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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lou Ferrand

With the most recent round of Fondo Q's grants and scholarships approved in October, 2009 we will have helped fund education and training opportunities for 374 low-income Dominicans this year at a cost of approximately \$14,700. Many of these grants were for group awards such as an award to 22 women to learn how to make artisan bags, an award to 15 members of a coffee cooperative for organic agriculture certification training, an award to 10 youth in a "Brigada Verde" group to learn about coral reef preservation, and an award to 25 youth for a business course on starting and managing their own business in their communities. Individual awards were given for computer and English classes, an HIV/AIDS program, an apprenticeship in masonry and woodworking, a beauty salon course, and many more. It is always amazing to me that a relatively small amount of money can go so far in helping individuals change their lives.

I know that these are difficult financial times for all of us. However, please contribute and help us to help low-income Dominicans who otherwise might not have the opportunity to learn and develop skills which can help them to change, in a positive way, their lives and those of their loved ones.

I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

All the best,

Lou

## FQ GRANTEE OPENS HER OWN BEAUTY SALON

By PCV Alicia Srinivas, Puerto Plata

Claribel Reyes Rodriguez was awarded a Fondo Quisqueya scholarship in October 2008 to sponsor her attendance at a beauty school. This scholarship has really changed Claribel's life for the better, and I am amazed at how such a relatively small amount of money can go such a long way.

The money not only allowed her to attend the course, but also to buy start-up materials for her salon such as a blow-dryer, curling iron, shampoo, etc. Within about 2 months of attending the course, she converted the front part of her house into a salon and started doing hair on the side to buy more things for her salon that the grant couldn't cover. So far, she has bought a special sink for washing hair, a chair that goes up and down for cutting hair, and a hair dryer that you sit under - all with money she made on her own!

I would say the most positive change that has come out of this is that Claribel is now much more self-assured. As a person who never learned to read or write, she felt overly dependent on her husband, and she didn't think of herself as capable or competent. Now that she has her own source of income and is able to provide for her kids, she is happier and more confident. The town as a whole has also benefitted because it now has its own salon, saving the women expensive and uncomfortable trips to the nearby pueblo.

Thank you Fondo Quisqueya!



FQ Grantee Claribel Reyes Rodriguez



## FROM THE VP PERCH

BY BJ WARREN

This newsletter highlights the grants and scholarships awarded this past spring and summer, which include nine group awards. These group grants are supporting courses and trainings ranging from an educational exchange for a women's group to learn how to make artisan bags to organic agriculture certification training for members of a coffee cooperative to painting classes for at-risk youth. For less than \$300, each of these group awards is providing training for up to 40 or more youth, men and women.

Recently, we have had more scholarship requests than our budget allows for. With the amount of giving that we have had in the past, we can provide \$3,000 each quarter, or \$12,000 per year. The quantity and quality of scholarship requests has been such that we have gone over our \$12,000 goal by approximately \$2,700 for this year.

I hope you will continue to remember Fondo Q in your annual giving plans so we can continue to fund these requests. Also, please contact us if you are interested in "planned giving" (putting us in your will).

Thank you. All the best, BJ

*"Recently, we have had more scholarship requests than our budget allows for."*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

**Raise \$10,000 between now and the end of the year?** Can we do it? I feel like NPR in its fall fundraising campaign, except I have no matching donations to offer!

If we can raise that amount, we will be in a much stronger position in 2010 to fund the first two rounds of scholarship candidates set to come to us in January and April. If our year had ended in September, our financial records would reveal that we are about \$3,600 short of covering our expenses in the calendar year.

Our total giving for scholarships/grants was about \$14,700 for the year. Our operational expenses thus far are about \$2,700 – all newsletter-related – but the newsletter you are presently reading will add another \$2,500 or so to our expenses for the year.

These "loss" years are expected from time to time. Let's face it, at the moment nonprofits are struggling mightily across the board. Over the last two years, we've tapped into our endowment/reserve fund three times, for a total of about \$6,800, in order to stick with our goal of \$12,000 in scholarship/grants per year (\$3,000 per quarter).

