

THE NEWSLETTER

www.fondoq.org

Fondo Quisqueya Volume 21, No

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY BILL THRELKELD

One of Fondo Quisqueya's strengths is the simplicity of its vision, mission, and goal:

Fondo Quisqueya's **VISION** is: that all low-income Dominicans obtain the education and skills they need to be gainfully employed.

This vision motivates our **MISSION**, which is to: provide grants and scholarships to low-income Dominicans for educational/training opportunities in the Dominican Republic, leading to employment opportunities.

To achieve this mission, our **GOAL** is to: provide a minimum total of US\$3,000 in grant and scholarship funding to at least ten low-income Dominicans in each quarter of each year, for a total of US\$12,000 per year to at least 40 individuals.

Despite the simplicity of this, there is some work involved and we are fortunate to have a great team of folks who rally around the pieces we have in place to keep everything moving forward. When your donations come in (the lifeblood for all this, so thank you, thank you, thank you), the P.O. Box is monitored by Tom Gittins, who works with Treasurer Anita Friedman and Mailing List Head Honcho Minor Anderson to make sure everything is routed correctly. If your donation comes to us via PayPal, I coordinate a similar process.

Down in the DR, our Local Committee Chair, Laura Sundquist, works with Keila Bello (PCDR) to market our program and gather scholarship/grant applications, communicate with the applicant sponsors, coordinate the approval process, and get checks in the hands of the sponsors in a timely fashion.

Traveling north again, Newsletter Chair Joanna Mauer works with content contributors twice a

(Continued on page 2)

FQ Grant Allows Young Haitian-Dominican Affected by Resolution 12 to Take English Classes

BY PCV DORY TRIMBLE

José Bernardo has been using the funds from his Fondo Quisqueya grant to take an English class in his town of Villa Guerrero, El Seibo. José is affected by Resolution 12, which retroactively suspends his Dominican citizenship due to his Haitian heritage, even though he has been legally Dominican his whole life. As a result, he has been unable to go on to university after finishing high school, and he cannot apply for work in the formal sector because he does not have a national identification card. José describes himself as "un joven estudioso y serio." His FQ grant has allowed him to continue studying English, a subject that has always interested him. He is using his newfound English skills to interact with visiting American student groups that often pass through his town, and to make updates to the reconoci.do movement's Facebook and Twitter accounts for English-speaking audiences.



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year to bring you this beautiful and informative newsletter, the highlight of which is always the summaries of scholarship/grant applicants, so that you know how your contributions are having an impact.

Other committee work includes Communications/Events (welcoming back Anne Kopley to head this – and, yes, there is a redesigned website in the works!) and Evaluation, headed by Tito Coleman. And we pull together additional teams for work as needed!

All of this blends together for a little organization that has been humming along for more than a quarter century now. And you are invited to bring your energy and ideas to this mix! We are looking for more board members (some of us are getting up in age) so please consider making your interest in joining us known to me or any other board member. My phone number is 703-707-0255 or you can email me at enmicasa@juno.com.

And speaking of new board members, I'd like to welcome Mary Ferrand as our newest. Mary was elected to the board at our annual meeting in June. Thank you, Mary, for keeping the cherished Ferrand name ever present in our work!

FROM THE VP PERCH

BY BJ WARREN

Greetings! I'm so delighted that we will be holding another gathering at Los Hermanos Dominican Restaurant in Washington, DC on November 23. Save the date! (See more details about this event in another article in this newsletter.) We will have *Presidente* for sale to benefit Fondo Quisqueya grants and scholarships.

We are also looking at the possibility of holding gatherings by region. There have been several reunions of different groups of PCDR returned volunteers since the 50th anniversary celebration in Santo Domingo, and I had the pleasure of being invited to a number of these.

Cheers and Abrazos, BJ

"... we not only
met, but surpassed
our 50 for 50
campaign goal of
increasing our
endowment fund to

\$50,000."

FQ ANNUAL MEETING

BY KATHERINE HARRIS

FQ board members and friends gathered on June 15 at FQ's annual meeting and BBQ held at Tom and Sue Gittins' home in Falls Church, Virginia. The food was delicious; the *Presidente* was bien fría; we had great conversation; and we renewed and made new friendships.

