



From the President's Corner

I want to thank all of you who have responded to the call for donations from Fondo Q to help low-income Dominicans obtain education and training. With the Fondo Q grants, individuals can provide for themselves and their families by obtaining new skills to improve their opportunities and the quality of their lives. So far this year, Fondo Q has given out more than US\$12,600 in grants and scholarships to fifty-four Dominicans, and it has: funded two summer camps in Puerto Plata; sponsored a two-day training in environmental education for 30 teachers; provided money for training in candle-making and business skills to a women's organization; and provided money for supplies and transportation for a community clean-up sponsored by the "Green Brigade", a youth community action group. Thus, thanks to our donors, we have met our goal of giving out at least US\$12,000 this year. But, even though we met our goal, there are many deserving Dominicans whom we cannot reach because of the lack of funds. If you have already given this year, thank you very much, and please consider another gift. If you haven't yet given this year, please join us. We want to continue to give out at least US\$12,000 in grants and scholarships every year; in order to meet that goal next year, we need more than \$10,000 in new donations. And, of course, our long term goal is to increase the amount of grants and scholarships that we can give out.

In addition to our fund raising activities, we are in the process of planning for the 45th Anniversary Reunion celebration of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. We will celebrate the anniversary over the USA's "President's Weekend" in February, 2007 in Santo Domingo. The event will be co-



Fondo VP BJ Warren and Andy Hernandez,
first Dominican Republic Peace Corps Director.

sponsored by Friends of the Dominican Republic, with cooperation and assistance from DR Peace Corps staff headed by PC Director Romeo Massey. Mark your calendars! It should be a great event! It is a wonderful opportunity to see the DR again, to get together with old friends, to make new friends, and to learn what Peace Corps is doing now in the DR.

Thanks to Tom Gittins, a few weeks ago, BJ Warren, Janet Kerley, Tom, and I attended a luncheon at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce where DR President Leonel Fernandez spoke. We had the opportunity to talk with the U.S. Ambassador to the DR, the Dominican Ambassador to the USA, and the head of the Dominican American Chamber of Commerce in the DR about the 45th DR PC Reunion celebration. All expressed interest, and the U.S. Ambassador expressed interest in hosting some kind of a cocktail party as part of the celebration. The next night, my wife, Mary, I attended a dinner reception for President Fernandez at the Dominican Embassy where I talked with both the Dominican Ambassador to the USA and the Dominican Ambassador to the OAS about Fondo Q's Gala Fundraiser which will be held next April. I also met President Fernandez, and I told him that we would like to meet with him during the 45th PC Anniversary Reunion in the DR. President Fernandez responded that he would be glad to meet with us.

In January 2006, Fondo Q's Board of Directors will meet in Santo Domingo with Board members from Friends of the DR, Peace Corps staff, and Fondo Q's local DR Committee to plan for the 45th Anniversary Reunion Celebration.

Fondo Q's GALA Fundraiser will be held on April 27, 2006 at the Dominican Embassy in Washington, D.C. under the sponsorship of Lic. Flavio Espinal, the Dominican Ambassador to the USA. The Fundraiser is a kickoff for our goal of raising US\$100,000 over a two-year period so that Fondo Q can substantially expand the number of scholarships and grants that it gives out each year. Please plan to attend. For more information, see the article on the GALA in this Newsletter.

Tom Gittins is heading Fondo Q's plans for both the 45th DR PC Reunion and the Gala Fundraiser.



We are pleased to welcome Jeff Barber and Ryan Reid as new members of Fondo Q's Board of Directors. Be sure to read about them later in this Newsletter.

A special thank you to Fondo Q's local Dominican Republic Committee headed by Ex-DRPCV Jennifer McGowan. The Committee also includes Ex-DRPCV Diane Partl, and 3d year PCV Laura Sundquist.

Finally, I want to thank BJ Warren for the great work that she did as Fondo Q's President. I am very pleased and lucky that she has agreed to stay on as Fondo Q's Vice President.

