



## From the President's Corner

Last year was a banner year for the number of Fondo Quisqueya grants and scholarships! Your generosity helped fund more than 65 groups and individuals to the tune of about \$12,000. In addition, you helped us rebuild, at a cost of over \$9,000, several schools in the Eastern part of the DR that were damaged by last year's hurricanes. Please see the treasurer's report and award write ups in this newsletter.

Because there were so many great scholarship applicants and due to problems with the DR's fluctuating currency, our available funds for scholarships and grants are currently below zero. Fortunately, we were able to borrow funds for the 1st quarter from our endowment. This is a small fund set up to cover such emergencies. However at this rate we will soon be out of business unless you can continue to help out. If you were planning on giving later in the year, please see if you can help us at this time. The need is great. We would like to continue to give out at least US\$12,000 in grants and scholarships every year.

I want to say a special thanks to Ryan Reid. Ryan has been the third year PCV who has helped out with the local grantee selection process and who set up everything for that process electronically. Ryan departed the DR this past April to attend Graduate School at the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies - SAIS—in Washington DC. We look forward to his continued involvement in Fondo Q. We welcome Laura Sundquist who has been working with Ryan during his last month in the DR. She has taken over Ryan's duties as of the end of April. Many thanks, Laura, for taking on this assignment. There is an article about Laura elsewhere in this issue.

Ryan was most helpful in arranging activities for our joint FondoQ/FDR Board of Directors' meetings in the DR this past February. Special thanks also go to Jennifer



Board President, BJ Warren addressing joint PC/ Fondo/FDR audience during board February board meeting, PC Director Javier Garza is at table and newly arrived trainees are in fore ground.

McGowan and Diane Partl for their great work on Fondo Q's local grant/scholarship selection committee, PCV Tico Cross for his help with our February meeting and of course to Javier Garza, DR Peace Corps Director and all his staff. During the February meeting, we enjoyed meeting PCVs who were involved as sponsors for Fondo Q grant applications, and we visited some of the schools that had been repaired with Fondo Q donations in the East in the El Seibo area.

There will be a gathering of DR/Peace Corps folks in Tucson AZ, Sept. 30-October 2. Contact Herb Trossman for more details [herb@earthlink.net](mailto:herb@earthlink.net) or 520-749-5825. It will be a great time to get together with Andy Hernandez who was the first Peace Corps Director in the D.R.

As I have always felt that no one should be President for too long, I wanted to let you know that this will be my last column as President. It has been an honor to serve, and I have enjoyed working with the Board, our local D.R. committee of Jennifer McGowan and Diane Partl, the Peace Corps and the Dominicans who make this all worthwhile. Many thanks to all of you for your help and support. I look forward to continuing as a board member. Our most capable Fondo Q Treasurer, Lou Ferrand, has agreed to run for President at our June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Please consider honoring loved ones at holidays, birthday, or anniversaries, by giving a donation to Fondo Q. It is a great way to honor that special person, plus helping out someone in a country that has been very special to all of us.

Thanks again,  
BJ Warren  
President



## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Lou Ferrand, FQ Treasurer**

In a "normal year," Fondo Q's goal is to give out US\$12,000 in grants and scholarships, each of which has a dollar value of less than US\$300. Over the last 18 months, however, Fondo Q awarded over twice that amount, giving out US \$27,538.73.

For 2004 was not a "normal year," in the same way that 1999 was not a normal year. In both years, the Dominican Republic was ravaged by devastating hurricanes. As a result, our donors helped Fondo Q give well beyond its goal to assist the country's school system recover from the damage of those storms.

From January 1, 2004 to the present, Fondo Q donated US\$9,633 for school repairs, in addition to approximately US\$17,905.73 awarded for over 100 grants and scholarship.

In the first two quarters of 2005 alone, Fondo Q awarded 31 grants and scholarships to low income Dominicans in the amount of approximately US\$7,129.03. The money was given for computer training courses, a CPR course, special education teacher training, a driving training course, English courses, didactic material for a health course, a beauty and sewing course for the Club de Madres – Reina de la Paz, an organizational leadership/marketing course, an ecotourism course, and a nutrition course.

It is amazing what such a small amount of money can do to help change a motivated person's life.

In that same 18-month time period, Fondo Q received approximately US\$14,945.38 in more than 100 donations from individuals and institutions, (not counting spouses and significant others). This sum included contributions from people who paid some of Fondo Q's bills. Donations made in memory of or in honor of another person are listed in the Honor Roll of Donors in this Newsletter.

We currently have less than US\$1,000 available for grants and scholarships.

Our goal is to continue to expand the number of grants and scholarships awarded each year. If we achieve a steady, annual and larger contribution base, we will be successful. But that can only be accomplished by all of us, you and I, helping to put something important back into the Dominican Republic.

We hope that you will help us continue to help make a difference in the lives of deserving, low income Dominicans by making a generous donation and by making a commitment to do so every year.

A special thank you to those who have already donated this year! We encourage those who have not yet done so to join us as part of the Fondo Q "family". And, please don't forget that your donation is 100% tax deductible. Have a great summer! I hope to see you at the Returned Peace Corps Reunion in the D.R. in early 2007.

## Fondo Quisqueya and FDR Boards Meet in the DR

**Rik Laird, FQ Board Member**

The Hotel Santo Domingo Melia was the site of the annual board meetings for both Fondo Quisqueya (FQ) and Friends of the D.R. (FDR). The boards held joint sessions as well as individual meetings during the week-end of February 19, 2005. The FQ and FDR board members were guests at a reception in the Peace Corps office. Following the reception, board members from both organizations invited volunteers to dinner. Finally, board members from both organizations participated in a very informative tour of the historic Colonial Zone by Dr. Lynne Guitar. All enjoyed the animated and enthusiastic review of the history and insights Dr. Guitar provided.

