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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY ANITA FRIEDMAN

Greetings to all of you, Friends of Fondo Quisqueya! Spring is upon us, and with that comes cherry blossoms, fresh air, and a sense of renewed hope! I hope that wherever you are when receiving this newsletter, that each of you is in good health and spirits.

This newsletter will bring you up to date on the new directions and institutional relationships that Fondo Quisqueya has begun to build with our new in-country partners: the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) and the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI). In March, a group of seven FQ Board members traveled to the DR to meet with these two partner organizations, as well as with Peace Corps/DR, to assess progress to date in supporting Dominicans in their pursuit of education and training. The group was met with open arms from IDDI and ITSC. Our relationship with ITSC is booming. To date, we have provided 21 grants to Dominican students of the ITSC who are pursuing careers in fields such as auto mechanics and tourism. The ITSC students see our grants as a key way to continue their education!

The FQ Board is working out mechanisms to strengthen our partnership with IDDI. IDDI has eight field offices across the country and has offered to provide pass-through funding for FQ designated grantees at no cost to FQ. Its mission fully coincides with that of Fondo Quisqueya.

We are working on getting the word out to PCVs in communities to connect community members to grant opportunities.

FQ has also supported six training activities this past year through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP). Through these trainings a total of 183 Dominican educators representing 82 schools in 10 districts received training on teaching strategies, incorporating new teaching resources, and classroom management.

Finally, I would like to report that our lead in-country Board member, Laura Sundquist, has stepped down from the Board due to her new job with Peace Corps/DR. So, although we are sad to see her leave the Board, we know that her contributions to the DR will continue to flourish in her new role. Thank you, Laura, for all that you have contributed to Fondo Quisqueya!

I would also like to welcome our newest DR Board member, Kaley Marino, who is an RPCV and continues to live and work in the DR. We look forward to working together!

We have a diverse and energized Board and a supportive community of friends and donors. Many thanks to all of you for continuing to support our important organization that is making a difference in the lives of Dominicans every day. Que viva Quisqueya!



## FQ BOARD'S VISIT TO THE DR

BY TITO COLEMAN AND KATHY PADILLA

On March 10 and 11, a contingent of seven Fondo Quisqueya board members visited our partners in the Dominican Republic. The focus of the trip was to: 1) meet with new partners and assess progress to date; 2) meet with the current Peace Corps team to discuss the status of collaboration with PC; and 3) meet with new grant recipients.

Our first stop was the Peace Corps office where third-year PCV Julie Pangborn provided a power-point presentation about FQ-funded Peace Corps Partnership (PCPP) grants. To date, Fondo Q has financed six trainings for educators through PCPP. The PCV teacher training initiative arose from meetings of Dominican school district directors, *técnicos*, and teachers who identified ongoing professional education as a priority need. These trainings are designed to impact the whole school system through replication and cascade training and are community driven, with each school selecting the focus and themes of the trainings.



FQ board member David Padilla talking with a student at ITSC

Our next stop was the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), which is the DR's first and only community college. Fondo Q is providing funding to cover the transportation costs for a select group of low-income ITSC students who have to travel long distances to reach the college. The ITSC team, composed of seven college officials and headed by Mtra. Marcia Corporán, vice-vector for academic affairs, made a compelling presentation which included a thorough explanation of their program and expenses. ITSC officials introduced board members to five student beneficiaries who each explained their quest of an education and career. Carolina Sánchez, a 20-year-old student from distant Sabana Grande de Boya, explained that she travels two hours by bus and *motoconcho* each way to get to and from school.

ITSC officials explained that when they announced the availability of transportation grants they received over 1,300 applications. Of these, based on need and academic performance, ITSC identified nearly 300 qualified students. The \$6,000 provided by Fondo Q to date has provided 21 students with transportation grants of \$45 a month for the first half of the year. Visiting board members (duly authorized) decided to extend a second \$6,000 for the second half of the year.

Our last stop was the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI). IDDI, one of the country's most prestigious NGOs, has been working on development projects for more than 25 years in the DR. The arrangement FQ has with IDDI provides that when a PCV recommends a person for an individual grant or scholarship, FQ will transfer funds to IDDI which in turn will "pass through" the entire amount of the grant to the training organization. IDDI will not charge any administrative fee for this service. IDDI's mission fully coincides with that of Fondo Quisqueya.



FQ board members visiting the PC/DR office

Overall, the board's sense was that the on-site visit was a valuable undertaking for all involved and looks forward to repeating the exercise in the future.