Regards to all,
Lou Ferrand
President

Views from the Vice President's Perch

No, there really was no coup! It was a peaceful transition. I stepped down as President and Lou Ferrand stepped up to the plate and we are very fortunate. Bill Threlkd is now Treasurer and Janet Kerley is Secretary. It all looks good from here.

I was delighted to be able to attend the gathering of DR RPVCs, friends and spouses in Tucson, AZ this past month. (See more details in the article in this Newsletter.) This reunion began as a gathering of DR I - RPCVS and the first DR Peace Corps Director, Andy Hernandez who now lives in Santa Rosa New Mexico. Over the years, more and more groups have been represented. There were about 50 people attending mainly from the 60's and 70's, but some from later groups as well. It was really fun catching up. Many folks helped out with donations to Fondo Q, either through buying tee shirts or just seeing the need and writing a check. So far we have been able to fund the ten scholarships each quarter—sometimes it is just barely but with your help we continue to make our goal. See the write-ups of the current scholarships awarded so far in this newsletter.

Do put the President's day weekend in February, 2007, on your calendars and do try to come to the DR to help celebrate 45 years of PC in the DR! Please send us suggestions of activities and events you would like to see take place during this reunion.

All the best,
BJ Warren
VP

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer

As of October 15, 2005, Fondo Quisqueya has met (and even exceeded) its yearly goal of funding at least US\$12,000 in grants and scholarships to needy Dominicans. For the four quarters of 2005, we funded a total of US\$12,632.56 for 54 grantee/scholarship recipients with diverse interests: computer training, CPR, teacher training, driving training, English, health and nutrition, beauty and massage, sewing, organizational leadership/marketing, ecotourism, and craftmaking.

Clearly there is a demand for the financial assistance that FQ can provide and these small amounts (an average of US\$234 per grantee/scholarship) are making a big difference in the lives of the individuals and organizations that receive them. Our close coordination with the Peace Corps staff and Volunteers in identifying and screening applicants makes this demand consistent – each quarter we need another US\$3,000 to fund our mission.

On the supply side, we have some catching up to do. In 2004, we made special contributions to fund nearly US\$10,000 for repairs to schools damaged by hurricanes that swept through the DR. We need to replace those funds so that our regular grant and scholarship contributions can continue at a steady pace. For example, while we exceeded our grantmaking goal for this year, our income during the same period (through October 15, 2005) was only US\$8,674.56 (derived from 48 donations, where some contributors donated twice). My October Treasurer's Report to the Board noted that we currently have no money available in our checking account to fund the first round of grantees/scholars for 2006. Since that report, nearly US\$2,800 in donations have come in but we urgently need an end-of-the-year push. So keep those contributions coming! Remember, they are 100 percent tax deductible.

Mark Your Calendar & Save These Important Dates!!!

APRIL 27, 2006 – Dominican Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Ambassador and Mrs. Flavio Espinal will be hosting a special GALA evening reception and fund raising event at the Dominican Embassy to benefit the vocational training and career development scholarship programs of the Fondo Quisqueya in the Dominican Republic.

February 15 – 20, 2007 – Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Fondo Quisqueya and Friends of the Dominican Republic, together with Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, will be celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. The celebration will include forums and special events, the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones, and a wonderful opportunity to find out what Peace Corps is doing today in the Dominican Republic.

We would be delighted if you would like to help on committees for either of these important events. Please contact Tom Gittins at



Fondo Q Grantees for the Second and Third Calendar Quarters, 2005

From April through September 2005, Fondo Q awarded a diverse set of grants. In addition to funding classes for 20 individuals, Fondo Q funded two summer camps in Puerto Plata, sponsored a two-day training in environmental education for 30 teachers, provided training in candle-making and business skills to a women's organization and paid for supplies and transportation for a community clean-up sponsored by the Green Brigade, a youth community action group.

The list of grantees and their hometown, their course of study and PCV sponsor are listed below. In some cases, the PCV sponsor or the grantee provided us with some details.

