



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Corner</i>	1
<i>Local DR Committee &amp; PCV Sponsor Reports</i>	1-4
<i>VP's Perch</i>	2
<i>In Memoriam</i>	4
<i>Board Meeting in the DR</i>	5
<i>Grants &amp; Selection Process</i>	5
<i>2009 Grantees</i>	6-8
<i>New FQ Board Member</i>	8
<i>Website Update</i>	8
<i>Creative Way to Support FQ</i>	8
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	9
<i>Honor Roll of Donors</i>	9-10
<i>HIV-Positive Youth</i>	11
<i>June 14th Annual Meeting</i>	11
<i>Donation Form</i>	12

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Conrado Saladin

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lou Ferrand

I think you will enjoy reading in this Newsletter about some of Fondo Q's recent Grantees. I call your attention, especially, to the report from our Local DR Committee and articles by four Peace Corps Volunteers who sponsored Dominican applicants. They run the gamut from support for artistic development for one grantee, helping 24 rural youth attain computer literacy, a national environmental camp training conference for 26 young Dominicans, and a community accounting course for small business owners. Not highlighted in the Newsletter, but approved by the Board at its March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, are an award for 4 youth to take a computer course, other computer courses, an award to a women's group to learn how to make bags, a chofer (driver's) training course for 6 men, and art, English, and business courses.

Another high point for me was the Fondo Q Board of Directors' meeting in the Dominican Republic this past February. We had interesting and fruitful meetings with Peace Corps DR Director Romeo Massey and members of his staff, with members of Fondo Q's Local DR Committee headed by Jennifer McGowan, and with Peace Corps Volunteer Sponsors of Fondo Q grantees. I want to especially thank Director Massey and his staff for their support of Fondo Q's program and Jennifer McGowan for her work in helping to make the meetings a success. A highlight of our stay in the DR was a visit to the Antonio Javier Nivar IT Center in Cambita Garabitos, near San Cristóbal, where we saw 24 students in a basic computer class who had received Fondo Q scholarships totaling only \$300. I am continually

amazed at what a relatively small amount of money can accomplish. Of course, this only happens and can only continue to happen with your support. Please contribute to Fondo Q and help us to help motivated, low-income boys and girls, and women and men help themselves.

Finally, I would like to invite you to attend Fondo Q's Annual Meeting and BBQ, which will be held on Sunday, June 14 at Tom and Sue Gittins' home in Falls Church, Virginia. Present and former DR PCVs and Staff, their families, and their friends who care about the Dominican Republic are invited.

Saludos,  
Lou

## FROM FONDO Q'S DR COMMITTEE

By Jennifer McGowan

First, we would like to welcome Conrado Saladin to our local committee. Conrado is an Administrative Assistant at the Peace Corps DR office, and he has replaced Tammy Simo as our Peace Corps staff person. Conrado, along with Marin Kirby, our PCVL, provide assistance to PCVs interested in FQ. More importantly, Conrado is our liaison between the PCDR Administrative Unit that delivers FQ's grant and scholarship checks to the sponsoring PCVs and the recipients. Welcome Conrado!

Secondly, we would like to highlight one of the most recent scholarships. In the reports submitted by the Volunteers, it is obvious the good that FQ can make in an individual's life. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with



Grantee Mayelin Fermin

(Continued on page 2)



## FROM THE VP PERCH

BY BJ WARREN

Spring has come, which means that Fondo Quisqueya has received requests from our second quarter of grant and scholarship recipients who need your help to fund them. Our aim is still to provide approximately ten scholarships of about US\$300 each quarter. Thanks to your ongoing support, Fondo Q has been able to meet this goal for the past

several years.

The Fondo Board met in the DR this past February. It was very gratifying to have the opportunity to see the scholarships and grants at work (see other newsletter article). I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting on Sun-

day June 14, 2009 at 4pm at Tom Gittins' home, 6834 Woodland Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046.

Thanks very much for all your support.

BJ Warren

## FROM FONDO Q'S LOCAL DR COMMITTEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you another way that FQ can make a difference, not only with the recipients, but also in the training of new PCVs.

