



REPÚBLICA
DOMINICANA

Que Pasa

Fondo Quisqueya □ 1992

Update on Fondo Quisqueya and Conditions in the Dominican Republic

Greetings to you from **Fondo Quisqueya**. This issue of *Que Pasa* is dedicated to the late Tom King, whose many friends sent donations to the fund in his name. We thank those donors for their generosity and hope that they will be pleased at what their donations have made possible. Grants from the Tomás King portion of our funds are highlighted in this issue.

You haven't heard from us for a while, but rest assured that **Fondo Quisqueya** remains alive and well. Thanks to an ongoing collaboration between the D.R. Peace Corps staff and volunteers and our faithful committee in Santo Domingo, we are continuing to award small grants for education and training.

Ours is a modest approach, but one we believe will yield significant returns over the long term.

According to Mike Benson, a hard-working member of the D.R. committee, conditions in the D.R. seem less chaotic than in the past several years. Inflation has held at

*... good people
trying to make it ...*

about 4 percent, with the dollar-to-peso exchange rate remaining the same as in 1991 (RD\$12.50 to US\$1.00). Santo Domingo finally has a new aqueduct, and electrical coverage has risen to 80 percent of the demand as opposed to 30 percent in 1990. All else seems much

the same: good people trying to make it, in Mike's words.

Although fewer grant requests have come in over the past few months, Mike believes the pace will quicken again as newer PCVs begin to strengthen their ties with community members.

From a practical standpoint, this funding lull comes at a good time, as our treasury could do with an infusion of bucks. We are a long way from broke, but donations large or small would be very welcome. (See Resource Report for an accounting of our current finances.)

And now that the preliminaries are out of the way, please take a look at our grantees (page 2).

FQ Gets It Together

At the D.R. 25th Reunion, where **Fondo Quisqueya** got its start, Tom Gittins of Sister Cities International (SCI) agreed to shelter our funds under the SCI umbrella until **FQ** gained its own legal status. Because of Tom's gracious gesture, we were able to collect money right there at the reunion and to continue accepting donations over the ensuing years. This arrangement has been a great convenience to the committee (although probably not to Tom, who has had to deal with the bookkeeping involved...).

Facing up at last to the task of "getting legal," we began the lengthy process of gaining our own 501(c)(3) status. On March 27, 1992, thanks to the considerable efforts of Lou Ferrand and Kristin Fiske, **Fondo Quisqueya** became a Virginia corporation. **FQ** supporters and friends

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More inside ...

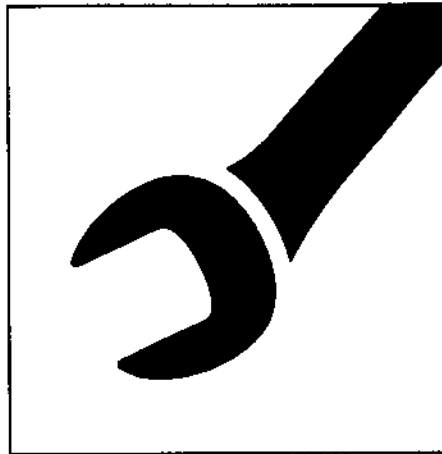
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Where Did The Money Go?

Since the last newsletter, the D.R. committee has made several grants. Some of these represented phased payments to grantees who have already been introduced to you. However, there are three new grantees, as well, and these candidates received their grants from the Tomás King portion of the fund. Here they are:

Aníbal Sanchez

His grant will allow Anibal to take an industrial mechanics course at the Escuela Vocacional de las Fuerzas Armadas. He was to begin classes in February (finishing in November) and planned to live with friends in Moca during his training. Here is a picture of Anibal in the words of his sponsor, Samantha Besecker.



Aníbal Sanchez, a 1990 high school graduate, is one of the most ambitious young men I know. Coming from a poor family, Anibal has always worked (in addition to his studies) to help out his large family.

Anibal lives in Jamao al Norte, a community of approximately 3,000. Since 1989, when I arrived in Jamao, Anibal has helped me with various community projects including a school garden, a school library, activities for Earth Day, and construction of a volleyball court. Through these projects we became acquainted, and I learned that he has a history of donating his services for many community and

individual needs. He understands the value of human resources, coming from a family of hard workers and serious individuals.