Anita Friedman, FQ's Treasurer, gave an update on FQ's latest grants and scholarships. Anita also reported that we not only met, but surpassed our 50 for 50 campaign goal of increasing our endowment fund to \$50,000. Rik Laird generously agreed to visit the Peace Corps office in the DR so we can increase our outreach to current volunteers and hopefully increase the number of grants and scholarships awarded.

We tried to recruit a few new board candidates from the attendees, but unfortunately due to other commitments they are unable to serve on the board at this time. They will still serve as invaluable resources to the group, and we look forward to seeing them at next year's annual meeting. We elected several board members for 3-year terms and FQ's Officers for 1-year terms. Board members elected were: Bill Threlkeld, John Evans, Anita Friedman, Joanna Mauer, and Mary Ferrand. Mary is a new board member, but not new to FQ. Her husband, Lou Ferrand, served for many years on the board, including leading the organization as President, and we look forward to Mary carrying on his legacy. Officers elected were: Bill Threlkeld (President), BJ Warren (Vice-President), Anita Friedman (Treasurer), and Janet Kerley (Secretary).

After the meeting, we enjoyed eating the famous Gittins' grilled chicken and reminiscing about our times in the DR. Hasta la próxima.

FQ GRANTS HELP WOMEN DEVELOP SKILLS TO IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

BY PCVS RYAN BROWNING AND ROBIN DESANTIS

Below are stories about three recent grants and scholarships awarded to women in the D.R. One woman used her FQ grant to take a beauty course to become certified to style hair and paint nails, and another young woman took a public speaking course. The third grant was awarded to a women's artisan group for a painting and crafts course.

Kilsi Dionicia Rosario, after four months of course work, has successfully completed a "Curso de Belleza" through the institution INFOTEP and with the assistance of Fondo Quisqueya. Using FQ funds, Kilsi was able to afford the expensive motoconcho rides in and out of her rural community so that she could attend the beauty course in Santiago. She is now certified via INFOTEP to style hair (including coloring and applying extensions) and paint nails. Kilsi's beauty salon has seen an increase in popularity after completing the course. Her graduation certificate is hung proudly next to her giant vanity mirror. Women in the community now



have a more convenient option to get their hair done much closer to home. Kilsi would like to extend her appreciation to all those at Fondo Quisqueya who made this opportunity possible. She looks forward to remodeling her salon when she has sufficient savings.

Marilyn Lorenzo Santos is thankful for the opportunity to have improved her public speaking skills in a communications and public speaking course in her town of San Cristóbal. Her new skills have assisted her in her undergraduate studies in psychology at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, where she is now more confident in presenting her research to a class of peers and professors. Marilyn has made new friends with similar interests as well as connections for potential future employment in the field of psychology. The course has also served as a diversion from her daily routine of caring for her nephew, cooking, and cleaning, providing her with the chance to get out of the house and learn something new. Thanks for the support!



The women of the Asociación de Mujeres Unidas in Los Tocones, Samaná are grateful for the opportunity to have participated in a 10-week painting and crafts course, where they learned about mixing colors, simple painting techniques on natural materials and on canvas, as well as various crafts techniques using coconut. Their FQ grant helped pay for materials in addition to a small salary for a local artisan to teach coconut craftsmanship. The women plan to continue making similar paintings and crafts at home to sell in their community and on the beach nearby, which is frequented by tourists. The course has awoken in many students their creative minds and inspired a number of them to use their new skills for income generation in the future. We thank you for the support!





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FONDO Q'S GRANTS AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Fondo Quisqueya Foundation, Inc. ("FQ") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which was formed in 1987 by former Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff who had served in the Dominican Republic ("DR") and who wanted to give something back to the DR. FQ was Incorporated in Virginia in 1993.

FQ provides low-income Dominicans with scholarships and grants for both traditional and non-traditional in-country education and training to assist them in bettering their lives and to help them attain personal development, skills, and advancement. Grants may be to groups of individuals such as members of a coffee cooperative or a women's group.

