



## From the President's Corner

By Lou Ferrand

Thanks to our donors, Fondo Q has continued to play an important role in the lives of low income Dominicans with grants and scholarships recommended by Peace Corps Volunteers.

Among the 25 recent grants and scholarships awarded was a Group Award to teachers from Sabana de la Mar for a training course provided by four Special Education PCVS. Training focused on working with children with special needs in the classroom. The other 24 grants and scholarships went for Computer training, English, Baking, Television Filming, Diesel Mechanics training and guitar

(cont. on pg.2)

## FONDO Q LAUNCHES DRIVE TO REPAIR NOEL DAMAGED SCHOOLS

Fondo Q Board Members voted at the November meeting to raise money to help repair schools damaged by Tropical Storm Noel. DR Peace Corps Director Romeo Massey reports that as of November 6, 2007, the Storm had caused considerable loss of life and damage including 85 deaths, 48 missing people, and 66,608 homeless. Forty-six 46 bridges and road were damaged or destroyed; 15,915 houses were damaged (737 destroyed); and 137 sites had not yet been communicated with. There are 23,209 refugees and millions of dollars in agricultural losses. While we have not received any statistics on the number of schools damaged, Director Massey informed us that there is a substantial need for money to help repair damaged schools.

In 1999, FQ donated money to help rebuild several schools in the Hato Rey area that were severely damaged by Hurricane George. FQ's donation was the catalyst for a major donation by a Spanish Foundation and school rebuilding financing from the DR Government. After another hurricane in 2004, FQ donated funds to help repair schools and provide replacement school supplies in Las Lagunas de Nisibon, Arroyo Grande, and Nagua.

(cont. on pg.2)



Haitian Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Raymond Joseph

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM FQ'S ANNUAL MEETING

By Janet Kerley

The annual meeting of Fondo Quisqueya's Board of Directors was held at Tom and Sue Gittin's home on July 8. The business meeting was held first, followed by a pot-luck supper. In addition to the Board members, fourteen guests attended, including the Haitian Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Raymond Joseph.

In his remarks to the gathering of RPCVs and guests, Ambassador Joseph noted that he was attending the University of Chicago when JF Kennedy announced the founding of the Peace Corps. Born in a Batuey in the Dominican Republic, of Haitian Parents, he lived in the DR for seven and a half years before his family returned to Haiti. Later, Ambassador Joseph attended school in the US. He was a journalist at the Wall Street Journal before being named as Haiti's Ambassador to the United States. Lou Ferrand met him at a fundraiser at the Haitian

(cont. on pg.2)

## FQ Board of Directors

- President**  
Lou Ferrand
- Vice-President**  
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- Rik Laird
- Jennifer McGowan

- FQ's DR Committee**
- Chair:** Jennifer McGowan
- Diane Partle



**(FONDO Q LAUNCHES DRIVE TO REPAIR DAMAGED SCHOOLS- cont. from pg.1)**

Now, it's time to step forward and help again! With money donated by you, FQ will support school repair and school supply replacement projects sponsored by DRPCV's. We urge you to donate generously. Thank you!

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

While we received a generous contribution covering grants and scholarships for environment and conservation-related education and training, we need your continuing donations to fund the hoped for \$3,000 in grants and scholarships that FQ's Local Committee will recommend for award in December, 2007 and for at least \$12,000 in grants and scholarships that we hope to award next year. Currently, we have less than \$1,000 available for non-environment and conservation grants and scholarships. We need to replenish our non-earmarked grant and scholarship funds.

In addition, Storm Noel hit the Dominican Republic hard in early November. FQ's Board of Directors has voted to launch a special drive to raise funds to provide assistance for repair of schools and replacement of school supplies for projects recommended by DRPCVs.

If you have already given to Fondo Q this year, I encourage you to donate generously again, and if you have not yet donated, I urge you to do so.

I wish you and your family very Happy Holidays and a prosperous, enjoyable and safe New Year.

Gracias y Saludos,  
Lou

**(HIGHLIGHTS FROM FQ'S ANNUAL MEETING cont. from page 1)**

Embassy which was held to raise money for a school in a Batuey near Santo Domingo. Ambassador Joseph said he came to FQ's annual meeting to show support for a well deserved program. He added, "I hope that you will continue with your work in Quisqueya," noting "that Quisqueya includes Haiti as well!"

