

From the President's Corner

I am pleased to announce an important donation to Fondo Q. In December, we received a generous donation of \$10,000 from Fran Price (DR '94) to be used for grants and scholarships related to conservation and the environment. The donation was made in honor of Fran's mother, Elaine Fox. I have asked Board member Bob Tafelski to come up with suggestions for the use of this exciting gift.

In early January, members of Fondo Q's Board of Directors and Friends of the DR's Board of Directors met in Santo Domingo with DR Peace Corps Director Romeo Massey, Assistant DRPC Director Mike McCabe, and members of Fondo's and Friends' DR Representatives to plan for the 45th Anniversary Reunion Celebration of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. The reunion will be held in Santo Domingo on February 8-13, 2007. The board members also met with U.S. Ambassador Hans H. Hertell, who expressed his support for the celebration, and with current PCVs regarding Fondo Q's scholarship program.

Led by Tom Gittins, Fondo Q's Events Chair, the meetings were extremely productive. We accomplished a lot and had fun, too. We were treated to cocktail parties at the homes of Kate Wallace, Jennifer McGowan and her husband Michael Terrero, and to dinner at Mike and Billie Benson's home. Probably the high mark was visiting Fondo Q Becarios in Bonao who are part of one of the Brigada Verde environmental groups started by Peace Corps. We were literally blown away by the talent, dedication, and community spirit of these young people. It was incredible to learn and see what they had and are accomplishing by pooling three Fondo \$300 grants!



Members of the Brigada Verde joined by Members of the Boards of Directors from Fondo Q and FDR and FQ local committee members

Thanks to our donors, Fondo Q met its 2005 goal of giving out at least US\$12,000 in grants and scholarships to low income Dominicans for education and training. Fifty-four Dominicans received individual grants, ranging from computer training, teacher training, driver's training, English, health and nutrition training, beautician and massage training, sewing training, organizational leadership, marketing, ecotourism, craft making, and CPR. We also funded group activities including two summer camps in Puerto Plata, a two-day training program in environmental education for 30 teachers, a grant to train women in candle-making and business skills, and money for supplies and transportation for a community clean-up sponsored by the "Brigada Verde," one of the 20+ environmental-related youth community action groups sponsored by Peace Corps. But, even though we met our goal, there are many deserving Dominicans whom we cannot reach because of the lack of funds.

So far in 2006, we have given out over US\$2,200 in grants and scholarships for computer training, English courses, beautician training, a waiter training course, an executive secretary course, a computerized accounting course, craft training for the "Mujeres de Villa Padre Nuestro," and two environmental education workshops.

As many of you know, Fondo Q has taken on an ambitious goal of raising at least US\$100,000 over the next two years to help expand our scholarship and grant assistance program. The kick-off for this campaign is the **Fondo Q Scholarship Benefit Fundraiser** which will be held on April 27, 2006 at the Residence of the Dominican Ambassador to the USA, Ambassador Flavio Espinal and his wife Minerva. We will have a silent auction including prize winning art work from the DR, a baseball signed by Cy Young Award winner Bartolo Colon, vacation get-a-ways in the DR and in North Carolina and much more. Members of the Honorary Host Committee include the Ambassador and his wife, U.S. Senator Chris Dodd, PCDR Director Romeo Massey, and Jonathon Lash, among others. I encourage all within driving distance of Washington, DC to attend. We will have attendees flying in from Miami and Colorado, and it would be great to welcome you, too. For more information, see the article on the Fundraiser in this Newsletter.



Mark your calendars for the DR PC 45th Anniversary! Not only will it be a great event, but it will be a wonderful opportunity to see the DR again, get together with old friends, make new friends, and to learn what Peace Corps is doing today in the DR.

We are pleased to welcome Dustin Salvesson as a new member of Fondo Q's Board of Directors. Dustin is already making major contributions to the work of the Board. Be sure to read about him in this Newsletter.

A special thank you to Fondo Q's local Dominican Republic Committee headed by Ex-DRPCV Jennifer McGowan, and including ex-DRPCV Diane Partl and third-year PCV Leader Laura Sundquist. Not only do they make Fondo Q's scholarship program work in the DR, they are playing a major role in helping us plan and implement the 45th Anniversary Celebration.