Your generosity sustains this all-volunteer organization so that each year we can continue to give opportunities to dozens of goal-oriented, motivated low-income Dominicans seeking a way to better their lives. Our household budgets may seem stretched right now, but think how bad it must be for those we serve. As one Dominican friend told me, "When the U.S. has a cold, the Dominican Republic has pneumonia!" Please give generously this holiday season. Your checks and online donations are so appreciated.

## 2009 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DEPOSITS JANUARY 1 – OCTOBER 3, 2009)

**GENERAL DONORS:** Martin & Helida Adler, Jacqueline Alcorn, Dan & Mary Amour, Victor Amram, Jr. & Anita Friedman, Blair Bertaccini, Susan & Harold Case, Teresa A. Chapa, David Clary, Caitlin Collins & Loren Armstrong, Joseph & Margaret Deslaurier, John & Miguelina Dunkelberg, D.B. & L.W. Edwards, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Stuart Frisch, Polly Harrison, Michael A. Hirsh, Robert & Marsha Holm, John Hopper, Julie Howard, Kirby Jones & Linda Jennings, Janet E. Kerley, Richard Laird & Patricia Rambasek, Gene Lane, Michael Lennartz, James G. Linn, Gerald Lutes & Marsha Zelle, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, William & Marjorie Manley, Joanna Mauer, Mayerson Stutman Abramowitz Royer, LLP, Jennifer McGowan, Robert E. Myers, William Miller, Beth & Matthew Niskanen, Gary & Julia Orso, David & Kathryn Padilla, Bruce Potter, Sara Robertson, Rick Rominger, Dennis J. Rotman & Mary Fisher-Rotman, George & Patricia Rowland, Walter C. Scales, Sherry L. Segerman & Lawrence P. Blaszkopf, Sherwood & Jaclyn Seigel, Peter & Martha Smith, Betty & John Sterling, Robert & Carolyn Tafelski, Anne Ternes, John & Helen Torphy, Travis Ward, B.J. Warren, Redford & Virginia Williams, Natalie Woodward, Joseph Zulker.

- A. **DONATED TO THE MILA BROOKS FUND/CAMP GLOW:** Douglas Gurak & Mary Kitz.
- B. **IN THE NAME OF JOHN GUY AND THE POKER GANG:** Lynda & Dan Edwards.
- C. **DONATED IN HONOR OF BJ WARREN'S BIRTHDAY:** Judith Light.
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- E. **IN HONOR OF TOM GITTIN'S BIRTHDAY:** Dianne M. Gittins, Suzanne D. Petroni.
- F. **DONATED TO THE MILA BROOKS FUND/CAMP GLOW (SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN):** Redford & Virginia Williams.
- G. **IN MEMORY OF JAVIER GARZA:** Neil Ross.
- H. **IN MEMORY OF BOB SATIN:** Karen & Richard Clough.
- I. **IN-KIND DONATION OF WEB SERVER SPACE:** Bill & Carine Threlkeld

## NEW PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR

### ARRON WILLIAMS IS ONE OF US

By Anita Friedman

On August 24, 2009, Aaron S. Williams was sworn in as the eighteenth Director of the Peace Corps. Aaron was nominated by President Obama on July 14 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on August 7. On September 17, in a packed Shriver Hall at Peace Corps Headquarters, he was sworn-in by Sargent Shriver and former Senator Harris Wofford. At the ceremony, he reflected on his first four weeks on the job and announced his intent to focus on targeted growth, broad innovation across all operations and a commitment to bringing the Peace Corps Volunteer experience home to help promote a better American understanding of other nations and cultures. During his first few weeks, he also managed to make his first field trip to no other place than the DR.

Aaron Williams is one of us – a former Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic (1967 - 1970) who married his Dominican wife, Rosa, and speaks fluent Spanish. Aaron has held a long and illustrious career in international development, including serving as coordinator of minority recruitment and project evaluation officer for the Peace Corps in his hometown of Chicago; USAID Director in South Africa during Nelson Mandela's administration; Executive Vice President of the International Youth Foundation; and most recently as Vice President for International Business Development at RTI International. Aaron is a graduate of Chicago State University, and he has an MBA from the University of Wisconsin.