FQ's grants and scholarships are made possible through donations and in-kind support from ex-PCVs and PC staff and other friends of the DR. FQ has no paid staff. Examples of courses funded include accounting, diesel mechanics, beautician school, barber training, driver training, worm composting, beekeeping, construction and cement skills, painting, journalism, mangrove restoration, ecotourism, inverter repair, graphic design, English, and computer classes. Funds can be used for tuition, transportation, books and materials, and other expenses associated with the course or training.

Each applicant must be sponsored by a member of the Dominican community or by a Peace Corps DR Volunteer or staff member.

Individual grants and scholarships usually do not exceed US\$300. FQ's Local DR Committee reviews grant applications quarterly and makes recommendations to FQ's Board of Directors for selection. Funds permitting, the Board seeks to fund at least a total of US\$3,000 in scholarships each quarter, for a yearly total of at least US\$12,000. Please donate now. Help our grantees help themselves.

"Touring an organic coffee farm will give these youth the opportunity to learn about local environmental efforts and be inspired to affect positive change in our community."

FONDO Q GRANTEES

Fondo Q normally awards grants and scholarships four times per year. Applicants are screened by Fondo Q's Local DR Committee. Most of the awards are for \$300 or less. Below are summaries of the grants and scholarships awarded during the spring and summer quarters of 2013, which include 9 group awards benefitting more than 200 recipients in addition to 20 individual awards. These awards have provided funding for courses and training activities including accounting, diesel mechanics, computer repair, and driver courses; a tour of an organic coffee farm; leadership training; painting classes; and many others.

GROUP AWARDS

Grantees: 10 Youth

From: El Palmar, Bahoruco

For: Tour of an Organic Coffee Farm

PCV Courtney Columbus wrote: "The Brigada Verde program aims to develop young environmental stewards who will care for their environment and be trained to educate their peers and community members on relevant environmental issues and solutions. Touring an organic coffee farm will give these youth the opportunity to learn about local environmental efforts and be

inspired to affect positive change in our community."

Sponsor: PCV Courtney Columbus

Grantees: 45 Girls

From: Batey 5 and Batey 7, Bahoruco

For: Leadership Training

PCV Nicole Phillips wrote: "This event will improve the leadership skills of active community members who lead their "Chicas Brillantes" club, an initiative

focused on women's empowerment, self-esteem and positive decision-making."

Sponsor: PCV Nicole Phillips

Grantees: 42 Parents and Students
From: Don Juan, Monte Plata
For: Educational Activities

PCV Malika Hodge wrote: "The goal of this project is to work on empowering parents and students in Don Juan to begin changing the educational culture within this community. This project will help to implement a mentorship culture that can be carried out throughout the duration of the school year, as one of the biggest issues stems from the reality that there are too many students and too

few teachers."

Sponsor: PCV Malika Hodge

Grantees:20 ChildrenGrantees:35 Community MembersFrom:La Caya, Valverde MaoFrom:Río Limpio, Elías Piña

For: Art Class For: English Classes

Sponsor: PCV Claire McManus Sponsor: PCV Stacey Cooper

Grantees: 30 Community Members **Grantees:** 9 Women

From: Las Galeras, Samaná From: El Pino, Dajabón

For: Painting Class For: Course to finish primary school

Sponsor: PCV Robin DeSantis Sponsor: PCV Kaitlyn Schroeder

Grantees:12 YouthGrantees:15-20 StudentsFrom:La Cabirma, Sánchez RamírezFrom:Las Galeras, SamanáFor:Construye Tus Sueños CourseFor:Technical Training

Sponsor: PCV Samantha Hydes Sponsor: PCV Gabrielle Bashist

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grantee: Erick Moreno Vargas
From: Haina, San Cristóbal
For: Diesel Mechanic Course

Erick wrote: "Planifico graduarme de la carrera de mecánica diésel para ser un mecánico de vehículos pesados. Actualmente estoy estudiando/trabajando en el área de mantenimiento de motores diéseles en el INFOTEP. En el semestre que entra, con la ayuda de esta beca, estudiaré inyecciones diésel. Este curso me ayudará a realizar mi meta de ser mecánico. Si yo completo este programa, tendré el nivel educativo más alto en mi familia, lo cual me permitiría ganar un

sueldo más alto y ayudar a mi familia."