Saludos, Lou Ferrand

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FQ's LOCAL DR COMMITTEE

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Views from the Vice President's Perch

A great time was had by all as we held our FQ Board meeting in Santo Domingo this past January to plan the Anniversary gathering to celebrate 45 continuous years of Peace Corps in the DR. Please put Feb 8-13, 2007 on your calendar. Send in any ideas of what you would like to see/hear during this celebration.

At our joint Fondo Q/FDR planning meeting in Santo Domingo, it was quite impressive to listen to one of the former Fondo scholarship winners speak about how her computer course has allowed her to find a job in a temp agency. This work both helps her to support her family as well to begin her university studies.

I stayed on in the DR a bit longer to visit some of the beaches on the northern coast of the DR with my friends Mike and Billie Benson. We stayed at a little guest house in the Nisibon area. I saw that the beach called "La Vacama" also had a sign designating it as "Lava Cama." One of the local folks explained that there had been a high tide which washed almost everything out to sea. One of the people got their bed back from the ocean and commented that the tide really washed the bed. Hence the name "lava cama." Now they feel that they need a more serious name to attract tourists. Who knows??

Speaking of calendars, there will also be a gathering for former DR Peace Corps folks in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 16-18, 2006. Reservations can be made by calling the Rio Grande Inn at 1-800-528-1234. The price is \$73.00 plus tax for a double or single occupancy room. Please mention Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic when you make your reservation in order to get this lower rate. You can contact Jess Stone for more details: 1-208-798-7043 or JessStone@aol.com. Andy Hernandez, the first Peace Corps Director will be there, si Dios quiere.

All the best, BJ Warren, VP

Brigada Verde Youth Group, Sonador Bonao By Fondo Q's DR Local Comité

"To me, the Brigada Verde group of Sonador, Bonao is an inspiring example of what can be attained with Fondo Quisqueya scholarships," said Jennifer McGowan, one of the enthusiastic leaders of Fondo Q's Local Committee in the Dominican Republic. FQ funds provided 25 youth with the opportunity to learn about and replicate environmental education messages in their community.

In January, 2006, FQ and FDR Board members and FQ's Local Committee members visited the Brigada Verde group during their recent trip to the DR and observed some of their accomplishments. All attending were very impressed with this group and how this FQ scholarship came to be.

PCV Brooke Rufo Hill requested the FQ scholarship for US\$278.55 to support Brigada Verde's environmental training programs with local youth. Brooke originally offered three of the youth the opportunity to submit scholarship requests for individual training through one of the local trade institutes. The group however did not feel comfortable with the idea that only 3 of their 25 active members would be able to study. The group approached Brooke with another idea - one which would offer leadership opportunities for the entire Brigada Verde youth group.



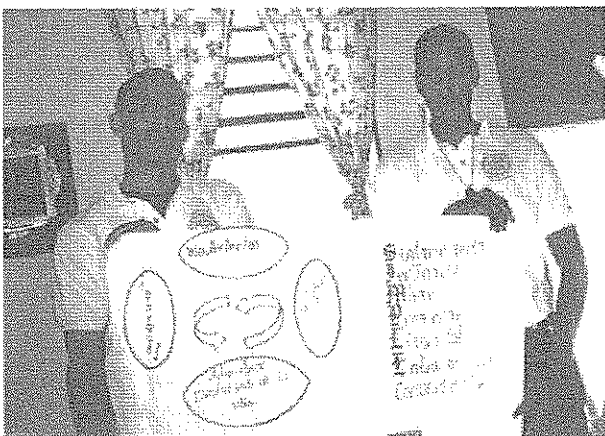
(Brigada Verde Youth Group, Sonador Bonao continued.)

The group requested a group scholarship that would provide support materials, transportation, and professional uniform shirts to all group members so that they could carry out their summer activities projecting environmental messages to over 500 community members. In addition, some of the materials would be used to paint environmental murals and to carry out a community clean-up project. The transportation money would allow the group to participate in a nation-wide Brigada Verde training conference funded by Friends of the Dominican Republic.

