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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY ANITA FRIEDMAN

Greetings to all of you, Friends of Fondo Quisqueya! I hope that wherever you are when receiving this newsletter, that each of you is in good health and spirits. It has been quite a spell since we last sent out our newsletter, and a lot has happened since that time.

First, I should tell you that I am honored to have been elected as the new President. Having spent many years in meetings run by Lou Ferrand and BJ Warren, I don't take this lightly. It is a big responsibility to follow in the shoes of people with as kind and generous spirits as Lou and BJ. I think of them often as we make decisions about how to guide this organization into the future.

For those of you who don't know me, I served as the Peace Corps Director in the Dominican Republic from 2000-2003, and in PC headquarters in the Inter-America and Pacific Region from 1996-2000 and 2003-2004. I was also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay from 1983-86. So, my affiliation with Peace Corps spans multiple decades and countries. When I arrived in the DR, my younger son was one year old, and spoke only Spanish for his first 3 years. My older son started Kindergarten in the DR—now he's in college! Our family feels very connected to the Dominican Republic.

Now, to important things! Late last Fall, our past President Anne Kopley had a terrific career opportunity that took her to New York City. At that time, Anne resigned and I stepped in as Acting President (since I was Vice President). Anne had begun taking us down a new path of broader participation and innovation. We had been wrestling with some new developments from Peace Corps administration that precluded Fondo Q from providing funding for grants and scholarships to Dominicans directly via Peace Corps Volunteers. We began to explore new mechanisms to get funds into the hands of low-income Dominicans who were pursuing opportunities to improve themselves through education and training.

The FQ Board and I are happy to report that we have now established three new mechanisms that Fondo will use to continue to support education and training in the DR: (1) FQ will provide funding through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) to support group training activities for Dominicans sponsored by Volunteers in their communities; (2) FQ will provide funding to IDDI (Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral), one of the most trusted NGOs in the DR and a long-time collaborator with Peace Corps, for small grants for individuals; and (3) FQ will provide funding to cover transportation costs for low-income students taking classes at the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario, which is the first and only community college in the Dominican Republic. (See articles describing the details of these new funding mechanisms in this newsletter.)

Although this is new territory for Fondo Quisqueya, we have researched these institutions thoroughly and were fortunate to have a team of Board members visit them in person in March. We believe that branching out in these new directions will allow our organization to continue to support our mission and also maintain our ties to Peace Corps. We will keep you updated as we proceed with these new partnerships.

Finally, I would like to welcome three new Board members: Mike Benson, Jean Erickson, and David Smith.

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!



“The major topic of discussion was the new way FQ will have to proceed to distribute FQ’s scholarship funds. The Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) will handle distribution of FQ funds for group training projects, while funds for individual scholarships will be distributed through partnerships with the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI) and the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC).”

FQ ANNUAL MEETING

BY JANET KERLEY

On Sunday, June 7, Tom and Sue Gittins hosted the Fondo Quisqueya annual meeting and picnic. The afternoon began with a delicious potluck meal that featured Tom’s traditional barbecued chicken and bratwurst, with a side of Presidente!

Anita Friedman, our interim president, opened the business meeting with a tribute to the founders of Fondo Quisqueya and asked us to remember, in particular, Lou Ferrand and BJ Warren who are no longer with us. She gave a warm thank you to Tom and Sue for offering their hospitality.

The major topic of discussion was the new way FQ will have to proceed to distribute FQ’s scholarship funds. The Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) will handle distribution of FQ funds for group training projects, while funds for individual scholarships will be distributed through partnerships with the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI) and the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC). (See articles about these new partnerships in this newsletter.)

Six Board members were elected. The three Board members whose terms ended this year were reelected—Tito Coleman, Janet Kerley, and Bill Threlkeld—and three new Board members were elected to fill vacancies created by resignations. We welcomed as new Board members Mike Benson (resident in Santo Domingo), Jean Erickson (resident in Santo Domingo), and David Smith (resident in Washington, DC).

The new slate of officers for 2015/2016 was also elected: Anita Friedman (President), Tom Gittins (Vice President), Bill Threlkeld (Treasurer), and Janet Kerley (Secretary).