Grants Awarded in the Second Quarter

Grantee: Alfredo Contreras

From: Guayajayuco

For: Transportation costs for handcraft training in Rio Limpio

Sponsor: PCV Michael Yocum

Grantee: Luisa Maria Tiburcio Espinal

From: Colonia Agrícola, Jarabacoa

For: English language classes

Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer

Grantees: Indhira Yanelissa Abreu Espinal and Melvin Fermín Peralta

From: Pinar Quemado, Jarabacoa

For: Computer training course

Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer

Grantee: Federación de Mujeres Mama Tingó

From: San Francisco, El Factor, Maria Trinidad Sanchez Province

For: Training in candle-making and business skills

Sponsor: Joshua Russcol Josh wrote: "La Federación de Mujeres

Mama Tingó is made up of over 1,300 women of various ages, organized in 40 women's groups located in 35 communities around the province. This federation aims to promote women's rights and capacities, thereby improving the lives of the women, their families and their communities. This candle-making program will be one of several educational workshops put on this year by the Federation in various fields, and we feel that these types of workshops are vital to the mission of the group. We appreciate your support. ... This course will allow women in the region to gain a marketable skill. They will be able to sell their candles to others in the community as well as in local stores and markets, creating an important new source of income for their households, or save money by making candles for their own homes instead of buying them. In addition, this new skill will provide a safe and stimulating source of activity for the women who participate. Finally, learning a new skill will help the women gain self-confidence and some level of independence."

Grantee: Brigada VERDE

From: Villa Sonador, Bonao

For: Supplies and transportation for a community clean-up sponsored by the Green Brigade, a youth community action group.

Grantee: Luisa Maria Tiburcio Espinal

From: Colonia Agrícola, Jarabacoa

For: English language classes

Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer

Grantees: Indhira Yanelissa Abreu Espinal and

Melvin Fermín Peralta

From: Pinar Quemado, Jarabacoa

For: Computer training course

Sponsor: PCV Patricia Farmer

Grantee: Fuedrina Felix

From: Caraballo, Montellán,

From: Puerto Plata

For: Training in massage and manicure to earn a living and assist her family to get a house

Sponsor: PCV Christy Dimos

Grantee: Dorina Joseph

From: Caraballo, Montelban, Puerto Plata

For: Training in massage and manicure to open a salon

Sponsor: PCV Christy Demos

Grantee: Abel Jorge Cabrera

From: Los Cocos de Jacagua, Santiago

For: Computer training to qualify for a job promotion, earn tuition funds, and attend university

Sponsor: PCV Kristin Wegner

The grantees wrote; "Queremos empezar con una historia breve de nuestro grupo. Brigada VERDE significa una brigada de Voluntarios Estudiantiles Realizando Desarrollo Ecológico. Nuestro grupo era fundado el 10 de octubre de 2004 en Villa Sonador con el objetivo de concientizar y mejorar los conocimientos a las diferentes comunidades sobre los cuidados del medio ambiente impartiendo charlas a distintos escuelas, colegios, y agrupaciones comunitarias. Estamos divididos en dos grupos de charlas para que nuestro mensaje sea más efectiva y factible: el primer con el tema de los árboles y la deforestación y el segundo de la contaminación ambiental. Por nuestros conocimientos adquiridos por medio a charlas, conferencias, y campamentos de talleres impartidos por Cuerpo de Paz y Sirve Quisqueya hemos demostrado capacitados para impartir otras charlas sobre distintos temas. Nuestra meta en este verano es llevar a cabo una operativa limpieza de los solares con mini-charlas a 500 familias para orientar a las comunidades locales acerca de la importancia de los tres R's (reducir, reutilizar, y reciclar) y los beneficios de la limpieza para la salud. Para dichas actividades, estamos necesitados de t-shirts para la buena representación del grupo y además como somos jóvenes estos influirán a nuestro respeto y atracción de mucho más



(Fondo Q Grantees for the Second and Third Calendar Quarters, 2005 continued)

jóvenes al grupo. También, necesitamos fondos para el transporte a llevar nuestro operativo y charlas a otras comunidades y para los materiales de facilitación (como cartulinas y folletos). Los fondos de FQ ayudarán a nosotros a completar nuestra meta de estas charlas y operativa limpieza que beneficiarán a nosotros y nuestras comunidades.”