It is wonderful to have such an experienced and dedicated



professional in the position of Peace Corps Director, especially one who shares a love for all things "Quisqueya."

To watch a clip of Aaron Williams addressing the Peace Corps community, go to:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Faa-rfULmXM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Faa-rfULmXM)

*"Aaron Williams is one of us – a former Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic (1967 - 1970) ..."*





## FQ ANNUAL MEETING

BY KAREN CLOUGH

June 14, 2009 held as a wonderful afternoon for the FQ annual picnic/meeting. Tom and Sue Gittins provided a great back yard and sausages and hamburgers. Everyone brought side dishes to complement the feast.

FQ President Lou Ferrand discussed plans for the next year. Our goal is to give out at least \$3,000 in grants and scholarships each quarter, totaling at least \$12,000 per year. Most grants and scholarships are for \$300 or less.

In addition, Lou talked about what a small amount of money can do. For example, a FQ grant is paying for teachers at a computer lab near San Cristobal to give computer classes to more than 30 Dominicans.

Elections were held for Fondo Q Board members and officers. BJ Warren, Bill Threlkeld, and Anne Kopley were nominated and elected to new three-year terms. Laura Sundquist, an ex-PCV who served as FQ liaison during her service, was elected as a new Board member. Officers elected are: President, Lou Ferrand; Vice President, BJ Warren; Secretary, Karen Clough; and Treasurer, Bill Threlkeld. Tom Gittins will continue as Events Chair and Joanna Mauer will continue as Newsletter Editor.

Some of us "early" PC folks had conversations with people from our group who lived in the DC Metropolitan area but who we had not kept in touch with. Nobody in the group could remember the number for us. Were we DR 5 or DR 7? We were there from 1963-1965. One thing we did agree upon, however, was that our PC experience was the best thing we had ever accomplished in our mostly colorful lives.

Should you be in the Washington area during the first or second weeks of June, plan to join the festivities. Who knows, you may rekindle some friendships.

*"Chelo has tackled his studies in computers and English with his characteristic good-humor and enthusiasm, despite his family's difficult financial situation."*

## FQ SCHOLARSHIP HELPS YOUNG AGRICULTURAL WORKER PREPARE FOR A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

BY PCV TOD HAGGARD, SAN JOSÉ DE OCOA

Manuel (Chelo) has tackled his studies in computers and English with his characteristic good-humor and enthusiasm, despite his family's difficult financial situation.

With the assistance of the Fondo Quisqueya scholarship he received in the spring of 2009, Chelo started his weekend English and Computer classes at the IDONAI Institute in San José de Ocoa. He has since completed one full trimester in Beginning English and Basic Computers and will be finishing his studies under this scholarship at the end of November 2009.

When I last saw Chelo, we spoke a bit in English so he could show off some of what he has learned. He has improved a lot and was able to carry on a few basic conversations with me with only minimal assistance. He has a good command of his vocabulary to ex-

press his emotions, likes and dislikes, and can respond to a few basic questions in informal conversations. In addition, Chelo is learning material from a phrase book he found with specific work-related vocabulary. He is always launching newly-learned phrases when he sees me, asking me to critique his pronunciation and usage.

When I ask about his computer classes, he says that he is learning typing, word-processing, and how to use the Internet. He has opened an e-mail account for himself and says that he enjoys searching the web for different topics.

Unfortunately, the economic condition of Chelo's family has not improved this past year due to bad weather and a poor tomato crop. Although he recently graduated from high school, Chelo is planning on putting off college for at least a year in order to accept an offer of a paying job



FQ Grantee Manuel Antonio Pujols

in Santo Domingo. By working in a family friend's *colmado* and sending cash home to the family, Chelo hopes to help his parents through this difficulty.