*“The focus of the trip was to: 1) meet with new partners and assess progress to date; 2) meet with the current Peace Corps team to discuss the status of collaboration with PC; and 3) meet with new grant recipients.”*

## UPDATE ON FQ'S NEW FUNDING MECHANISMS

BY LAURA SUNDQUIST

Fondo Quisqueya is currently using three funding mechanisms to help disadvantaged Dominicans access education and training opportunities.

Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP): Peace Corps volunteers can submit proposals for grants to organize educational workshops or conferences with their project partners. These proposals are reviewed and approved by the Volunteer's Program Manager and Deputy Director of PCDR. PC notifies FQ about these proposals before they are uploaded to the PCPP website. FQ has supported this new funding mechanism by financing six proposals. One grant funded an *Escojo Mi Vida* conference and five grants funded *Escojo Enseñar* workshops. These workshops/conferences use the multiplier methodology to reach a large number of people and focus on building local capacity.

Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC): FQ started working with ITSC, the first and only community college in the DR, last year after its inauguration in 2013. FQ is currently supporting 21 ITSC students with their transportation costs. Although the tuition for ITSC is very affordable, many students travel very long distances, often having to take 4-6 buses/public cars each day. These students are chosen by ITSC to receive transportation grants based on need and taking into account a number of factors including family situation, household income, and number of cars/buses the student takes. Students study at ITSC for two years and one quarter, with the last quarter being an internship which turns into a job in many cases.

Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI): While FQ continues to support individual grants and scholarships for training activities, PCVs are no longer able to handle money from third parties including FQ grant and scholarship funds. FQ is now working with IDDI, a local Dominican NGO, which will assist local Dominicans with their scholarships, pay the training institutions directly, and monitor the recipients. FQ is still asking PCVs to spread the word about this scholarship opportunity and to assist local Dominicans in filling out the application. FQ has not yet received any scholarship applications but is working on improving marketing to PCVs.

## INSTITUTO TÉCNICO SUPERIOR COMUNITARIO GRANTEES

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. Below is a list of the 21 ITSC students currently receiving transportation grants. These students are enrolled in various areas of study including medical imaging, dental hygiene, tourism lodging, automotive mechanics, nursing, and refrigeration.

**Name:** Kisiger Estrella Batista

**From:** Sabana Perdida, Santo Domingo Norte

**Area of study:** Medical Imaging



*“FQ started working with ITSC, the first and only community college in the DR, last year after its inauguration in 2013. FQ is currently supporting 21 ITSC students with their transportation costs.”*

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*Instituto  
Técnico  
Superior  
Comunitario  
(ITSC)  
Grantees*

(Continued from page 3)

**Name:** Diana Carolina Zabala Cabrera  
**From:** Manoguayabo, Santo Domingo Oeste  
**Area of study:** Dental Hygiene

**Name:** Carolina Sánchez Berihuete  
**From:** Sabana Grande de Boya, Monte Plata  
**Area of study:** Tourism Lodging

**Name:** Deuri Antonio Polanco Pérez  
**From:** Cancino Adentro, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Automotive Mechanics

**Name:** Yeimy Belén Rodríguez  
**From:** Brisas del Este, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Nursing

**Name:** Neideline Alexandra Magallanes Adon  
**From:** La Victoria, Santo Domingo Norte  
**Area of study:** Medical Imaging

**Name:** Sara Albanilis Familia Mosquea  
**From:** San Antonio de Guerra, Santo Domingo  
**Area of study:** Gastronomy

**Name:** Ramón Antonio Cueto de la Cruz  
**From:** Los Pinos, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Refrigeration

**Name:** Ineli Nicolle Santana Lockward  
**From:** Ensanche Osama, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Tourism Lodging

**Name:** Ramona de Jesús Bautista  
**From:** Sabana Grande de Boya, Monte Plata  
**Area of study:** Medical Imaging

**Name:** Angelica Maria Puello  
**From:** Los Llanos, San Pedro de Macorís  
**Area of study:** Tourism Lodging



**Ineli Santana**

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

**Name:** Sara Herrera  
**From:** La Victoria, Santo Domingo Norte  
**Area of study:** Nursing

**Name:** Yanna Jessenia Díaz Rodríguez  
**From:** Villa Mella, Santo Domingo Norte  
**Area of study:** Medical Imaging

**Name:** Rachel Banelis Hichez Samidi  
**From:** San Antonio de Guerra, Santo Domingo  
**Area of study:** Logistics

**Name:** Isaac Taveras Germán  
**From:** Urb. Italia, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Construction

**Name:** Yorely Burgos Espinosa  
**From:** San Isidro, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Tourism Lodging