A major highlight of the weekend was the opportunity to meet with Javier Garza, current Peace Corps Director in the DR and Mike McCabe, Program and Training Officer and PC volunteers. Javier joined the board meeting to discuss FQ activities and provide his support for our continued efforts. The board also heard from volunteers who had sponsored grantees of FQ scholarships and received constructive feedback about the application process. In addition, the FQ board listened to a presentation on Fundacion Centro Cultural Altos de Chavon from Zaidy Rijo Zouain. The Fundacion is requesting scholarship support. This request will be considered at a later date.

Another highlight of the weekend was the visit to schools in the El Seibo region that received FQ funding to repair damage from Hurricane George. A number of FQ board members traveled on Saturday to visit the hurricane damaged schools.

During the FQ business meeting, minutes of the last meeting were approved along with the treasurer's report. Lou Ferrand received praise for his job as treasurer and presenting detailed information about FQ's finances.

The excellent work by Bill Thekhold to redesign the FQ web site was noted. New features include a news aggregator, posting of newsletters, a searchable program for grantees, and a "donate now" promotion. See the related article about the website in this issue of the newsletter.

The ongoing need to evaluate the FQ program was discussed. Janet Kerley will take the lead in organizing the program evaluation. Lyn Guitar agreed to assist.

A spring FQ event was proposed for mid-April in D.C. and will be held in the fall at the D.R. Ambassador's Residence in Washington, D.C. Tom Gittins as events Chair will coordinate activities.

Plans for the 45<sup>th</sup> Peace Corps Anniversary in 2007 were discussed. FQ will take the lead for this event with the FDR providing additional support. It was recommended that we look for point persons for each decade from the 60's through the 00's to provide input on the program.



**(Board meets continued)**

Gittins and Rik Laird meet with the FDR board to sketch out initial thoughts for the celebration of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. While the details of the celebration will be forth coming, the two organizations agreed on the following:

- ?? The celebration should target Presidents' Week-end in 2007 to permit more people to attend the conference.
- ?? Santo Domingo Melia is a good location for the celebration.
- ?? We should involve more Dominicans in the celebration.
- ?? A number of side trips should be planned for those in attendance.
- ?? A social and economic report on the DR should be made.
- ?? A reception at the Presidential Palace is highly recommended.
- ?? Wives and children of RPCVs should be encouraged to attend. Special activities will be planned for them.

FQ will take the lead in the planning process for the 2007 celebration. There will be close communications with FDR, with updates on the planning progress provided every six months. Kate Wallace and the in-country committee will play a key role in the planning progress.

Members of the FQ in attendance at the Board meeting included: B. J. Warren, President, Randy Adams, Lou Ferrand, Tom Gittins, Bob Tafelski, Minor Anderson, John Evans and Rik Laird. Guests in attendance included: Kathy and David Padilla, Mary Ferrand and Patti Rambasek.

**WHAT YOU, OUR DONORS, HAVE HELPED FONDO Q ACCOMPLISH SINCE 1987**

**Lou Ferrand, FQ Treasurer**

Since its founding in 1987, Fondo Q has donated more than US\$53,000 to over 415 individuals and groups. Following the basic philosophy on which Fondo Q was founded, training supports both traditional and non formal courses to help individuals learn skills that may help them to become economically self-sufficient and/or to improve their life quality and standard of living.

In the **health area**, Fondo Q has supported pharmacy and nurses' training, didactic material for a health course, a nutrition water committee (Junta de Vecinos), an infant care teaching course. and a CPR course.

**Agriculture** has been the subject of many students' education including training in worm composting, chicken raising, goat keeping, tractor driving, pesticide safety, fruit tree grafting, accounting, bee keeping, sustainable agriculture, and a farm veterinary apprenticeship. The **environment** has been the subject of training through an ecotourism school and books for an environmental camp.

**Fine arts training** has included fashion design; dance, music and graphic arts courses; art supplies. Several grants have been given for beauticians.

**Education** itself has been the subject of training: basic education, high school tuition, textbook purchases, books for summer school classes, special education teacher training, advanced English training.

Grantees have studied construction and cement work, industrial mechanics, electronic appliance repair and have enrolled in an electrical vocational school. Students have learned both to drive and repair vehicles with drivers training courses, motorcycle mechanic training, and diesel engine repair.

Some scholarships supported computer skills training, child psychology courses, organizational leadership/marketing, sewing machine training, executive secretary training, and drafting school.

In addition, Fondo Q twice donated money to help **rebuild schools** damaged by hurricanes that devastated the Dominican Republic. In 1999, Fondo Q donated \$14,000 to help rebuild several schools severely damaged by Hurricane Georges in the Hato Rey area. Fondo Q's donation was the catalyst for a major donation by a Spanish Foundation and school rebuilding financing from the Dominican Government. In 2004, Fondo Q donated \$9,633 to help repair schools and replace school supplies in Las Lagunas de Nisibon, Arroyo Grande, and Nagua.



David Padilla, contributor, Jennifer Courtney, PCV who organized the school repair, a Representative from the Ministry of Education, and Lou Ferrand's (back) visiting one of the schools repaired by Fondo Q in the DR.



(What You Have Done continued)

#### WHAT YOU HELPED FONDO Q ACCOMPLISH IN 2004

In 2004, Fondo Q received donations from 84 contributors and distributed US\$11,882.52 in grants and scholarships to more than 69 low income Dominicans. The money funded a 3-day teacher training course, the formation of a Girl Scout Group, and sewing materials for a women's sewing group. In addition, Fondo Q also donated \$9,273 in special grants for the repair of hurricane-damaged schools in Las Lagunas de Nisibon, Arroyo Grande, and Nagua, bringing the 2004 donation total to \$21,155.52.