NEW DIRECTION FOR FQ FUNDING OF GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

BY RIK LAIRD AND JANET KERLEY

As a result of Peace Corps rule changes that do not permit PCVs to handle money from third parties, Fondo Quisqueya has been at a crossroads for nearly a year with its funding of grants and scholarships. PC Headquarters has established that FQ group training scholarships can be handled through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) (see article in this newsletter), which has a structured mechanism for accepting proposals from PCVs. However, this same process cannot be used for scholarships for individuals. As a result, FQ needed to find alternatives to handle money for individual grants and scholarships.

To comply with PC Headquarters decisions and fulfill FQ’s mission, two Board members (Tom Gittins and Janet Kerley) traveled to the DR, joining Board members who live in the DR (Rik Laird and Laura Sundquist) to explore with PC/DR and other organizations alternatives for continuing FQ’s scholarship funding for individuals and groups. Upon their

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arrival in Santo Domingo, they were joined by Jennifer McGowan (former FQ Board member) and Mike Benson (new FQ Board member) for a strategic planning meeting to establish an agenda for meetings with each organization. Laura had established meeting times and dates with PC/DR; the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), the only community college in the DR (see article in this newsletter and their website: www.ITSC.edu.do); Caribe Express, an international bank through which FQ funds could be transferred and distributed to recipients in the DR; and the International Women's Club (www.iwcsantodomingo.org), which funds and distributes individual scholarships for girl's education. Mike Benson recommended and quickly arranged a meeting with a local organization, Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI) whose mission is similar to PC/DR's (see article in this newsletter and their website: www.IDDI.org).

In summary, PC/DR agreed that there is a continued need for FQ's mission to fund individual and group grants and scholarships for education and training. The PC/DR Director encouraged FQ to follow PC's new mechanism for funding group projects and supported FQ's efforts to identify alternative mechanisms to distribute funding for individual scholarships.

Following all of the meetings, the recommendations below were presented to the FQ Board at the May 2015 Board meeting:

1. FQ should continue to work with Peace Corps DR to fund group educational projects through the PCPP. PCPP would receive recommendations from PCVs in the DR who follow a procedure through PC/DR and PC Washington for project approval, solicitation of funding, and distribution of funds.
2. FQ should establish partnerships with IDDI and ITSC to receive and fund approved recommendations for individual scholarships.
3. For purposes of maintaining a positive relationship with the International Women's Club, FQ should continue to be open to receiving requests from them for scholarships for individuals.
4. FQ should not consider developing a funds transfer service with organizations such as Caribe Express or Western Union.

Because FQ has not funded any scholarship requests (because of the new PC policy that does not permit PCVs to handle funds from third parties) for the past 6-9 months, it was also recommended that the Board could approve more than the usual amount of annual funding during the coming year. The team that visited the DR recommended that the FQ Board allow for approximately \$6,000 to fund requests from PC/DR for group projects; \$6,000 to fund scholarship requests through IDDI; and \$6,000 to fund scholarship requests through ITSC for the current year. Any requests from the International Women's Club would be approved provided the funding would fit within our financial ability to support. The team also recommended that the funding levels for each organization should be adjusted by the FQ Board on an annual basis, maintaining PC/DR as FQ's priority.

These recommendations were approved at the May Board meeting and FQ is proceeding with their implementation.



“The team that visited the DR recommended that the FQ Board allow for approximately \$6,000 to fund requests from PC/DR for group projects; \$6,000 to fund scholarship requests through IDDI; and \$6,000 to fund scholarship requests through ITSC for the current year.”



“PCPP connects Volunteers and their communities with the private sector in the U.S. and around the world to fund small grassroots projects. The program, started in 2005, is the only Peace Corps Office authorized to receive donations for a project that a Volunteer and his/her community would like to pursue.”

