutions, (not counting spouses and significant others). Some donations were made in memory or in honor of another person. The Honor Roll of Donors for 2003 and 2004 appears later in this Newsletter.

The special earmarked donations received so far this year are: (i) a gift of four US\$250 scholarships to fund computer training or nursing scholarships for women, (ii) the second of a four-year commitment in memory of Felipa Maria Aiyabar from Los Cocos de Jacagua, to fund four US\$250 scholarships each year, (with two going to Dominicans in Los Cocos and two for general Fondo Q grants); and (iii) a special Christmas donation by members of the Brown family in honor of the work of DR Peace Corps Volunteer Becky Brown.

We currently have US\$14,076 available for grants and scholarships. This amount will enable Fondo Q to meet its goal of giving out at least US\$12,000 each year to approximately 50 Dominicans. Most scholarships and grants are for US\$250 or less and some are accompanied by matching funds. As noted by B.J. in her letter and in the e-mail exchange with Javier Garza, F.Q. has committed an additional 10K for education needs in the flood disaster areas. These funds are over and above our regular yearly sum and we will need your help to meet this special 10K challenge.

Our long-range goal is to continue to expand the number of grants and scholarships awarded each year. I know that if we achieve a steady, annual and larger contribution base, we will be successful. A special "thank you" to those who have already donated this year. We encourage those of you who have not yet done so to join us as part of the Fondo Q "family".

And, don't forget that your donation is 100% tax deductible. Have a great summer!

**What You, Our Donors, Have Enabled
Fondo Q to Accomplish**
Lou Ferrand, Treasurer, Fondo Q

Since its founding in 1987, Fondo Q has donated more than US\$47,000 to more than 374 individuals and groups for various types of training and education, including: nurses' training; computer skills training; drivers training; beautician school; worm compost training; chicken raising training; tractor driving training; pesticide safety training; fruit tree grafting training; accounting; bee keeping; sustainable agriculture training; fashion design; dance training; transportation and high school tuition; text book purchases; bamboo uses training; ecological training; books for summer school classes; books for environmental camp; art supplies; music training; graphic arts courses; electrical vocational school; motorcycle mechanic training; diesel engine repair; electronic appliance repair; advanced English training; pharmacy training; child psychology courses; infant teaching course; eco-tourism school; training in construction and cement work; industrial mechanics school; sewing machine training; materials for a women's group sewing course; a farm veterinary apprenticeship; formation of a Girl Scout troop; executive secretary training; goat raising; drafting school; and, basic education. In addition, in 1999, Fondo Q donated US\$14,000 through the DR Peace Corps Office to help rebuild several schools in the Hato Rey area of the DR that had been severely damaged by Hurricane Georges. Fondo Q's donation for rebuilding the schools was the catalyst for a major donation by a Spanish Foundation and school rebuilding financing from the Dominican Government.



**HONOR ROLL OF DONORS TO FONDO Q
FROM JANUARY 1, 2004 – JUNE 6, 2004**

GENERAL DONORS: *Randy Adams & Mary Jo Smrekar, Martin E. Adler, Minor & Linda Anderson, Lawrence Blaskoph, Ronald A. Carlson, Harold "Casey" Case, David Clary, Pete & Joy Duarte, John & Jeanne Evans, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Stuart Frisch, Berta & James Laney Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta (Dr. & Mrs. James T. Laney), Lawrence F. Habrick, Stephanie M Hackenburg, Harold Hopkins, Leslie Jordan, Mary G. Kelley, Janet Kerley, Rachel A. Locey, Gerald Lutes, William A. Miller, Stephen Murphy, James & Ann O'Connor, Sara Padilla, George Rowland, Nicole A Tembrook, Anne Ternes, Gerda Van Rooyen, Travis T. Ward, and Roberta Warren.*

DONOR IN MEMORY OF FELIPA MARIA AIYABAR OF LOS COCOS DE JACAGUA:

Anne Robson-Dice

DONORS IN HONOR OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER BECKY BROWN: Rebecca L. & William C. Brown, William C. Brown, Jr. & Marilyn, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Brown (Charitable Gift Fund), Steve & Anne Payne, and Betty & Rev. Steve Sloop.