#### WHAT YOU HAVE HELPED FONDO Q ACCOMPLISH TO DATE IN 2005

To date in 2005, Fondo Q has distributed US\$7,129.03 for 31 grants ranging in size from US\$55.17 to US\$344.83 for such things as computer courses, a CPR Course, Special Education Teacher Training, English Courses, didactic materials for a health course, a beauty and weaving course for the Club de Madres – Reina de la Paz, Organizational Leadership and Marketing, a Nutrition Course for a Water Committee (Junta de Vecinos), and an Ecotourism Course.

### Fondo Q Launches New Website and Looks For Spanish Language Volunteers

#### Bill Threlkeld/FQ Secretary

On Monday, October 25, 2004, FQ launched a new website. The address remains the same: **[www.fondoq.org](http://www.fondoq.org)**.

The new site, like all good websites, is a constant work in progress. Content is added or expanded on a regular basis and improvements made as technological innovations and support allow. (Support is provided by Development Seed – **[www.developmentseed.org](http://www.developmentseed.org)**)

FQ Board members Janet Kerley and Bill Threlkeld took on this project, to redesign FQ's original site, with input from the Board. Bill and Janet set the following goals for the site:

- ?? Web space to highlight immediate needs, current and special events, and description of some of FQ's recipients;
- ?? Spatial orientation (map) focused on grantees (past, present, future);
- ?? A tool to strengthen Fondo Q by encouraging support with financial or in-kind volunteers;
- ?? Archive for organizational documents, publications, searchable database with a goal of transparency; and,
- ?? A place for typical website fare, such as what FQ is – history and vision; what FQ does; how to apply for a grant or scholarship; mailing list sign-up; how to donate; links to FDR and groups with related interests, and feedback is welcome.

Janet and Bill also redefined the target audiences for the site. In addition to the community of DR Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (DR-RPCVs) and ex-Peace Corps staff, the site features material of interest to many more Dominican groups both in the US and the DR. These include:

- o Dominican NGOs (important for generating potential applicants)
- o Scholarship and grant recipients
- o Potential grantees
- o Potential donors

Contributors to Fondo Q are also a focus of the site, to provide information on how Fondo Q is using their money and to encourage continuous support. The site supplements the information sent via the paper newsletter and recognizes the large number of researchers/surfers interested in DR development issues who visit.

Once the site is largely complete in English, FQ will develop a Spanish-language version. Volunteers are needed to translate pages. Please contact FQ if you would like to help with this. This is an easy way to contribute to FQ's efforts from a distance.

The best way to learn about the site is to explore it. Here are the major features to help you get started.

- ?? A map of the DR, by province, where information on our grantees can be obtained. (This is still under development. The number of grantees listed is just a sample used to test the functionality of the site.)
- ?? A searchable grantee database that can be queried on specific criteria: province, grant purpose, dollar range, etc. (This is tied into the map; thus, it remains under development.)
- ?? Quicklinks to the latest news and the most current grantees.
- ?? A Newsletter signup and archive.
- ?? A photo gallery.
- ?? Information on our board structure and members, and PDFs of our organizing documents.
- ?? A Donate Now button for acceptance of electronic donations, plus a listing of our supporters.
- ?? A news aggregator that automatically posts on the site links to news articles that carry a mention (or feature) the DR.
- ?? A news aggregator from the National Hurricane Center web site, that features hurricane updates for the Atlantic.

We are also currently exploring options to put the grant/scholarship request application online.

Feedback is welcome; comments can be directed to **[fondoquisqueyausa@yahoo.com](mailto:fondoquisqueyausa@yahoo.com)** or visitors may use the Contact Us feature on the web site.



**Fondo Q Grantees**  
**Anne Ternes, FQ board member**

This summary lists 85 grants to individuals or groups such as a neighbors' association, a mothers' club, a Girl Scout troop, board members of an agricultural marketing network, and primary school teachers in a rainforest buffer area. In addition to these study or training grants, the FQ board voted to provide funds for the repair of public schools devastated by Hurricane Jeanne in September 2004. This has a precedent in the school repairs supported after Hurricane Georges.

There is a noteworthy strengthening of a trend in grant requests, one that was already noted in the 2004 newsletter. In that previous newsletter, 28 of the 60 grantees requested funds to acquire or improve computer skills. In the current report, 50 of the 85 grantees are taking computer training – almost 60 percent of grantees! The majority of these applicants note that they regard computer skills to be an essential factor in determining their employment prospects and that they lack the means to finance their study. Computer studies appears to have entirely eclipsed driver's education, a favorite in years past, as a means to getting a job. Acquiring English language skills runs a very distant second place, often needed to be able to work in the tourism industry. Nursing and beautician studies appear with regularity if with less frequency than in previous years.