One of the submissions discusses the Brigada Verde National Conference funded by FQ. This conference benefited 26 Dominican youth and at the same time provided an opportunity for Peace Corps Trainees to observe successful Peace Corps Volunteers working closely with their Dominican counterparts. The training staff coordinated with Brigada Verde by taking 16 Peace Corps Trainees to the conference (costs covered by training, not by FQ). The PC Trainees played an active role in the conference by carrying out activities with the youth, but more importantly, they were able to learn by example while participating with the first and second year Peace Corps Volunteers. Trainees indicated that the conference was one of the most beneficial learning experiences in their training. We feel that participation in this workshop was an excellent tool for developing volunteer skills in working with their future project partners.

### Supporting Artistic Development

By Zahira Navarrete, PCV

Through the generous support of Fondo Quisqueya, Mayelin Fermin has successfully integrated into a 40-week painting and drawing class in Esperanza in the province of Valverde. Mayelin is a former student and current teaching assistant at El Instituto de Enseñanza de Niños Especiales (IDENE), a school for children with special needs. Mayelin, who is hearing impaired, has expressed a strong interest in art. Through her course of study, she plans to complete 20 paintings which will take her through the process of developing various drawing and painting skills including breaking down objects into basic shapes, design and composition, color mixing, working with mixed media, and a variety of techniques.



Game to learn about supply and demand.

By developing her capacity in this area, IDENE anticipates that Mayelin will be able to integrate these skills into the school community and that she might be able to become an art and manual skills instructor. In addition to strengthening her professional skills, Mayelin is also developing her talents and participating in a community activity in a way that is oftentimes not available to individuals with special needs and limited resources. Her instructor, Nelson Ortiz of Artística Hogar, has expressed success in working with students with a variety of abilities and special needs in the past and sees a lot of potential for Mayelin's development.

### FQ Benefits 24 Rural Youth in Computer Literacy

By David Mayo, PCV

The Antonio Javier Nivar IT Center in Cambita Garabitos, near San Cristóbal, started out with a bang. After its official opening on January 7, 2009, over 200 new computer users are attending a basic computer class. The Center is an offshoot business of a coffee producers group in the province of San Cristóbal, NACAS, and was supported by a Peace Corps Partnership grant

*"It was very gratifying to have the opportunity to see the scholarships and grants at work."*

(Continued on page 3)

## FROM FONDO Q'S LOCAL DR COMMITTEE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and other funding sources. Through NACAS' 33 coffee associations in different rural communities throughout the province, the primary goal of the IT Center is to take advantage of NACAS' existing rural network in order to teach the members of these isolated communities how to use computers and the Internet.

With the help of Fondo Quisqueya, a US\$300 grant provided scholarships to 24 individuals from two rural communities. For many of these students, this is the first time that they have used a computer. The knowledge they are gaining in the computer course can be transferred to meet their school and work responsibilities.

Juan de Jesus de Leon Puello is one of the students that benefited from the grant. Only half way through the course, Juan feels comfortable using a computer and can now write documents in Microsoft Word. "This course will help me to prepare reports for my high school courses," said Leon Puello. "It has helped me develop. Now I am not intimidated by a computer."

In addition to helping the 24 students, the grant is helping NACAS to achieve another important organizational goal: to integrate more youth and technology into the coffee associations and the producer group. Most rural farmers are well over 50 years old, and few young people have the desire pursue agricultural work. Instead, they opt to move to a larger town or city, but usually they have few applicable employment skills. NACAS is hoping that the youth will drive the necessary technological change in order to improve rural farming and institutional management through improved financial and production data management, technical research using the Internet, improved communication within the associations, and eventually the integration of new agricultural technologies into the farming process.



Brigada Verde members showing their arts and crafts projects.

The 24 beneficiaries, NACAS management, and the administration of the IT Center thank Fondo Quisqueya for their support in initiating the long process of integrating technology into their rural communities and the lives of rural Dominican youth.