Despite this delay of his educational plans, Chelo approaches his situation with a positive attitude. He is still very much intent on pursuing a university education and would like to study abroad, where his newly acquired English skills will be very important.

## FONDO Q'S GRANT & SELECTION PROCESS

The Fondo Quisqueya Foundation, Inc. ("FQ") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which was formed in 1987 by former U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff who had served in the Dominican Republic ("DR") and who wanted to give something back to the DR. FQ was incorporated in Virginia in 1993.

FQ provides low-income Dominicans with scholarships and grants for both traditional and nontraditional in-country education and training to assist them in bettering their lives and to help them attain personal development, skills, and advancement. Grants may be to groups of individuals such as members of a coffee

cooperative or a women's group.

FQ's grants and scholarships are made possible through donations and in-kind support from ex-PCVs and PC staff and other friends of the DR. FQ has no paid staff. Examples of courses funded include nursing school, beautician school, accounting, sustainable agriculture, sewing, driver training, electronics repair, diesel mechanics, worm composting, beekeeping, construction and cement skills, painting, and English and computer classes. Funds can be used for tuition, transportation, books and materials, and other expenses associated with the course or training.

Each applicant must be sponsored by a member of the Dominican community or by a Peace Corps DR Volunteer or staff member.

Individual grants and scholarships usually do not exceed US\$300. FQ's Local DR Committee reviews grant applications quarterly and makes recommendations to FQ's Board of Directors for selection. Funds permitting, the Board seeks to fund at least a total of US\$3,000 in scholarships each quarter, for a yearly total of at least US\$12,000.

## FONDO Q GRANTEES

Fondo Q normally awards grants and scholarships four times per year. Applicants are screened by Fondo Q's Local DR Committee. Most of the awards are for \$300 or less. Below are summaries of the grants and scholarships awarded during the spring and summer quarters of 2009, which include nine group awards for 260 recipients and 20 individual awards. These awards have provided funding for courses in subjects including inverter repair, installation and fabrication; accounting; masonry and woodworking; organic agriculture certification; painting; English; computers; and renewable energy.

### GROUP AWARDS

#### **Grantees: 22 Women**

**From:** Mata Grande, San José de las Matas, Santiago

**For:** Educational exchange to learn how to make artisan bags

**PCV Amy Martin wrote:** "The communities of Mata Grande and La Ciénega, Manabao are sister communities, as they are both located at entrances to Parque Nacional Armando Bermudez, the national park where Pico Duarte is located. A taller was established in La Ciénega for a women's group to begin a sewing project to sell products at the visitor center of the park. This taller has been a great success and the women have produced amazing artisan bags using traditional techniques (in the pattern of mule saddles), and the bags are now in high demand. The technique of sewing artisan bags has been introduced to the Mata Grande women's group, and they have worked together to make a few bags. However, they are lacking expertise in technique and organization that is found in the women's group in La Ciénega. This FQ grant would allow for three representatives from the women's group in La Ciénega to give a training session to the women's group in Mata Grande and for three representatives from Mata Grande to visit an established and functioning sewing workshop in La Ciénega."

**Sponsor:** PCV Amy Martin

#### **Grantees: 15 Members of a Coffee Cooperative**

**From:** Azua

**For:** Organic Agriculture Certification Training

**Franklin Pujoles, a member of the cooperative wrote:** "Con las habilidades aprendidas podemos producir un café de mejor calidad haciéndolo mas atractivo para los consumidores. Tomando en cuenta que el café es la fuente económica principal, el incremento de ingresos facilitarán la provisión de las necesidades básicas para nuestras familias: salud, condiciones de vivienda, alimentación, vestido y educación. También, debido a la producción orgánica, habrá una mejor conservación biológica del sistema agroforestal en Peralta."