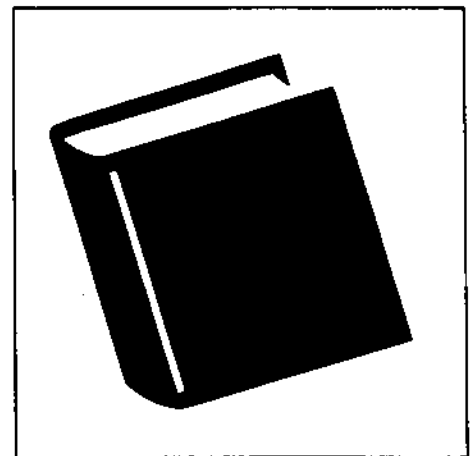
For Anibal it is very important that, in his words, people don't see him as a "parasite" of society. He has plans for his future, and they do not include going to the United States—something he is very proud to admit. He wants to study and learn a technical skill so he can earn money to gain a higher education.

His creativity has shown itself throughout his job history: first, as a shoeshine boy, then working with his father on the farm before and after school, then apprenticing in a woodworking shop as well as driving a motorcycle taxi. Since graduation, he has developed his own business fumigating houses for mosquitos, cockroaches, and related pests.

Anibal is honest, trustworthy, and kind. Unlike many young people, he wants to design his own life and is determined to make it into what he believes it can be. An investment in Anibal Sanchez would deliver a 100-percent profit for the community of Jamao al Norte.

Leonte Santos

This grant will enable Leonte Santos to study at the local English Institute in Moca. FQ will purchase his books, pay his tuition, and partially pay for his transportation. His sponsor, Sally Robson, has this to say about Sr. Santos.



Que Pasa



Que Pasa, published now and then by **Fondo Quisqueya** volunteers in Alexandria, Virginia and Washington, D.C., serves as a channel of communication for **Fondo Quisqueya (FQ)** supporters and friends.

Que Pasa is produced almost entirely through donated services.

Please send your comments and suggestions to:

Que Pasa
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Leonte Santos teaches science and English to 171 primary and secondary students in the district of Las Guazumas, Moca. He has lived and taught in this community for about eight years.

Leonte is a very responsible and motivated person, always helping out with community projects or activities. He recently organized a conversational English class and came to the neighboring community, where I live, to ask me to teach a weekly class in his community. He has taken the responsibility for providing me with transportation to the school in Las Guazumas, no small undertaking as the distance between my house and the school is considerable. This is not Leonte's first attempt to help people in his community learn English; he helped a former PCV set up some English classes a while back.

Besides being the science teacher, he has just been appointed as English teacher—largely on the basis of his having taken one course years ago at the English Institute. Leonte feels he is not qualified to teach English at the high school level, but neither can he afford to continue his study at the Institute. He is genuinely interested in the well-being of his students and is a well-established member of his community, with no plans to leave it.

A Word About FQ Grants

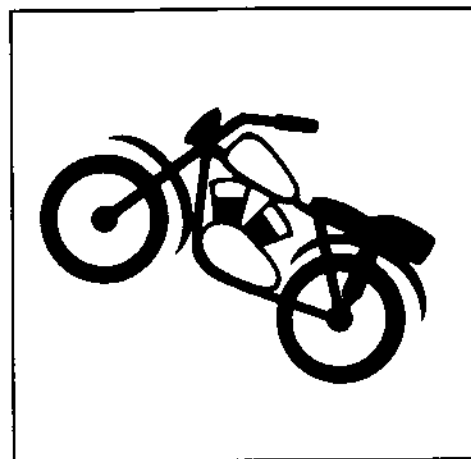
If you had a chance to read our last issue, you may recall that **FQ** grants are available for any purpose that will help groups or individuals learn new skills. Grants such as those described in this issue obviously fall within our scope. However, we particularly encourage grant applications for activities that strengthen local institutions—in the broadest sense of the term. For example, we would be very receptive to funding part or all of the cost of skills training for teachers, cooperative leaders, community water committees, etc.

We are very interested in collaborative efforts whereby an **FQ** grant would pay part of the cost of a particular activity, and one or two other donors (and perhaps the participants themselves) would provide the balance. The **FQ** guidelines permit a wide range of funding arrangements, with only two outright bans: we provide no money for training outside the Dominican Republic, and we provide no funds for traditional university education. (We could, however, fund a short-term training activity that took place at a D.R. college or university campus).

Juan Vicente

Juan's grant will pay for his living expenses and transportation during a three-month apprenticeship at the Taller de Motocicletas Nuñez in Azua, where he will train as a motorcycle mechanic.