DONOR FOR COMPUTER OR NURSING TRAINING: Virginia Williams

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS TO FONDO Q IN 2003

GENERAL DONORS: Randy Adams & Mary Jo Smrekar, Debra K. Alba & Antonio Jose Alba, Roberta Albracht, Mary Christine Alt, Dan & Mary Armour, Lauren Mann Baez, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Jeanne Bruno, Richard M. Cabrera, Harold Case, David Clary, Community Foundation (The) (Mr. & Wendell Reilly), Eugene Cooper, Tomi E. Cornell, James J. & Apornpan Dougherty, Richard Elrauch, John & Jeanne Evans, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Marion H. Ford, Stuart Frisch, Fulmer & Associates (Terry Fulmer), Javier Lindel Garza, Tom & Suzi Gittins, John Goyer, Frank A. & Patricia B. Hale, Kathryn Hanowell, Katherine Harris, Heritage High School, Harold E. Hopkins, Jr., John D. Hopper, Edward L. Hummel, International Products Group (Earl McClure), Susan & Roger Johnston, Leslie K. Jordan, Janet Kerley, Mary M. Kritz, Gene Lane, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, Jeffrey Martz, David H. McCord, Antonio & Susan Menendez, Ronald D. Morgan, Stephen E. Murphy, Dale Nybro, David J. Padilla, Nora E. Palmattier, Bruce & Kinsey Potter, John & Amparo Prussia, Steven & Melinda Rabinowitz, Alan Randall, Rebecca Ratliff, Donna Rieper, M.Z. & James D. Robson, Ann Robson-Dice & Matthew Dice, Celia & Joel Roth, Ruth Mackenzie Saxe, Vida E. Sanchez, John & Linda Scott, Sherwood Seigel, V. Diann Streater, Judy Struve Moncrief, Jeffrey L. Morton, Jess H. Stone & Frances D. Hedrick, Nicole Tembrook, Anne Ternes, Judith Thoms, Bill & Carine Threlkeld, John & Helen Torphy, Herb Trossman, Vincent & Pauline Vlastic, Gerda Van Rooyen, Eric J. Wagner, Travis Ward, Roberta J. Warren, and Rosalie Wolf & T.H. Quinn.

DONORS IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN PAYTON & TOM McBRIDE:

Lynda & Dan Edwards

DONOR IN MEMORY OF FELIPA MARIA AIYABAR OF LOS COCOS DE JACAGUA:

Anne Robson-Dice



Honor Roll of Donors to FQ in 2003 (cont)

DONORS IN HONOR OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER BECKY

BROWN: John & Beth Brown, Dr. Ross M. & Cathie M. Brown, Rev. & Mrs. William C. Brown, Ralph & Evelyn Christensen, Mary Louise Brown Forsythe & Robert D. Forsythe, Kira M. & Ross M. Sloop

DONOR FOR COMPUTER OR NURSING TRAINING: Virginia Williams

DONOR IN HONOR OF BJ WARREN'S BIRTHDAY: Judith Light

Ryan Reid, Incoming PC/FQ Coordinator, Writes to FQ

Dear Fondo Quisqueya,

The purpose of this letter is to introduce myself to the members of Fondo Quisqueya as the new PC Coordinator (PCVL Environment) replacing Tom Goodwin. As Tom's time in Peace Corps comes to an end we have began the process of transferring work responsibilities from Tom to me to ensure the continuity and success of current projects and initiatives that correspond to Peace Corps as a whole and more specifically to the environmental sector.

My name is Ryan Reid, I was an Agro-forestry Volunteer in Paraiso, Barahona from May 2002-May 2004. Some of the projects I was involved in include the development of the Cachote Ecotourism Project, latrine construction, and construction of efficient wood-burning stoves, AIDS presentations, web-page design, medical mission, grant writing, and a myriad of other small projects. Before coming to the Peace Corps I was a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In May 2001, I graduated with a degree in International Relations-focus Latin America-and Spanish. My family is from North Carolina also; however, I spent the majority of my childhood either overseas or in the Washington D.C. area.

Over the coming weeks Tom Goodwin will be familiarizing me with the procedures and requirements currently in place to carry out the Fondo Quisqueya program. I look forward to working with you all during the upcoming year to build upon the past successes of your important program.

Sincerely,
Ryan Reid
PCVL Environment



Fondo Q Dinner

Anne Ternes, VP, Fondo Q

On Tuesday April 13th, approximately 25 stalwart people braved rainy weather to gather at the New Orleans House restaurant for dinner and remarks from Roberta Warren, FQ president, and from Anita Friedman, former PC Director in the D.R. and currently the Acting Chief of Operations for the Inter America & Pacific Region. After drinks and dinner, Tom Gittins, FQ board member and special events coordinator, opened the second half of the evening by underscoring the value of supporting Dominican youth, many of whom are helping support their families. Roberta Warren took up the baton, relating the appointment of Ryan Reid PCVL Environment, to replace Tom Goodwin as the D.R.PCV liaison with FQ. Tom did an excellent job in keeping D.R. PCVs aware of the program and in keeping the grant pipeline fully operational. B.J. introduced Anita and presented her with an FQ t-shirt.