Elections were held to fill three vacancies on the Board. Lou Ferrand, Janet Kerley, and Anita Freeman were elected to three-year terms. Additionally, Jennifer McGowan was nominated to serve a full three year term in place of the partial term to which she was elected in Feb 2007. New officers were also elected, including Lou Ferrand, President; BJ Warren, Vice-President; Stu



**Fondo Q President Lou Ferrand presents 45<sup>th</sup> conference logo to Hon. Flavio Espinal, Dominican Republic Ambassador to the USA**

**(HIGHLIGHTS cont.)**

Frisch, Secretary; and Bill Threhold, Treasurer. In addition, Tom Gittins will continue as FQ's events chair; Rik Laird will continue as coordinator of FQ's internet web page.

Other guests at the annual meeting were DR RPCVs and staff: Mike McCabe (PTO 2001-2006); David Smith (2000-2002); Karey Meyer (1980-83); Paula Gilbert (1974-76); Tanya Gipson-Nahman (2000 -2003); John Riffenbaker (1973-75); Jess Frisch; Michael Riesman (2000-2002); Larry Blascoff (1971-73); Joanna Mauer (2003-06); George Roland; and John Swallow.

**From the VP Perch**  
by BJ Warren

It has been amazing all these years that Fondo Quisqueya has had enough money to keep funding these life-changing scholarships. Each quarter we hold our breath to make sure that we have sufficient donations to be able to fund the scholarships for the Dominican who have been selected.

For the past quarter, however, it turned out that we had more qualified requests than we have funds and some of the grantees had to be told that they would be considered during the next quarter. As we are coming close to the funding time, I just want to thank folks who have contributed and to make a plea to please remember to keep helping fund these outstanding Dominicans. As we well know, not all Dominicans grow up to be famous baseball players who are in the World Series, and there are plenty of deserving low-income folks whom we would like to help. Whether you are a Boston Red Sox fan or a Rockies fan, there are plenty of Dominicans to watch.

(cont. on pg.3)



(FROM THE VP PERCH- cont. from page 2)

This has been a sad year with the loss of three Dominican friends close to Peace

Corps, Frank Marino Hernandez, Pedro Jimenez, and Father Lou Quinn. I was glad I had a chance to be with two of the three folks we lost, and that Pedro and Frank were able to participate in our 45<sup>th</sup> Peace Corps Anniversary celebration. As some of you know, Frank had a TV show and talked about the Peace Corps the day after he was a panelist at the Celebration. Maybe some people would like to contribute to a scholarship in their memory. Our average scholarship is now about \$300.00 USD.

Again, many thanks for your continued participation.  
All the best,  
BJ

## CAMP GLOW GIRLS LEADING OUR WORLD

Young women from 25 different Dominican communities came together in July for the third annual Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World), also known as Campamento Estrellas de Hoy (Stars of Today). The camp was held at Rancho Campeche in San Cristobal, Santo Domingo from July 23-27. Fondo Q is a supporter of Camp GLOW.

The focus of Camp GLOW 2007 was to empower the young women, many of them from very impoverished backgrounds, by having them focus on their mind, body, and spirit. Activities and charlas throughout the week gave the campers new information and experiences about leadership, teamwork, self-esteem, personal health, HIV/AIDS, and the environment. It also gave them the opportunity to think about their future in a supportive and open environment.

Seven of the 63 young campers were youth leaders. The women who qualified as camp leaders had attended a previous year's Camp GLOW and had used the knowledge gained in their communities. The youth leaders assisted with the charlas, ran an essay contest, and planned and led the charla and service project on the final day of camp.

A panel of professional Dominican women, along with the camp owners, one of whom is a professional singer, helped to open the campers' eyes to a future full of possibilities. Art therapy and journal writing sessions helped the young women learn more about who they are, raise their self-awareness along with their self-esteem, and helped them to realize the qualities they possess which can help them to form a great future.