During the summer of 2005, most of the activities were carried out with the exception of the community clean up. This delay occurred as a result of two serious motorcycle accidents that left two of the group members, Aruby and Ricky, hospitalized and in recuperation for some time. The rest of the group members did not want to exclude these two young men from the activities and therefore they will initiate this project in the spring.

During the January visit, the Brigada Verde group gave a demonstration of their trainings, and sang several songs, including a rap composed by the group with environmental messages "Siembra!" We also had the opportunity to view two murals designed, painted, and strategically located at the entrance of the community. All group members proudly wore their uniform shirts, purchased with Fondo Q funds. Jennifer added, "I would like to highlight that originally, the Local FQ Committee was reluctant to fund the shirts. However, when we requested clarification of the use of the shirts, the youth stated that professional dress was something they felt important to establish credibility with the public when carrying out their trainings. After observing them in "action," I certainly would agree."

Although not a traditional FQ scholarship, these youth have profited as much as our individual grantees. They have been provided a forum to learn and cultivate leadership skills that have served, and will continue to serve them in their university studies and professional careers or trades.



Members of the Brigada Verde and some of their artwork.

Treasurer's Report Bill Threlkeld, FQ Treasurer

Fondo Quisqueya closed out 2005 with more than \$14,000 in revenues derived from nearly 80 different donors (some of whom contributed more than once during the year). With those funds, and additional funds carried over from 2004, we provided a total of \$12,632.56 in grants/scholarships to 54 recipients. At the close of the year, approximately \$1,300 remained available for grants and scholarships in 2006.

Since closing the books for 2005, and with the help of end-of-the year donations, we have received more than \$13,000 in donations, including a memorial fund of \$10,000 from Fran Price (D.R. '94), in memory of her mother, for conservation projects in the D.R. With the additional funds received in 2006, an additional 12 grantees/scholars received a total of nearly \$2,500 for training in computers, English, craftmaking, cosmetology, accounting, executive secretarial services, food service/waiting, and environmental education.

This steady support from FQ friends makes dreams come true. The financial support we provide to individuals **IS** having an impact, not only for the direct recipients but also in spin-off effects for individuals' immediate and extended family. For those of you who have had the privilege of living in Dominican communities, you know how close-knit the Dominican family is; the benefits received by one family member extend to other members of that family. And families help neighbors, and so on, and so on – one small grant/scholarship of less than \$300 can have a multiplier effect throughout a small community. Please continue your support in 2006 and spread the word – FQ is having an impact!



2005 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(reflecting deposits January 1 – December 31, 2005, not donor check dates)

- A. Randy Adams & Mary Jo Smrekar, Teresa Chapa, Sally Cornelson-Watkins, Linda & Dan Edwards, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Janet Kerley, Dr. James G. Linn, Keith A. Olson, William A. Miller, Minotar Amusements, Inc., David & Cathy Padilla, Linda Sue Stein, Bob Tafelski, Bill Threlkeld, Travis T. Ward, Roberta (B.J.) Warren, Alan Randall, Patricia Rambasek, Christopher Brey, John & Helen Torphy, Gerald Lutes & Marsha Zelle, Anne Ternes, Bernard Isaacson, Susan & Roger Johnston, Richard Elrauch, Guy Baehr, John & Mary Walker, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, James Van Fleet, Mick & Kristy McGuire, David Clary, Donna Rieper & Odalis de los Santos, William Large, Jr., John Hopper, Michael & Mercedes Lennartz, Judy Muncrief, Kincey & Bruce Potter, Dan & Mary Amour, Michael Hirsh, Thomas Semler, Frances Browne, James & Apompan Dougherty, Elmira Gilbert & John Rifenbark, Stuart Frisch, Gene de la Torre, Carol Brancich, Bob Meyers, Mary Kritz, Lou Pleeter, Herb Trossman, Art Johnson, Mike Dillon, Pete Smith, Flor Honore, Jose & Marly G. da Rosa, Jess Stone & Frances Hedrick, Zulema & Merle Smith, Michael McCrory & Sherry Teachnor, Harold Mayerson, Melzer (Pat) Morgan, Judith and John Thoms, Stephen & Valerie Pulaski (Pulaski Family Trust), John and Amparo Prusia, Joseph and Margaret Deslaurier, Ruth Mackenzie Saxe, Gene Lane, Lauren Mann Baez, Christina Abraham, Eric Wagner, Sherwood and Jaclyn Seigel
- B. C. 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