FQ TO WORK WITH THE PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM TO FUND GROUP TRAINING PROJECTS

BY JANET KERLEY

Over the last several months, FQ Board member Michael McCabe has been discussing with the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) the most effective way for FQ to partner with PCPP to fund grants for group training projects. On May 6, FQ Board member Janet Kerley confirmed with PCPP the specifics of the agreement between PCPP and Fondo Quisqueya to support Volunteers' projects in the Dominican Republic. PCPP's representatives said they are very excited about having us work with them.

PCPP connects Volunteers and their communities with the private sector in the U.S. and around the world to fund small grassroots projects. The program, started in 2005, is the only Peace Corps Office authorized to receive donations for a project that a Volunteer and his/her community would like to pursue.

PCPP is a proven mechanism for supporting small community-based projects. Over the past 10 years, PCPP has funded more than 6,000 Volunteer projects in nearly every sector, totaling more than \$18 million in grant funds. Last year alone, the PCPP funded 776 projects in 59 countries, touching the lives of 1.4 million people across the globe.

FQ will work with the PC/DR Grants Officer, Farrah Canaan, who receives project proposals from PCVs. Farrah will tag projects that fit FQ's mission and send the full proposal to FQ Board member Laura Sundquist. Laura and new FQ Board members Mike Benson and Jean Erickson, all of whom live in Santo Domingo, will consider the proposal and recommend for FQ funding, if appropriate. Farrah will inform PCPP in Washington, and FQ will then transfer the money directly to PCPP.

FQ BEGINS STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH INSTITUTO DOMINICANO DE DESARROLLO INTEGRAL (IDDI)

BY TITO COLEMAN

We are very pleased to launch a strategic alliance with the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI), one of the most trusted NGOs in the DR and a longtime collaborator with Peace Corps through the decades. David Scott Luther, founder and executive director of IDDI, has offered the national network of IDDI offices and projects as contact points for FQ grantees and their PCV counterparts. Additionally, FQ will be piloting a small grant program to support IDDI projects at the community level.

IDDI's mission is to contribute to the transformation of individuals, families and communities by providing educational and other opportunities for growth and

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development. IDDI has a national network of 12 offices reaching many of the hard-to-access areas that PCVs are assigned (Pedernales to Dajabón on the western border with Haiti, across to La Romana and Higüey/Altagracia, and up along the northern coast, in the Cibao, as well as in the most challenging neighborhoods in Santo Domingo).

IDDI will help us channel the funds to our designated grantees and will serve as our primary liaison at the beginning and end of the grant activities.

Three areas of collaboration have been outlined in this partnership:

1. Disbursement of grant funds directly to grantees identified by PCVs in the regions where they work.
2. Assistance with capturing summary information and data about the FQ activities at the end of the grant period, by hosting a wrap-up meeting with the grantee and PCV partner when appropriate.
3. Identification of opportunities for FQ funding (initially a total of \$6,000 for one year) from within the communities that IDDI serves, similar to past FQ grantmaking efforts through Peace Corps.

We are very excited about this new partnership and see this as an excellent complement to FQ's work with Peace Corps through the years.

FQ VISIT TO INSTITUTO TÉCNICO SUPERIOR COMUNITARIO (ITSC)

BY LAURA SUNDQUIST

On March 19, members of the FQ Board (Janet Kerley, Tom Gittins, Rik Laird, and Laura Sundquist) met with four staff members from the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC). ITSC is the first and only community college in the Dominican Republic. It focuses on training students so that they have the necessary skills to enter the labor market. ITSC opened in 2013 and is located in San Luis, in the eastern outskirts of Santo Domingo. Tom Gittins initially met the Academic Vice-Rector, Maria Corporan, in the U.S. ITSC is supported by the Dominican Government and has over 3,800 students in 27 vocational educational programs including health, arts, hospitality, construction, IT, manufacturing, and electromechanics.

The majority of students come from marginalized families and need some type of assistance to begin or continue their studies. The tuition at ITSC is reasonable for most students as it is subsidized by the government. However, transportation in Santo Domingo is very expensive and most students have to take three different modes of public transportation both ways in order to attend classes. The average transportation cost for a student is RD \$150 pesos per day, or about RD \$27,000 pesos per year (US \$595 at current exchange rates).

