



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lou Ferrand

In the last six months since November, 2007, Fondo Quisqueya awarded 33 grants and scholarships to more than 50 low-income Dominicans. They included a geography course on ecotourism and natural resources in Hato Mayor for US\$189 (RD\$6,400); a small business training course for 15 local women from Barahona for US\$287 (i.e., RD\$9,705); and a Beekeeping Workshop for Cacao Farmers in Maria Trinidad Sanchez for US\$152 (i.e., RD\$5,162). The beekeeping workshop received a counterpart donation of RD\$26,400. Individual grants and scholarships went for Computer Repair Courses, Computer Training Courses, English Courses, and Driver Training Courses. Grantees are from Hato Mayor, Barahona, Puerto Plata, La Vega, Pedernales, Maria Trinidad Sánchez, San Juan de la Maguana, Espaillat, Santo Domingo, and Santiago.

It's exciting to be reminded of how much our award recipients do with the new skills and knowledge acquired as a result of their Fondo Q-sponsored training and education. See articles in this Newsletter sharing the success of some of them.

The tie between Fondo Q and the Peace Corps remains strong. Each grantee has a DR Peace Corps Volunteer who supported the grant application, and as always, each

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Grantee Wander Vargas

IMPACTING CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN THE DR THROUGH SMALL GRANTS

FONDO QUISQUEYA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CHANGES LIVES

By Joanna Mauer

All of Fondo Quisqueya's supporters, but especially our donors, receive great satisfaction from knowing how the training provided by the scholarships has been used by our grantees. FQ's local DR committee members recently followed up with some of the young scholarship winners to find out what they are doing now.

Several grantees used their scholarships for computer training. **Wander Vargas**, who lives in Pedernales in the southwest region of the country, received a Fondo Quisqueya grant last year to take a

computer networks course. The Peace Corps Volunteer who sponsored him, Jessica Heckart, first met Wander while facilitating a training for *Escojo*, a Peace Corps youth initiative. Wander was always an enthusiastic participant and was subsequently elected co-coordinator of his *Escojo* group. The computer course helped him gain technical skills and gave him more self-confidence. After completing the course, Wander became a computer teacher for youth in his community.

Wander also participated in a micro-business class given by a new Peace Corps Volunteer in his community. As part of the class, he developed a business plan to set up and repair computers in Pedernales and to sell computer parts.

Before the class was over, he had already found some local businessmen willing to invest with him in order to get the business started. Wander has since enrolled in another computer programming class to expand the skills that he can offer to his clients. He is excited and hopeful for his new business to take off.

Mario Genao Hernandez (Melvin) is a 24 year-old from Manabao, Jarabacoa who studies at the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA). With the help of Fondo Quisqueya, Melvin completed a 6-month basic electric inverter repair course. He has always been interested in learning about electricity. In fact, he is known as the "repair man" of his community

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

application then was reviewed by Fondo Quisqueya's Local DR Committee, headed by FQ Board Member and RPCV Jennifer McGowan.

As many of you know, we try to give out at least US\$3,000 in grants and scholarships in each of the four quarters of the year, with almost all awards for less than US\$300. In this way, we use our funds to support as many grantees as possible. In the last quarter of 2007 and the first quarter of 2008, the total amount awarded by Fondo Q was slightly more than US\$3,000 per quarter (US\$3,328.18 and US\$3,282.98 respectively). All of the latest grants were under US\$300, and some grants provided training for groups. In addition, 16 grantees leveraged funding from other sources to pay part of their training costs. This means that the dollars donated to Fondo Q went much further than otherwise would have been the case.

However, we received many more PCV-sponsored candidates than the donated money available. For the first quarter of 2008, Fondo Q received requests for more than US\$9,000 in scholarships. Although Fondo Q's Local DR Committee determined that all of these requests have merit, unfortunately, many could not be funded due to a lack of money.

Jennifer McGowan reports that for the second quarter of 2008, Fondo Q's Local DR Committee has received scholarship requests totaling more than US\$6,000. As Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer, noted in his report in this Newsletter, unless we receive substantial additional contributions, it is likely that we will only be able to fund about half of these requests.

Please join us and support Fondo Quisqueya's Scholarship/Grant Award program by making a generous contribution. I also want to thank those of you who already have made donations this year and who are helping to make a difference in the lives of low income Dominicans.

