



From the President's Corner

This is an exciting time to be a former DR Peace Corps Volunteer or Staff member. I invite you to come to the Dominican Republic and join in celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Peace Corps in the DR because DR Peace Corps, Fondo Quisqueya, and Friends of the Dominican Republic are putting together a wonderful celebration of something very special.

Peace Corps began in the DR in 1962. My PC group arrived there in 1966. We were the first PC group to arrive after the U.S. and Brazilian troops left the country. Over the years, Peace Corps has continued to play what I believe to be a very important role in helping Dominicans help themselves. It is an achievement in which we all had a part and in which we can all be proud.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to coming to the Anniversary Celebration. I encourage you to bring your husband or wife or significant other and your families. I also encourage you to contact members of your PC group so that you can have your Group's own mini-reunion during the Conference.

(-cont. on pg.2)

WHAT ARE OUR GRANTEES DOING?

By Jennifer McGowan

Chair, Fondo O's DR Local Committee

Since the last Newsletter of summer 2006, FQ has awarded 17 more scholarships. The scholarships are funding practical short courses that can lead to jobs: six grants were awarded for English classes; five funded computer literacy, which includes one group computer class. Additionally, one grant was given for each of the following courses: teacher training, alternative energy, sewing, eco-tourism guide training, art, and an electronics class. (-cont. on pg.3)



Comunidad de El Aguacate (Computer Training)

REGISTER NOW FOR THE DRPC 45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN THE DR February 8 – 11, 2007

PLAN TO JOIN US AND YOUR PC FRIENDS, CURRENT PCVs, AND DOMINICAN COUNTERPARTS IN CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE, FRIENDSHIP, COMMITMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE DR!

DR Peace Corps, under the leadership of Director Romeo Massey, and in partnership with Fondo Quisqueya and Friends of the Dominican Republic, are planning a fun and exciting and YES, an outstanding Celebration of Peace Corps' 45th Anniversary in the DR. The reunion will also have the active participation of current PCVs.

Some of the Highlights of the celebration are:

- **The Kick-off Reception** on Friday, Feb. 9, hosted by DR President Fernandez at the Presidential Palace.
- **A Friday Evening Reception at the U.S. Embassy**, hosted by U.S. Ambassador Hertell. All current DR PCV's are invited to attend these receptions.
- **Noche Dominicana Fiesta on Saturday night**, Feb. 10, at a wonderful spot in the old Colonial City with great DR food, drink, and music.
- Many opportunities to catch up with old DRPC friends and the opportunity to make new friends. Dominican counterparts will be invited.
- Visits to our former PC sites.
- Opportunities to learn what DR PC is doing and about the current DR situation.
- Hands-on workshops about PCD, led by DRPCVs.
- A continuous DR Crafts show at the headquarters hotel.
- The new International Director of the Peace Corps will attend.
- Opportunities to visit DR Peace Corps headquarters.
- Great tours and a chance to just "hang out."

(cont. on pg.2)

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FQ's LOCAL DR COMMITTEE

Chair: Jennifer McGowan

Diane Partl Laura Sundquist Joanna Mauer

(FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - cont. from pg.1)



In this Newsletter, you will find information about the Celebration and inserts which you can use to register for the Conference and register for a room at the Conference headquarters hotel, the Hotel Melia Santo Domingo, located on the Malecon just above the old Colonial City. You will also find information about tours that you can take and information about the opportunity to visit your Peace

Corps site. I will never forget the first time that I returned to the DR and visited my site in Neiba and Los Rios - 18 years after I had left the DR. It was like a homecoming for me. Since then, I have taken my wife, Mary, there, and for her, like me, the Dominican Republic has a very special place in her heart.

Also contained in the Newsletter is information about Fondo Quisqueya's grants and scholarships to low income Dominicans. I extend a special "Thank You" to each of you who has contributed to Fondo Q to help support these grants and scholarships, most of which are in the amount of US\$300 or less, and which, still amazingly to me, often have a profound effect in changing the recipient's life. Please join with Mary and me in continuing to support these grants and scholarships. And, if you have never donated to Fondo Q, please consider doing so.

I look forward to seeing you in the Dominican Republic next February 8-11.

Saludos, Lou Ferrand

(REGISTER NOW FOR 45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION !
- cont. from page 1)



START NOW by contacting your ex-PCV friends and counterparts and members of your PC Group.

Please note that for lower rates, the deadline for the Conference registration is December 15, 2006; the deadline for the reduced-price Conference registration is January 15, 2007. Of course, you can register at the Conference when you arrive in the DR next February – but the price is higher.

The program is full and varied, with plenty of sessions for everyone's interests. On **Thursday, February 8**, the reunion begins with on-site registration, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Conference headquarters, the Hotel Melia Santo Domingo, located on the Malecon, just above the old Colonial City.

The Conference opens on Thursday, February 8 at 4 p.m. with a General Session at the Hotel Melia, followed that evening by a Dominican Fiesta at the Hotel.