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“ITSC is the first and only community college in the Dominican Republic. It focuses on training students so that they have the necessary skills to enter the labor market.”



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The staff at ITSC was very excited to meet with the FQ team as they have been looking for ways to connect with organizations providing grants and scholarships. ITSC is currently working with the Ministry of Higher Education, which is providing 621 students with scholarships for transportation, books, tuition, and food. However, another 600 students need scholarships to be able to attend. ITSC gave the FQ team a full tour of their beautiful complex and explained that not only do students have economic challenges, but also academic challenges as most attended public schools lacking adequate resources.

“ITSC is currently working with the Ministry of Higher Education, which is providing 621 students with scholarships for transportation, books, tuition, and food. However, another 600 students need scholarships to be able to attend.”



Students at the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario.

The FQ team walked away from the visit with ITSC feeling very positive about a potential partnership. ITSC and FQ appear to have similar missions, which include helping low-income individuals to obtain technical skills to be able to enter the workforce. After our meeting, ITSC wrote a very professional proposal for FQ outlining the criteria of how scholarship recipients would be chosen, when recipients would receive the scholarship money, and the qualifications students would need to maintain in order to keep their scholarship.

FORMER DR VOLUNTEERS ARE IN ALL 50 STATES

BY MINOR ANDERSON

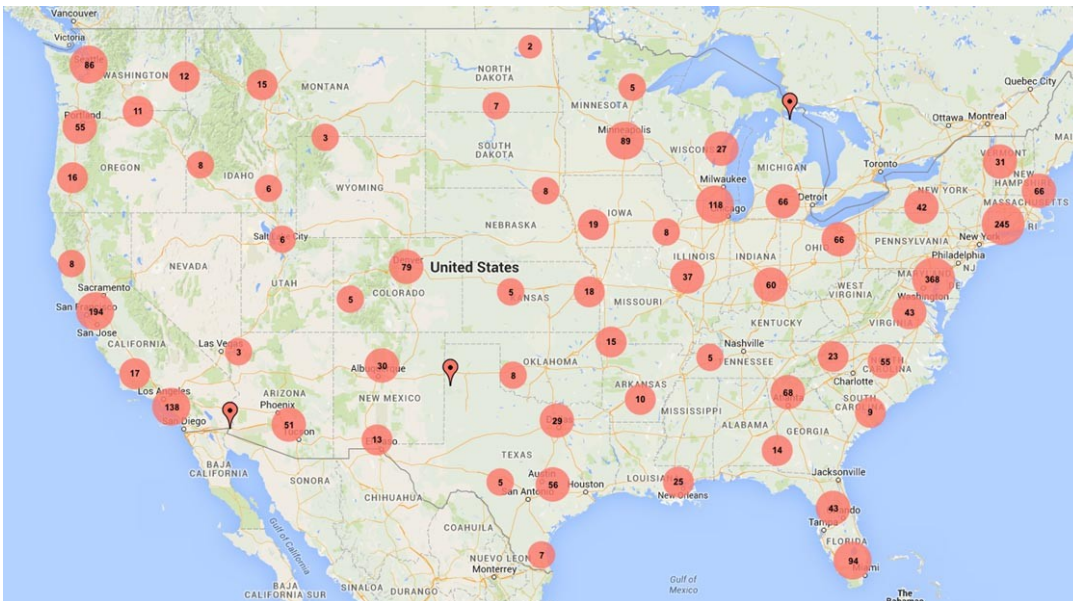
We currently have 2,605 people on our mailing list. The vast majority are former DR volunteers, although some are connected to the DR through friendships with former volunteers and belief in the goals of Fondo Quisqueya.

We are in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. California has by far the largest number with 353. Florida has the next largest number with 140. Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington, and Maryland all have between 93 and 130. If you look at the map of the lower 48 states, you can see concentrations of former Volunteers in South Florida, Boston/New York/Washington, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix/Tucson, and Seattle, to name a few.

If you would like to form a Fondo Quisqueya affiliate in your area, please submit your proposal to the Board (fondoquisqueyausa@yahoo.com). It's very simple—just a statement of what you intend to do and how you intend to do it. We'll provide you with the names, addresses, and emails of the people in your area, so long as you commit to using the information only for the purposes of forming a Fondo Q affiliate.