Sponsor: PCV Daniel Kaplan



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"Este curso me

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reconoci.do, la cual

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para un registro

civil libre de

discriminación."

Grantee: Noemi Crisostomo Cabrera

From: Palmar Grande, Altamira, Puerto Plata

For: Driver Course

Noemi wrote: "Nuestra cooperativa, "Chocal," necesita alguien que pueda conducir y un vehículo para moverse ya que esto genera mayores ventas porque podremos suplir a los clientes con más puntualidad e incrementar los ingresos

al grupo de mujeres."

Sponsor: PCV Paul Durrant

Grantee: José Bernardo
From: La Higuera, El Seibo
For: English Course

José wrote: "Este curso me ayudará en mi trabajo como miembro de un movimiento nacional que se llama reconoci.do, la cual se encarga de luchar para un registro civil libre de discriminación. Con el inglés que voy a aprender, podré hacer incidencia por las redes sociales para dar a conocer lo que está pasando con los dominicanos y dominicanas de ascendencia haitiana."

Sponsor: PCV Dory Trimble

Grantee: Victoria Vardez Mateo

From: Las Charcas de Garabito, San Juan

For: Adult High School Program

PCV Brian Day wrote: "Victoria, who has a 5 year-old daughter, is 22 and is an active member of her community. She participates weekly in the local Mother's Club, an organization involved in community projects. With her daughter about to enter kindergarten, she now feels that she is able to leave the house to continue her education where she left off. She looks forward to dedicating her

time to achieving her high school diploma."

Sponsor: PCV Brian Day

Grantee: Yesenia Duval

From: Batey 7, La Independencia For: Teacher and Leadership Training

PCV Sean DeBuck wrote: "Yesenia is participating in courses that teach training and leadership to community members who live in the bateys. She is working

hand in hand with an NGO to learn how to facilitate lessons and develop

leadership skills."

Sponsor: PCV Sean DeBuck

For:

Grantee:Francis BeltreGrantee:Escarlin Soribel Peña HiraldoFrom:Baní, PeraviaFrom:Palmar Grande, Altamira, Puerto

English Course Plata

Sponsor: PCV Brendan Fields For: Driver Course Sponsor: PCV Paul Durrant

Grantee:María Altagracia Pérez OrtizGrantee:Rosanna Pérez OrtizFrom:Jarabacoa, La VegaFrom:Jarabacoa, La VegaFor:English CourseFor:English Course

Sponsor: PCV Samantha Norris **Sponsor:** PCV Samantha Norris

Ivan Buca Grantee: Jilafi Luna Martínez **Grantee:** Batey Doña Lila, San Pedro de From: From: Barrio El Tanque, Santo Domingo Macorís For: Information Technology Course For: **English Course** Sponsor: Laura Sundquist Sponsor: **PCV Dana Adams** Grantee: Santa Agueda Castro Rudecindo **Grantee:** Enilcia Aguistin La Victoria, Santo Domingo From: Batey Cuchilla, Bahoruco From: **Accounting Course Accounting Course** For: For: Sponsor: Sponsor: **PCV Hillary Smith** PCV Ryan DuBois Cristina Heredia Estervina Disla Utate Grantee: Grantee: From: Villa Mella, Santo Domingo From: Santo Domingo For: **English Course** For: **English Course** Julie Freehill Julie Freehill Sponsor: Sponsor: Rigoberto Pardilla Domingo Ernesto Genao Díaz **Grantee:** Grantee: Batey Doña Lila, San Pedro de From: From: Palo Verde, Monte Cristi Macorís For: **Culinary Course** For: Computer Repair Course Sponsor: PCV Julie Chou Sponsor: **PCV Dana Adams** Grantee: Ralfí Estiven Silverio **Grantee:** Yocasta Suero From: Las Charcas de Garabito, San From: Palmar Grande, Altamira For: **Driver Course** For: Adult High School Program Sponsor: **PCV Paul Durrant** Sponsor: **PCV Erin Hicks Grantee:** Carmin Rosa Henríquez Núñez From: Pozo Prieto, Puerto Plata For: **English Course** Sponsor: PCV Simona Platukyte



"Become a Fan of Fondo Quisqueya"

BECOME A FAN OF FONDO QUISQUEYA

Become a fan of Fondo Quisqueya on Facebook. Just type in "Fondo Quisqueya" on the top of your Facebook page in the box that says "search for people, places, and things;" then click on the box to the right that says "like." You will receive updates on Facebook about upcoming FQ events and ways you can contribute to FQ. Facebook is a great way to keep in touch with other Returned Volunteers and to stay connected to your PCDR friends.