**Name:** Gissell Virginia del Orbe Núñez  
**From:** San Isidro, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Medical Imaging

**Name:** Marvin Antonio Garcia Garcia  
**From:** Cancino Adentro, Santo Domingo Este  
**Area of study:** Food and Beverage Service

**Name:** María Justina Espíritu Rosario  
**From:** Chirino, Monte Plata  
**Area of study:** Dental Hygiene

**Name:** Natalia Pérez Lopez  
**From:** Batey Yabaco, Monte Plata  
**Area of study:** Dental Hygiene

**Name:** Valeria García Museses  
**From:** Sabana Grande de Boya, Monte Plata  
**Area of study:** Tourism Lodging



**Isaac Taveras**



## SPOTLIGHT ON THREE ITSC GRANTEES

BY JOANNA MAUER

Below we spotlight three students who are studying at the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC) and are receiving small grants from Fondo Q to cover their transportation costs.

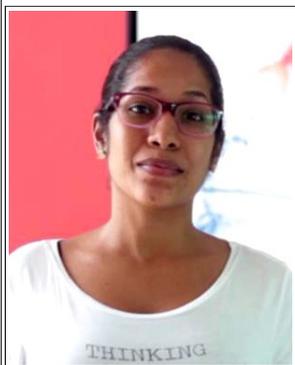


**Ramón Antonio Cueto de la Cruz** lives in Los Pinos, Santo Domingo Este. Ramón has two kids and no formal employment. He supports his family by making *dulces*. He has to take four buses/public cars each day to get to school and return home. Sometimes he has had to ask someone for a ride when he hasn't had money for transportation. Ramón is studying refrigeration.

**Gissell Virginia del Orbe Núñez** lives in San Isidro, Santo Domingo Este. Gissell is a single mother who lives with her mom. She has to take six buses/public cars each day to get to school and return home. Her relatives are not able to support her financially. Gissell is studying medical imaging.



*“Yanna has to take six buses/public cars each day to get to school and return home. She is studying medical imaging.”*



**Yanna Jessenia Díaz Rodríguez** lives in Villa Mella, Santo Domingo Norte. Yanna is unemployed and lives with her mom and her brother. Her mom is a nurse but does not make very much money. Yanna has to take six buses/public cars each day to get to school and return home. She is studying medical imaging.

## PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

BY JOANNA MAUER

Fondo Q is funding grants through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) for educational workshops and conferences. Below we highlight three of the PCPP grants funded by FQ during the past year.

### Expanding Escojo Mi Vida: Lago Enriquillo

PCV Katherine Falleta received a PCPP grant to expand and strengthen the *Escojo Mi Vida* network in the region around Lago Enriquillo. Katherine wrote that “community members and local medical professionals have identified a pressing and unmet need for sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents in light of the extremely high rate of teen

(Continued from page 6)

pregnancy in the region.” This project leverages the resources of the *Fundación Esperanza Sin Fronteras*, a local NGO already active in the region that has committed to collaborating with the *Escojo* network to support its activities and ensure its sustainability. The project consists of four components: (1) forming 16 new *Escojo* groups to train sexual health peer educators; (2) supporting 10 groups of trained *Escojo* youth as they work as sexual health peer educators; (3) holding three regional conferences to strengthen the *Escojo* network; and (4) strengthening the relationship between *Fundación Esperanza Sin Fronteras* and the *Escojo Mi Vida* network through monthly meetings.

### **Escojo Enseñar Teacher Training Conference: Restauración, Dajabón**

PCV Sarah Cook received a PCPP grant to conduct an *Escojo Enseñar* teaching training conference in collaboration with the District Director and technicians in Restauración, Dajabón near the Haitian border. Sarah wrote that “educators find themselves in schools with limited resources, staff, and training” and that “due to the lack of adequate training, teachers frequently use rote teaching methods that include copying from the board.” The PCPP grant funded a conference for 69 teachers from 22 schools where the teachers participated in four practice-based workshops aimed at improving their pedagogy and resource utilization: (1) literacy teaching strategies using didactic materials; (2) using technology in classrooms; (3) reading resources; and (4) parents as resources. The community donated the space to hold the conference as well as some of the materials and equipment, and local stores provided special discounts to help with the costs.