**Grants to individuals and groups in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2004**

<p>Grantee: Grupo de Golodrinhas            From: Cruce de Blanco, Bonaio, Monsenor Nouel            For: Forming a Girl Scout Troop            Sponsor: PCV Eric Mackintosh</p>	<p>Grantee: Luisa Cuello Loro            From: Los Cerezos, Restaruacion            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Eric Mackintosh</p>	<p>Grantee: Jose Isaac Richardson Wesstter            From: Las Lagunas, La Altagracia            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Mary Clark</p>
<p>Grantee: Santa Rosario            From: Cruce de Blanco, Bonaio, Monsenor Nouel            For: Beauty School            Sponsor: PCV Gigi Fordham</p>	<p>Grantee: Luis Manuel Sepulveda            From: Juncalito, Santiago            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Gigi Fordham</p>	<p>Grantee: Maria Eduviges Mercedes Sandoval            From: Las Lagunas, La Altagracia            For: Nursing Course            Sponsor: PCV Mary Clark</p>
<p>Grantee: Amparo Aybar Ortiz            From: Los Frios, Azua            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCY Byron Holcomb</p>	<p>Grantee: Elgia Mabel de Oleo Pena            From: Puerto Escondido, Independencia            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Heather Medina</p>	<p>Grantee: Manuel Enriquez de los Santos Torres            From: Las Lagunas, La Altagracia            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Mary Clark</p>
<p>Grantee: Salvador Grateraux Ayber            From: Los Frios, Azua            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Heather Medina</p>	<p>Grantee: Gloria Castulo Perez Pena            From: Puerto Escondido, Independencia            For: Nursing Course            Sponsor: PCV Heather Medina</p>	<p>Grantee: Yvelise Maria Tejada            From: Elias Pina            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Colleen Bimer</p>
<p>Grantee: Yovanny Victoriano Garban            From: Los Frios, Azua            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Brian Holcomb</p>	<p>Grantee: Yara Wilkania Mancebo Sanchez            From: Puerto Escondido, Independencia            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV</p>	<p>Grantee: Marina Guzman Berihuete            From: Elias Pina            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Eric Mackintosh</p>
<p>Grantee: Wilman Grateraux Aybar            From: Los Frios, Azua            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCY Byron Holcomb</p>	<p>Grantee: Cristina Esperanza Torres            From: La Leonor, Santiago Rodriguez            For: Nursing Course            Sponsor: PCV Jason Chancer</p>	<p>Grantee: Yaritza Miguelina Vargas            From: La Leonor, Santiago Rodriguez            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Jason Chancer</p>
<p>Grantee: Antonio Alexis            From: Polo, Barahona            For: English &amp; Ecotourism Course (Continuation)            Sponsor: PCV Dustin Salverson</p>	<p>Grantee: Junior Munoz            From: Santiago            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Gigi Forham</p>	<p>Grantee: Elvin Rudis Mora Munoz            From: Manzanillo, Monte Cristi            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Jason Gipson</p>



(Fondo Q Grantees continued)

<p>Grantee: Onelia Guzman Cabrera From: Elias Pina For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Evan Fitzgerald</p> <p>Grantee: Ramon Francisco Pichardo Santos From: San Cristobal For: English Course Sponsor: PCV Tom Wildman</p> <p>Grantee: Herminda Luciano From: San Juan For: Library Training Course Sponsor: PCV Kimberly Beers</p> <p>Grantee: Youth Participants From: Santiago For: Summer Camp Sponsor: PCV Nancy Pelowski</p> <p>Grantee: Magaly Abreu Tejada From: Dajabon For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p> <p>Grantee: Delgis Antonio Castillo D. From: Las Lagunas, La Altagracia For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Mary Clark</p> <p>Grantee: Victor Manuel Vasques Urena From: Las Lagunas, La Altagracia For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Mary Clark</p> <p>Grantee: Maria Victoria Rivera de Jesus From: Distrito Nacional For: Beauty School Sponsor: PCV Jessi Hanson</p> <p>Grantee: Eduardo Cruz From: Elias Pina For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Colleen Bimer</p> <p>Grantee: Amparo Altagracia Lopez From: Elias Pina For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Evan Fitzgerald</p> <p>Grantee: Ramon E. Pichardo Santos From: San Cristobal For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Tom Wildman</p>	<p>Grantee: Carlos Bido From: Puerto Plata For: Internet Course Sponsor: PCV Mahri Leonard-Fleckman</p> <p>Grantee: Epifamia (Rebecca) Hernandez From: San Juan For: Library Training Course Sponsor: PCV Kimberly Beers</p> <p>Grantee: Warman Santana From: Barahona For: Summer Camp Sponsor: PCV Nick Robles</p> <p>Grantee: Martin Roque Rosa From: Dajabon For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p> <p>Grantee: Margarita Jimenez For: Computer Course From: Dajabon Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p> <p>Grantee: Maria Victoria Rivera de Jesusria From: Distrito Nacional For: Beauty School Sponsor: PCV Jessi Hanson</p> <p>Grantee: Martina Galva Reyes From: San Juan For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennett</p> <p>Grantee: Mary Elisa Galva Reyes From: San Juan For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennet</p> <p>Grantee: Maximo Consoro de Jesus From: Distrito Nacional For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Molly B. Coeling</p> <p>Grantee: Maria Miguelina Duran Tejadanchez From: La Vega For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer</p> <p>Grantee: Altagracia Almonte From: Puerto Plata For: First Aid Course Sponsor: PCV Joe Kennedy</p>	<p>Grantee: Magaly Abreu Tejada From: Dajabon For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p> <p>Grantee: Margarita Jimenez From: Dajabon For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p> <p>Grantee: Dianerva M. Minalla Leonardo For: English Course From: La Vega Sponsor: PCV Rebecca Rausch</p> <p>Grantee: Yackelin Cordero-Aria From: Bani For: Beauty School Sponsors: Nora Malikin &amp; Jeremiah Marble</p> <p>Grantee: Manuel de Jesus Batista Valdez From: San Juan For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennet</p> <p>Grantee: Ambioris Reyes Soler From: San Juan For: Computer Course Sponsor: Megan Bennet</p> <p>Grantee: Ketty Ramona Javier From: Distrito Nacional For: Adult Education Course Sponsor: PCV Molly B. Coeling</p> <p>Grantee: Rosa Evalina Tejada Sanchez From: La Vega For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer</p> <p>Grantee: Altagracia Almonte From: Puerto Plata For: Cooking Course Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer</p> <p>Grantee: Martin Roque Rosa From: Dajabon For: Computer Course Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p> <p>Grantee: Santa Rosaura R. Ramirez From: San Pedro For: Education Course Sponsor: PCV Colleen Bimer</p>
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(Fondo Q Grantees continued)

**Special Grants for the Repair of Hurricane-Damaged Schools in 2004**

**1. Grantee: Las Lagunas de Nisibon**  
**For: School Repairs (between Higüey & Miches) US \$ 3,878.00**  
**Sponsor: PCV Mary R. Clark**

The purpose of this project is to provide hurricane relief to the town of Las Lagunas de Nisibón, Dominican Republic, through the repair of the primary and high schools. Both schools were severely damaged after Hurricane Jeanne directly hit the east coast of the island on September 16, and are currently functioning with five fewer classrooms than normal. The schools' parents and staff requested the \$3,878 to replace 6 lost roofs, 17 broken windows, 50 water-logged desks, and 16 light fixtures.