Finally, I would like to invite you to attend Fondo Quisqueya's Annual Meeting and Barbeque Potluck which will be held in Falls Church, Virginia at the home of Tom and Sue Gittins on Sunday, June 8, 2008 from 4 to 8 p.m. This event is not only important; it is always a lot of fun. We will elect new officers and some new members of the Board of Directors, and we will plan Fondo Q's scholarship/grant activities for next year. There will also be games and much good cheer and the opportunity to make and/or renew friendships with like-minded persons who care about and want to help make a difference in the Dominican Republic. For the details on the Annual Meeting, see the article in this Newsletter.

Saludos,
Lou

(FQ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - cont. from pg.1)

because of his love of taking things apart and seeing how they work. With a hydroelectric project developing in his community, Melvin decided it would be useful to learn about electricity and inverters so that he could contribute to the community project. Melvin was very happy with the course and said, "I learned so much." He achieved his goal of becoming certified in electric inverter repair and installation. Since completing the course, he has made several trips back to his community to repair inverters. He continues his university studies and is now in his second year at UTESA studying electrical engineering. Melvin said, "I never would have been able to find a job to support myself in Santiago while studying without the help of the scholarship." He is currently working for an inverter installation and repair company in Santiago during the day and taking classes at night. He plans to finish his studies by 2010.

Computer Training

Maria Ysidra Alcantara and Ana Blasina Perez (Mari and Glendi) are from Yabonico, a small community of about 300 people outside of Las Matas de Farfán in the Province of San Juan. Most people in Yabonico work in agriculture. Corn, peanuts, yucca, and black beans are their main crops. There is little money in the community since most harvests go completely towards feeding the family and what little is left over is sold as the family's only source of income. There is a high school and a health clinic in Yabonico that also provide services to neighboring communities.

Mari and Glendi both started their computer course just after graduating from high school. The course was designed to teach students computer programs including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, as well as how to use the Internet. The young women used their Fondo Quisqueya scholarships to cover tuition, transportation, books, and materials. Without the help of Fondo Quisqueya, the families of the two girls would not have been able to afford to send the girls to the computer course, and they would have missed a valuable opportunity.

Mari and Glendi became interested in taking a computer course because they both hope to pursue careers that require basic computer knowledge. Ben Lemkau, the Peace Corps Volunteer sponsoring the two girls, says that they were happy with what they were learning and that they took the class very seriously. He noticed them on numerous occasions, testing themselves and studying together to prepare for upcoming quizzes.

Once they had a general knowledge of computers, they set up email addresses and began communicating with friends and relatives in the DR and the USA.

Both girls are currently living in Santo Domingo where they are pursuing their university studies. Mari is studying systems engineering and Glendi is preparing for a career in dentistry. In addition to the success that Mari and Glendi have achieved, they have motivated other young people in neighboring communities. Four more people who live near Yabonico have received Fondo Quisqueya scholarships and are enrolled in the same course that Mari and Glendi completed.



(FQ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - cont. from pg.2)

English

Jose Luis Polanco lives in Bajabonico Arriba, a rural community near Puerto Plata. He received a Fondo Quisqueya scholarship in July 2007 and has since taken six months of English classes in Santiago. He works with Caribe Tours in Santiago as a shipping and receiving clerk. In his English class, Jose Luis has been learning the basics of grammar and tenses, and he is showing much improvement.



Jose Luis is able to practice his English with Dan Anson, the PCV who sponsored him, and he is also using his English at work in conversations with tourists who ride Caribe Tours. Jose Luis hopes to become fluent in English to be able to find a job in tourism, possibly working at a hotel. He remains excited about the course, never misses a class, and receives high grades. He is more than a year away from finishing the course, but he is already on his way to becoming a strong English speaker.

FROM THE VP PERCH By BJ Warren

Greetings,
I want to share some information about an organization called the Shriver Peace Institute. The Institute was set up as a result of a Congressional compromise regarding the naming of the Peace Corps Office Building. Former D.R. PCV and former Presidential candidate Sen. Chris Dodd was involved in its creation. The Peace Institute became part of the Center for Conflict Resolution at George Mason University in the Virginia suburbs. The Institute is in the process of reviewing all of the Shriver documents. During this review, they decided that the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic was instrumental in moving the Dominican Republic toward peace in the time of the 1965 Dominican Revolution.

The Institute commissioned Josef Evans, a playwright out of Minneapolis, to write a play about this revolutionary period. He, along with a series of students and others, connected with the Shriver Peace Institute and the Peace Fellows program of the University of Maryland, interviewed former PCVs and staff who were in the DR in 1965. The play's title, "The Only Americans Welcome", was based on one of the statements from Camano Deno, the Commander of the Constitutional forces during the revolutionary period, referencing the Peace Corps. The play was directed and acted by the drama department of the University of Maryland's Baltimore campus. (UMBC) The first production was held at George Mason University last fall, and the next production was held this spring at the University of Maryland's Baltimore Campus.