Friday, February 9 features the Opening Keynote Session and a variety of workshops. Topics include: 45 years of Peace Corps in the DR; the DR today – political, social, economic updates; women's issues; a Peace Corps training simulation; Fondo Quisqueya and Friends of the DR programs and opportunities; and the 45th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon.

Special Receptions: On Friday evening, all conference participants are invited to the Presidential Palace to meet with Dominican President Leonel Fernandez, followed by a Reception at the U.S. Embassy hosted by U.S. Ambassador Hans Hertell. Transportation will be provided.

Saturday, February 10 features Peace Corps DR work shops on environment, health, youth, women's issues, education and business program sectors, and a Closing General Session.

SPECIAL FIESTA: On Saturday evening, all Conference participants are invited to a NOCHE DOMINICANA in old town colonial Santo Domingo. The party will include delicious food and drink, good music and dancing, and great fun with Peace Corps and Dominican friends and colleagues.

The 45th Anniversary Celebration Committee in the DR is working hard on special events and on tour options for pre and post Conference. This information will be sent out to participants when they register for the Conference, and it will be posted on the Fondo Q and FDR web sites.

The Anniversary Celebration Committee is also working on a Dominican Artisan Fair to be held in the Hotel Melia. Conference participants will be able to purchase excellent Dominican Artisans' crafts.

If you want to visit your ex-PC site, and if there is currently a PCV at that site, Peace Corps DR will help you set it up before the Conference. In addition, you can meet that PCV when he/she comes to the Capital for the Presidential and U.S. Embassy Receptions. **(cont. on pg.3)**



(REGISTER NOW FOR 45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION !

- cont. from page 2)

SO, if you plan to visit your site, please let us know when you register for the Conference. In order to help you make arrangements, we need to know your site location and the dates you plan to visit. PCVs will be on-site during registration at the Hotel Melia with a map showing current PCVs and their sites.

BREAKING NEWS: The following Outstanding Speakers have been confirmed for the 45th Anniversary Celebration:

- Dominican Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs – Carlos Morales Troncoso
- Dominican Ambassador to the USA, His Excellency Flavio Dario Espinal
- U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Hans H. Hertel
- U.S. Peace Corps Director Ronald Tschetter
- Peace Corps Inter-America & Pacific Region Director Allene Zanger
- DRPC Director Romeo Massey

As you can see, we will have a wonderful celebration made much better by your attendance! We hope to see you there!

(WHAT ARE OUR GRANTEES DOING? - cont. from page 1)

FQ's Local DR Committee awards two types of scholarships: (i) for individual study; and (ii) increasingly, for support of groups of trainees. Traditionally, Fondo Q individual scholarships fund one person's participation in a pre-scheduled training course. Group scholarships expand the learning opportunity to multiple community members who request, design, and develop a training course to fit their needs. Often these are facilitated by PCVs or Dominican institutions such as INFOTEP. Typically, sponsors provide facilitators and trainers free of charge, but require that participants cover the costs of the materials, meeting space, and/or transportation. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, look for the progress reports from two individual scholars and one group of trainees.

Fondo Quisqueya truly gives people the opportunity to pursue a dream. Read what Mariah Wise says about one of the grantees. *"Franquel Lafleur has been taking English classes at the Instituto Dominico-Americano, now, for 5 months. He just successfully passed into level 4 and is really enjoying his classes. He is now able to have a basic conversation in English, although he understands much more than he can say. He is the first person from his community to study past the high school level and his English classes are an excellent opportunity for him to continue learning. He is well known in his classes because he participates often, and his teachers encourage his input on subjects in English. He is planning on completing at least 2 more levels of English using his scholarship money and is extremely appreciative of the opportunity this has given him to study English."*



Manuel Antonio Polanco

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At 27, Manuel is continuing his education (now attending high school) so that he can eventually attend more advanced technical schools. **(cont. on pg.4)**



(WHAT ARE OUR GRANTEES DOING? - cont. from page 3)

Dan notes that *“Montaine (Manuel’s nickname) is really motivated and this course has given him a reason to start and finish high school and reach new levels of knowledge in his passion for electronics and fixing things. Montane is eternally grateful for this opportunity and continues to learn and grow. He thanks the funders and will continue to attend school and reach new heights.”*

Finally, PCV Carlos Encalda requested funds to develop and deliver a computer training course to computer committee members and for English classes for local English teachers. Carlos describes the way Fondo Q’s grant is helping the community. *“The program for which the FQ funds are being used has two main focuses: computer center committee development and local grade school English teacher training. The computer courses are aimed at getting community committees involved in the problems, challenges and successes of administering a community [computer] committee. The hope is to pass a majority of the responsibility from the current non-profit coordinator to the community committees. The FQ scholarships are currently being used to motivate all participating community members to learn about this important community resource (the computer center) and learn how they will be able to take control of this project once the current third party leaves the project. In addition, each center will receive two reference books: one reference information technology book and one reference book dealing with group work (for the committees).”*

Carlos added that *“The second focus of the program is to give English class experience to often ill-prepared English teachers in the local grade schools in my region of the country. Fondo Q funds will contribute to sharing of English teaching software (which was integrated into the classes) and a manual to help with their English classes in the coming school year.”*

Once again, thank you to Fondo Quisqueya for providing the much needed educational opportunities to these and many more individuals.