Since camp, most of the participants have taken what they learned back to the youth of their communities by giving presentations and working or starting youth groups. Camp GLOW 2007 was an incredible success from both the campers' and adults' perspective. In the coming years, the GLOW committee plans to expand the initiative to include regional camps and increase the number of communities included.

## TWENTY-SIX NEW FONDO Q GRANTEES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2007

By Anne Ternes

### GROUP AWARDS

**Grantees:** Five special education teachers  
**From:** Sabana el Mar, El Seibo  
**For:** A week-long, all-day training workshop in Sabana de la Mar for teachers who work with special needs children. The course, taught by PCV Samantha Wapnick, covers topics that teachers need to know about when working with special needs kids - from child nutrition to behavior motivation - to learning techniques and ways to make easy didactic materials.  
**Sponsor:** PCV Brian Quistorff

### Individual Grants and Scholarships

**Grantee:** Marina Campusano  
**From:** La Pared, Haina San Cristobal  
**For:** A computer course to augment her employment opportunities  
**Sponsor:** PCV Denise Drew Rabidoux

**Grantee:** Udelka Lourdes Lora Valdez  
**From:** La Pared, Haina, San Cristobal  
**For:** An English course. Denise wrote "*Lourdes is a teacher and could use the English course in working with her students, who are learning English in school. A familiarity of the English language is very important in adding to the skills and abilities that she will be able to offer potential employers.*"  
**Sponsor:** PCV Denise Drew Rabidoux

**Grantee:** Javier Aneurys Fajardo de la Cruz  
**From:** La Pared, Haina, San Cristobal  
**For:** A ten month course in diesel mechanics  
**Sponsor:** PCV Denise Drew Rabidoux

**Grantee:** Maria Celeste Perez de Hernandez  
**From:** Angostura, Manabao, La Vega  
**For:** Computer training to fulfill her responsibility as a representative for her community association.  
**Sponsor:** PCV Courtney Elan Brian

**Grantee:** Yajhaira Genao Hernandez  
**From:** Angostura, Manabao, La Vega  
**For:** A computer course as preparatory to going on to higher education  
**Sponsor:** PCV Courtney Elan Brian

**Grantee:** Levy Antonio Rodriguez  
**From:** La Piña, Villa Los Almacigos, Santiago Rodriguez  
**For:** An English course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Oravanh Thammassen





**Grantee:** Victor de la Cruz Colomé  
**From:** Pedro Sánchez, El Seibo  
**For:** *Guitar classes. Matt wrote, "Victor's skills and knowledge of the guitar, and of music in general, will immensely improve as a result of the weekly classes and the out of class practice that I know Victor is so dedicated to. With these improved skills and knowledge he will have many opportunities for making money in the future; he will also be a huge asset to his community. With the support of World Vision, we have obtained two community guitars to be used for guitar classes for interested youth, and Victor is the key person if these classes are to be sustainable in the future. The money earned from guitar classes will be a way for Victor to improve his standard of living. Other doors will be opened to him, such as playing at weddings, birthdays, community parties, etc. Also, living in the east of the country, Victor has easy access to the tourist areas of Bavaro, Punta Cana, and Casa de Campo."*  
**Sponsor:** PCV Matt Ferrer

**Grantee:** Abel Rodriguez Mora  
**From:** Santiago Rodriguez  
**For:** An English course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Oravanh Thammasen

**Grantee:** Miguelina Placencia Abreu  
**From:** El Manguito, Manabao, Jarabacoa, La Vega  
**For:** An English course to improve both work and study options  
**Sponsor:** PCV Jessica Stearns

**Grantee:** Wander Molina Vargas  
**From:** Barrio Ines, Pedernales  
**For:** *A computer and internet course. Wander wrote, "Hace cuatro años que termine la secundaria y mis bajos recursos económicos no me ha dado la oportunidad de estudiar en la universidad. Ya que soy el único hombre que tengo que hacerme responsable de mi familia. Vivo con mi abuela que cuenta con 82 años de edad y mi tía que es mini invalida y ellas solo me tienen a mi. Quiero ayudar a mi familia. Hacen dos años hize unos cursos de informática en una escuela militar, pero estudiando los curso técnico de redes puedo trabajar con mas facilidad. Este curso y un curso de ensamblaje me han llamado a la atención ya que me gusta trabajar en informática y ensamblaje."*  
**Sponsor:** PCV Jessica Heckart