Having been one of interviewees, I went to the first production, not knowing what to expect. The Institute's Director had told me that the play was a work in progress and that probably the actors would just read their lines. What a pleasant surprise to find that the actors had not only learned their lines but their character development was such that it was easy to recognize the different people and composites of actual characters who lived and worked in Santo Domingo in 1965. Each of the actors played more than one role, and their enthusiasm and energy made that time period come alive. The play began with President Kennedy's speech at the University of Michigan and moved quickly through Peace Corps training, the frustrations at being in a different culture, and through the revolution. It was an emotional experience for me to see ones' persona being played on stage. Sarge Shriver's son, Tim Shriver, attended, and there was a question and answer period afterward. Comments from the audience provided feedback for some revisions to the Play. One of the suggested revisions that did not make it into the next production was to have the date actually be April 24, 1965, a change from the April 25, 1965 date used in the play.

Following the second production, three of us were on a panel and took comments from the audience. The play was presented during Peace Corps week, and the Maryland contingent of returned PCVs presented Tim Shriver with a plaque for his father. Tim brought all of his immediate family to this second production.

The next production will be in Minneapolis. If interested, you can probably log onto the Shriver Peace Institute website <http://www.sargentshriver.com/> to find out when this production will be presented.

Thank you for your continuing support of Fondo Q's grant and scholarship activities.
BJ Warren



MORE SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS FROM FQ'S LOCAL DR COMMITTEE

Grantee: Levy Antonio Rodríguez, 21 years old
From: La Piña, Villa Los Almacigos, Santiago
Outcome: Levy is very involved with the Evangelical Church. The church receives visitors from the US annually. When they visit, Levy always tries to speak to them or translate for them. His scholarship has allowed him to learn English and to practice for the next group of church visitors. He is also planning on attending university and studying more English to prepare for his major of Tourism.
Sponsor: PCV Oranvanh Thammasen



D. Chealsey opens a small business after her acrylic nails course.

Grantee: Abel Rodríguez Mora
From: Santiago Rodríguez
Outcome: PCV Oranvanh Thammasen reports that Abel is an active member in her HIV-AIDS Youth Group. Abel had moved away and started his own group of about 15 youths. He is finishing up the beginner English course that was paid for by the Fondo Quisqueya scholarship. It was a great opportunity for him to study English and build on his vocabulary that he had learned in high school. He is very grateful for this opportunity and will find other ways to take more classes.
 Abel wrote: *"Me siento muy agradecido con Uds. por ayuda de todo mi Corazón. Deseo que el dios todo poderoso derrame bendiciones sobre Uds. Nuevamente gracias porque hicieron que aunque no tuve la oportunidad de llegar a un alto nivel por falta de dinero pero hicieron posible que mis sueños se hicieron realidad."*
Sponsor: PCV Oranvanh Thammasen

Grantees: A Beekeeping Workshop for Ten Farmers from El Firme, eight youths, two seniors
From: Municipio Castillo, Provincia Duarte
Outcomes: The grantees are new bee keepers. Before the Workshop, they received training from PCV Charles Phillips. The Workshop, which was conducted by La Fundación de la Loma Quita Espuela, taught the farmers how to raise and care for bees in the climate conditions of the Dominican Republic. The Workshop was held in IDIAF's Centro Experimental De Cacao in Mata Larga. Participants received seven and ½ hours of classroom instruction, four hours of hands on bee keeping training, a beekeeper's "veil" and outfit, as well as a notebook, a pencil, a folder on beekeeping, and a book containing more detailed information on diseases affecting bees, pesticides, and other related matters. At the close of the Workshop, Jesús Moreno Portalatin, Director General of the Fundación de la Loma Quita Espuela, presented Course Certificates to the participants. He stated that it was good to see so many young persons in the Workshop, and that generally the participants were "ancianos." En el campo Dominicano existe un gran problema de que los jóvenes están abandonando el campo, buscando oportunidades en las ciudades. El país tiene que depender de los ancianos para producir los alimentos y proteger los recursos naturales. Los jóvenes que han participado en este taller quieren quedar en



El Firme. Siempre están buscando nuevos ingresos como reparar zapatos, tomar fotos, arreglar motocicletas, carpintería, etc. La apicultura es otra fuente de ingresos y ellos están muy entusiasmados con las posibilidades de este ingreso. Inmediatamente después del taller, ellos estaban practicando dentro de sus colmenas.