### Brigada Verde Regional Conference

March 27-29, 2009

#### "How to Plan and Implement an Environmental Day Camp"

By Cindy Lloyd, PCVL

Peace Corps DR Volunteers planned a regional training conference for their Brigada Verde environmental youth groups. Approximately 15 PCVs and 26 Dominican youth participated in the conference. The youth selected to attend had all shown their enthusiasm for the environment; they participate in the Brigada Verde meetings and in other community activities. This conference focused on teaching the youth how to plan and facilitate an environmental day camp. This involved learning all the steps including planning the number of participants and the length of the camps, fundraising, giving "charlas" [i.e., oral presentations], and doing arts and crafts activities. Youth were asked to bring their prior knowledge and experience of day camps and the environment to the conference.

One group coming from a small campo to the North of the capital called Sierra Prieta demonstrated the skills they learned during their day camp last summer. They excel at making dream catchers, stained glass figures, and Brigada Verde bookmarks. These youth were able to pass on their knowledge and skills to other invited youth during the afternoon arts and crafts roundtable session. After this conference, we hope to see a large increase in the number of environmental day camps that are given this summer by Peace Corps Volunteers and their Brigada Verde youth.

### Community Accounting Course

By Alissa Karp, PCV

With the grant money I was awarded from Fondo Quisqueya, I am facilitating a general accounting course in my community. The class is still underway and consists of about 12 different accounting topics to help organize and improve the management of small businesses. I

(Continued on page 4)

*"This course will help me to prepare reports for my high school courses. It has helped me develop. Now I am not intimidated by a computer."*







# IN MEMORIAM: JAVIER GARZA, PCDR DIRECTOR '03-'05

BY ANITA FRIEDMAN

One thing the Peace Corps did right in 2003 was to actually allow for some overlap between the outgoing and incoming Country Directors in the Dominican Republic. The purpose was to allow for information sharing and to ensure a smooth transition. That was when I met Javier Garza. He was coming in as I was leaving my three-year post as Director of PCDR.



When I first heard that this newly appointed Director hailed from Texas, I immediately thought he must be a wealthy Texan oilman, being sent by the Bush administration. He and I often joked about that later as I came to know this truly down-to-earth, good-humored public servant, Javier Garza. And while Javier took the Peace Corps business very seriously, he also enjoyed a good party and telling jokes. Javier was appreciated by all of his colleagues in the Inter-America and Pacific Region as well as in headquarters and left many friends behind in the DR as well.

*“So far, the participants have learned about the different accounting books that a business should have to keep track of their expenditures, their debts, and the money they are owed from customers who make purchases using credit.”*

Javier Lindel Garza passed away on March 16, 2009 in Saltillo, Mexico, at the age of 60, killed tragically in a bus accident while he was on vacation. Javier spent a lifetime in public service, never forgetting his roots and always keen on helping to make this a better world. He spent his early career in Texas working with the Model Cities program in Edinburg. He went on to lead the Meals on Wheels and More of Austin, Texas program where he was instrumental in its phenomenal growth and success. He served as the PC Country Director in Bolivia until May 2008, following his posting in the DR. When he returned to the US, he settled in Pharr, Texas where he devoted himself to caring for his parents. He is survived by his daughter, Victoria Elise; his father, Jose; his mother, Aurora; two sisters, Melissa and Denise and by his brother, Rolando.

Javier will be truly missed by all of the Peace Corps DR community. We honor his spirit by continuing our work of service.

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## FROM FONDO Q'S LOCAL DR COMMITTEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

invited all the small business owners in my community, who represent a wide range of entrepreneurs including *col-mado* owners, people who sell jewelry or hairpieces, and people who are interested in starting up their own business.

So far, the participants have learned about the different accounting books that a business should have to keep

track of their expenditures, their debts, and the money they are owed from customers who make purchases using credit. As we move through the course, the participants will be able to analyze their own business to see where they can improve whether it be in sales or in presentation or in pricing. They are already beginning to see the importance of

saving money, and they have set goals for what they hope to save for including houses and their children's education.