**Grantee:** Jose Francisco Tavares Robles  
**From:** Bayaguana, Monte Plata  
**For:** *An English course. The PCVs wrote, "Jose Francisco has been an active member in every youth group and activity that PCV Emily Hoffman has offered in Bayaguana. He is the co-president of his local Brigada Verde Club and maintains high grades in his courses in the high school. From knowing Emily, Jose Francisco has become interested in reading and has read over 20 books. He will reread books if no other books are available to him. When Emily offered English courses to her Brigada Verde, Jose Francisco was the only one who showed a consistent dedication to learning. He quickly worked through the ESL book that Emily used, sometimes studying on his own. The opportunity to study in the capitol will be a key to his success as a learner and Emily hopes that FQ will strongly consider his application."*  
**Sponsors:** PCVs Emily Hoffman and Julie Mullen

**Grantee:** Josefina Alcántara Martines  
**From:** Batey Caraballo, Puerto Plata  
**For:** *A baking course. Josefina wrote, "Cuando puedo económicamente, yo preparo algunos postres y salgo a vender casa en casa porque no tengo ninguna otra forma de ingreso y tengo 3 hijos en la escuela que necesitan de materiales y buen uniforme. En el batey en donde vivo, no hay ninguna otra persona haciendo este trabajo y hay mucha oportunidad para ganar bien ya que la gente le gusta festejar cumpleaños y bodas pero es difícil comprar bizcochos porque nuestro batey esta ubicado en un lugar remoto y con una calle mala a la cual solo motocicletas pueden entrar. Por eso, yo creo que si me dan la oportunidad de asistir a este curso yo podría poner un buen negocio desde mi casa en donde tengo un pequeño horno que me ayudara poder comprar buenos alimentos para mis hijos y lo que necesiten para la escuela."*  
**Sponsor:** PCV Cibeles Garcia





<p><b>Grantee:</b> Franklin Daniel Martinez Hernandez  <b>From:</b> Santiago  <b>For:</b> An English course to improve his employment possibilities  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Marita Lamb</p>	<p><b>Grantee:</b> Alejandro Perez  <b>From:</b> Monte Plata  <b>For:</b> Television Filming course  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Brad Haas</p>
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Nilcia Aurelin Gomez  <b>From:</b> Doña Antonia, Monte Cristi  <b>For:</b> Beauty Course. Nilcia wrote, <i>“Este entrenamiento me va a dar los conocimientos que necesito para hacer este trabajo para ganar dinero para apoyar mi familia. Yo quiero darles a los hijos míos más oportunidad en sus vidas en el área de educación. También, quiero tener mi propio negocio y más desempeño laboral. Además, después de cumplir este entrenamiento, querré y podré compartir mis conocimientos y enseñar otras personas en mi comunidad como poner las uñas acrílicas y trabajar en salon de belleza.”</i>  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Danielle Rackers</p>	
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Fiordaliza Altagracia Martinez Martinez  <b>From:</b> Santiago  <b>For:</b> An English Course. Fiordaliza wrote, <i>“He tenido una introducción a ingles por mis estudios en el liceo y me gustaría mejorar mi nivel de saber el idioma. Con el curso y estudios seguidos por la universidad yo espero que llegue a un nivel donde yo pueda obtener una carrera en administración como una traductora.”</i>  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Marita Lamb</p>	
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Yenifer Arisleida Ferriera Luna  <b>From:</b> Santiago  <b>For:</b> An English course  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Marita Lamb</p>	<p><b>Grantee:</b> Bolivar Abreu  <b>From:</b> Manabao, La Vega  <b>For:</b> A computer course  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Jessica Stearns</p>
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Dionicia Yaniris Luna  <b>From:</b> La Cienega, Santiago  <b>For:</b> An English course. Dionicia wrote, <i>“Tengo dos de mis hijos que tienen necesidades especiales y con la ayuda de médicos estadounidenses ya han recibido cirugías que yo nunca les pudiera pagar. Me gustaría aprender ingles no solamente para hablar con los médicos que me ayudan mi familia pero yo quiero ser como ellos ayudantes a otros. Entonces con ese curso yo puedo comenzar a echar para adelante con mi ingles y si Dios quiere conseguir un trabajo mejor no solamente para yo pero para mis hijos. “</i>  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Marita Lamb</p>	
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Rafael Custodia  <b>From:</b> San Jose de Ocoa, Peravia  <b>For:</b> A computer course. Tim wrote, <i>“Rafael, employed by Hermandad Dominicana, is a field supervisor/project manager for small scale aqueducts and other construction projects such as schools. He will take a basic computer course for Microsoft word, excel and use of internet to begin to use these tools for his work. For instance he often has to send project budgets or budget revisions, which he currently writes out by hand and delivers personally to the office.”</i>  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Tim Kiefer</p>	
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Pedro Dipre  <b>From:</b> Santo Domingo  <b>For:</b> An English course  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Julie Mullen</p>	<p><b>Grantee:</b> Francisco de los Santos Ignacio  <b>From:</b> Santo Domingo  <b>For:</b> A course in English  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Julie Mullen</p>
<p><b>Grantee:</b> Jose Luis Polanco Hiraldo  <b>From:</b> Municipio de Altamira, Puerto Plata  <b>For:</b> An English course. Jose wrote, <i>“Este curso me ayudaría para crecer personalmente, académicamente, económicamente, y tener el privilegio para hablar otro lenguaje. Tener la capacidad de hablar ingles va a darme la oportunidad para encontrar un empleo estable, por ejemplo en turismo para hablar con extranjeros. En mi provincia la fuente de ingreso es mayormente turismo y yo puedo ofrecer un servicio muy útil en esta línea de trabajo para ayudar a mi país y seguir adelante. Con este trabajo yo puedo ayudar mi familia económicamente y socialmente. “</i>  <b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Dan Anson</p>	