From the VP Perch

Greetings,

I just want to take this opportunity to say how much I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 45th reunion. I realize that summer is better for those of you with school and children’s obligations; however, the time we tried to have a summer gathering, we had many folks who could not get out of Miami due to hurricane problems! Hence, the February 8-11, 2007 schedule.

There will be ample time for individual PC group reunion gatherings, so please get on the phone and on your email networks to start organizing your DRPC Group’s gathering during this time in Santo Domingo. All of us involved want everyone to have a wonderful time in the land that has given us so many great memories.

See ya there,
Cheers, BJ



Seventeen Fondo Q Grants Awarded in the Third Quarter of 2006

By Anne Ternes

Seventeen new grants were awarded from July through September of 2006. These grants bring the total number of FQ's 2006 grants to 53.

In the 3rd quarter, four of the grants support more than one beneficiary: a) Ninety public school students in Bonao; b) Two teachers and six teaching assistants in Dajabón; c) Ecotourism training for two youth in Barahona; and, d) Advanced computer training for teachers in Dajabón. In most cases, the Dominicans receiving the training will disseminate their new skills and knowledge in their communities, further spreading the benefits of these modest grants.

GROUP AWARDS

Grantee: José Eugenio Paulino Almonte
From: Los Quemados, Bonao, Monseñor Nouel
For: This grant will cover the cost of art materials for 90 students in the Cruce de Blanco school for a four month course in plastic arts and crafts. The course will include drawing, painting, color theory, collage, origami, and puppets.
Sponsor: PCV Vanessa Vissar

Grantee: Two Teachers and Six Teacher's Assistants
From: Partido, Dajabón
For: A three-day training program for two teachers and six teacher's assistants in the use of non-traditional teaching methods. Topics include: active learning/teaching, making and using low-cost didactic materials, Quantum Learning (training workshop), self-esteem and motivation, positive discipline, classroom diversity, time and space management, lesson planning, formal and non-formal diagnostics, parent involvement, basic first aid and nutrition. All low-cost didactic materials prepared by teachers during the training will be theirs to keep and use during and after the summer program. Partido has no educational programs or services for the learning disabled, and most of the teachers lack formal training as educators. Many students who do not learn to read by the third grade are often asked to leave school and must face child labor as their alternative. The manuals provided to the teachers and assistants will include a guide for organizing and leading the camp annually. By training these teachers and assistants, quality educational support will be secured for the summer literacy program for learning disabled children. After putting in practice new methodologies, the teachers will bring their new skills to their respective schools, thereby increasing the quality of education of their public school students for years to come. The assistants will continue to help in the schools' inclusion programs during the school year (thus doubling as model teachers for many teachers who have not participated in the summer training program) while gaining valuable hands-on experience toward their chosen careers as educators.
Sponsor: PCV George Schlereth

Grantee: Fernando Medina Tejada y Williams Matos Feliz
From: Las Auyamas, Polo, Barahona
For: Ecotourism training for two young people. PCV Kelley Douglas writes: *"With FQ support I am planning to take two youth interested in becoming guides in the ecotourism project currently being developed in Polo, to visit the successful 27 Charcos project in Puerto Plata. The youths and I will participate in an informative question and answer and experience-sharing session with the guides of 27 Charcos and with Mike Griffith, the PCV assigned to the project. Following this, we will climb the falls and experience what it would be like to have the responsibility of leading tourists on a similar adventure. The participants are to be selected based on the quality of their answers to pre-determined questions designed to evaluate their level of interest, aptitude, sincerity, and understanding of ecotourism and its potential impact on the community. Upon their return the participants, with my support, will organize a reunion with the members of the CIELO (Comité de Iniciativa Ecoturística Local de Polo) and the other potential guides, to share what they have learned from the experience."* Kelley adds: *"The development of the ecotourism project in Polo is in its very first stages. While we have a group of youth interested in being guides, none of them have any experience or exposure to a project of this kind. After visiting 27 Charcos the participants will have a deeper understanding of the requirements and responsibilities of being a guide and the role they will play in ensuring the success of the Polo project. Should the ecotourism project in Polo become as successful as that in 27 Charcos, Polo will experience an influx of visitors needing food, lodging,*



(NEW FONDO Q GRANTEES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2006 – cont. from pg.5)

and entertainment. Currently many youth leave Polofor the capital or other cities but we are hoping an increase in steady jobs and income through ecotourism will raise the standard of living and encourage many youth to remain in Polo rather than emigrate in search of other opportunities. This trip will not only be a source of knowledge for the participants but an equally important source of inspiration and motivation, something that is often lacking in Polo. To see firsthand what opportunities an ecotourism project can potentially offer them, their families, and their community will increase the level of interest and effort dedicated to the success of the project.”

