

# Fondo Q

October 15, 1998

Special Edition

## \$10K from FQ for PC/DR

The purpose of this special edition of "Fondo Q" formerly known as "Que Pasa" is to raise an additional \$10,000 to assist in relief efforts by providing financial assistance for Dominicans to help in their educational needs.

At an FQ Board meeting on Saturday, October 3, members voted to authorize \$10K of FQ monies to be administered by Peace Corps. We are prepared to make these funds available immediately. Due to the emergency conditions, we believe use of the funds could be extended to include school repair, replacement of books or other educational materials that were lost in the storm, clothing for students, etc.

PC/DR set to work immediately with relief efforts: coordinating emergency airlifts, distributing food, water, and medicine, digging latrines, and assisting overcrowded shelters with health information. PC efforts have won praise in the local press and from the country's president, Leonel Fernandez.

We are waiting to hear

from PC/DR if they are amenable to our plan. We would leave it to PC/DR's absolute discretion as to how the funds are used within the education related area and whether they are disbursed in fairly large amounts to a few recipients or in much smaller amounts to a larger number of individual recipients. Contributions to the FQ fund are tax deductible.

### Other Ways to Help

**Peace Corps:** PC/DR set up an account to receive funds. Mary Hogan, program manager for business, is tracking the account and will provide a report. To help, make out your check to *Cuerpo de Paz* or *Peace Corps/DR* and send it to Mary Hogan, Diane Partle, or Natalie Woodward, Peace Corps/DR, Unit 5516, APO AA 34041.

**Red Cross:** The Dominican Embassy is working through the American Red Cross. Make checks payable to *American Red Cross* and note on the



## Hurricane Georges Devastates D.R.

When Hurricane Georges hit the Dominican Republic on September 22, it left over 100,000 homeless and at least 265 officially confirmed dead. The numbers still climb—aid workers suspect the death toll could rise to 1000.

The South, including the capital, and the East of the country were hardest hit. Some whole towns in the South were washed away by floods and mudslides. Further, many towns were left isolated for days and weeks as washed-out bridges blocked relief efforts. An estimated 80 percent of the bridges in the country were damaged or destroyed. San Juan de la Maguana (75 miles west of Santo Domingo) was isolated for a week before relief arrived by helicopter. The death toll in this town of 20,000 was 76.

At least 40 died in San Cristobal when a school, serving as a shelter, was overtaken by the rain-gorged Nizao river. Other isolated communities included Barahona and San Jose de Ochoa. Tamayo in the Bahoruco province was buried in mud, and the town's new hospital filled with two meters of mud as babies were born on the hospital rooftop.

This year's agricultural crops have been devastated, with losses estimated at up to 90 percent; and tourism infrastructure may take years to recover. While the North coast escaped serious damage, La Romana and Casa de Campo were hard hit. Early damage estimates by the Dominican government exceeded \$1.2 billion (\$US).

check, "Damnificados Huracan Georges. Send the check to Embassy of the Dominican Republic, 1715 22nd Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20008.

**Friends of the Dominican Republic (FDR)** has kept in close touch with PC/DR the NPCA, the *Crisis Corps*, and with FDR members via Email. They have helped rush emergency dollars to the Red Cross and to the special PC fund. Check the FDR website at [geocities.com/](http://geocities.com/)

[rainforest/4237](http://rainforest/4237) for further information.

The *Crisis Corps of the Peace Corps* invites former PCVs and Staff from the DR to volunteer for two months or more. Call Peace Corps at 800-424-8580; Email [crisis-corps@peacecorps.gov](mailto:crisis-corps@peacecorps.gov); or, check the NPCA webpage at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org) for more information.

The *Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce of NYC* and

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# Fondo Q

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the *Dominican Foundation, Inc.*, have set up a Hurricane Relief Fund for contributions which are tax deductible and can be earmarked for a special cause, organization, or region of the country if you so indicate. Send checks to: Dominican Foundation, c/o DACC - Hurricane Relief Fund, One Broadway, 7th floor, NYC, NY 10004

## From the Editor

Credit for the copy for this newsletter goes to Carrie Meyer who quickly compiled the information from numerous sources. Thank you Carrie.

We have a great newsletter coming out soon. Our scholarship awardees have sent in some wonderful pictures and the PCV's have been writing excellent

project summaries.

The next *Fondo Q* will have the Board of Directors listing.

If you have a reunion, write it up and send it in. I hadn't seen Jim Radloff for 35 years until recently when he and his daughter blew into DC and they came for dinner. We laughed until we cried.

The Board is eager to update our list of EMail addresses. Please include your EMail address in the box to your right.

Direct comments to the *FQ* PO Box or to Karen Clough. EMail address: [khclough@aol.com](mailto:khclough@aol.com)



## How we can help

Make Cheques payable to:  
**FONDO QUISQUEYA**  
P.O. Box 6628  
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