**2. Grantee: Nagua Area US\$3,735.00**  
**For: School Repairs**  
**Sponsor: PCV Joe Blotnick**

The purpose of the Project is to provide hurricane relief and educational support to rural communities of Nagua through the repair and improvement of two primary schools severely damaged by Hurricane Jeanne on September 16, 2004. Six impoverished rural communities of coconut and cocoa farmers are served by two primary schools, Escuela Basica de Los Fogones serves 22 students in grades 1-3 from the communities of Los Fogones and La Jagua y Alta, and la Escuela Basica El Picado de Luis serves 43 students in Grades 1-6 from El Picado de Luis, Los Pogones, and Los Colmenes. The money was used to replace two roofs, build cement block walls in one school, buy desks, and provide funds for building supplies for bookshelves, storage cabinets, and repairing latrines.

**3. Original Grantee: Arroyo Grande US\$2,020.00**  
**For: School Repairs**  
**Sponsor: PCV Jennifer Courtney.**

On February 18, 2005, PCV Courtney informed Fondo Q Board Members that when funds for this school were supplied through the wife of the President of the D.R., Jennifer used the Fondo Q funds for repairs for 8 schools as follows. In the El Cuey area, the Escuela Alberto Berroa, Escuela Altos de Peguero, and Escuela Sabana del Cuey all had roof repairs. In Arroyo Grande, the Escuela Arroyo Grande had new locks and blackboards installed. The Escuela Limoncillar of Las Maravillas had repairs to its roof. In Las Cuchillas, the Escuela Catalina Gil had roof and restroom repairs, Escuela Janabo and Escuela Piedra Blanca received construction supplies for general building repairs.

**Grants to individuals and groups in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2005**

Grantee: Eriberto Lopez  
From: Puerto Plata  
For: CPR Course  
Sponsor: PCV Joe Kennedy

Grantee: Yerilin Nunez Cordero  
From: Higüey  
For: Computer Course  
Sponsor: PCV Tom Croppi

Grantee: Omar Moises Donastorg Santana  
From: Higüey  
For: Computer Course  
Sponsor: PCV Tom Croppi

Grantee: Martin Gilberto Tavarez  
From: Higüey  
For: Computer Course  
Sponsor: PCV Tom Croppi

Grantee: Ivelisse Jacquelline Alfonso Cedeno  
From: Higüey  
For: Computer Course  
Sponsor: PCV Tom Croppi

Grantee: Maribel del Carmen Lopez  
From: Santiago Rodriguez  
For: Computer Course  
Sponsor: PCV Jason Chancer

Grantee: Sobeyda Altagracia Tavera Torres  
From: Santiago Rodriguez  
For: Computer Course  
Sponsor: PCV Jason Chancer

Grantee: Marina Altagracia Ramos Peralta  
From: Esperanza  
For: Special Education Teacher Training  
Sponsor: PCV Larua Pryzmus

Grantee: Mariana de Jesus Chavez Cabrera  
From: Esperanza  
For: Special Education Teacher Training  
Sponsor: PCV Larua Pryzmus

Grantee: Pedro Solis  
From: Restauracion  
For: Driving Course  
Sponsor: PCV Eric Mackintosh



(Fondo Q Grantees continued)

<p>Grantee: Juan Carlos Lama Etil            From: San Pedro            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Katherine Buckell</p>	<p>Grantee: Rosayda Eladio            From: San Pedro            For: English Course            Sponsor: PCV Katherine Buckell</p>
<p>Grantee: Yolanda Abreu            From: Jaibon            For: Health course and materials            Sponsor: PCV Jacquelyn Caglia</p>	<p>Grantee: Miguel Angel Peguero            From: Guerra            For: English Course            Sponsor: Jessi Hanson</p>
<p>Grantee: Mirka Ramon Heredia            From: Barahona            For: English Course            Sponsor: PCV Anres Korin</p>	<p>Grantee: Club de Madres-Reina de la Paz            From: Puerto Plata            For: Beauty &amp; Sewing courses-SEM            Sponsor: PCV Alison Whitehead</p>
<p>Grantee: Edita Sabala Topito            From: Elias Pina            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Hayes Mann</p>	<p>Grantee: Marketing Network Members            From: Nagua            For: Marketing &amp; Leadership Training            Sponsor: PCV Joe Blotnick</p>
<p>Grantee: Robinson L. Cepeda Estevez            From: Dajabon            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Lisa Doherty</p>	<p>Grantee: Luis Peralta Abreu            From: Constanza            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Chris Varley</p>
<p>Grantee: Maria Altagracia Marte Abreu            From: Jarabacoa            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer</p>	<p>Grantee: Esteffanny Alexandra Alcantara            From: Altagracia            For: English Course            Sponsor: PCV Lindsay Hoag</p>
<p>Grantee: Miriam Calderon Rondon            From: Altagracia            For: English Course            Sponsor: PCV Lindsay Hoag</p>	<p>Grantee: Junta de Vecinos            From: San Pedro            For: Nutrition Course            Sponsor: PCV Brad Mills</p>
<p>Grantee: Damajagua Tour Guide Group            From: Puerto Plata            For: Ecotourism Course            Sponsor: PCV Joe Kennedy</p>	<p>Grantee: Fiordaliza Espinal Abreu            From: Santiago            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Erin Burke</p>
<p>Grantee: Rosa Albania Espinal Pana            From: Santiago            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Erin Burke</p>	<p>Grantee: Yeni Almonte Ferreira            From: Santiago            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Erin Burke</p>
<p>Grantee: Emmanuel Matos Feliz            From: Barahona            For: Futuro Brillante Summer Course            Sponsor: PCV Nick Robles</p>	<p>Grantee: Lorivette M. Marmol Lopez            From: Bonao            For: Computer Course            Sponsor: PCV Brooke R. Hill</p>
<p>Grantee: 25 rural, primary school teachers &amp; 5 district administrators            From: the buffer zone of the Reserva Cientifica Loma Guaconejo rain forest            For: Environmental Education            Sponsor: PCV Jill Higgins</p>	