*PCV George Rowland considers him an excellent candidate for **FQ** assistance.*



Juanito grew up in the Southwest town of Las Lagunas, in the province of Azua. Coming from a very poor family (although one with a good reputation in Las Lagunas), Juan has developed into a responsible young man who seeks an opportunity to learn a trade and improve himself. At 17, he is the youngest son and will be unable to farm family land. Recognizing this, Juan is looking elsewhere for his livelihood. He would like to learn motorcycle mechanics and then return to Las Lagunas and open up a shop of his own, as there is currently none in town.

Resource Report

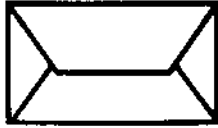
As of August 1992, **FQ**'s stateside funds came to about \$4,800. Most of this is in a mutual fund at present so that we receive a better interest rate until applications pick up.

The Dominican committee has on hand RD\$4,722 and US\$2,920. (The exchange rate is currently RD\$12.50 to US\$1.00.)

With these combined amounts, we can keep things going for a while, but some contributions about now would make our treasurer very, very happy. We do hope some day to have an **FQ** endowment fund large enough that we can stop passing the hat; until then, however, we ask you to give what you can, when you can.

At present, the board believes it can afford to stash only a small percentage of our funds in the permanent endowment. If any of you wish to help build this kind of nest egg, we would greet your suggestions and efforts with open arms and glad cries.

Mail Bag



Please let us hear from you! This space is reserved for readers to share ideas, offer suggestions and criticism, get in touch with other RPCVs—whatever. If possible, we will include all letters as written. When space is limited, we will edit, but only in ways that preserve their message and tone.

Please address letters for publication to:

Editor
Que Pasa
 c/o Fondo Quisqueya
 P.O. Box 20653
 Alexandria, VA 22320

We have a variety of letters to share with you in this issue, including some thank you's from grantees. We are also including a letter from a group of PCVs who are founding a **Friends of the Dominican Republic**. Although **FQ** folks have some concerns about duplication of effort and also about possible competition for resources, we recognize that as a single-issue group we do not provide the range of services that a broader "friends" group might do. We are printing their letter (immediately below) as a gesture of cooperation and good will, hoping that the two groups will prove to be genuinely complementary.

Several Peace Corps volunteers who arrived in the Dominican Republic in August 1989 and are now completing their stay have decided that they want to maintain a link with their country of service by founding the "Friends of the Dominican Republic." Toward this end, they are—

- Writing up provisional bylaws and a statement of purpose.
- Creating a database for an initial mailing to prospective members.
- Making in-country contacts to set up a mechanism that will ensure a flow of information about current events, concerns, Peace Corps activities, etc., to be shared with members.
- Looking for seed money to publish a newsletter, which they hope to send out by this summer.

Other activities they are considering in the near future include putting together a directory of members, supporting development education activities, organizing regional get-togethers and reunions, and serving as an information resource to Peace Corps invitees.

This fledgling group would appreciate assistance from anyone who can—

- Provide names and addresses of people who might be interested in receiving the first mailing.
- Share tips on where to solicit seed money for the initial newsletter.
- Contribute to and help edit the newsletter.
- Suggest activities that you would like to see the "Friends of the D.R." sponsor.

The founders of the "Friends of the D.R." hope that the group will complement and support the activities of **Fondo Quisqueya**, whose representatives in Santo Domingo and Washington, D.C. have expressed their support for this new initiative.

As these PCVs will not be returning to the United States until May, they can only provide the following temporary address. For those who want to contribute to this effort or learn more about our plans, please write to:

Tim Foistic, Friends of the Dominican Republic
 812 West Timber Branch Parkway
 Alexandria, VA 22302.



The next letter comes from Jim Schenck, Peace Corps Program and Training Officer in the Dominican Republic and a helpful friend to **Fondo Quisqueya**. His proposal, unfortunately, falls outside our scope, but we believe that some of our readers may wish to lend a hand. (Although this issue is going to press too late for front-end contributions, they might still be used to help Lee Ann pay back any loans she may have taken out to finance her expenses.) Please read on.

Over the past two and a half years, I've had the opportunity to work with **Fondo Quisqueya**. Volunteers are sometimes frustrated that there are no hard-and-set rules, but this also forces them to think more profoundly about their **Fondo Quisqueya** proposals. What often starts out as a desire to help a community leader becomes an analysis of possibilities, with a budget. Candidates, also, often have to get more structured about what it is that they want to do and how they would use Fondo resources.

I never thought that I would make a recommendation to **Fondo Quisqueya**, but I have a proposal that's not really a proposal! Lee Ann McNerney, a former Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, could use a little support from those of us that have also been with PC/DR.