Students at the IT Center

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## 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](http://www.fotdr.org). Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to John Evans, FDR Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

## BOARD MEETING AND TRIP TO THE DR

BY BJ WARREN

February is a lovely time to visit the Dominican Republic, and it was time for a Fondo Q Board meeting. The following Board members were able to put the two together: President Lou Ferrand, Rik Laird, Tom Gittins, Bob Tafelski, BJ Warren, and Dave and Kathy Padilla. Board member Jennifer McGowan, living in Santo Domingo, had a much shorter commute! She and her husband, Michael Terrero, provided a lovely sancocho dinner and reception for the board members and their families as well as many of the Peace Corps staff who are involved with Fondo Q's grant and scholarship program. We thank you Jennifer, not only for the lovely evening, but also for being such a capable head of Fondo Q's Local DR Committee, which makes the decisions about funding for scholarships.

The Board had a good meeting with Peace Corps DR Director Romeo Massey and his staff. Conrado Saladin was introduced as the new Peace Corps liaison with Fondo Q. Currently, there are 169 PCVs in country, many of whom are working on HIV/AIDS prevention. We discussed Fondo Q's special environmental grants and ways to encourage more scholarship and grant applica-



tions in the environmental area. We also talked with several PCVs who have sponsored Fondo Q scholarship recipients.

Following the meeting, we traveled to the site of PCV David Mayo, who sponsored a Fondo Q scholarship that provided funding for teachers to give computer courses in the coffee-growing hills outside of San Cristóbal. (See more in another article about the benefits provided to many people from this one "beca").

On Saturday, we took a day off to make sure the beaches were still intact. They really are! On Sunday, we discussed our meetings with Director Massey and his staff and with our Local Committee, and we approved a proposal to fund a two-day Brigada Verde Regional Conference for

### FQ's visit to the IT Center

Environmental Day Camps. Brigada Verde is a Dominican youth group that many PCVs in the environmental area work with that trains youth to be environmental education facilitators.

The Board approved a continuation of the current goal of awarding at least US\$12,000 in grants and scholarships each year, with most of the grantees receiving no more than US\$300. The Board also decided that providing signed certificates to scholarship recipients upon completion of their courses might help in their job search, as these types of certificates are frequently attached with resumes. Thanks also go to Rik Laird and Patti Rambasek for their hospitality!

*"On Saturday, we took a day off to make sure the beaches were still intact. They really are!"*

## FONDO Q'S GRANTS & SELECTION PROCESS

The Fondo Quisqueya Foundation, Inc. ("FQ") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which was formed in 1987 by former U.S. 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 nontraditional in-country education and training to assist them in bettering their lives and to help them attain personal development,

skills, and advancement.

FQ's grants and scholarships are made possible through donations from ex-PCVs and Staff and other friends of the DR through donations and in-kind support. FQ has no paid staff. Examples of courses funded include English and computer classes, driver training, electronics repair, diesel mechanics, and beekeeping. Funds can be used for tuition, transportation, books and materials, and other expenses associated with the course.

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.



## 2009 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. So far this year, as of March 28, the following grants and scholarships have been awarded.

### GROUP AWARDS

**Grantees:** Small business owners and vendors

**From:** Proyecto 4, Azua

**For:** Community accounting course

Alissa wrote: "With support from Fondo Quisqueya, I will teach an 18-session basic accounting and budgeting course. The course will target existing small business owners and vendors. The goal of this course is to instill daily business practices (basic accounting and record keeping) and general spending awareness (budgeting) in the participants. With these skills, participants will be able to improve the potential of their existing businesses. Coupled with this, they will learn how to develop budgets and make the most of their earnings and thus improve their standard of living."

**Sponsor:** PCV Alissa Karp

**Grantees:** 26 Dominican Youth

**From:** Various towns in the Dominican Republic

**For:** National Brigada Verde Conference on Environmental Day Camps

**Sponsor:** PCV Cindy Lloyd

### INDIVIDUAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Grantee:** Bernardo Padilla

**From:** Altamira, Puerto Plata

**For:** An English course

Bernardo wrote: "Me gustaría estudiar la ingeniería mecánica y para trabajar en este tipo de trabajo será mejor saber varios idiomas. En este país para trabajar en la ingeniería mecánica hay que esforzarse mucho en los idiomas, porque así uno tiene las herramientas necesarias para comunicarse con cualquier cliente. Yo necesito estos fondos para poder aprender a hablar inglés, que me ayudará en lo que estoy tratando de lograr."