## Friends of the DR Update

At the February Board meeting of the Friends of the DR held in Santo Domingo, Neil Ross resigned as founding President of FDR. The Board elected Roger Weiss as the second President. The two leaders spoke to the membership in a recent Cyber Newsletter:

### From Neil Ross:

“It has been my challenge and honor to have led the creation of the Friends of the Dominican Republic....Together we have delivered a fine, healthy non-profit organization that has grown through the start-up walking stages. FDR now is at the point when it has a solid history of program achievements, grant programs, membership, exciting program ideas, energetic board members, and high respect as an outstanding group within Peace Corps and NPCA circles. PC Director Javier Garza often repeats how envious other country directors are over the excellent working relationship we have built together. Previous PC Directors Natalie Woodward and Anita Friedman were highly cooperative and encouraging, as have been many PC staffers especially Deputy Director Mike McCabe.

After nine years leading FDR, it is time for new leadership to take the helm. I remain a full board member and shall be very active, particularly in program development.

I wish Roger great success and pledge my full support. But most of all, I thank everyone who has so generously shared time, expertise, money, passion and love for the DR. The Peace Corps's third goal is alive and growing.”

### From Roger Weiss:

“The Board and I give our heartfelt thanks to Neil for all his time and effort in creating and leading FDR. We also appreciate his initiation of this transition of leadership.

The recent changes to the composition of the FDR board have added a new dynamic to our function, which seems to head us to being more relevant to members in the US and DR. The Director of PC/DR now nominates a third year Volunteer...to serve on the Board as liaison]....Traditionally the board has been old-timers, such as me, with time and experience to contribute, but out of contact with the current workings of Peace Corps. On the current board of 15, we have 8 who served in the last 8 years, plus 3 others who recently served in Crisis Corps. The recent PCVs are swamped with graduate school or jobs that limit the time they can contribute, but they have amazing drive, focus, and ideas to get the board working together.

The Community Challenge Fund is doing very well with raising funds, screening and approving projects, and requiring thorough reporting on the completions.

A more complete description of results will appear in the forthcoming printed newsletter. We will adapt the procedures of the CCF to improve the rest of our projects.

We have some of our basic projects, such as newsletters, cooking, but we are looking at how we can better define our unique and recognizable purpose. Some topics being kicked around are how to implement bringing our experience home, how to connect better, and how to form local organizations. What do you want FDR to be for you? Send me your ideas. E-mail: [wiseacre@verizon.net](mailto:wiseacre@verizon.net)”

## Grant Progress Reports from PCVs

By Anne Ternes

*A number of PCVs have written interesting accounts of the progress of grants made in 2004. A selection of these follows below and the first report from three PCVs tells of the very fortuitous outcome of a training program*

### Red Cross Training

#### PCVs Dustin Salvesson, Alexis Antonio, Joe Kennedy

We solicited \$12,000 pesos from Fondo Quisqueya for Red Cross training in First Aid and CPR for the Asociación de Guías Salvavidas de Río Damajagua (local youth working as ecology tour guides). The normal cost of such training was upwards of \$15,000, but through an agreement brokered by the PCMOs, the Red Cross agreed to the 8 days of training for only \$12,000, plus expenses. The total cost of training, including transport, food and lodging, ran over \$18,000, meaning that the guides themselves pitched in over \$6,000 pesos.

The training was an astounding success. Initial plans were to limit the training sessions to current tour guides only, but the Red Cross trainers were extremely flexible and allowed other family members and friends to attend the workshops. Taking advantage of the opportunity, a guide's wife and another guide's sister took part in the sessions, as well as some of their friends.

Training began with 4 days of First Aid, from 5 pm to 9pm, for four consecutive nights. The sessions were long and tiring, especially for the guides, after a long days work, and for those who were not accustomed to spending time in the classroom. The first two sessions were primarily lectures, with the second two hands on practice and scenario analysis.

. The training sessions for CPR were similar, except this time it lasted for three days. Sessions ran the normal four hour period, with a lecture to begin the week followed by two days of intense practice and analysis. The last two hours were finished by a hands-on evaluation and examination, the results of which we are still awaiting.



(Grant Progress Report continued)

The goal of this training was twofold: 1) to ensure that if, or when, an accident were to occur the guides would be prepared to respond and 2) to give the guides an extremely professional credential that would allow them to demonstrate to their tour companies that they have begun an era of better service in the hope that they would be able to receive a better compensation.

While the second goal has yet to be met, the first one already has! Last Wednesday, on a day that the Ministry of Tourism cancelled all tours because of a threat of a hurricane, two tour companies brought tours to the Falls. In the rising wind, somehow a rock broke loose from the first waterfall and stuck a tourist on the head, splitting the skin from her forehead to her crown. The victim was passing in and out of consciousness, and the guides responded quickly with bandages and a makeshift stretcher to carry her down the path and help save her life. The company tour guide, meanwhile, could do nothing but look on as he had no formal training in emergency response.