Sponsor: PCV Kelley Douglas



Comunidad de Aminilla (Computer Training)

Grantee: Centros de Computos y Comunicación de la Comunidad, FUDECO-VERIZON

From: Santiago de la Cruz, Dajabón

For: Advanced computer teacher training for five regional high school computer teachers, six regional, community, computer center teachers, various English teachers at the grammar and high school level, and regional non-profit employees.

PCV Carlos Encalada writes: *“This training is specifically designed to enhance the knowledge base of participants and to supply them with the skills to teach the material. This will enhance the quality and variety of classes in high schools, local computer centers, and local non-profits in the region. For all participants, manuals in each course will be provided, as well as CDs with the programs. For educators, lesson plans will be shared to use as a base for future classes to be given with tips on respective audiences (eg. high school students). The training will last for eight weeks on the following topics: Excel and PowerPoint, Dreamweaver (Webpage Design) and Basic English. In addition, workshops on teaching methodology for the 6 computer center teachers in the FUDECO-Verizon computer project, along with workshops with the respective computer center committees, are aimed at increasing the level of education and function of the centers to the community.”*

Sponsor: PCV Carlos Encalada

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Grantee: Manuel Antonio Henriquez Polanco

From: Bajabonico Arriba, Altamira, Puerto Plata

For: A two month course in building and repairing electrical “inversores” for home and business use. Manuel will add to his skills as an electrician and his ability to repair home appliances. This will lead to a repair business which is needed in his community.

Sponsor: PCV Daniel Anson

Grantee: Rut Esther

From: Caraballo, Montellano, Puerto Plata

For: A six month computer course leading to employment that will support her baby and her family.

Sponsor: PCV Christy Dimos

Grantee: Noemi Arias Jaquez

From: Caraballo, Montellano, Puerto Plata

For: Noemi, a recent high school graduate, will take a six month computer course to prepare for college and employment.

Sponsor: PCV Christy Dimos



(NEW FONDO Q GRANTEES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2006 – cont. from pg.6)

Grantee: Joselin Sierra Martes
From: Caraballo, Montellano, Puerto Plata
For: As a new mother, Joselin Hill will take computer training with her sister and sister-in-law. Her improved opportunity for employment and increased earning potential will allow her to take good care of her child.
Sponsor: PCV Christy Dimos

Grantee: Angela Mercedes
From: Monte Coca, Hato Mayor
For: A six month course to learn how to make curtains and mattresses. Once proficient, Angela will make and sell items, thus earning income to keep herself in high school and subsequently pay her expenses at nursing school.
Sponsor: PCV Matt Haygood

Grantee: Angelita Soto Ferreras
From: El Guayabal de Postrer Rios, Independencia
For: Angelita will take an English class to enhance her employability as a certified accountant. She has four children and is seeking employment.
Sponsor: PCV Maria Corrao

Grantee: Crispula Dominga Soto Ferreras
From: El Guayabal de Postrer Rios, Independencia
For: For an English course in Neyba that will allow Crispula to apply for work and eventually take more advanced courses.
Sponsor : PCV Maria Corrao

Grantee: Wilna Garcia
From: Caraballo, Montellano, Puerto Plata
For: Vilna, a 23 year old mother of two, will take an English course to improve her chances of employment in the nearby tourism area.
Sponsor: PCV Christy Dimos

Grantee: Wilson Andradiz Perez Rodriguez
From: Los Tocones, Las Galeras, Samaná
For: Two computer courses, Introduction to Computers and Word, which will allow Wilson to compete for jobs in the growing tourist industry in his area.
Sponsor: PCV Karie Karasiak

Grantee: Jose Michael Jiménez Javier
From: Villa Sonador, Bonao
For: For English training for Jose, an information technology student, who has found that a command of English is essential for his studies.
Sponsor: PCV Emily Hoffman

Grantee: Mario Melvin Genao Hernandez
From: Jarabacoa, Bonao
For: A course in residential electricity and installation of electrical grids which will lead to employment in the area.
Sponsor: PCV Courtney Elan Briar

Grantee: Heidi Guevarra
From: La Ciénaga, Barahona
For: An English course that will improve her skills in her current job, as well as open the way for other employment in the future.
Sponsor: PCVs Nick Robles & Laura Ibanez

Grantee: Manuel de Jesús
From: Palo Verde, Monte Cristi
For: English-language training which will allow Manuel to eventually teach English in his community.
Sponsor: PCV Molly Rosenberg



(NEW FONDO Q GRANTEES IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2006 – cont. from pg.7)

Grantee: Jóvenes Preparádonos para el Futuro (JOPREF) Grupo de Jóvenes

From: Batey #4, Barahona

For: Computer training. The group reported: *“Este entrenamiento es una parte de nuestro proyecto comunitario. Estamos construyendo un centro de informática donde los jóvenes sean encargados de enseñar a los demás sobre las computadoras. Es necesario tomar el curso antes de terminar el centro para que estemos listos para iniciar el curso en la comunidad. Además, este curso nos preparara con el objetivo de que en el futuro, tengamos mayor facilidad de conseguir empleo y tener éxito en el mismo y el ámbito tecnológico universitario”.*