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BRIGADA VERDE YOUTH GROUP TAKES FIELD TRIP TO LEARN ABOUT CORAL REEFS

BY PCV RYAN BROWNING

In June, twelve youth who had recently completed a four-month *Brigada Verde* course celebrated their graduation with an educational field trip to Cayo Arena, the DR's most celebrated coral reef. Before taking a motorized boat out to the isolated sand bar, the youth participated in an informative talk on the importance of coral reefs, how they have an impact on our lives, and how we can help protect them. After the *charla*, all twelve youth were able to see firsthand a coral reef and swim with the numerous species of fish that inhabit Cayo Arena.

Fondo Quisqueya funds made it possible to pay for the boat ride out to the island, rent the snorkeling gear, provide a beach-front lunch, pay for the transportation from the community to the beach, and print graduation certificates. This was a perfect opportunity to celebrate all the hard work the youth had put in during their *Brigada Verde* course and expose them to one of the country's greatest natural treasures. The youth are still



raving about how incredible the field trip was. They now have real-world experience with coral reefs that they have already shared with classmates and will continue to do so throughout the coming months. A special thanks to everyone at Fondo Quisqueya for making this adventure a reality!

"The youth are still raving about how incredible the field trip was. They now have real-world experience with coral reefs that they have already shared with classmates and will continue to do so throughout the coming months."

NEW FQ BOARD MEMBER

We welcome Mary Ferrand as a new FQ board member!

Mary grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Throughout her life, education has been an important vocation, particularly early childhood education. Mary received a BA in Elementary Education and a MA in Reading Instruction from Michigan State University. In between degrees, she taught fourth grade, and after receiving her MA degree, she worked as a reading consultant in two intermediate school districts in Michigan.

After moving to Virginia, Mary balanced volunteer work in education with the demands of a full time mother. Years of volunteering began at the cooperative preschool of her three children. From the preschool, she went on to plan workshops and select speakers for conferences sponsored by the Northern Virginia Council of Parent Participation Preschools. The programs offered topics to parents on subjects presented by experts in early childhood education. She continued to volunteer in public schools while serving as a substitute teacher and as a media consultant at Minnie Howard, the ninth grade school in Alexandria. Most recently, she has been happy to be "Miss Mary the Storytelling Lady" at a daycare center in Alexandria.

Mary also accompanied Louis (Lou) Ferrand during his tenure as the Secretary General of the

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Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) to conferences throughout the Americas. Mary was instrumental in establishing "Voy Contigo," a charitable group formed by the wives of IABA members. "Voy Contigo" raised funds through luncheons and auctions at annual conferences, the proceeds of which were donated to a local children's advocacy organization. Donation recipients have included an orphanage in Quito, Ecuador, a childcare project in Port au Prince, Haiti, and a tutoring program in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Most importantly for Fondo, forty-three years of marriage to Lou gave Mary an opportunity to draw close to Peace Corps and develop a close relationship to the Dominican Republic. Through the years, Mary grew more connected to the Dominican Republic as she attended reunions in Washington, DC and the Dominican Republic. As Fondo Quisqueya grew, Lou's commitment to the organization as a board member, treasurer and president, rubbed off on Mary. Through many trips to the DR, Mary met Lou's Dominican families and friends and contributed what she could to support Fondo functions. After losing Lou last year, Mary became resolved to continue his work, to honor his spirit and love for the DR, and to help build more educational opportunities for Dominicans.



BY ANITA FRIEDMAN

Greetings Quisqueyanos! I hope this edition of the FQ newsletter finds you in good health and happiness. It is hard to believe how fast this year has flown by. And even though the federal government shut down for a while, Fondo Quisqueya never did! We have been chugging along, receiving requests for support from dozens of Dominicans aspiring to improve their lives and those of their families and communities.