Obviously, such an accident is terrible, but thankfully our guides were prepared enough to respond quickly and efficiently to help ensure the safety of the victim. This training was an immediate success and its cost has already been justified.



BJ Warren with PCVs involved with Fondo Grant program.

**Computer Training  
PCV Lisa Doherty**

Fondo Quisqueya Members,

First, I would like to say "Thank you!" on behalf of my three deserving students who recently received scholarships to attend a computer course at the technical school, INFRONTEC, in Dajabon. They have just begun this course and so I am sorry that I don't have much to report, but I can give you a little more information about the course

which they are taking and the difference that it will make in their lives and the lives of their families.

Margarita and Magaly returned to night school in order to obtain their high school diplomas after leaving school to raise families. At present Magaly does not work, but Margarita sells items at the Haitian market in Dajabon with her husband. Both of them would like to secure full time employment in order to be able to send their children to university. With the current President's push for computer labs in the primary schools, in the future, they would be prime candidates to teach these youngsters the basics of computers.

Martin left high school in order to help support his mother and his siblings. Currently he works as a mechanic, but he would like to secure a more stable, and challenging, job that would better support himself and his family members. He is interested in the more technical aspect of computers and, with the increased presence of computers in this country, I can see him easily obtaining work in this area.

This course is two years in length and it covers a wide area of computer knowledge. They will study everything from word processing, to computer repair, to programming. When they are finished they will receive a certificate as a *técnico* of computers given by the Secretary of Education. This document alone will open many doors for them. I will be keeping you updated on their progress and you should be hearing from them soon.

I would like to add that the news of this scholarship has spread like wildfire amongst the night school students! I have had students approach me asking how they might obtain a scholarship to study further. I told them that the scholarships are limited and thus I will only recommend those students with the highest marks and/or those that are extremely conscientious about their course of study this year. I think that this scholarship is going to push certain students to realize more of their potential this year.

Thank you, again, for making an impossibility become reality for Margarita, Magaly and Martin.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Doherty

**Grant Progress Report  
PCV Kimberly Beers**

Herminda Luciano and Rebecca Hernandez of Padre Las Casas participated in a three-weekend librarian training course at the National Library in Santo Domingo over the summer. Fondo Quisqueya funds covered the fee for the training, transportation to and from the capital, transportation within the capital, meals for the weekend, and lodging at the Pension. They are both librarians in Padre Las Casas but had not had any training before the National Library course. They learned how to better organize the library, classify the books, and start up literary programs. Since the training, both



(Grant Progress Report continued)

librarians have begun the process of coding the books and entering them into a computer system. Herminda and Rebecca are extremely appreciative for the training. Not only do they have a new love for their job but they also now understand how important they are to Padre Las Casas.

**Progress Report from José Luis Balbi on his Basic Electronics course  
Sponsored by Carmen Pérez , Language Coordinator at ENTRENA, S.A.**

“The course has helped me a great deal. The institute is very professional and run by Engineers with much experience. This is the first time that I have had the opportunity to study outside of my primary and high school education. It is certainly the first time that I have studied in such an institute. It has really sparked my interest in future studies in the same area.

I have been able to acquire a lot of knowledge. All of my grades have been above an 80% on my exams. I have had to study a lot. The material has been challenging for me; however, the professor says that I may be one of those chosen as an exemplary student given my level of efficiency in completing the assignments and my level of knowledge of the subjects.

I am very grateful for this opportunity. I have been able to develop more skills than I had before. I now have an additional skill that I can offer. For example on the weekends I can do independent work/jobs.



Jose Luis Balbi

**Grant Report on Carlos Bido  
PCV Mahri Leonard -Fleckman**

Carlos Bido began a computer course at the end of September 2004, with the 4,165 pesos that was granted him by Fondo Quisqueya. He has been in class more than a month now, and on Saturday, October 30 completed his first test on how to use Windows. So far, the costs of the class have been 260 pesos per week to travel to and from class, 400 pesos for the initial start-up fee, and he recently paid 400 pesos for the next month (the class costs an additional 400 pesos per month).

Carlos is receiving the computer course each Saturday, from 2 to 6 PM, and travels to and from the center an additional afternoon each week to practice on the computer. Each month begins the study of a new computer program, and he will begin training in the next program at the beginning of November. The course lasts a total of seven months, at the end of which he will have used the money allotted him and will have graduated from the computer course. At that time, he will be able to find employment as a secretary or computer technician at a variety of businesses in Mamey or La Isabela, two towns close to the campo where he lives. Carlos is also planning on beginning the university in September of 2005, where he hopes to study computer science.

**LOCAL COMMITTEE  
SELECTIONS**

**Jennifer McGowan – DR Local Committee**

Jennifer McGowan, a leader of Fondo Q's Local DR Committee, recently explained the well-organized procedures used by the Local Committee to approve requests for grants and scholarships. The committee has full authority to approve grants up to \$300.

PCVs are the main source of scholarship applications. Using the application form found on the 'public' computers in the DR PVC Office, they submit applications to the Local Committee through a third year Peace Corps Volunteer, assigned to work with Fondo Q. Fondo Q's "Request for Scholarship/Grant" form also can be e-mailed to anyone requesting a form.

While the applications are collected on a rolling basis, the local committee meets once a quarter to review the requests, based on the application summaries prepared by the third year PCV. The group checks that first, all meet Fondo Q's criteria - requests for a four-year university degree program are the most common reason for rejection. Applications for grants over the \$300 limit receive special consideration. The committee often recommends funding the \$300 limit, and then works with the PCV and the community to raise co-funding. In exceptional cases requiring a grant larger than \$300, the Local Committee can send the request to the Fondo Q Board for approval. Once approved, the checks are prepared and distributed, and a summary of grants awarded for the quarter is sent to the Fondo Q's Board of Directors.