**Sponsor:** PCV Charles Seltzer

*"Examples of courses funded include nursing school, beautician school, accounting, sustainable agriculture, sewing, driver training, electronics repair, diesel mechanics, worm composting, beekeeping, construction and cement skills, painting, and English and computer classes."*



*“The recipients of this course will be able to transport their crops such as coffee, avocados, and cashews, from their conucos to their homes or to the market.”*

**Grantees: 80 Youth****From:** Miches, El Seibo**For:** Painting classes

**PCV Christina Marino wrote:** *“Together with grants from Kids to Kids and Fundación Cisneros, this grant from Fondo Quisqueya will provide brushes, paint, and canvases necessary for a year of bimonthly painting classes that will be given by a professional artist. Extracurricular activities have particular importance in the community of Miches, where the youth confront social problems on a daily basis that may pull them away from a healthier and safer way of life.”*

**Sponsor:** PCV Christina Marino**Grantees: 6 Men****From:** La Caoba, La Montería, Peravia**For:** Chofer Course

**PCV Laura Baetscher wrote:** *“In an agricultural community, the ability to drive a vehicle is valuable. The recipients of this course will be able to transport their crops such as coffee, avocados, and cashews, from their conucos to their homes or to the market. The agricultural association and the coffee association each have vehicles for the use of the socios, but the number of people who can drive is limited.”*

**Sponsor:** PCV Laura Baetscher**Grantees: 25 Youth****From:** Morquecho y Las Pajas, Hato Mayor**For:** Business Course

**PCV Elizabeth Hang wrote:** *“Business course training will give young adults the opportunity to learn a new set of skills for starting and managing their own businesses in their communities. One young man hopes to open up a paper supply business to help pay for college. Another group of youths are selling snacks to children in the local school. The classes will help provide them with resources for managing and expanding their businesses.”*

**Sponsor:** PCVs Elizabeth Hang and Brianna Keefe-Oates**Grantees: 42 Youth****From:** Mata Grande, Santiago**For:** Art and Environmental Summer Camp

**PCV Amy Martin wrote:** *“The ‘Leave No Trace’ training will provide these youth with skills to protect the environment surrounding the area where they live, and to take responsibility for protecting this area for those living lower in the watershed. The art and music training will provide a base for creative exploration—something not found in the classroom of our school.”*

**Sponsor:** PCV Amy Martin**Grantees: 10 Community Members****From:** Los Limones de Pimentel, Duarte**For:** Inverter Repair, Installation, and Fabrication Course**Sponsor:** PCV Leticia Hinojosa**Grantees: 20 Business Owners****From:** Samaná**For:** Accounting Course**Sponsor:** PCV Erica Monteith**Grantee: 40 Youth****From:** Rincon Hondo, Castillo, Duarte**For:** Art classes**Sponsor:** PCV Eva Miller

## INDIVIDUAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### **Grantees:** 2 Youth

**From:** La Romana

**For:** Basic English Course

**PCV Iris Laurencio wrote:** *"The students to be sponsored by FQ are adolescents infected with HIV/AIDS. The two students that will receive the scholarships are the two most motivated students out of the 15 that participated in a four-day long English immersion camp."*

**Sponsor:** Iris Laurencio

**Grantee:** Jordy Antonio Aracena Espinal

**From:** Mata Grande, San José de las Matas, Santiago

**For:** Apprenticeship in Masonry and Woodworking

**Jordy wrote:** *"Yo soy el hijo mayor de la familia y tengo que trabajar porque la situación económica está difícil. Aquí en Mata Grande no hay oportunidades para estudiar después del sexto curso y yo no puedo vivir lejos de mi familia. Con este entrenamiento yo podría aprender una profesión que me gusta sin salir de mi familia. Después, yo podría conseguir trabajo para ganar dinero para apoyar a mi familia y para que mis hermanos puedan continuar con su educación."*

**Sponsor:** PCV Taylor Joyal

**Grantee:** Aníbal Galva Reyes

**From:** La Caleta, Santo Domingo

**For:** Courses in Renewable Energy

**Anibal wrote:** *"Estos cursos me ayudarán a mejorar mis destrezas y la calidad de vida ya que en mi comunidad se están planificando varios trabajos y proyectos cuales tienen considerado el uso de energía alternativa como la fuente principal de electrificación."*