### **Escojo Enseñar Teacher Training Conference: Samaná**

PCV Tayler Stuger received a PCPP grant to conduct an *Escojo Enseñar* teaching training conference in the school district of Samaná with the goal of increasing and motivating teacher commitment and promoting communities of practice. Tayler wrote that “district technicians, local school directors, and Samaná teachers have expressed both the desire and interest in expanding their teaching skills through new teaching and learning strategies.” The district technician for elementary schools and his team assisted in forming a committee of directors and teachers to be involved in the planning process and implementation of the conference. The conference attendees included 30 educators from 15 schools in addition to 8 committee members. After the conference, “take-it-back” trainings will be conducted in the participants’ own schools, and the committee will conduct follow-up school visits.



*“The PCPP grant funded a conference for 69 teachers from 22 schools where the teachers participated in four practice-based workshops aimed at improving their pedagogy and resource utilization.”*

## TREASURER’S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

Happy Spring! It has been a great first quarter, with our revenues for the period nearly on pace to cover our expenses for the same period. Most importantly, we provided more than \$3,500 in grants in the first quarter through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP), to provide community train-the-trainers events in areas close to Santo Domingo, Elias Piña, Samaná, and the Haitian border. This amount, together with two additional December grants through the PCPP (for health and education train-the-trainers events in areas around Lago Enriquillo and Puerta Plata, respectively) for more than \$2,600, brings FQ’s giving to PCPP projects over the last four months to more than \$6,200.

Also for the first quarter, we provided an additional \$3,000 to the \$6,000 we provided in 2015 to the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), to continue supporting the transportation needs of low-income students enrolled in the community college. FQ will be providing another \$3,000, possibly more, during this year.

(Continued on page 8)



*“Thank you for your generous contributions that allow us to support these partnerships with critical funding for the most promising yet economically disadvantaged students and community members throughout the Dominican Republic.”*

(Continued from page 7)

In total, since September 2015 and including \$3,000 disbursed to the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI) for future scholarships, FQ has provided more than \$18,200 to support low-income Dominicans as they create pathways to a better life through education and training. Thank you for your generous contributions that allow us to support these partnerships with critical funding for the most promising yet economically disadvantaged students and community members throughout the Dominican Republic.

Below is our Honor Roll of Donors for the last calendar year and this one thus far. If your name is not on the list (and I hope no one has been overlooked but let me know if you have been), your contribution will ensure you are acknowledged with our next issue of this newsletter!

## 2015 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1— DECEMBER 31 )

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**IN MEMORY OF HERBERT TROSSMAN:** Pat & Molly Morgan

**IN MEMORY OF LOU FERRAND:** Carolyn & Michael Vale

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

**BJ WARREN ENDOWMENT :** Carolyn & Michael Vale

**MILA BROOKS FUND:** Redford & Virginia Williams

## 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/contribute](http://www.fondoq.org/contribute).

### 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.

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## JOIN US AT FQ'S ANNUAL MEETING & BBQ AT 4 PM ON JUNE 26!

Join us for Fondo Q's Annual meeting and BBQ on **Sunday, June 26** 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 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 26, 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**



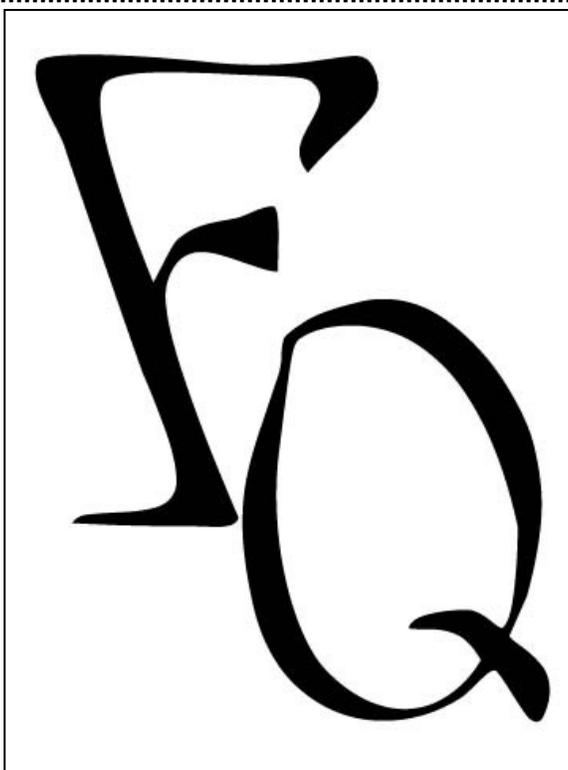
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When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.