Sponsor: PCV Charles Philips



12 NEW FONDO Q GRANTEES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2007

Individual Grants – By Anne Ternes

<p>Grantee: Mariluz Espinal Faña From: Juncalito, Janico, Stgo Province For: A five month computer course in the Escuela Nacional de Informática Santiago (ENISA) Sponsor: PCV Katie Devine</p>	<p>Grantee: Luis Manuel Sepúlveda Rodríguez From: Juncalito, Janico, Stgo Province For: A three month computer repair course at ENISA to aid his work in the Centro Tecnológico Comunitario of Juncalito Sponsor: PCV Katie Devine</p>
<p>Grantee: Ruben Gonzalez From: Respaldo 30 de Mayo, El Factor, Maria Trinidad Sanchez For: An English language course. Miranda wrote: <i>“I have known Ruben for over 2 years and as the oldest sibling in my host family, he has always demonstrated maturity and responsibility, as well as his ambition to learn and grow both personally and professionally. For example, he has always been a very skillful mechanic and worked at odd jobs locally to put his skills into practice. But last year, he enrolled in and completed a certification program at a vocational school in Nagua to build on his natural abilities and create better career opportunities. His efforts paid off when he was offered a job at the new airport in Sanchez earlier this year. I tutored him in English while I lived with his family and have seen firsthand his dedication to learning and improving his knowledge and skills. Several months ago Ruben took it upon himself to investigate English courses and found the Best Choice Institute to be the best available in the area. He wanted to enroll in the course that offered regular hour-plus classes weekly so as to get the most frequent instruction and practice, thereby improving his skills as rapidly as possible.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Miranda Galbraith</p>	
<p>Grantee: Leury Muñoz Abreu From: Juncalito, Janico, Stgo Province For: A three month computer repair course at ENISA to improve his work in the Centro Tecnológico Comunitario of Juncalito Sponsor: PCV Katie Devine</p>	<p>Grantee: Wilkin Jose Minaya From: Camino Real de Bajabonico Arriba, Municipio de Altamira, Puerto Plata For: An intense program to learn English so that Wilkin can gain employment as a tourist guide in the area where he lives. Sponsor: PCV Dan Anson</p>
<p>Grantee: María Cristina Pérez Alcántara From: Sección Yabonico, La Enea, San Juan de la Maguana For: Nine months of computer training to improve her chances of employment and to assist in her work with PC in combating AIDS Sponsor: PCV Benjamin Lemkau</p>	<p>Grantee: Virgilio Ramírez Zabala From: Sección Yabonico, San Juan de la Maguana For: A course in basic computer training to improve his prospects for employment Sponsor: PCV Benjamin Lemkau</p>
<p>Grantee: Santa Ramírez Familia From: Sección Yabonico, San Juan de la Maguana For: A nine month computer training course, as a first step toward studying law Sponsor: PCV Benjamin Lemkau</p>	<p>Grantee: Rosa Iris Rodríguez Jiménez From: Sección Yabonico, San Juan de la Maguana For: Computer training over a nine month period to prepare for future academic training Sponsor: PCV Benjamin Lemkau</p>
<p>Grantee: Francisco De Los Santos Ignacio From: KM7 Carretera Sanchez Diag.3era, Sto. Domingo For: To continue studying English and improve his work skills Sponsor: PCVs Miranda Gabraith & Julie Mullen</p>	<p>Grantee: Pedro R.Dipre From: Km 8.5 Carretera Sanchez, San Miguel, Sto. Domingo For: To continue studying English which helps in his work as a driver Sponsor: PCVs Miranda Gabraith & Julie Mullen</p>



Grantee: Josefina Abreu Pérez
From: Manabao, Jarabacoa, La Vega
For: A computer course which will help her development as a teacher
Sponsor: PCV Megan R. Drake

21 NEW FONDO Q GRANTEES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2008

Group Grants – By Anne Ternes

Grantee: Ten small farmers learning better beekeeping methods
From: Duarte, San Francisco de Macoris
For: The workshop will introduce the farmers to a new way to manage bees. Most have experience capturing wild hives and putting them in hollow logs. When they think the bees have honey, they cut out all the combs with their machete, squeezing out the honey. They destroy the hive and harvest very little honey of poor quality. Most have now received movable hives but need extensive information on managing them. This training will not only benefit the participants (give them another source of income) but also benefit the community in general. There are over 26 varieties of fruit trees in the community. The bees as pollinators should help increase the fruit production.
Sponsor: PCV Charles Phillips