After introducing her colleague Kristin Wright, D.R. desk officer, Anita summarized the P.C. program in the D.R., highlighting work along the Haitian border, water sanitation, HIV prevention, and community level information technology. She felt that the collaboration of Peace Corps was particularly significant in assisting countless communities in the D.R. to use the computer facilities that had been established during the first Leonel Fernandez government. As an offshoot of this last P.C. program, Fondo Q has supported many young Dominicans to acquire basic computer skills.



Good company, good food, good evening!

Anita went on to mention that after 9-11, Peace Corps Washington reviewed the safety and security measures for volunteers and created a new safety and security position in P.C. Washington as well as a new position in each country office. In addition, for the first time in its history, Peace Corps has also established a program in Mexico through the good offices of the National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT). Volunteers will work in information technology, small business development, and science and technology.

The evening came to a close after a brief exchange of questions and answers and the announcement of the FQ annual meeting and picnic on June 6th, 2004 at the home of Tom and Sue Gittins.



Tom Gittins, FQ special events factotum, opens the evening while guest speaker Anita Friedman enjoys Tom's humor.



B.J., George Rowland, Kristin Wright, PC Desk Officer for the D.R., Randy Adams, and several others enjoy drinks and conversation.



**Letter from RPCV Anne Robson Dice
June 20, 2004**

Dear Fondo Quisqueya,

Greetings from Ocean City, New Jersey! Enclosed please find a donation of funds raised during our 11th annual Memorial Day weekend Peace Corps reunion. My family and I were in the Dominican Republic in February and we purchased several typical Dominican souvenirs including a Dominican flag, rum, coffee, artwork, and a mask which we used for a "rifa" during our reunion to raise funds for you.

For the past 11 years we have met in Ocean City to reminisce about our Peace Corps days and hit the boardwalk and rides for a fun weekend. Jennifer Puccetti and Jim Dougherty (a PCV from Costa Rica who was in the Rutgers MPP program with many of us in the Dominican Republic) have been able to join us all 11 years! In addition to Jennifer and Jim, Jef Buehler, Bonnie Kerker, Wendy Mackenzie, and Anita Tarzian were able to attend this year.



Lydia and Luke Dice in their carnival costumes that they plan on wearing for Halloween!

My children Lydia (6 years old) and Luke (5 years old) and I returned to Los Cocos de Jacagua for a 2 week visit to my old site. We stayed with Mario and Nina Almonte, the family who took excellent care of me during my Peace Corps service. Lydia and Luke attended a local school each day during our visit to pick up some Spanish and experience learning Dominican style. Luke loved the freedom of being able to roam the community and visit his favorite spot at least 5 times a day - the local colmado. With the exchange rate being 50 pesos for 1 dollar (the inflation is currently a very serious issue which is causing the standard of living to decrease dramatically) Luke was able to purchase quite a few treats for his new friends. Lydia loved all the animals that were constantly walking in and out of the house! I still had to wear earplugs in order to sleep next to a rancho full of roosters. Lydia and Luke slept right through the noise!

My husband Matthew arrived at the end of two weeks and we headed up to Sosua to stay at The Tropix for a few days. Silvy and Cory are still running the place.

We had an awesome vacation and hope to return soon. We encouraged a local youth leader to promote Fondo Quisqueya in the community; therefore, you will hopefully be receiving some applications from Los Cocos de Jacagua in the near future.

Enclosed are a few photos from our reunion and trip to the D.R. Best wishes as you continue your important work of providing learning opportunities in the Dominican Republic.

Warm regards,

Anne Robson-Dice



The DR-RPCVs annual reunion photo at Anne Robson-Dice's home.



Wendy Mackenzie and her husband Mathew, Anita Tarzian and husband Jim, with Bonnie Kerker on the boardwalk at Ocean City.



Luke with his Dominican "cousins", Ezekial and Ishmael.



New Grantees and Grantee News
Final Quarter 2003 and First Quarter 2004

Sarah Padilla, FQ Board member

The past two quarters Fondo Quisqueya received an overwhelming response from the volunteers. FQ recipients are able to attend one or more of a variety of educational courses in order to expand their knowledge and skills. This empowers them to apply for and secure employment and contributes to a better quality of life and sense of well being for recipients and their families.