Sponsor: PCV Brooke A. Rufo Hill

Grantee: Hilma Raquel Luna de la Cruz

From: Villa Sonador, Bonaó

For: To take an English language course and use the new language skills in her teaching

Sponsor: PCV Brooke A. Rufo Hill

Grantee: Youth with a Future/ 2nd Summer Camp (*Jovenes con Futuro*)

In: Puerto Plata

For: Two camps covering goal setting and life planning, decision making, HIV/AIDS and self-esteem for older adolescents (13-20 years old) from three rural communities and five barrios of Puerto Plata. The third camp will focus on the rights of the child, goals, values and healthy living, for a younger population (8-14 years old) from 10 different barrios of Puerto Plata .

Sponsors: PCVs Jennifer McCreight, Teddy Fitzpatrick and Nancy Pellowski

Grantee: 30 High School Teachers

From: Distrito 14-01, Nagua

For: A 2 day teacher training in environmental education for 30 teachers in the high schools in Distrito Educativo 14-01-Nagua.

Sponsor: PCV Jill Higgins

Jill writes: “Right now there is an especially pressing need for effective environmental education in this region because there has been a sharp increase recently in illegal, destructive activities in the scientific reserve that, unstoppable, will have a grave impact on the future quality of life of all the people of this region that count on the reserve for water. There are also grave environmental health problems in the cities of Nagua and El Factor that could be greatly improved by changes in the habits of the citizens.

The training is designed to improve future quality of life by improving care of the environment as well as improve teacher and student motivation, quality of education, and interest in environmental service and careers. The two-day overnight training will also introduce teachers to the new ecotourism and environmental education center, which they can bring students to in the future. “

Grants Awarded in the Third Quarter

Grantee: Lidia Galva Galva

From: Buena Vista de Yaque

For: Computer training in San Juan de la Maguana

Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennett

Grantee: Victor Caraballo

From: Buena Vista de Yaque

For: Computer training in San Juan de la Maguana

Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennett

Grantee: Santa Galva Lebron

From: Buena Vista de Yaque

For: Computer training in San Juan de la Maguana

Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennett

Grantee: Diana Galva Mateo

From: Buena Vista de Yaque

For: Computer training in San Juan de la Maguana

Sponsor: PCV Megan Bennett

Grantee: Niños con una Esperanza

From: Rafey, Cienfuegos, Santiago

For: “The community group, “Ninos con una Esperanza”(Children with Hope), is currently working on a recycled paper greeting card project. PCV Kristy Wegner has given three workshops on how to make the cards to 30 women and children. The group has had 2 months of working together on the recycled paper cards and has begun selling the cards. A series of workshops on card decoration is necessary to learn how to paint standardized cards in order to have a quality product for sales throughout Santiago.”

Sponsor: Kristy Wegner

Kristy writes: “The participants have been chosen

through “Niños con una Esperanza,” a program designed to keep children and their families from searching the Santiago landfill for income. The card making project is a source of income for the children and their families, as each basic card is \$10 DR (not including a design on the front). The profit of each card will go up if the decoration is not outsourced. The women and children will gain \$20 to \$30



(Fondo Q Grantees for the Second and Third Calendar Quarters, 2005 continued)

DR more per card if they are able to decorate the card themselves. This will help the individual income of each participant. By working on the artisan aspect of the project, the participants will be able to develop manual skills, confidence, and a more ownership of the project.”

Grantee: Jeira Toribio and Santa Baez

From: Cienfuegos, Barrio La Pina, Santiago

For: Six months of English language training to assist in presenting the “Niños con una Esperanza” (Children with Hope) project to visitors from the U.S. and Canada

Sponsor: PCV Kristin Wegner

Grantee: Xiosmari Altagracia Jimenez

From: San Isidro, Santo Domingo

For: Nursing training in Santiago

Sponsor: PCV Lesley Newman

Grantee: Demetrio Antonio Rodriguez Perez

From: Juncalito, Janico, Santiago

For: Computer training in the Escuela Nacional de Informática (ENI) in Santiago

Sponsor: PCV Erin Burke

Grantee: Carlos Manuel Cruz

From: Juncalito, Janico, Santiago

For: Computer training in the Escuela

Nacional de Informatica (ENI) in Santiago

Sponsor: PCV Erin Burke

Grantee: Luis Manuel Sepuiueds Sepulveda

From: Juncalito, Janico, Santiago

For: Training in accounting and auditing, using computers.