**Sponsor:** PCV Robert Gradoville Jr.

**Grantee:** Frank Reynaldo Paula Then

**From:** Licey al Medio, Santiago

**For:** An Intermediate English course

PCV Joan Perreault wrote: "This youth is one of the most positive and motivated people I have met in my life, even after having gone through very difficult times. Receiving a scholarship from Fondo Quisqueya would continue this youth on a productive path and would further motivate him to keep taking advantage of opportunities. Frank hopes to work with foreigners or in a multi-cultural atmosphere and speaking English would widely broaden his range of opportunities. Frank has training in philosophy as he spent most of his life in a seminary training program. He is now starting to create a new life for himself in media and the arts, and continued English training would help him greatly in pursuing different areas of work."

**Sponsor:** PCV Joan Perreault

**Grantee:** Marienela Cordero

**From:** Los Cerros de Aminilla, Dajabón

**For:** A nursing course

Marienela wrote: "Ya yo tengo un niño pero no quiero que eso prevenga mi sueño de estudiar y ayudar a mi familia. Quiero ser un buen ejemplo para mi familia y trabajar en algo que me gusta mucho."

**Sponsor:** PCV Jennifer Goode

*"Me gustaría estudiar la ingeniería mecánica y para trabajar en este tipo de trabajo será mejor saber varios idiomas."*

**Grantee:** Iris Casado  
**From:** Mahoma Abajo, San José de Ocoa  
**For:** A computer course

Iris wrote: "After taking some years away from school to raise my family (I have three kids aged 13 to 17), I recently graduated from high school and have plans to go to nursing school. The computer classes I hope to take would give me an extra step ahead. My husband and I work primarily in agriculture, and I volunteer as the town council president, overseeing and coordinating projects in benefit of the community. I love the area and town where I live, and I would like to work as the local nurse in the rural clinic someday. That way, I can still be close to my family and friends in my community, but earn a better living for my family using my newly developed skills and love for medicine. My husband and family are very supportive of my dreams to go on to nursing school and pursue a career."

**Sponsor:** PCV Tod Haggard

**Grantee:** Odalis Margarita Gonzalez  
**From:** Nizao, Peravia  
**For:** A set of Executive Assistant courses

PCV Maayan Melamed wrote: "Odalis comes from a poor family with few resources. She has always fought to educate herself in order to develop personally. She attended a university but had to withdraw because of her economic situation. She hopes that these courses will allow her to secure a better job. Odalis is the primary breadwinner for her family because her husband is sick with leukemia and liver problems. She currently has a part-time job cleaning at a local private school. The director has said that he can help her find a better job once she is more qualified by completing these courses."

**Sponsor:** PCV Maayan Melamed

**Grantee:** Wadson Demeille  
**From:** Bayaguana, Monte Plata  
**For:** An English course

Wadson wrote: "Este curso de inglés ayudará mi nivel de vida porque a mí me interesa ser profesor. Por ahora yo hablo francés, español, y creole entonces en el futuro yo quisiera enseñar cualquier de esos idiomas e inglés en cualquier país. Por ahora yo trabajo en la agricultura y en el futuro yo quiero salir de eso a un trabajo más seguro. Por mi situación, es muy difícil seguir mis estudios y apoyar a mi familia al mismo tiempo. Cuando yo trabaje después de terminar mis estudios quiero ayudar y apoyar a mis hermanas y hermanos estudiar después de que ellos terminen el bachillerato."

**Sponsor:** PCV Michal Gutowski

**Grantee:** Wilson Alfonso Mejia Fernandez  
**From:** Moca, Espaillat  
**For:** A French class

Wilson wrote: "Estudiar francés es uno de los sueños de mi vida por lo cual estoy dispuesto a esforzarme hasta lograr ver realizado este sueño que representa la oportunidad de crecer y multiplicar las posibilidades personales en el mercado internacional del empleo. Otra cosa que me propongo hacer ya que termine este curso es transmitir este conocimiento a los demás personas de la comunidad."