**Sponsor:** PCV Victor Galvan

**Grantee:** David de Jesús Gonzales

**From:** Bohío Viejo, San José de las Matas

**For:** English Course

**PCV Danielle Hunt wrote:** *"David recently graduated from high school and is in the process of completing a free economic development course in greenhouse agriculture and business management. In order to be successful in starting his business of production and exportation he will need to be proficient in reading and speaking English. This will allow him to maximize market contacts here and in the United States and will give him access to more agricultural and business resource materials."*

**Sponsor:** PCV Danielle Hunt

**Grantee:** Sander Morales Orange

**From:** Barrio Lindo, El Cacique, Monte Plata

**For:** Basic English Course

**Sander wrote:** *"Para los hombres en El Cacique, una de las fuentes mayores de trabajo es empleo en las zonas turísticas del Este y en la capital. Tengo muchos compañeros que trabajan en las zonas turísticas y quiero conseguir empleo en esta zona para ayudar a mantener mi familia e inscribirme en la universidad. Para conseguir trabajo en los hoteles, se obligan aprender otros idiomas para tener mayor facilidad con los turistas que visitan."*

**Sponsor:** PCV Emily Matuzek

**Grantee:** Noemi Crisostomo

**From:** Palmar Grande, Puerto Plata

**For:** Basic Computer Course

**Noemi wrote:** *"Ahora tengo limitaciones para trabajar y para hacer mi tarea de la universidad, donde estudio contabilidad. Yo trabajo en la Chocolatera de Palmar Grande, y faltamos alguien quien tiene el conocimiento para manejar los datos de compra y venta de productos. Yo estoy segura que una beca de Fondo Quisqueya podría facilitarme la oportunidad de aprender esta habilidad muy útil para mi trabajo en la Chocolatera y para trabajo en el futuro en el área de contabilidad."*

**Sponsor:** PCV Mica Jenkins

*"Con este entrenamiento yo podría aprender una profesión que me gusta sin salir de mi familia."*





*“By attending beauty school, Magnolia will acquire skills which will allow her to operate her own salon in the future.”*

**Grantee:** Yohanna Encarnación  
**From:** Sabana de la Mar, Hato Mayor  
**For:** English Course

**PCV Justin Kersey wrote:** “Yohanna has attended my English class for 3 months and has far and away outperformed the other students. She has aspirations of going to medical school and practicing medicine outside of the country, which makes English a necessary resource for her.”

**Sponsor:** PCV Justin Kersey

**Grantee:** Sandra Magnolia González  
**From:** El Ensueño, Santiago  
**For:** Beauty Salon Course

**PCV Laurel Tanza wrote:** “By attending beauty school, Magnolia will acquire skills which will allow her to operate her own salon in the future. She will also be in demand as an employee at local salons because she will have the necessary skills.”

**Sponsor:** PCV Laurel Tanza

**Grantee:** Yojaina Griselda Martínez Mejía  
**From:** Derrumbado de Mahoma, San José de Ocoa  
**For:** Advanced English and Computer Classes

**PCV Tod Haggard wrote:** “Griselda is a high school graduate with two kids aged 11 and 4. After taking some time to raise her kids, she has recently made plans to begin studying for a college degree in psychology. She has started taking many of the pre-requisite courses in order to begin her major. The classes she hopes to take with the assistance of this scholarship would give her an extra step ahead.”

**Sponsor:** PCV Tod Haggard

**Grantee:** Manuel Antonio Pujols  
**From:** Derrumbado de Mahoma, San José de Ocoa  
**For:** Advanced English and Computer Classes  
**Sponsor:** PCV Tod Haggard

**Grantee:** Domingo Diceuri Mejía Castillo  
**From:** El Puente de la Horma, San José de Ocoa  
**For:** Basic Computer Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Katherine Tuiider

**Grantee:** Glenis Mercedes Monción Estévez  
**From:** Los Cerros de Aminilla, Partido, Dajabón  
**For:** Basic Computer Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Jennifer Goode