**Grantee:** Isaura Amantina Nuñez Padilla  
**From:** Puerto Plata  
**For:** An English course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Dan Anson

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Bill Threlkeld, FO Treasurer

Since January 1, 2007, Fondo Q has provided \$8,980.48 (62% of our YTD expenses) in scholarships and grants to 34 individuals and 2 groups. In the same period, our cash outlay for operating expense was \$5,401.61 (38% of YTD expenses), all related to the production, printing, and mailing of two newsletters this year. Together, financial assistance and operating expenses totaled \$14,382.09, while our revenues for the same period were \$12,050.73, a shortfall of \$2,331.36.

Four women received full or partial scholarships from Fondo Quisqueya's Mila Brooks Fund for Women in Development; the group Unión de Jóvenes Ecologistas (Young Ecologists Club) received training with conservation funds provided by Fran Price ((D.R. 94) in memory of her mother. The Mila Brooks Fund, which seeks to become self-perpetuating, is currently endowed at a value of \$2,223.40 (end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter). At this time, the Fund has no money available for financial assistance. Significant funding (\$7,694.13) is available for conservation-related grants and scholarships; however, we receive few applications for this type of financial assistance. We are currently promoting the availability of conservation-related funds to Peace Corps Volunteers for the communities they serve.

We look forward to a robust end-of-the-year giving period. This month we deferred applications that we could not fund with the hopes of approving them in January, 2008 along with new applications. Your tax-deductible contributions will provide great opportunities for these deserving applicants. Thank you for your support!

Bill & Carine Threlkeld, Craig Marken Ttee & Wanda Wynne Ttee, Travis T. & La Donna Ward, BJ Warren, the Wilcox Family Foundation (G. Geer Wilcox), Greg & Alvera Wilson, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Tom & Sue Gittins, Joanna Mauer.

**B. 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:**

Melissa Klein.

**C. DONATED TO THE MILA BROOKS FUND:**

Thomas F. Aichele, Robert & Margaret Bielen, David and Anita Kaufman, Jon Keeton, Neopolitan's Women's Club (Jim Van Fleet), John and Michelle Swallow, Holly H. Van Fleet, James A. Van Fleet, Hazel M. & Carl Vespa.