According to Tom Goodwin, until recently the FQ coordinator at Peace Corps headquarters in Santo Domingo,

“Antonio Alexis of Barahona is one of Fondo Quisqueya’s greatest successes this year. PCV Dustin Salverson requested continued funding for Antonio this past quarter. Antonio has been funded twice in the past to take English and Ecotourism courses, and this third time will fund his last course. In addition, PCV Salverson reported that a former recipient of FQ funds, Kenia Ramirez Encarnación, has recently entered high school fulltime and left an unhealthy living situation to move in with her aunt. If it wasn’t for FQ it is quite likely that Kenia would have become a prostitute like her sister.”

The following Dominican men and women are recipients of Fondo Quisqueya scholarships for quarter one, 2004:

Peace Corps Volunteer	Scholarship Recipient	Province	Course
Briana Bauer	Grupo de Golondrinas	Monsignor Nouel	Girl Scouts
Briana Bauer	Santa Rosario	Monsignor Nouel	Beauty School
Byron Holcomb	Amparo Aybar Ortíz	Azua	Basic Computer Course
Byron Holcomb	Salvador Grateraux Garban	Azua	Basic Computer Course
Byron Holcomb	Wilman Grateraux Aybar	Azua	Basic Computer Course
Colleen Bimer	Yvelise María Tejada	Elias Piña	Computer course
Colleen Bimer	Eduardo Cruz	Elias Piña	Computer course
Dustin Salverson	Antonio Alexis	Barahona	English and Ecotourism
Eric Maccintosh	Luisa Cuello Lora	Elias Piña	Computer course
Eric Maccintosh	Marina Guzman Berihuete	Elias Piña	Computer course
Evan Fitzgerald	Amparo Altagracia Lopez	Elias Piña	Computer course
Evan Fitzgerald	Onelia Guzman Cabrera	Elias Piña	Computer course
Gigi Fordham	Luis Manuel Sepulveda	Santiago	Computer course
Gigi Fordham	Junior Muñoz	Santiago	Computer course
Heather Medina	Eligia Mabel de Oleo Pena	Independencia	Computer course
Heather Medina	Gloria Castulo Perez Pena	Independencia	Nursing course
Heather Medina	Yara Wilkaria Marcebo Sanchez	Independencia	Computer course
Jason Chancer	Cristina Esperanza Torres	Santiago Rodriguez	Nursing course
Jason Chancer	Yaritza Miguelina Vargas	Santiago Rodriguez	Computer course
Jason Gipson	Elvin Rudis Mora Muñoz	Monte Cristi	Computer course
Jessi Hanson	María Victoria Rivera de Jesus	Distrito Nacional	Beauty School



Grantees 2004 con't

Mark Clark	José Isaac Richardson Westter	La Altagracia	Computer course
Mary Clark	Delgis Antonio Castillo D.	La Altagracia	Computer course
Mary Clark	Víctor Marmel Vasquez Ureña	La Altagracia	Computer course
Mary Clark	Marmel Enrique de los Santos Torres	La Altagracia	Computer course
Mary Clark	María Eduviges Mercedes Sandoval	La Altagracia	Nursing course
Mary Gibson	Rafael Bienvenido Miryetty	Peravia	Driving course
Mary Gibson	Carucho Tejeda	Peravia	Driving course
Molly Coeling	Maximo Consoero de Jesus	Distrito Nacional	Computer course
Tom Wildman	Ramon Emidiadio Pichardo Santos	San Cristobal	Computer course
Tom Wildman	Ramon Francisco Pichardo Santos	San Cristobal	English Course
Colleen Reinert	Santa Rosaura Rivera Ramirez	San Pedro de Macoris	Infant Teaching Course

The following Dominican men and women are recipients of Fondo Quisqueya scholarships for the final quarter of 2003:

Peace Corps Volunteer	Scholarship Recipient	Province	Course
Adrian Lozano	Anaryris Roche Ramirez	Batey Jagual, San Pedro de Macoris	Computer Secretary Course
Adrian Lozano	Isidra Carrión de los Santos	Batey Jagual, San Pedro de Macoris	Computer Secretary Course
Adrian Lozano	Joseline Zunilda Medina M.	Batey Jagual, San Pedro de Macoris	Computer Course
Adrian Lozano	Maria Esthes Guerrero Encarnación	Batey Jagual, San Pedro de Macoris	English Program
Brianna Bauer	Santa Rosario	Cruce de Blanco, Bonao, Monseñor Nouel	Beauty School
Dennis Bauer	Crusito Pichardo Marte	Cruce de Blanco, Bonao, Monseñor Nouel	Veterinary apprenticeship
Colleen Reinart	Yadira Charly Crispin	Batey Monty Cristy, San Pedro de Macoris	Computer Secretary Course
Erik Gruber	Wander Vargas	Pedernales, Pedernales	Basic Computer Course
Nora Sheedy	Alcide Alquimide Ramirez Tejeda	La Gina, Baní, Peravia	Computer Course
Tim Mills	Edward Arturo de la Rosa	Jalonga, Hato Mayor	Advanced English Course
Tim Mills	Kelvin Rosario Astorio	Jalonga, Hato Mayor	Advanced English Course
Carmen Perez	Jose Luis Balbi	Distrito Nacional	Electrical Appliance Repair
Carmen Perez	Wilton Restituyo	Distrito Nacional	Diesel Engine Repair
Nicole Napoleon	NW Futuro Brillante Conference	Dajabón	Futuro Brillante