Lee Ann was in her last week of service in the D.R. when she was in a tragic bus accident just outside of San Francisco de Macoris. The bus was headed

toward Santo Domingo and had a head-on collision with a truck just after it had left San Francisco. Her evacuation by jet ambulance did not spare her the loss of a leg.

Before the accident, she had a strong interest in athletics. Afterward, she coached, and now we have gotten word that she is again an athlete in competition. Lee Ann is the subject of a note in the February 15, 1992 edition of **Hotline**, the newsletter for newly returned volunteers. According to the article, Lee Ann has "replaced her previous strong commitment to long-distance running competition with a strong commitment to swimming competition. Lee Ann is currently a member of the 1992 U.S.A. Disabled Sports Team..." The note goes on to request sponsorship for her in the IX Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. These games will take place this summer.

Lee Ann does not know about this "proposal." If it falls outside of **FQ**'s funding guidelines, please share this information with DR RPCVs. I plan to make a personal donation, and some of them may wish to do the same. Donations should go to:

The Lee Ann McNerney Paralympic Fund
PO Box 202, Woodburn, OR 97071

Thank you!



The next two letters come from **FQ** grantees Catalina Benjamin and Héctor Rafael Chávez, who wish to thank all of you for giving them a hand.

La presente de ésta es para saludarlo esperando que estén bien y a la vez reciban un sincero saludo de parte mía.

Pues bien el motivo por el cual me dirije hacia ustedes es para decirle que el señor le bendiga y con el corazón lleno de satisfacción le doy la gracia una y mil veces más por haberme obsequiado dicha beca.

Y también a la vez le pido a Dios que me ayude a terminar mi carrera para volver al junto de mis padres pero con un buen trabajo que me permita a ayudarlos, así que ellos me han ayudado a mí.

*Se despide quién los recuerda siempre,
Catalina Benjamin*

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Chipping In

Although we produce **Que Pasa** primarily to let you know how your donations are spent, there is NO WAY the **FQ** committee is going to pass up this opportunity to do some fundraising. Hence, the form you see below.

Now, maybe some of you are thinking that you will wait until you can send a "significant" sum. To you we say, **No contribution is too small.** But if this is a bad time for you to be giving away any money, period, perhaps you can send us an address or two for our mailing list or suggest ways to make the fund (or the newsletter) better. Whatever the form of your contribution, or the amount, it will be greatly appreciated. Mil gracias!

Mail this form to **Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 20653, Alexandria, VA 22320**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Here is my contribution of: _____ I would like to pledge: _____

If you have made a pledge and are able to predict your payment schedule, check one of the following:

Monthly Quarterly Biannually Annually

Please list names and addresses of people you think would like to be on our mailing list:

If you would like to support the fund in some other way, or if you have any suggestions, please note them here:

Check if you wish to be notified of the date of the next annual meeting.

Check if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Getting It Together

—continued from page 1

owe Kristin and Lou a hearty vote of thanks for their time and their commitment to the fund.

Concurrently, we developed a set of bylaws for the organization (again, thanks to Lou and Kristin), and on February 1, 1992, the **FQ** committee adopted these bylaws and our articles of incorporation. Also at that meeting, we named the following people to our interim board of directors, some to serve a double term for continuity and some to serve only until the annual meeting.

- Minor Anderson (President)
- Karen Clough
- Lynda Edwards
- Lou Ferrand (Treasurer)
- Kristin Fiske (Secretary)
- Tom Gittins
- John Hopper
- Gene Lane
- B.J. Warren (Vice President)
- Dennis Zaenger

At some point—probably during the summer or early fall—**Fondo Quisqueya** will hold its first annual meeting. Those attending will elect members to fill

the open positions on the **FQ** board of directors and will also have an opportunity to view our constitution and bylaws. If you would like to attend this meeting, please check the appropriate box on the contribution form (page 5). We can then notify you when the meeting date has been set. See you there!

Mail Bag

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Es deber de esta humilde asociación manifestarle nuestro más profundo agradecimiento porque con su granito de arena nos ayudaron a adquirir los conocimientos primordiales para alcanzar nuestros objetivos.

Da gusto saber que uno cuenta con personas cuyo premio es la satisfacción de contribuir a cosas positivas de forma desinteresada; recibiendo como premio los laureles del aplauso de la sociedad sana y progresista.

Esperamos que sigan contribuyendo al fortalecimiento de los valores culturales.

Attentamente,

Héctor Rafael Chávez

Coordinador de "Unidos Venceremos"

Robert Fafelski
8037 S. Ammons Street
Littleton, CO 80123

Que Pasa
c/o Fondo Quisqueya
P.O. Box 20653
Alexandria, VA 22320