**D. DONATED FOR TRAINING TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER, IN MEMORY OF MARDA MAYO'S FATHER:**

Marda F. Mayo.

**E. DONATED IN MEMORY OF A DEAR FRIEND, ANNIE MERRIMAN:**

Linda and John Scott.

**F. DONATED TO SUPPORT CAMP GLOW (GIRLS LEADING OUR WORLD):**

David & Anita Kaufman, Hazel M. & Carl Vespa, Wilcox Family Foundation (G. Geer Wilcox).

**G. DONATED IN HONOR OF B.J. WARREN'S BIRTHDAY:**

Rachel E. Barham, Diane K. Brockett, Michael A. and Bonnie L. Daniels, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Joan M. Goodin, Erika Beth and James S. Landberg, Judith D. Light, Kay H. Logan, Charles E. and

## 2007 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(Reflecting deposits January 1 – October 24, 2007, not donor check dates):

By Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer

**A. GENERAL DONORS:**

Jacqueline Alcorn, Lawrence Paul Blaskopf, Matthew & Mila Brenner, Susan & Harold Case, David & Lillian Clary, John Duenes, Wanda Fullner & Betty Peralta, Dianne M. Gittins, Julie Howard, Gene Lane, William R. Large, Jr., Dennis T. Fenwick & Martha J. Lewis, J. Gary Linn, Michael C. Lisman, James & Anne O'Connor, David & Kathryn Padilla, Suzanne D. Petroni, Eric & Kelly Prosnier, Richard A. Laird & Patricia E. Rambasek, Alan C. Randall, James & Carmen Shrefler, John & Helen Torphy,





## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVIST WINS FONDO Q GRANT

By Joanna Mauer

Isabel Ortiz (Nana) has been a friend of Peace Corps and a counterpart to numerous volunteers over the last 15 years in her small rural community because of her outstanding work in community development. Nana, 42 years old and married with two children, lives in La Angostura near the base of Pico Duarte (province of La Vega).

Nana is an activist. Currently she is the president of her community association; vice president of a small NGO, La Junta Yaque, working in environmental conservation; supervisor of 15 rural health promoters; and the regional coordinator of two hydroelectric projects through the United Nations Small Grants Program.

Nana is also the winner of a Fondo Quisqueya Scholarship which funded a six-month beginner computer course focusing on programs such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Nana had always been interested in learning how to use computers. Prior to taking the course, she had to depend on others to get her community development work done since she lacked basic computer skills.

By taking the course, Nana was hoping to achieve basic computer literacy. She has had a wonderful experience in the course, saying that the professor is excellent and always explains things so that the students can really understand. Courtney Briar, the volunteer who sponsored Nana, says that she is amazed with how much Nana has learned.

Now that she is comfortable using a computer, and especially using Microsoft Word, Nana feels the amount of work she can do for the community is much greater. She says, "I don't have to depend on others to do the work I should be doing. If I don't like how something is done, I can do it myself." Nana graduates from the course this month.

## WHERE ARE OUR THIRD YEAR PC VOLUNTEERS NOW?

By Joanna Mauer

**Laura Sundquist** was tracked down in Baltimore, where she is attending the University of Maryland. Joanna Mauer caught up with her and obtained this first person account. "After I completed my third year of Peace Corps as a PCVL and liaison for FQ, I took my PC readjustment allowance and traveled to Europe. Not quite ready to leave the DR, I returned yet again in August 2006 as a Peace Corps trainer for the youth, families and community development sector. After four months of (providing) intense training with ENTRENA, I embarked on another travel adventure, this time to South America. In January 2007, I began training PC volunteers in the Information Technology for Education sector.

After four years in the Dominican Republic, volunteering and working with Peace Corps, I made my final departure from *la Isla Querida*. In May, I finally returned to the United States and began graduate school as a Peace Corps Fellows Program at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. I'm studying social work with a specialty in community development and social action, and working for the Social Work Community Outreach Services office at the university. Although it was difficult leaving the DR, I was proud to know that two Fondo Quisqueya recipients from the community where I served were leaving with me. Two students who were sponsored by FQ to study English in Santo Domingo are currently studying in Montana and Kentucky and living with host families. We are grateful for your generosity and contribution to their education and personal development."