2006 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(reflecting deposits January 1 – February 15, 2006, not donor check dates)

- A. Kimberly Linden, Margaret R. Bennett, Teresa A. Chapa, Dan & Mary Armour, Polly Harrison, Elmira O. Gilbert & John T. Rifenbark, John & Jeanne Evans, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Micheal & Rebecca Vortherms, Travis & La Donna Ward, Rick Laird & Patricia Rambasek, Pete & Joy Duarte, Bill Miller, Patricia Erwin, Steven and Claudia Campbell, D.E. Rieper & O. de los Santos, Heritage High School (c/o Terri Eubanks), Mayerson Stutman LLP (Harold Mayerson)
- B. DONATED IN HONOR OF TOMMY VENTRE: Alissa Clendenen, June Heckman, Justis Brogan, Michael Davis, Matthew Gettier
- C. DONATED IN HONOR OF ELAINE FOX, FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE D.R.: Francis Price (Fox Foundation)
- D. DONATED FOR A SMALL BUSINESS PROJECT IN LA VEGA/CONSTANZA AREA: Harold Hopkins, Jr.
- E. DONATED IN HONOR OF JOHN GUY SMITH: Lynda Edwards
- F. DONATED IN HONOR OF B.J. WARREN'S BIRTHDAY: Judith Light



Fondo Q Grantees for the First Quarter of 2006

In addition to the individual grants given this quarter, Fondo Q awarded scholarships to three groups, including twenty-two members of the Villa Padre Nuestro's Women's Association; sixty public school teachers in Nagua; and thirty young people in Constanza who are involved in environmental education.

The grants in this period include several related to the tourism industry – learning to tend bar, to create floral displays for hotels, and to give eco-tourism talks. Gaining computer skills continues as a steady demand, albeit with forays into computer accounting and creative writing. A follow-on environmental education course for teachers is enthusiastically described by PCV Jill Higgins, and PCV Adia Major likewise gives a spirited account of environmental training for the 30 youth.

Grants in the 1st Quarter

Grantee: Carlos Manuel Puello Capellan
From: La Colonia Cg, San Cristóbal Province
For: English language instruction
Sponsor: PCV Andrea Pestone

Grantee: Luis Alfredo Rodríguez Peñalo
From: María Trinidad Sánchez, Villa Mella
For: Training in bartending and food service
Sponsors: Former PCV Jennifer McGowan /PCV Laura Sundquist

Grantee: Twenty-two members of the Womens' Association of Villa Padre
Nuestro
From: Villa Padre Nuestro, Bayahibe, Altagracia Province
For: A handcraft course in dry floral arrangements for tourist and local markets
Sponsor: PCV Rosa M. Garcia

The women wrote, "*El curso va a mejorar nuestras destrezas como artesanas, desarrollando nuestra capacidad de crear y vender productos de calidad para el mercado turístico. Con los productos que hacemos del entrenamiento, esperamos participar en varias ferias entre octubre y diciembre, la mayoría de cual estará en la zona Romana-Bayahibe. Las ferias servirían como una introducción al mercado, ayudándonos a conocer las personas encargadas de venta en los hoteles de Romana-Bayahibe y en otras partes del país. Además esperamos continuar produciendo arreglos en seco como suplidoras a los hoteles en Romana-Bayahibe para ocasiones formales como la navidad, bodas, y otras fiestas. Después del entrenamiento, esperamos crear un catalogo de nuestros productos para mandar a los hoteles y a individuales que tengan interés en comprar nuestros productos para arrancar este parte del proyecto.*"