Luis wrote” En mi comunidad se hace falta una persona que tenga conocimiento en contabilidad, por ejemplo La Asociación de Caficultores Juncalito, Centro Cultura Agrícola Técnico de ILAC y El Centro de Llamadas e Internet Tricom requieren un contable, pero no se encuentra en Juncalito. Con este curso podría utilizar mi nuevo conocimiento trabajando con organizaciones de mi comunidad y al mismo tiempo me permitiría pagar para mi educación universitaria.”

Sponsors: PCVs Erin Burke & Rachelle Olden

2005 Honor Roll List of Donors

(Reflecting deposits January 1 – October 15, 2005, not donor check dates)

- A. Randy Adams & Mary Jo Smrekar, Dan & Mary Amour, Guy Baehr, Christopher Brey, Frances Browne, Teresa Chapa, David Clary, Sally Cornelson-Watkins, Linda & Dan Edwards, James & Apornpan Dougherty, Richard Elrauch, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Michael Hirsh, John Hopper, Bernard Isaacson, Susan & Roger Johnston, Janet Kerley, William Large, Jr., Michael & Mercedes Lennartz, Dr. James G. Linn, Mick & Kristy McGuire, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, AND
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- B. DONATED IN MEMORY OF TAMARA PIERSON, THOMAS KING, KRISTEN FISKE, AND TONY MENENDEZ: Diann Streator
- C. DONATED IN MEMORY OF FELIPA MARIA: Matthew Dice & Anne Robson-Dice
- D. DONATED IN HONOR OF B.J. WARREN’S BIRTHDAY: Judith Light



Fondo Q donors Alan Randall, Steve Honore, BJ Warren and Flor Honore enjoying evening festivities in Tucson.

FUN-FILLED REUNION OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN TUCSON, AZ

Returned DR-Peace Corps Volunteers reestablished ties and friendships at the recent fall reunion in Tucson, Arizona. The Andres S. Hernandez Foundation (the "Hernandez Foundation") was a sponsor of the event. In addition to a report on current activities from the Hernandez Foundation, representatives from Fondo Q and FDR also reported on their challenge and grant programs.

Herb and Pat Trossman were instrumental in planning the Tucson reunion. They went beyond "the call of duty" when they hosted a barbeque get-together at their home Sunday night, the highlight of the meeting for many. Herb led an outing to his pistachio orchard in the historic Cochise Stronghold area of Southeastern Arizona. In addition, Sherri Teachnor hosted a wonderful cocktail reception at her home. At the Tucson reunion, it was announced that this year, the Hernandez Foundation will award a grant of \$RD 50,000 to Bienvenido Perez, better known as "Blanco Turbi," for his work in preserving four species of Sea Turtles along the southwestern coast of the DR. From his base of operations around Olviado in the Province of Perdernales, Blanco Turbi works on expanding Dominicans' knowledge of and appreciation for these turtles. The Award will be presented at a date to be announced in the near future. As always, anyone wishing to attend the presentation of the Award is welcomed. For more information, contact

A full financial report for the Hernandez Foundation was not given as Jerry Dupuy was not present. However, it was reported that, in general terms, the Foundation's award fund continues to be self-sustaining while increasing the peso amount of the annual award. The Hernandez Foundation continues to seek nominations for future awards. Please send your nominations to Andres S. Hernandez Foundation, Inc., 2434 14th St., Lewiston, Idaho 83501, ATTN Awards Committee.

While the reunion was not intended as a fund raising event, contributions were received.

WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Barber was elected to the Fondo Q Board at the October 2005 Board meeting. Jeff has a close association with the Peace Corps and ties to the Dominican Republic. He served first as a Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, from 1966-69, and then as Associate Director in Venezuela, 1970-1971 and Country Director, in Chile. Jeff worked with Tom Gittins at the U.S. Sister City Association and then moved into health care administration. He is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Owensboro Medical Health System, Inc. in Owensboro, KY. Jeff brings much experience with non-profit management to the Fondo Q Board as he serves on several boards, including the Health Careers Foundation and the Project Hope Foundation, of which he is a Co-Founder.

David Padilla was elected to a three term at Fondo Q's Annual Meeting in June 2005. David and his wife Kathy Padilla were PCVs in Venezuela from 1970-1972. Their daughter, Sara, and her husband, Andrew, served as PCVs in the Dominican Republic from 1998-2000. David retired from 27 years as a lawyer for the Organization of American States and presently has a Fulbright Professorship. In his spare time, he works as a lifeguard, pool operator and basketball referee for nine and ten year old boys and girls basketball at the Falls Church, VA recreational center. David reports that he is trying to view his "downward mobility" in a "philosophical light", "a sort of personal social experiment". Notwithstanding, David says that he "encourages" Board members and other Fondo Q supporters "to suggest other, more lucrative activities".

Ryan Reid was elected to the Fondo Q Board at the October 2005 Board meeting. He served for two years as a PCV in Paraíso as an agro forestry extensionist. Ryan is best known to Fondo Q as the outstanding third-year DRPCV who was the FQ Local Grants Manager and liaison between DRPCVs and Fondo Q. Ryan recently moved to Washington, DC where he is working on a Masters Degree in International Relations at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and he studied at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, in Monterrey, Mexico.



Jess Stone, Hal Mayerson, Andy Hernandez, and Mary Kritz presenting Herb Trossman with contributions in his honor made to the Andy Hernandez Fund.



Molly and Pat Morgan with Sherry Teachnor, who was the wonderful hostess for the opening night festivities in Tucson, at her lovely gallery of Dominican and Haitian art.

FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Friends of the Dominican Republic (FDR) is a nonprofit organization composed of but not limited to Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff who served in the Dominican Republic. The main goals of FDR are to build a national network of Peace Corps alumni and friends to continue their commitment to international service, to support the Peace Corps mission in the Dominican Republic, and to share their knowledge of the Dominican Republic and the Peace Corps with other Americans.

One highly successful FDR activity is the Community Challenge Fund (CCF), which received a boost at the October Returned Peace Corps Volunteer retreat in Tucson where contributions totaling \$2,000 were announced.

Visit FDR at www.fotdr.org to contribute online to the second fund-raising campaign or send donations to FDR Treasurer, John Evans, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312,

Former Peace Corps Volunteer Bob Kulstad Dies

Bob Kulsad, (DR-1) passed away in the Dominican Republic on November 9, 2005, from complications due to surgery. He was surrounded by his family and friends. His health had not been good for several years. According to his son Roger Kulstad, his last words were, "I love my whole family and I love all the people in the world."

Bob worked with the Department of Water (CAASD, Corporacion de Aqueductos y Alcantarillados de Santo Domingo) as a geologist following his Peace Corps service. Originally from Wisconsin, Bob received his BSc and Masters from the University of Wisconsin. Bob worked on his PhD at the University of Colorado. His PhD thesis was about the DR Enriquillo Basin.

Bob Tafelski reminisced about Bob. "I remember when I was considering joining the Peace Corps in my last semester before getting my degree from Wisconsin in geology. I read the Milwaukee Journal and they had an article about Bob - a PC geologist in the DR. I sent him a letter and he recruited me for a DR assignment. I've been indebted to him ever since for helping me make one of my best decisions - a real life changer." He had 4 great attachments: his family, Wisconsin, the DR and Dominicans, and Geology.

A service was held on November 11, at the Santo Domingo Episcopal Epiphany Church. He leaves his wife, Norma, their son, Roger, and daughters Pauline and Tess, and a host of Dominicans, former Peace Corps Volunteers and many other friends to mourn him. Condolences can be sent to Roger at rkulstad@verizon.net.



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