Quarterly meetings take place between: (i) March 31- April 15; (ii) June 30 – July 15; (iii) September 30-Oct 15; and (iv) December 31-Jan 15.

Jennifer noted that, "Regarding criteria and how we decide..., we decided some time ago that we did not feel that we could reject a proposal due to less creativity. For example, we all enjoy reading about a creative leadership course or sewing school versus computer training or English. But the reality is that computers and English are in high demand based on the characteristics of the DR market. We would not reject a



(Local Committee Selection continued)

request for English training to fund a leadership course. As long as it meets the criteria (training or something to help carry out training of individuals or groups through a non-university degree program, and below \$300), we approve. We do so based on a first-come, first-served basis."

**We are proud to introduce you to the members of Fondo Q's Local DR Committee:**

**Jennifer McGowan** has been associated with ENTRENA for the past 10 years and is the current Training Director. Originally from Michigan, Ms. McGowan has resided nearly full time in the Dominican Republic since 1993, when she was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Altamira under the micro-enterprise development program. For the next three and a half years, she served as the ENTRENA Technical Trainer for both the Small Business and Education sectors of Peace Corps/Dominican Republic. She then took a leave of absence to complete her Masters Degree in Brattleboro, Vermont and the Global Partnership program in Savar, Bangladesh and Kathmandu, Nepal. Upon her return she assumed the position of ENTRENA Training Director. Following a 15-month sabbatical in Seville, Spain, she again returned to Santo Domingo in December of 2003 to resume working with ENTRENA as Training Director. Ms. McGowan has participated in and facilitated cultural workshops in the U.S.A., Curacao, Nicaragua, and Kenya. Jennifer has a Bachelors of Science in Marketing from Michigan State University and a Masters in International and Intercultural Management from the School for International Training.

**Diane Partl** grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and received her BBA in Finance and Marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic under the Micro enterprise program for three years beginning in 1985. From 1988-1993 she worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Dominican Republic. During next five years, Diane was an Associate Peace Corps Director for the Small Enterprise program and later promoted to Program and Training Officer/Deputy Director. From 1999-2002, Ms. Partl was the Deputy Team Leader for USAir's Hurricane Reconstruction Team and later in 2002-2003 served as the interim Training Director for Peace Corps. Diane, who currently works as a consultant, lives in Santo Domingo with her husband Dr. Roberto Piney, DVM, and their two children, Rebecca and Roberto.

**Laura Sundquist** is originally from Minnesota but currently calls California home. Laura graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelors in Spanish Education. She recently completed her service in the community of Mella as an Information Technology for Education volunteer. During her first 2 years in the DR she taught numerous computer courses, formed a computer club, worked on a literacy/library project, and organized various youth and parenting groups. We welcome Laura as the Peace Corps Volunteer Leader for the Special Education program. She

replaces Ryan Reid who left the DR May 13, 2005. In addition to her Fondo responsibilities, Laura hopes to compile a Special Education Manual for teachers, principles and volunteers during her last year in the DR.

**HONOR ROLL OF DONORS TO FONDO Q IN 2004**

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Board members Rik Laird, Tom and Susie Gittins in a post meeting relaxation pose.

**From Outgoing DR Country Director Javier Garza**

Dear Friends,

My tenure as CD in the DR will end in mid July around the two year anniversary of my arrival on gorgeous Hispaniola. I feel both sadness--that I won't see my first group COS in November--and excitement about the future.

I have been asked to become the Country Director in Bolivia. I am grateful for the Director's expression of confidence in me. Bolivia is a post with great potential but with a hurtful Peace Corpspast and a history of tumultuous political activity which continues today. It is a country where I lived and worked for nearly three years. My experience working with USAID, the American Embassy and with the public and private sectors in all of its geographic areas will be most useful in this assignment and was weighed when the Director asked me to take this assignment.

I leave the DR with fond memories. I will miss the staff and the volunteers who have served with all their hearts, with honesty and integrity; I am honored to have served in such a wonderful place. The people connected with Peace Corps in the DR exemplify the best spirit of America. I have learned from you. You have made my work here joyful and I am proud of you. Please continue la lucha for peace and understanding.

Hopefully, our paths will cross again.

Se cuidan. Take care of yourself, take care of each other and take care of this place.

All my best wishes.

Siempre,  
Javier

**A Biographical Sketch of Incoming DR Country Director Dr. Romeo Massey**

After receiving a BA degree from the University of Florida in Political Science/Latin American Regional Studies, Romeo Massey served as a Peace Corps Volunteer (10/62-09/64) in Pereira, Colombia, where he taught English and worked in urban community development. After two years of establishing Job Corps centers in the US, he returned to the Peace Corps (03/67-03/70) as an Associate Peace Corps Director in the Brazilian states of Bahia and Sergipe where he supervised 85-120 volunteers in urban/rural community development, health education, primary school teacher training, and adult literacy.

Upon return to the US, Romeo attended Florida State University (FSU) where he received an MS in Adult Education/Literacy and a PhD in Adult Education/Instructional Systems Design and Development. Since 1973, he has worked in various leadership positions in contract-supported R&D centers at FSU and has been a center director for the past 13 years. His international work includes consultant work in El Salvador, and Honduras for USAID; Uganda for CARE; and Belize where he worked with CARE for eight years planning and evaluating the revision of the nation's rural primary school system. He also worked as a Peace Corps Training Director and Acting PC Program/Training Officer in Brazil.

His wife Carole is a returned PCV (Bolivia) who has a BS in Psychology, MS in Counseling and PhD in Higher Education Administration. Carole has over 20 years experience as a program evaluator and did international evaluation work in Guatemala for USAID. Romeo and Carole have an adult son, Christopher, who lives in Florida.



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