I also caught up with **Ryan Reid**, a former DR PCV, who as a third-year volunteer was the liaison between FQ and the Peace Corps. Ryan is also a FQ Board member. Here's an update on his post-Peace Corps life. "Following completion of my service in the Peace Corps, I returned to Washington D.C. to pursue a graduate degree at Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) in Development Economics, Emerging Market Finance and Latin American Studies. I graduated this past May and am currently working at the World Bank in the Central American Country Management Unit. Specifically, I am responsible for economic and operational analysis for the Bank's operations in the region. My responsibilities also include working directly with the Senior Land Administration Specialist to manage all phases of the project cycle for the Bank's Land Administration portfolio in Central America, which consists of four projects with a total budget of approximately \$US 250 million.







**(WHERE ARE OUR THIRD YEAR PC VOLUNTEERS NOW?)**  
- cont. from page 7)

My future plans include working as an Economic Officer for the United States Foreign Service. After passing the various entrance exams to join the Foreign Service, I am currently on a rank-ordered register of cleared candidates awaiting my invitation to begin training.

In my personal life, I married my long-time girlfriend, Lara, in December 2005 in her hometown of Tapachula, Mexico. We are looking forward to starting a family and beginning our new lives in the Foreign Service - wherever that may take us!!!!"

And finally, here's what I, **Joanna Mauer**, am doing. I finished my Peace Corps service in April 2007 after extending for a year and a half to work as the volunteer coordinator for the water/sanitation sector and as the third-year coordinator for Fondo Quisqueya. I spent the summer with my family in Maryland and volunteered at a community services center that mostly works with Latino immigrants. This fall I started a Master's of Public Policy program at the University of Maryland, College Park to study environmental policy. In addition to classes, I am working as a research assistant at the university's Center for Integrative Environmental Research. I am also happy to be a new board member of FQ.

## **HELP UPDATE THE FONDO Q WEBSITE**

Our Web Site needs lots of work! And, we need volunteers to help update and maintain the site! Check it out at [www.fondoq.org](http://www.fondoq.org). If you could help or would like to be in charge of the Web page, contact FQ President Lou Ferrand at [louisgferrand@verizon.net](mailto:louisgferrand@verizon.net).

## **FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** By John Evans

FQ collaborates closely with Friends of the Dominican Republic (FDR), our sister organization. FDR, like FQ, is a 501(c) (3) organization which focuses on helping bring together the community of DR Returned PC Volunteers and staff in the US. FDR 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 complete information about FDR, go to its website at "[www.fotdr.org](http://www.fotdr.org)." Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER HAS LONG HISTORY WITH PEACE CORPS**

By Bill Threlkold

Fondo Q's newest Board member, Anita Friedman has a long history with the Peace Corps. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay, Anita managed just fine without running water and electricity, and learned that the vast majority of people in the world live in poverty. During the civil war in El Salvador, her commitment to providing better opportunities for people in need meant nights spent seeking protection behind a mattress as gunfire roared outside her window.

Following her service as a volunteer, Anita continued to serve Peace Corps as the Country Director in Dominican Republic and as the Chief of Operations for the Inter-America and Pacific region at Peace Corps headquarters. Anita spent more than 20 years overseeing programs and operations to promote socio-economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the inner city of Washington, DC, where she was the Executive Director of the Latin American Youth Center, working to provide opportunity for young Hispanic men and women in Washington, D.C. She now focuses on those in need in her own backyard.

The native New Yorker and mother of two has a BA from Vassar College and MS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; she has been an Arlington resident since 1990. Anita is most happy when the work she does makes a difference in the lives of others.

## **TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO MAKE A CHARITABLE DONATION!**

By Patti Rambeck

As part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress opened up a new window for tax-free charitable giving that runs through 2007. If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, this new legislation allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities - such as the Fondo Quisqueya - without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. This is good news for people who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty. We encourage you to consider IRA charitable transfers this year as this provision expires on December 31st. Be sure to consult your tax advisor for details.



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