Recipients live and work through out the Dominican Republic, including Monseñor Nouel, Azua, Dajabón, Hato Mayor, Elias Piña, Barahona, Santiago, Independencia, Santiago Rodriguez, Monte Cristi, La Altagracia, Distrito Nacional, Peravia, and San Cristobal. Many of the courses began in March, April and May 2004. They are each sponsored by a current Peace Corps Volunteer in or close to their town of residence.



The FDR Community Challenge Fund

John Evans
FQ board member & FDR Treasurer

D.R. Brief: the following shows the value of assisting Dominicans to get training.

**PREAL Critiques Central
American & Dominican Education**
Anne Ternes

In 2004, the Task Force on Education Reform in Central America of the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas (PREAL), produced a report card on the state of education in Central America and the Dominican Republic. PREAL forms part of the program activities of the Inter-American Dialogue, a policy analysis, exchange and communication center in Washington, D.C. (See the Dialogue's web site - www.thedialogue.org - for a complete program outline.)

The report card, titled Time to Act, points out four key problems common to Central America and the D.R. These are:

- “management by centralist, bureaucratic and often politicized state institutions that are inefficient and tend to slow the pace of change;
- inadequate and inequitable investment in education;
- a decline in the teaching profession due in part to the failure to link salaries to performance; and,
- a lack of unified educational standards and testing systems which makes it difficult to evaluate the performance of people involved in education and the impact of educational policies.”

By providing scholarship opportunities for Dominican youth and adults to take training that supplements their schooling, FQ is offering something of high value to them!

Friends of the Dominican Republic (FDR), an association of RPCVs, staff and current PCVs, is excited to announce a new program, the Community Challenge Fund (CCF). FDR has received a generous, initial endowment of \$27,000 from John Epler (DR 13), one of our members and his family, to provide grants to support PCVs working in the poorest communities of the DR. The purpose of the CCF is to provide resources to support small community works projects undertaken in impoverished communities in the DR. Typical projects will be community infrastructure that enables communities to meet their basic needs, such as construction or repair of water, electricity, community facilities or sanitation facilities serving the community. The Fund will support mutual-aid and self-help initiatives, and there is a 25% minimum community match required which can include in-kind contributions such as labor and materials. Peace Corps Volunteers will play a key role in the identification of potential projects, as well as assisting in community organization and coordination of approved projects. Grants of up to \$2000 per project will be available.

The CCF will function much like the Peace Corps Partnership program that has been around for decades. In agreement with PC/DR officials, the CCF will use a grant application adapted from Partnership forms, and funds will be channeled to PC/DR via the Partnership office in Washington. PC/DR already has in place a quarterly schedule and review process to approve grant applications for Partnership and USAID-funded Small Project Assistance (SPA) projects. In recent years, SPA funds have been greatly reduced and can only be used for very targeted purposes. PC staff in the DR has welcomed the CCF as an alternative source of funding for community-based projects. In fact, PC/DR has already approved and forwarded three projects for consideration by the CCF and all three have been approved. Thus, the CCF program is underway.

FDR will soon launch a special fund-raising initiative to build-up the CCF endowment. Clearly, additional contributions will be required to provide a steady stream of funds to support critical community infrastructure projects. The Epler family is committed to this initiative and, as the name of the program, Community Challenge Fund, implies, the family challenges others to make tax-deductible contributions to the Fund. In return, the Epler family will match every donation dollar for dollar. We have already received a grant of \$2000 from the family foundation of another RPCV. RPCVs and friends and families of current PCVs are especially encouraged to contribute to this effort.

For further information about the Community Challenge Fund, contact John Epler, FDR CCF Program Manager, at (206) 722-0812 or email him at johnnepler@comcast.net. To make a contribution to the CCF, please send your check directly to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, at 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312. To contribute on-line, 1) go to the FDR Website, <http://www.fotdr.org>; 2) click on “How to Join;” 3) then scroll down and click on the PayPal button