**Sponsor:** PCV Janet Espinosa

**Grantee:** Adrian Sanchez  
**From:** Puerto Plata  
**For:** An English class  
**Sponsor:** PCV Bianca Ryan

**Grantee:** Maria del Carmen Soriano Polanco  
**From:** El Cacique, Monte Plata  
**For:** A computer course  
**Sponsor:** PCV Emily Matuzek

*"Este curso de inglés ayudará mi nivel de vida porque a mí me interesa ser profesor."*







<b>Grantee:</b> Yuly Bautista	<b>Grantee:</b> Mariaorquidea Bare Contreras
<b>From:</b> Villa Riva, Duarte	<b>From:</b> Villa Riva, Duarte
<b>For:</b> Continued English language training	<b>For:</b> Continued English language training
<b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Iris Laurencio	<b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Iris Laurencio
<b>Grantee:</b> Idelka Taveras	<b>Grantee:</b> Vreylin Abreu
<b>From:</b> Villa Riva, Duarte	<b>From:</b> Villa Riva, Duarte
<b>For:</b> Continued English language training	<b>For:</b> Continued English language training
<b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Iris Laurencio	<b>Sponsor:</b> PCV Iris Laurencio

## 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 donations to: FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

## NEW FONDO Q BOARD MEMBER

KAREN HAHN CLOUGH (DR PCV 1963-65), FQ SECRETARY

I'm back on the FQ board after a 10-year hiatus. I am most impressed with the tools FQ has set up for scholarship funding and the fact that FQ has so little overhead. It's great to see the other Board members again and, of course, no one has gotten any older.

I've been busy the last 10 years traveling with my husband, Dick, as well as morphing myself into a fiber arts person. I prepare the wool, which includes carding, spinning the wool, and then dyeing it using natural dyes from my backyard. I knit like a maniac. Other interests include going to the beach in Ocean City, MD and singing alto with various choral groups in the area. Life is good.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

BY BILL THRELKELD

If you have had a disappointing experience with FQ's website over the last few years, we invite you to come back and enjoy some of its features ([www.fondoq.org](http://www.fondoq.org)). Thanks to several FQ volunteers, map access to the most recent grantees has been enabled. The DR map itself on our homepage is not "clickable" but you can follow the province links below the map to see which grantees have been funded in which provinces. Our goal is to eventually get ALL of our grantees on the map, a trick that will take some time and research.

In addition, our Board list is updated, our latest newsletter (maybe not the one you are reading) has been added, and PayPal has been added as an option for online giving. Yes, there is still more work to do but we are slowly developing some internal capacity to administer and update the site. Thanks for your patience, and please send us any suggestions you may have about updates needed (there are already several on our list) or features that might enhance your experience.

**When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.**

## A CREATIVE WAY TO SUPPORT FQ-GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

BY PATTI RAMBASEK

Do you own life insurance policies that have cash value but are no longer needed for their original purposes? These can make convenient tax-deductible charitable gifts and provide an excellent way to make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. Simply contact the carrier of your policy and state that you need a policy change form for change of ownership and beneficiary designation. Forms among carriers vary in name, so just be sure to state that you want to name a charity as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy. Giving paid-up life insurance entitles those who itemize to an income tax charitable deduction equal to the cash value of the policy, or the actual cost basis (premium payments made), whichever is less.

*"Life is good."*



## TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD, FQ TREASURER

Expenses slightly outpaced revenues for 2008, by about \$450. We gave out nearly \$14,000 in scholarships/grants for 53 individual and four small group awards and spent about \$6,700 on newsletter-related expenses for the two FQ Newsletters which went out in 2008 (layout, printing, and mailing for about 2,000 on our mailing list). We had 93 cash donors and two who paid one of more FQ operating expenses out-of-pocket. The amounts donated varied from as small as \$10 to as much as \$2,000. The average donation was just above \$200, and the most frequent donation amount was \$100.

In 2009, our revenues to date are just over \$4,000 and we have given out slightly above \$5,000 in grants and scholarships, including a special grant of \$2,621 for a Brigada Verde Regional Environmental Conference sponsored by Peace Corps Volunteers. The money for the Conference came from a conservation/environment donation made in a previous year. In addition, at its March 28, 2009 meeting, the FQ Board authorized funding scholarships and grants for the next round of grantees in the amount of \$3,032.