Grantee: Yesenia Acosta Almonte
From: La Peonia, Nagua, Province of Maria Trinidad Sanchez
For: Training in computer skills including computerized accounting
Sponsor: PCV Jill Higgins

Jill Higgins, the PCV sponsor, writes, "*The Commercial Network of Cacao is building a center and small chocolate factory en La Peonia (a small, very poor rural community in the buffer zone of the Reserva Loma Guaconejo near Nagua) and will be hiring someone to work in the office with computer and accounting skills. Yesenia lives in the community and studies psychology at the University in Nagua and needs to earn money to support her studies. The coordinator of the Network (for whom I have tremendous respect) suggested that she take a course that includes computerized accounting so she can compete for the job. If she doesn't get the job she plans to find another job with the same skills.*"



(Fondo Q Grantees continued)

Grantee: Sixty public school teachers
From: Nagua, Province of Maria Trinidad Sanchez
For: Teacher Workshop in Environmental Education
Sponsor: PCV Jill Higgins

Jill writes: *"The teachers who attended my Environmental Education courses and follow-up workshop have requested that I do another workshop before I complete my service. They are excited, have been using the activities and resources from the course, and are eager to learn more. I am thrilled to see this kind of enthusiasm and motivation and want to encourage it, and I have the fantastic opportunity to bring PCV Brooke Rufo-Hill and several youth leaders from her Brigada Verde group in Bonao to do their dynamic "charlas (talks) about deforestation, water, environmental ethics and Quantum Learning. Modesto Gonzalez, the Environmental Education technical specialist is very excited about this idea because the district is trying to encourage art education right now as well as Environmental Education and these "charlas" are shining examples of the integration of environment and the arts. I also think it will be very inspiring for the teachers to meet students who are so motivated to protect the environment and it will be an excellent opportunity to discuss with the students how they became motivated and what kind of educational experiences have been the most effective for them. I plan to also invite the high school teachers who will (finally, hopefully!) have their course Feb. 9 and 10, so there will be potentially 60 teachers, principals, and staff.*

Environmental Education is a dire need here and is not happening in the schools despite a requirement by law. This is a "teachable moment!" There is some momentum and synergy here and it would be a terrible waste to let it fade away. The teachers and participants who stayed together at the center have bonded around this goal and they need to stay in touch with each other to keep their inspiration and commitment going. This workshop will increase their knowledge, their toolkit of exciting practices, and most importantly their inspiration to keep teaching about the environment and keep enriching their educational styles to make them more interactive, motivating and effective. The copies of information and activities are important because the schools have no books to use for Environmental Education. Most of the teachers who participated in the initial course have taught the activities out of the manuals they received there."

Grantee: Santa Cecilia Castillo
From: Villa Fundación de Bani, Province of Peravia
For: Training as an executive secretary
Sponsor: PCV Jeremiah Marble

Grantee: Nurys Romero Ortega
From: Villa Sonador, Monseñor Nouel, Bonao Province
For: Training in computer skills
Sponsor: PCV James Rufo Hill

The Fondo Q-sponsored training will allow this writer to go from longhand drafts to word processing. In her own words: *"Con esta ayuda yo podria hacer realidad mi más deseado sueño, podria pasar algunas obras a computadora. Por supuesto cuando ya pueda poner en obra lo que pueda aprender y posible realizaría mi sueño de llevar al publico alguna de las obras literaria que poseo, contribuiría con un aporte de desarrollo a la sociedad. ... Y con el otro dinero que estoy pidiendo, yo deseo pagar por la digitación de mis obras de literatura que se llaman: 1. Dama de compañía por accidente, 2. Un papa muy ocupado, 3. Elección para escoger una esposa."*

Grantee: Berelise Rosario Guzman
From: Villa Sonador, Bonao Province
For: English language training
Sponsor: PCV James Rufo Hill

Grantee: Kenia Wilman Santana Ureña
From: Escalera Abajo, Altamira, Puerto Plata Province
For: Training in computer skills
Sponsor: PCV George Leamos