Sponsor: PCV Christina Wright

The grantees wrote: *“En noviembre 2005, formamos el primer grupo de jóvenes de Batey #4. Jovenes Preparádonos para el Futuro (JOPREF) es un grupo de jóvenes integrado por 45 participantes entre las edades de 13-24 años con un mismo objetivo de crear en nuestra comunidad un centro de informática. Nuestra visión es ayudar en el desarrollo del conocimiento en ámbito tecnológico computacional específicamente a los jóvenes y a la vez a la comunidad.*

En febrero 2006, formamos el Comité de Desarrollo Juvenil, un comité de 10 jóvenes dedicados adentro del grupo que han enfocado en la planificación del proyecto. Desde la formación de este grupo, hemos desarrollado las metas y objetivos de nuestro proyecto, un calendario de eventos, nuestra misión y un presupuesto y plano para el centro. Estamos trabajando ahora en buscar los fondos y recursos necesarios para completar el centro y el entrenamiento que necesitamos.

Estamos entusiásticos y bien listos para este proyecto, y aunque sea un proyecto grande, tenemos confianza en nuestras habilidades y la visión que compartimos. Nos agradecemos cualquier ayuda que se puede darnos y gracias para su consideración.”

Grantees: Yurilis Navil Paulino Jiménez; Joel David Batista Guerrero; Eudys Fabián Hernández

From: Cacique, Monte Plata

For: English classes

Sponsor: PCV Brad Hass

Eudys speaks for all three students when she writes: *“Soy estudiante de término del bachillerato al liceo, pertenezco a un municipio y familia que lamentablemente son pobres. Por lo tanto, en lo único que puedo brindar apoyo a mi familia y comunidad es capacitándome a fin de salir adelante como persona. Considero que el aprendizaje no tiene límites y ya que estoy terminando el bachillerato no pretendo estancarme. Para mi el aprendizaje del idioma ingles es una puerta abierta a mejores oportunidades de trabajo y el complemento de cualquier carrera.”*

Grantee: Nairobi Lorenzo Sanchez Duro; Jency Martinez Puello; Alexandra Alcantara Lorenzo

From: Majagual de Cambita Garabito, San Cristobal

For: Computer literacy

Sponsor: PCV Andrea Prestone

Andrea wrote as follows: *“As one gets older and older, the learning curve and ability to pick up new things gets smaller and smaller. I, a volunteer, believe that for these children, a computer course is unbelievably necessary to prepare them for work later on to three kids I see as having university potential, and with the motivation that each of them has, but the lack of funds, I don't want to see their opportunities cut short before they even have a chance to show their abilities. I also think it is important for these children to know that someone believes in them, as it is not readily shown by their families”.*

Grantee: Computer Center

For: Computer Training

From: Dajabon

Sponsor: PCV Carlos Encalda



FONDO Q Grant Progress Reports for the 2nd Quarter of 2006

By Anne Ternes

PCVs are FQ's primary connection to FQ grantees. We depend on PCVs to identify and recommend potential grantees, and we also rely upon them for follow up to learn how lives are changed from the training.

The following progress reports are for grants approved in the second quarter of 2006:

1.) PCV Andrea Prestone sponsored Alexandra Alcántara Lorenzo, from Majagual de Cambita Garabito in San Cristobal. Alexandra received support to take a course in computer literacy. Alexandra reports: *"Yo me aprendí que la computadora es muy importante para hacer trabajo, para buscar trabajo de Internet y también y me aprendí que en la computadora tu puedes buscar cualquier trabajo. También a través de la computadora aprendí muchas cosas que yo no me sabia, como que hacer un imagen. También a través de la computadora, tú puede mandar mensaje, puedes hacer un mensaje. También en el Internet, tú puedes buscar cualquier definición y te la muestra para tu buscar eso. Primero tiene que ver si esta conectada, después escribir el nombre Google, y después la da buscar en Google cualquier definición."*

2.) PCV Matt Ferrer sent the following report about Andres Lopez Molina from El Seibo:
"With the scholarship from FQ, Andrés was able to complete the first in a series of four Cisco Series networking classes at ITLA, the new technology center in Santo Domingo. The knowledge Andrés learned from this class, along with previous experience, helped in getting him hired as head professor of a group of three teachers in his community's new Centro Tecnológico Comunitario. Andrés is now teaching computer classes daily to the community. He also has given training and talleres to the centers' other employees and is the go-to person for different needs that come up in the center. Now that Andrés has steady employment and income, he has started a small business of buying, fixing, and selling old computers to people in the community who are interested in owning one in their home. And as more people complete classes at the tech center, the number in interested in owning a computer will surely grow. Also as a result of a steady income Andrés, will enroll in January at the university in Higuey to pursue a degree in computers. This is something that he has talked about since I met him, but like so many others here the lack of money to cover costs was prohibitive. The impact this scholarship has had and will to continue to have on the life of Andrés is huge. There are many doors open to him now that 6 months ago weren't there for him."