We are about to enter the first of two "donor drought" periods in the year. The first generally occurs shortly after the New Year. Then, typi-

cally, we will see a notable increase following our summer Annual Meeting, followed by another drought until the end-of-the-year giving starts. These droughts, of course, will be impacted by the lousy economic conditions affecting most households at the moment.

Since FQ provides grants/scholarships four times a year, and needs about \$2,500 twice a year to pay for newsletter-related costs, cash flow is important to us. Please consider two suggestions for your FQ giving this year. First, you might want to break up your annual giving to FQ into 2-3 checks. This will help FQ's cash flow and might allow you to give more by the year's end. Second, if you have never given to FQ, please consider doing so, even at a small amount. The fact is, several "heavy hitters" boost our average annual donation to the \$200 mark. Without the nine highest donors, the average is cut almost in half. But there is a lot of potential out there for increasing our revenues. Only five percent of those who receive our newsletter make donations. If the other 95 percent gave only \$10 a year, we would have approximately \$19,000 in additional funds for our mission. Imagine that! So, don't think that what you can give this year is too small. If we all work together, it can make a big difference.

### FQ's HONOR ROLL OF DONORS.

We thank each of you who helped Fondo Quisqueya assist low-income Dominicans in helping themselves.

#### FQ's DONORS IN 2008 INCLUDED

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(Continued on page 10)

*"If we all work together, it can make a big difference."*





*“The camp also included creative educational activities that gave the youth an opportunity to discuss issues such as self-esteem and social stigma.”*

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## FQ SCHOLARSHIPS GIVE TWO HIV-POSITIVE YOUTH NEW OPPORTUNITY

By Iris Laurencio, PCVL

Fifteen HIV-positive youth, ages 15 to 20, participated in an English camp called "Healthy Me". The goal of the camp was to offer the youth an opportunity to be inspired about their futures by providing an avenue to access higher education. The camp consisted of a series of comprehensive English classes that incorporated important health topics that currently affect the adolescents' lives such as anti-retroviral adherence and prevention of HIV transmission through abstinence, fidelity and using condoms. The camp also included creative educational activities that gave the youth an opportunity to discuss issues such as self-esteem and social stigma. At the end of the camp, FQ Board Member Jennifer McGowan presented Fondo Quisqueya scholarships to two highly motivated students, giving them the financial means to enroll in an advanced English course.

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### PREFER TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE?

Donations to Fondo Q can be made through PayPal, justgive.org, and by using the Network for Good Giving System (NGGS). To donate online, follow the links on our "Ways to Contribute" page at <http://www.fondoq.org/?q=contribute>.

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

## JOIN US AT FQ'S ANNUAL MEETING & BBQ AT 4 PM ON JUNE 14!

Join us for Fondo Q's Annual meeting and BBQ on Sunday, June 14 from 4-7 p.m. at Tom and Sue Gittens' home in Falls Church, VA. All current and past DR PCVs, Staff, and other friends of FQ and their families are invited!

The BBQ will feature Tom's famous chicken and sausage and homemade delicacies contributed by attendees.

Elections for new Officers and Board members will be held, the annual report on finances and scholarships awarded during the year will be given, and ideas and plans for grant and scholarship activities for the next 12 months will be discussed. We hope to see you there! Confirm your attendance with Tom Gittins.

**Sunday, June 14, 4-7 p.m.**

**Tom's mailing and email addresses and telephone number are:**

**6834 Woodland Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046**

**E-mail: [GITASOCINC@aol.com](mailto:GITASOCINC@aol.com)**

**(703) 241-0634**

*"The BBQ will feature Tom's famous chicken and sausage and homemade delicacies contributed by attendees."*

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### In Memoriam: Lowell Robert "Bob" Satin

Lowell Robert "Bob" Satin, 77, of Anchorage, died April 26 at Providence Alaska Medical Center after a brief illness. A resident of Alaska since 1994 and a former Mayor of Seward, Bob was trained as a petroleum geologist and economist. He was the second Peace Corps Director in the DR and played a key role in the negotiations that brought about the release of U.S. Marines held hostage by rebel forces in May, 1965. Bob received a letter of commendation from then-Secretary of the Navy, Paul Nitze, and he later worked for USAID and the World Bank.





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continued support.**

**When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.**