Grantees: 15 women aspiring to be small business owners
From: Barahona
For: A 4 week course to: 1) Educate participants in how to start and run a small business; 2) Train participants how to create their own business plan and how to execute it. 3) Provide the opportunity for participants to share the knowledge gained with their peers.
Sponsor: PCV Christina Ygona

Individual Grants

Grantee: Walne Dilone
From: Batey Baraguana, Imbert, Puerto Plata
For: English language instruction for employment in tourism. Walne sent the following statement: *“Yo trabajo en construcción en el sector turístico de Puerto Plata. Mi trabajo es muy difícil y duro. Me duele el cuerpo, y el trabajo no paga mucho. No quiero ser como los hombres que veo en el Batey que regresan a las casas después de un día de trabajo cansados y con mucho dolor. La única razón que trabajo en construcción es para alimentar a mis hermanitos y hermanitas. Después del asesinato de mi padre hace un año, yo he ganado todo el dinero de la casa. Quiero aprender ingles para conseguir un trabajo en un hotel. Me gustaría este trabajo y no dolería mi cuerpo al fin del día. Quiero conseguir un trabajo que paga más dinero para ayudar a mi familia. Esto es mi sueño.”*
Sponsor: PCV Jonathan Santiago

Grantee: Charlie Baldatt
From: Batey Baraguana, Imbert, Puerto Plata
For: English language instruction for employment in tourism. Charlie wrote the following: *“Estoy estudiando ingles porque quiero buscar un trabajo en la zona turística. Si yo completo los tres niveles, hay más oportunidad para buscar trabajo y ganar más dinero. Necesito el dinero para mantener mi familia porque no estoy ganando mucho dinero trabajado como un limpiabotas. Mi padre todavía está enfermo y mis 2 hermanos no tienen un fijo trabajo de construcción. Yo sueño que un día mi familia y yo vamos a tener el dinero para salir del batey y vivir en una casa del campo en vez del barranco donde no cabemos.”*
Sponsor: PCV Jonathan Santiago

Grantee: Walter Palvetus
From: Batey Baraguana, Imbert, Puerto Plata
For: Training in computers. Walter sent the following statement: *“Ahora estoy trabajando en la zona franca y las condiciones no son muy bueno. Estoy trabajando demasiado horas y lo que cobro no alcanzar para cubrir los gastos de mi familia – mi esposa y mis dos niñas preciosas. Por la cual trabajo cada día más y con más deseo de superación para echar mi familia adelante. Cuando termine este curso de computación voy a tener las capacidades para obtener un mejor empleo en la zona turística que gane más dinero. Y así poder ayudar mi familia y evitar que mis hijas pasen por lo mismo que yo estoy pasando.”*
Sponsor: PCV Jonathan Santiago