3.) PCV Christina Wright writes about some of the unanticipated difficulties and the ultimate triumphs of a youth training project in Barahona: *"After receiving the grant in May, the volunteer received the application materials from INFOTEP, the government technical training agency in neighboring city of Barahona. Each of the fifteen participants were required to complete the INFOTEP application form; compile their birth certificates or a copy of their official identification; and present a letter from their school certifying that they have completed at least the eighth grade. This process has proven incredibly frustrating and time consuming for several reasons. Primarily, the majority of participants are of Haitian descent; while they were born and raised in the Dominican Republic, some participants did not have a birth certificate and therefore could not participate. Additionally, many participants who have a birth certificate spent weeks visiting the local courthouse and following up with the staff to procure the document from among thousands of birth certificates. The summer vacation, while easing the participants' schedules, proved difficult for obtaining the certified copy of the participants' academic standing. The local principal moved to the capital for the summer, making it impossible for several of the key participants to obtain the proper paperwork. It has only been since school started in September that all fifteen participants have finally obtained all the necessary paperwork to enroll in the course. Although they have faced significant challenges over the last four months, the youth are even more excited to begin taking the course and feel that they have earned their way to attending the class. They kept in constant communication with the schools and the courthouse to ensure that their inquiries were followed and have been nothing but responsive to the volunteer's requests, even with the hectic start of the school year. A meeting has been scheduled with INFOTEP on October 5 to finalize the dates and turn in the completed application packages for the fifteen participants. After this meeting, the youth will complete their personal biographies and share their aspirations and photos so that FQ can directly see and understand the tremendous impact that their generous donation will make for these underrepresented youth. Additionally, the youth have received a \$10,000 grant from a Rotary Club in the United States that will allow them to renovate a classroom in the local community center into a community technology center. Plans to begin renovations are scheduled for February 2007, with the completion and inauguration of the center in May 2007. The course at INFOTEP will allow them to serve as youth trainers in the center and to work with other youth and community members in utilizing information technology for further community projects and income generating activities."* (cont. on pg.10)



(FONDO Q Grant Progress Reports for the 2nd Quarter of 2006– cont. from pg.9)

4.) From Cacique, Monte Plata, PCV Brad Hass reports on three students taking English: *“The three recipients of Fondo Quisqueya scholarships in the community of Cacique, Monte Plata have already used over half their funding to attend the first cycle of English Class at the Instituto Cultural Dominicano Americano. So far, all three students have loved their course and respective instructors. Additionally, all three students passed the first cycle with good grades. The students leave at 11 a.m. every Saturday and travel two hours to the capital to attend class. The class lasts four hours, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and then they travel back, usually arriving back in the community of Cacique after 8 p.m. Thus, the students have to devote an entire Saturday to classes, and yet they never complain. On the contrary they feel quite blessed to have this opportunity and are always enthusiastic. The students also regularly pass by my house to practice their English with me and review homework. I am sure that their success will continue through the next cycle. “*

Treasurer’s Report
Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer

Contributions for small grants/scholarships for needy Dominicans (and Haitians!) living in the Dominican Republic remained strong in the second half of 2006. More than \$3,500 in general donations has been deposited since July. Additionally, more than \$3,000 for the Mila Brooks Fund was received to support projects promoting women in development (WID). Half of the funds received to honor Mila Brooks are set aside to endow the fund so that the focus of those contributions will, over time, have a permanent place in FQ’s grant making. As of September 9 of this year, nearly \$1,500 has been given out by the Mila Brooks Fund to support WID projects.

FQ’s other major sub-group of funding, conservation projects, is supported by a generous \$10,000 donation from Fran Price (D.R. 94) in memory of her mother. As of September 9 of this year, more than \$1,000 in grants/scholarships has been awarded under this special sub-group.

For the year, our revenues are approaching \$39,000. Over 40 percent (\$15,850) of that amount has been spent on grants/scholarships; 17 percent (approximately \$6,600), on general expenses – primarily the costs of publishing, printing, and mailing newsletters; and 12 percent (\$4,632) on fundraising expense – for the Gala held in April.

In short, it has been an outstanding year! Generous giving has allowed us to exceed our target for grant making (\$12,000 per year) by 32 percent (\$3,850). Our general and fundraising expenses remain low and we continue to look for ways to keep those costs to a minimum in order to make available every penny possible to our grantees. We have a number of supporters who provide in-kind supports through payment of postage, website expenses, printing costs, etc. to keep our costs as low as possible.

We look forward to an equally successful 2007, which will start with a bang in February at the 45th Anniversary Celebration of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. Please make plans to attend (information available on our website at www.fondoq.org). Thank you for all you do to make our mission a success!