“If you would like to form a Fondo Quisqueya affiliate in your area, please submit your proposal to the Board.”





"We had a strong year of contributions in 2014, giving us a cash flow sufficient to make some larger-than-normal cash outlays to pilot the work with IDDI and ITSC. "

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

I am writing this on the heels of our Annual Meeting, and I am very excited to be a part of the new partnerships that FQ has been able to establish in the DR, with the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI) and the Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC), that will support our mission there with individual scholarships. We have strengthened our DR Committee with a stronger Board presence, so that we can better coordinate with these partners and evaluate how these new mechanisms and our collaborative work result in meaningful outcomes.

Financially, this is a great time to explore new ways of doing business. We had a strong year of contributions in 2014, giving us a cash flow sufficient to make some larger-than-normal cash outlays to pilot the work with IDDI and ITSC. By the way, these partners are not charging any administrative fee or overhead rate to help us distribute funds to scholarship recipients!

The BJ Warren Endowment Fund is at its healthiest point ever, due to FQ being named as a beneficiary of BJ's retirement plan. Her generous gift, for almost \$94,000, will substantially strengthen the goal of FQ's endowment investments: to use earnings to further FQ's purpose and, by special vote, use the principal for the same.

It is important to keep in mind that BJ's gift is for the sustainability of FQ over the long haul. It is still important for FQ to raise general revenues for what it anticipates spending in grants/scholarships and operational costs (our newsletters, for the most part) each year. We had some matching dollars in 2014-15 that supported both endowment earmarks and general contributions, to encourage new donors. Thanks to all the new donors who came on board! Please continue to remember FQ in your charitable giving.

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IN MEMORY OF HERBERT TROSSMAN: Pat & Molly Morgan

BJ WARREN ENDOWMENT: Embry Howell





NEW FQ BOARD MEMBERS

We welcome three new FQ Board members—Michael Benson, Jean Erickson, and David Smith.

Michael Benson is from Windom, Minnesota and graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1971. He worked in Washington, DC before entering Peace Corps in 1972 to work with the small business program of the Office of Community Development. Based in San Francisco de Macorís, he worked with small business groups in the five zones in the Northeast of the Dominican Republic. Michael stayed in the DR after completing his service to start his own business. After marrying Billie Dominguez, they moved to Washington, DC, where she earned her master's degree at American University and he worked for several consulting companies until 1979, when they returned to Santo Domingo. From 1980-84, Michael was involved with two partners in several seismic projects for hydropower in the high mountains. These projects led to computers, and in 1983, Michael and Billie started the first Apple dealership in Santo Domingo, which they continue today.

Jean Erickson was a Peace Corps education development specialist for two years in Santo Tomás de Jánico, Santiago who then spent her third year in Santo Domingo as the Coordinator for the Education Program. She was the Executive Producer of a telenovela, "Me Toca a Mi" (It's My Turn), with more than 25 local youth which is being used to teach life skills and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention to Dominican adolescents. Since completing her service, Jean has worked at the Colegio Bilingue New Horizons and the Community School for Learning in Santo Domingo. Jean graduated in 2006 from Emory University with a BA in international relations and Latin American and Caribbean Studies and worked at Emory for two and a half years as an Admissions Counselor.

David Smith was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the desert oasis of Los Toros de Azua from 2000-02, training youth groups and teachers in how to use information technology to enhance classroom education. After serving an extension service in East Timor, he returned to the Dominican Republic to train incoming volunteers in the newly minted IT for Education program, and later worked with Peace Corps Washington to head up the online collaboration initiative that empowered staff to share best practices across the world. David has a master's degree from Stanford University in International Education Administration and currently works at the Brookings Institution. He and his *bella esposa*, Nurys are raising a family in Washington, DC. David has long admired the mission of Fondo Quisqueya and is honored to participate more actively.

"We welcome three new FQ Board members—Michael Benson, Jean Erickson, and David Smith."

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.

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.



*“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).”*

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When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.