<p>Grantee: Ramiro Garcia From: Batey Baraguana, Imbert, Puerto Plata For: Training in computers. Ramiro wrote: <i>“Como el hijo mayor, tengo que ayudar mi familia de 8 hermanos pequeños y mi madre. Ahora estoy trabajando en construcción pero el trabajo no es fijo y no me permite ir a la escuela. Acabo de terminar uno curso de ingles y francés para prepararme para un trabajo en la zona turística. Con las capacidades de los idiomas y con la habilidad de computación tengo más oportunidad a conseguir un trabajo que me puede ayudar a mejorar el nivel de vida de mi familia.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Jonathan Santiago</p>	
<p>Grantee: Pablo Garcia Gomez From: Hojas Anchas/Barrabas Imbert, Puerto Plata For: Driving lessons to market handcrafts outside the area Sponsor: PCV Mark Choi</p>	
<p>Grantee: Pedro Charlis Félix Segura From: La Q, El Peñón, Barahona For: English language training Sponsor: PCV Angela Hamilton</p>	
<p>Grantee: Reinado Pichardo From: Hojas Anchas/Barrabas Imbert, Puerto Plata For: Driving lessons. Artisan Reinado wrote: <i>“El entrenamiento de conducir puede mejorar la vida y el trabajo para nosotros artesanos. La licencia me va a proveer la capacidad para transportar y aumentar el Mercado de la artesanía de piedra, por ferias, tiendas de regalos, y hoteles. Hay más de 75 artesanos en Imbert que trabajan en la artesanía. Si expandamos nuestro Mercado a locales como Samaná, Bavarro, Punta Cana, Santo Domingo, y Río San Juan, podemos obtener más trabajo y recursos para todos en Imbert, donde no hay mucho Fuentes de trabajo.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Mark Choi</p>	
<p>Grantee: Dilenia Altagracia Franco Martínez From: Reparadero, Higüerito, Moca, Espaillat For: English language training. Dilenia wrote: <i>“...necesito un diploma que me valga para conseguir empleo en cualquier tipo de empresa porque soy recomendado por un instituto de donde “yo” puedo salir capacitada para enseñar un niño en las escuelas y también trabajar en cualquier área turística. Soy ama de casa y mi esposo es vendedor por la calle y además tengo 2 hijos pues si “yo” pudiera trabajar, le ayudaría con los gastos de la casa y de los niños que están estudiando.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Cat Wood</p>	
<p>Grantee: Richar Starling Sanchez Francis From: Enriquillo, Barahona For: English language instruction. Sponsor: PCV Melissa Watson</p>	<p>Grantee: José Francisco Bonifacio Cepeda From: Manguito, Jarabacoa, La Vega For: A computer course so he can teach his students to use computers. Sponsor: PCV Megan Drake</p>
<p>Grantee: Elizabeth Solis From: El Batey, San Juan de la Maguana, San Juan For: English classes. Elizabeth sent the following, <i>“Si yo tendrá la oportunidad para tomar estas clases yo voy a tener más seguridad en mi misma cuando empieza la Universidad. Por eso puedo hacer mi profesión con más fuerza y éxito. Y, si logro mis sueños para estudiar en la Universidad podré ayudar mi familia en nuestro nivel económico. Si puedo comunicar en inglés con más seguridad, voy a tener más conexiones de negocios y amigos en la capital que puedan ayudarme en mi carrera.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Adrienne Gilbert</p>	
<p>Grantee: Ibelise Perez Delgado From: Angostura, Manabao, La Vega For: Computer training so that Ibelise can help his father support the family. Sponsor: PCV Idonah Molina</p>	<p>Grantee: Rosairis Genao Hernandez From: Angostura, Manabao, La Vega For: Computer training to improve her chances of going to the university. Sponsor: PCV Idonah Molina</p>



<p>Grantee: Daysi Miguelina Alcántara Mora From: Sección Yabonico, paraje le Enea, San Juan de la Maguana For: Computer training. Daysi said: <i>“Me ayudará a mejorar mi nivel académico, ya que todo funciona bajo de tecnología de computadora, y por eso yo creo que ese curso es muy importante si yo aprendo a usar la computadora yo puedo comunicarme a través de ella con mi familia y amigos. Me ayudará a mejorar mi nivel de vida pues me gusta mucho la computadora y pienso en mi carrera universitaria y profesional. Esta ayuda me servirá de mucho ya que mi familia y yo carecemos de poco recurso económico.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Ban Lemkau</p>	
<p>Grantee: Richard Alexander Marte From: Barrio Miguel Ñanguela, Nagua, María Trinidad Sanchez For: <i>Richard is a pharmacy student and will study computers to help him in his career. Joan wrote: “Richard has always loved to learn, and from a young age wanted to finish school and be a teacher. However, he grew up without his birth certificate, so after the 8th grade he was unable to continue with his studies. His mother, a schoolteacher, refused to help him obtain his documentation to finish school. Richard waited until he was 18 years old to apply for his birth certificate and later obtain his official identity card. He now has his official papers in order and is registering in a weekend program for adults to finish high school. Richard is one of the most amazing people I have met in my life.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Joan Perreault</p>	
<p>Grantee: Yinet Garcia Reinoso From: El Rincón, Municipio de Las Galeras, Samaná For: English language training. Yinet wrote: <i>“Este entrenamiento me ayudará aprender y desarrollar mis habilidades y aspiraciones profesionales. Yo quiero trabajar en la administración de una empresa turística y es muy necesario aprender el Ingles para poder desenvolverme en esta carrera. Con este curso cumplido, yo podrá solicitar un trabajo en una empresa turística aquí en Samaná y mejora mis posibilidades de llevar al cabo mis aspiraciones.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Michael Menelli</p>	
<p>Grantee: Sanny Nathalia Matos Perez From: Los Jardines de la Isabela, Santo Domingo For: English language training. Megan wrote: <i>“I got to know Sanny when she moved back to my town from the capital where she had been living and taking classes at the university. She moved back because her family could no longer support the costs of sending her to school. When she got home, she immediately came to introduce herself to me. She wanted to know if I would speak to her in English a few times a week. I began two classes - a micro business class and an accounting class. Sanny took both classes and was by far my most dedicated student. In the micro business class, she developed her idea of beginning a restaurant for tourists that served Haitian, French, Dominican, and Spanish food. She has studied hotel management and also has taken cooking classes. Pedernales is an area that is building its ecotourism potential through local businesses; therefore her ideas have a lot of potential. Sanny has moved back to the capital and has been feeling pretty discouraged because her family still hasn't been able to send money to begin taking classes again. I think this class could really help Sanny achieve her goal of starting a tourist restaurant in Pedernales.”</i> Sponsor: PCV Megan Rounseville</p>	
<p>Grantee: Cecilio Vasquez Rosario From: El Alto de Bajabonico Arriba, Municipio de Altamira, Puerto Plata For: Driver training to become a licensed taxi cab (publico) driver and earn a living to support his family. Sponsor: PCV DanAnson</p>	<p>Grantee: Misael Calcaño Silven From: Barrio El Liceo, Hato Mayor For: A course in geography, ecotourism, and natural resources as preparation for micro-enterprise work in the humid forest areas. Sponsor: PCV Joe McElligott</p>