FONDO Q’s 2006 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
(Reflecting deposits January 1 – October 31, 2006, not donor check dates)

Jose & Maria Acosta, Randy Adams & Mary Jo Smrekar, Martin & Helida Adler, Ruth & Thomas Alexander, Minor & Linda Anderson, AJ & Ana Alcover, Moya M. Atkinson, Jeffery & Jacquelyn Barber, George & Barbara Beach, Margaret R. Bennett, Sherry & Larry Blaskopf, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Dwight & Antoinette Bush, Suzanne R. Butler, Steven and Claudia Campbell, Teresa A. Chapa, Robin Chernoff, David Clary, Geraldinen Critchley, Matthew Dice & Anne Robson-Dice, David Doran, Pete & Joy Duarte, Richard Elrauch, Patricia Erwin, Flavio Dario Espinal, John & Jeanne Evans, Julio & Evelyn Fernandez, Gregory Ferrand, Louis & Mary Ferrand, Victor Amram & Anita Friedman, Stuart Frisch, Galen Gaader, Javier Garza, Antony Gasbarro, Tom & Sue Gittins, Kathryn Hanowell & David McMurry, Sandra Hansen, Polly Harrison, Jay Heath, Heritage High School (c/o Terri Eubanks), Michael H. Hirsh, Charles & Susan Householder, James & Emily Huttar, Kirby Jones & Linda Jennings, Janet Kerley, Todd Kratzner, Roger Kulstad, Rick Laird & Patricia Rambasek, Gene Lane, William R. Large, Jr., Dennis Fenwick & Martha Lewis, Kimberly Linden, J. Gary Linn, Rafael Madon, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, Charles Manatt, Carmen Marrero, Lorena Perez & Brian McGill, Bill Miller, Virgilio Mota, Robert E. Myers, Jacqueline O’Connor, David & Kathryn Padilla, Gustavo & Providencia Paredes, Suzanne Petroni, Kincey & Bruce Potter, Doug Pulse John & Amparo Prusia, Ryan Reid, Elmira O. Gilbert & John T. Rifenbark, Melinda Robinowitz, Dustin Salvesson, Vida & Braulio Sanchez, Ruth Mackenzie Saxe, Susan Schmidt, Joan Searby, Jay & Peggy Sheinfeld, E. Eugene & Christine Snyder, D.E. Rieper & O. de los Santos, Mayerson Stutman LLP (Harold Mayerson),

(cont. on pg.10)



**(FONDO Q's 2006 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
– cont. from pg.9)**

Bob & Carolyn Tafelski, Joe Taves, Anne Ternes & Edward De la Rosa, Judith and John Thomas, Bill & Carine Threlkeld, John & Helen Torphy, Craig Marin & Wanda Wynee Ttee, W. Michael & Carolyn Vale, Vincent & Paulina Vlastic, Micheal & Rebecca Vortherms, Travis & La Donna Ward, BJ Warren, Redford & Virginia Williams, John Yuasa, Allene Zanger, Donna Miller-Zajac, Jerry Lutes & Marsha Zellem

- A. **DONATED IN HONOR OF TOMMY VENTRE:**
Justis Brogan, Alissa Clendenen, Michael Davis, Matthew Gettier, June Heckman
- B. **DONATED IN HONOR OF B.J. WARREN'S BIRTHDAY:** Judith Light
- C. **DONATED IN HONOR OF ELAINE FOX, FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE D.R.:**
Francis Price (Fox Foundation)
- D. **DONATED FOR A SMALL BUSINESS PROJECT IN LA VEGA/CONSTANZA AREA:** Harold Hopkins, Jr.
- E. **DONATED IN HONOR OF JOHN GUY SMITH:**
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- F. **DONATED IN HONOR OF JOSE CARRASCO:**
Linda & John Scott
- G. **DONATED TO HELP FURTHER THE EDUCATION OF HAITIANS LIVING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND IN HONOR OF THE MAY 27, 2006, WEDDING OF KRISTINE SHIPLER AND KENT MATTHIES:** Kristin and Steven Bradley-Bull, Frank Chiodi, Mary Ann & John Frazier, Joseph & Susan Granias, Heather Lee, Robert & Marcia Matthies, Kirk Peterson, Gene & Carole Svebakken.
- H. **DONATED TO THE MILA BROOKS FUND:** Janet C. Ballantyne, Matthew A. Brenner & Mila Brooks, Richard M. Cabrera, Jessie G. Franco, Glen G. Gertschen, Gerald Hildebrand, Michael D. Holt, Jacqueline Reed, Jess H. Stone, Holly H. Van Fleet

**LOCAL FONDO Q COMMITTEE
ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR THE 45TH
ANNIVERSARY**

By Jennifer McGowan

In preparation for the 45th Peace Corps Anniversary Reunion, we recently had very successful meetings with Fondo Q's Tom Gittins and with Peace Corps staff and volunteers. I believe that we all agree that we are quite pleased with the preparations. The DR Peace Corps Director (Romeo Massey) has offered enormous support for the event. Peace Corps Volunteers and their project partners will be involved in almost every event. In addition to the Conference itself, we are working on optional activities for participants and their families. During the Conference, information will be available about local communities supported by PCVs. In the event that someone would like to visit the community and the volunteer, we will facilitate cell phone communication between the PCV and the interested party. We are also collecting travel information about non-traditional, "off the beaten path" tourist options for those participants who would like to visit places outside of Santo Domingo. In the event that you are interested in visiting communities outside of Santo Domingo, but are not exactly certain about what you would like to do, look for the fact sheets that we'll have available at the Conference. Most travel options will require an additional 2 days in the DR, so you may want to consider this when making your flight arrangements. We look forward to seeing you all!