This year we have supported individuals in a wide array of professional development from learning English to accounting to information technology. We have supported future leaders pursuing university studies. We have supported groups—from children exploring art to farmers learning organic production techniques. Those of you who worked or lived in the Dominican Republic know what a difference an opportunity to learn can make in the life of one person, and how that learning continues making a difference through that person's community connections.

As the holiday season approaches, and the calendar year comes to an end, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support a learning opportunity for an individual or group in the D.R. You can continue to make a difference in people's lives! Thank you to all of you who have already done so this year. We salute you in our 2013 Honor Roll of Donors! Happy Holidays!



"As the holiday season approaches, and the calendar year comes to an end, please consider making a taxdeductible donation to support a learning opportunity for an individual or group in the D.R."

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2013 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1— OCTOBER 19, 2013)

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BJ WARREN ENDOWMENT: Adelita Greeson, Kathryn Hanowell, Thomas & Joan Hubbard, A.M. & G. Matson, Kincey & Bruce Potter, Spencer A. Rank, Anthony & Heather Smith

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IN HONOR OF JOHN GUY & THE POKER GANG: Daniel & Lynda Edwards

NOVEMBER 23, 2013 -SAVE THE DATE!

Plans are in the works for another DC-area Fondo Quisqueya gathering and fundraiser. See old friends, make new ones, eat tostones con kachu' and have a bien fria in the Columbia Heights neighborhood, all while supporting education and training opportunities for Dominicans in the D.R. More details to come—please like our Facebook page ("Fondo Quisqueya") to receive updates on the event and other Fondo Q happenings.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE OR BY CHECK

FONDO Q

In addition to making tax deductible donations to Fondo Q by check, you can make them through **PayPal**, **justgive.org**, and by using the **Network for Good Giving System** (NGGS). To donate online, follow the links at the bottom of FQ's "Ways to Contribute" page at **www.fondog.org/contribute**.

MILA BROOKS FUND- WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

If you wish to focus your FQ giving on low-income women in the Dominican Republic, please send your tax deductible donations to: FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

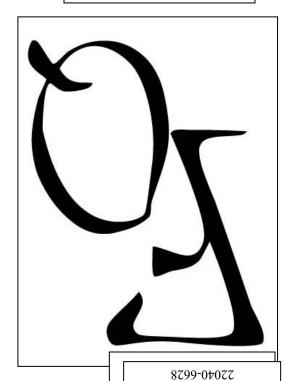
Our sister organization, FDR, like FQ, is a 501(c) (3) organization. FDR focuses on helping bring together the community of DR Returned PC Volunteers and staff in the US. It also raises money for two projects: a Program Development Fund, which supports Volunteers and PC programs with donations such as equipment and software, and a Community Challenge Fund, which provides grants for small-scale community infrastructure projects in poor communities. For more information, go to www.fotdr.org. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.



Asociación de Mujeres Unidas, Los Tocones, Samaná



Address Correction Requested



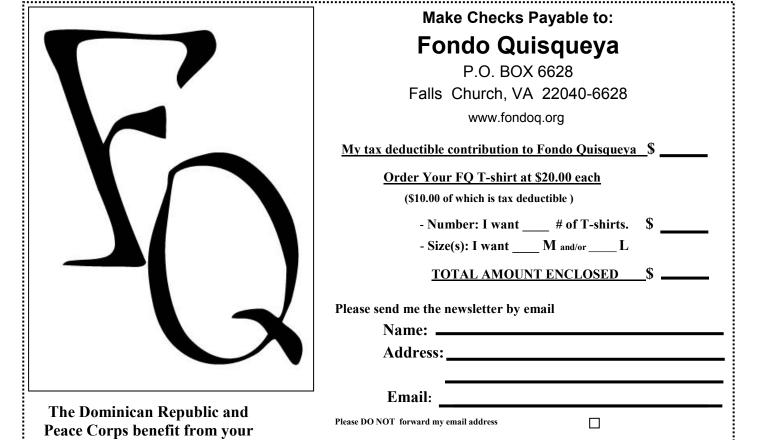
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continued support.



When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.