FQ Grantee Mary Flores

**Grantee:** Mary Altagracia Flores  
**From:** Roblegal, Bani  
**For:** Discipline and Classroom Management Course  
**Sponsor:** Daniel Golub

**Grantee:** Ranselina Silverio Jaquez  
**From:** Hanacahuíta, Bajabonico Arriba, Puerto Plata  
**For:** English Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Nichole Salinger

**Grantee:** Odi Luis  
**From:** Duveaux, Yaguate  
**For:** Computer Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Rachel Gottesman

**Grantee:** Ariel Rojas  
**From:** Duveaux, Yaguate  
**For:** Computer Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Rachel Gottesman

**Grantee:** Barbara Zapata  
**From:** Duveaux, Yaguate  
**For:** Computer Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Rachel Gottesman



**Grantee:** Anabel Vallejo  
**From:** Duveaux, Yaguata  
**For:** Computer Course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Rachel Gottesman

**Grantee:** Darvin Frandy Merán Rosario  
**From:** Los Quemados, Bonao  
**For:** Voice and Guitar Lessons  
**Sponsor:** PCV Alison Bujanovich

## NEW FQ LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

We are very happy to welcome Keila Bello as a new FQ local committee member and as the liaison between Fondo Quisqueya and Peace Corps Volunteers. Keila receives and reviews FQ grant applications.

Keila started working for Peace Corps DR as a receptionist and has been promoted to Program Assistant. She coordinates activities and works with the Education APCD. She also assists PCVs with the preparation of documents, work plans, reports, and workshops and is PCDR's PR guru.

Thank you Keila for helping to make the work of Fondo Quisqueya a success!

## 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 donations to: FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

## FRIENDS OF THE DR

Our sister organization, FDR, like FQ, is a 501(c)(3) organization. Friends of the Dominican Republic focuses on helping bring together the community of DR Returned PCVs and staff in the US. It also raises money for two projects: a Program Development Fund which supports PCVs 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 Treasure, 4512 Park Rd., Alexandria, VA.

## WATCH A FQ GRANT AT WORK

A FQ grant provided funding for a Brigada Verde regional conference in March that trained 26 youth in how to plan and implement an environmental day camp.

See highlights from the conference at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_IB0mPNTBE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_IB0mPNTBE).

## COMMUNITY LEADER PREPARES FOR NURSING SCHOOL WITH THE HELP OF FQ

BY PCV TOD HAGGARD, SAN JOSÉ DE OCOA

With the help of the Fondo Quisqueya scholarship she received in the fall of 2008, Iris (Linda) Casado started her classes in basic computer applications at the IDONAI Institute in San José de Ocoa. She has since completed three full trimesters and will be finishing her studies in December 2009.

After taking time away from school to raise her three kids, Linda returned to school four years ago, taking classes on weekends and evenings at San José de Ocoa's program for adults. She graduated from

(Continued on page 10)



FQ Grantee Iris Casado

*“We are very happy to welcome Keila Bello as a new FQ local committee member”*





(Continued from page 9)

high school in January 2009 and has plans to start nursing school next year. The computer classes she has completed have helped her become better prepared for the challenges she will face in her future studies.

Despite her focus on academics, Linda continues her volunteer work as the town council president and as the liaison with the local NGO that has funded significant development in the region. As president, she oversees and coordinates projects in benefit of the community.

Linda's aspirations after earning her nursing degree are to work as the local nurse in the rural clinic and to continue her work as a community leader. She hopes to remain close to her family (she recently welcomed a new grandchild into her family) and to earn a better living for her family using her newly-developed skills. Linda's husband and her kids have been very supportive of her studies and of her dreams to pursue a career in nursing. The whole family helps out with household chores when Linda is in class or is studying.

Many thanks to the donors of Fondo Quisqueya for giving Linda the opportunity to pursue her goals of a better education that has been so very truly earned by her years of hard work and sacrifice.

*“Linda’s aspirations after earning her nursing degree are to work as the local nurse in the rural clinic and to continue her work as a community leader.”*

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