THIRD YEAR PC VOLUNTEER MANDEE GALBRAITH HELPS MAKE FONDO O'S PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Mandee Galbraith, our current Third Year Peace Corps Volunteer Liaison with the DR Peace Corps Office in Santo Domingo, is an "old hand" with Peace Corps. She worked at PC Headquarters in Washington, DC before becoming a PCV. In the DR, she served as a Special Education PCV in El Factor, Nagua where she worked with the local primary school to train teachers and support various education projects including a school library, and she worked with the sala de tarea (after school program), and with summer camps. As "secondary" activities, she taught English and nutrition courses, co-directed Camp GLOW 2006, and co-chaired DRPC's Medical Missions Committee. She is now a third-year PCV working directly with Don Clark (PTO) on various programmatic and training activities to support current and incoming PCV's. She works with Jennifer McGowan to help screen applications for Fondo Q's grants and scholarships, and she helps coordinate Fondo Q's Program with current PCV's. Thank you, Mandee!



3rd year PCV Volunteer Liaison
Mandee Galbraith

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Bill Threlkeld, FO Treasurer

I am happy to report that we had a robust end-of-2007 and beginning-of-2008 giving period. During the last two months of 2007 and the first two months of 2008, Fondo Quisqueya received more than \$10,000 in contributions. These generous donations have allowed Fondo Quisqueya to respond to a surging demand for financial assistance from a position of strength. In January, Fondo Q was able to approve total grants and scholarships in excess of \$4,000 out of a total request that exceeded \$9,000. We are currently evaluating another \$6,000 in requests and expect to be able to fund half of that amount. Clearly our program is meeting a need - but not all of it - and more and more deserving candidates are finding out about us.

This means we have more work to do to prepare for future requests in 2008. Our revenues in 2007 were about \$3,500 short of what we needed. For the year, we provided more than \$12,300 (65% of our YTD expenditures) in scholarships and grants. In the same period, all other expenditures were approximately \$6,700 (35% of YTD expenses), nearly all related to the production, printing, and mailing of our two newsletters during the year.

For 2008, our revenues for the first quarter are just shy of \$8,000, while our total giving and communication expenses are slightly more than \$6,000. That means that with the shortfall of last year and the excess so far this year, we are only about \$1,500 short to break even. Of course, our yearly goal remains to provide at least \$12,000 in scholarship and grants, so we need your support now to prepare for additional awards in July and October.

This Newsletter is Fondo Quisqueya's only significant expense outside of our grant making. I hope you find it informative and complete. Please let us know how we can better communicate with you and if there is content that you would like to see that we are not providing.

2007 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(Reflecting deposits January 1 – December 31, 2007, not donor check dates):

By Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer

A. GENERAL DONORS:

Travis T. & La Donna Ward, J. Gary Linn, Alan C. Randall, Wanda Fullner & Betty Peralta, James E. & Colleen C. Dillon, Dianne M. Gittins, Suzanne D. Petroni, the Wilcox Family Foundation (G. Geer Wilcox), Matthew & Mila Brenner, Bill & Carine Threlkeld, Gene Lane, Jacqueline Alcorn, Julie Howard, Richard A. Laird & Patricia E. Rambasek, Eric & Kelly Prosnier, Michael C. Lisman, James & Anne O'Connor, Greg & Alvera Wilson, Craig Marken Ttee & Wanda Wynne Ttee, Susan & Harold Case, David & Kathryn Padilla, William R. Large, Jr., John Duenes, John & Helen Torphy, BJ Warren, Lawrence Paul Blaskopf, Dennis T. Fenwick & Martha J. Lewis, James & Carmen Shrefler, David & Lillian Clary, John & Amparo Prusia, Dan Armour, George & Patricia Rowland, Robert & Marsha Holm, Jeffrey L. Morton, Stuart Frisch, Sherwood & Jaclyn Seigel, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, Stephen & Valerie Pulaski, Tanya Gipson-Nahman, Anne Ternes, John & Jeanne Evans, Tom & Sue Gittins, Lou & Mary Ferrand, 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:

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

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 IN MEMORY A COUNTERPART, PEDRO JUAN JIMENEZ, AT THE INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE AGRICULTURA: Melzer A. (Pat) Morgan, Jr.

G. DONATED TO SUPPORT CAMP GLOW (GIRLS LEADING OUR WORLD): Hazel M. & Carl Vespa, David & Anita Kaufman, Wilcox Family Foundation (G. Geer Wilcox).

H. DONATED IN HONOR OF B.J. WARREN'S BIRTHDAY: Judith D. Light, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Diane K. Brockett, Charles E. & Judith G. Nelson, Erika Beth & James S. Landberg, Joan M. Goodin, Rachel E. Barham, Michael A. & Bonnie L. Daniels, Kay H. Logan, Lou & Mary Ferrand.

I. DONATED IN MEMORY OF TAMRA PIERSON, KRISTIN FISKE, THOMAS KING, AND TONY MELENDEZ: Diann Streator

2008 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(Reflecting deposits January 1 – April 11, 2007, not donor check dates):

By Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer

A. GENERAL DONORS:

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B. DONATED IN MEMORY OF FRANK MERINO HERNANDEZ: Bob & Carolyn Tafelski.

C. DONATED IN MEMORY OF PEDRO JUAN JIMÉNEZ WHO WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND A FRIEND OF PC IN THE 1960S: Robert E. Myers.

D. DONATED FOR THE SCHOOLS DAMAGED BY TROPICAL STORM NOEL: Gary & Julia Orso.

E. DONATED IN HONOR OF BJ WARREN'S BIRTHDAY: Judith Light.

F. DONATED TO HELP FUND A TWO-DAY BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY PCV CHARLES PHILLIPS: Evelyn M. Wedge.

G. DONATED IN MEMORY OF JOHN GUY SMITH: Lynda Edwards.

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT:

THE MILA BROOKS FUND

By Jim Van Fleet

Mila Brooks was the Peace Corps/Dominican Republic's first female Director. Mila served during Peace Corps' Twenty-fifth Anniversary in 1986. She was also one of the co-founders of Fondo Quisqueya (FQ) in the 1987 tribute to the same occasion for our service in the country.

Fondo Q assists low income Dominicans through its support for personal and national development activities, goals heartily embraced by Mila throughout her tenure in the country and during her longer career overseas.

But additionally, Mila was a champion for the role of women in these processes. When the Mila Brooks Fund was established in 2006-07, the goal was specifically set to use the money to help women achieve their full potential in Dominican society by offering alternative paths in their lives for educational, social and economic advancement.

Thousands of dollars have been awarded in grants and scholarships in its short life, so replenishment of funds is under way for 2008 and beyond.



(Focus on Women - cont. from pg.10)

If you wish to focus your FQ giving on women in the Dominican Republic, please mark your donations to FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, Virginia 22040-6628.

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 raises money for two projects: a Program Development Fund which supports Volunteers and PC programs with donations and a Community Challenge Fund which provides grants for small-scale community infrastructure projects in poor communities. For more information about FDR, go to its website at "www.fotdr.org." Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

SAVE THE DATE JOIN US AT FONDO Q'S ANNUAL MEETING & BARBAQUE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8!

Fondo Q's Annual Meeting will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 at Tom and Sue Gittins' home in Falls Church, Virginia. All members and friends of Fondo Q and the Dominican Republic are invited. The business meeting will be followed by a pot-luck supper featuring Tom's Famous Grilled Chicken and Sausages. There will also be games and much good cheer. At the business meeting, officers and one-third of Fondo Q's Board members will be elected. We also will discuss ideas and plans for grant and scholarship award activities for the coming year. Please join us! And confirm your attendance with Tom Gittins.

Saturday, June 8: 4-7 p.m. at Tom and Sue Gittins' home

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The Dominican Republic and
Peace Corps benefit from your
continued support.

When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo
Quisqueya.