**A CHANCE TO SCUBA DIVE AT THE 45TH
REUNION!**

Are you a certified scuba diver? Are you coming to the 45th Reunion in Santo Domingo in February? Do you want to dive in the DR? Contact Minor Anderson (by an e-mail at minor@dslx.net). Minor has volunteered to organize a charter and wants to hear from fellow divers about potential interest.

NEWS HOTLINE

The Early Bird Price Conference Registration deadline has been extended to **December 15, 2006.**

Reduced Price (but higher than Early Bird Price) Conference Registration deadline has been extended to **January 15, 2007.**

REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!



NEWS FROM "FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC"

By John Evans

Friends of the Dominican Republic ("FDR") is a co-sponsor of the 45th anniversary celebration of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. Some DRPC groups are organizing for the reunion. Why not contact your group and encourage them to join the celebration of 45 years of Peace Corps' cooperation with the DR?

FDR's mission is to help bring together the community of returned Volunteers and staff in the US. Individuals can support the DR today with tax deductible contributions, to the FDR Program Development Fund (PDF) or to the Community Challenge Fund (CCF). The PDF provides direct support to current volunteers and PC programs. CCF gives small grants (maximum \$2,000) to poor communities for infrastructure projects. Send donations to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Read more about FDR at <http://www.fotdr.org> www.fotdr.org. To receive the FDR monthly CyberNews, send your email address to Janice Jorgensen: MembershipDirector@fotdr.org.

DOMINICAN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS FOR REUNION GOERS

Consider staying on after the 45th Anniversary Celebration to explore some tourism spots. Fondo Q's local committee recommends the following: 27 Charcos (27 waterfalls), Bayahibe Beaches and Blue Moon and Cabarete Beach. Fact sheets on these (and more) sites will be posted at a booth at the Conference. However, in the meantime, here are some tempting details.

For those interested in adventure travel, 27 Charcos is an excellent choice. Located near Imbert on the highway to Puerto Plata, 27 Charcos is a burgeoning eco-tourism project on the Damajagua River. The river has carved its way through the mountains and has created 27 small natural pools and waterfalls. Tour prices: \$DR 250 pesos per person up to the 7th waterfall, \$DR 310 to the 12th, and \$DR 460 to the 27th (As of November 2006). These prices include guide, life jacket, and helmet. www.27charcos.com

Some of the nicest white sand beaches in the DR are just 2 to 2.5 hours east of Santo Domingo. Bayahibe, east of La Romana, was once a sleepy fishing village. It has become a highly visible tourist attraction with several hotels. In addition to the local beaches, Bayahibe is the departure point for Isla Saona. Guided tours to this island generally include boat transportation and lunch and are available at hotels and at the public beach. The average price for these tours is \$US 50 per person.

Blue Moon, run by Eneyda and Guidon, is a retreat center located in the northern mountains near the coastal community of Cabarete. Its unique location allows visitors to enjoy the fresh air and tranquility of the "campo," with access to one of the most visited beach towns, Cabarete. Known internationally for wind surfing, it is easily accessible by car or taxi. Estimated travel time is 3.5 hours one way from Santo Domingo. One overnight is sufficient; however, 2 days will give you the opportunity to enjoy Cabarete as well. Room rates range from US\$ 40 – US\$ 60 per night and generally fit 2 to 4 people. <http://www.bluemoonretreat.net/index.html>

DON'T JUST COME FOR THE MEETINGS! REMEMBER YOUR BEST ADVENTURES AND PLAN SOME NEW ONES!

Friends and family daily options in Santo Domingo: Zoo, Aquarium, Colonial zone

Sunday, February 11:

7am, Birding at the Botanical Garden with Kate Wallace
9am, Colonial Zone Tour with Dr. Lynn Guitar – she tells you stories from the era of the Tainos and Columbus.

Day trips: Make your own arrangements.

Contact Raices www.raices.com.do or info@raices.com.do
1-809-817-2063 or Contact Kate Wallace (RPCY 1994-97)
Tody Tours cua809@yahoo.com

Isla Saona por Rio Chavon

Playa de Bayahibe and Cueva de las Maravillas

Carnival in La Vega

Trip around Lago Enriquillo

27 Charcos in Damajagua, near Imbert (Check their web site; this place is fabulous.)

Two days:

- Bahia de las Aguilas and Hoyo de Pelempito – Overnight in Pedernales

- Los Haitises National Park and Whale watching
Overnight at Cano Hondo, Sabana de la Mar

Three days: Biosphere Reserve – Lago Enriquillo, Sierra de Bahoruco, Parque Jaragua



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

**When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo
Quisqueya.**