Kenia writes, *"El curso es manejo básico de la computadora. Este curso desarrollará mi nivel de conocimientos y aprendizaje no solo ahora, sino también en el futuro. Y a través del podré realizar con más facilidad los trabajos de mi empleo. Además me ayudará en mis estudios ya que comenzaré la universidad en Enero de 2006 y con el conocimiento que adquiero con el curso de computadora me dará una ayuda para así poder hacer los trabajos que tendré que realizar."*



(Fondo O Grantees continued)

Grantee: Ivelisse Rodriguez
From: Escalera Abajo, Altamira, Puerto Plata Province
For: Training in computer skills
Sponsor: PCV George Leamos

Grantee: Dominga Gertrudy Urefia
From: Escalera Abajo, Altamira, Puerto Plata Province
For: Beauty School
Sponsor: PCV George Leamos

Grantee: Adia Major/Thirty young people from 8 urban and rural communities around Constanza
From: Las Auyamas, Constanza, La Vega Province
For: Environmental Education
Sponsor: PCV Adia Major.

Adia wrote the following: *"The training/educational activity is for 30 youth of Constanza. The youth are "multiplicadores" (trainers) who have completed a five-day Environmental Education workshop and are currently working on environmental activities in their communities. The training proposed in this grant will be a follow-up to that first workshop. This training will cover eco-tourism in relation to the importance of National Parks and "How-To-Create-Didactic Tools" for Environmental Education. The "multiplicadores" will visit the National Parks Valle Nuevo and Ebano Verde to meet with foresters and other park officials. They will learn how to do interpretative trails and about the meaning and importance of eco-tourism. In terms of didactic tools, the children will prepare murals and exhibitions in their schools and communities.*

The training will, above all, give the youth role models. They will have the chance to see first-hand the individuals who have made environmental education a career. They will see the variety of career choices available to them as conservationists, in hopes that they will consider taking the same path. Furthermore, they will have the opportunity to learn about what steps have been taken to conserve the environment of this country through the National Parks. Finally, they will develop an idea of possible income generating activities in eco-tourism and develop the skills to be able to perform these activities in their own communities. The didactic tools will provide the youth with the opportunity to reach more individuals through more innovative and artistic-based environmental tools that can be shared with the individuals of their communities at every age and educational level.

The multiplicadores have done reforestation and clean-up operatives. They have given talks in their communities and local schools. One group in particular runs a mini-worm composting business. The "multiplicadores" are very motivated and will benefit from further environmental education training. I am sure with this particular group that with what they learn they will continue to teach others for years to come. The chance to meet individuals who earn a living from conservationism is rare, but with the approval of this grant, very possible. The youth will then have an idea of probable career choices in the environmental field; furthermore, they will meet role models who can continue to inspire them once their Peace Corps Volunteer has left. To conclude, the chance to create their own didactic tools will give them ownership of their own projects and make them proud and confident with their role as multipliers."

Fondo Quisqueya Grants Support Environmental Education
By Ryan Reid and Joe Kennedy

Joe Kennedy, an Environmental Education PC Volunteer assigned to work with the Guide Association of Damajagua at 27 Charcos, recounted the following about a group of dedicated Dominican tour guides.

Located 30 minutes south of the beaches of Puerto Plata, 27 Charcos has become a prime destination for approximately 55,000 international and national tourists annually. The Guide Association was established in 1998 to provide tour services to these visitors. Since arriving in May 2004, Joe has provided training for the members of the Association to develop a comprehensive tour package that includes multi-lingual guides who are trained in first aid and environmental education, arts and crafts designed by local artisans, an information center, interpretive trails, and other income generation activities that benefit the local community. Joe is currently



(Fondo Q Grants Support Environmental Education continued)

negotiating with the Dominican Secretary of Tourism and the Secretary of Environment to develop a Co-Management Agreement, which will establish 27 Charcos as a National Park. The proceeds from the Park entrance fees will be used for community development projects, park maintenance, the guide association, and public revenue.

"I have solicited Fondo Quisqueya twice seeking support for community training programs, and both have been tremendous successes," Joe said. He explained that "My counterpart group, The Guide Association of Rio Damajagua, first solicited FQ for \$12,000 pesos for Red Cross training in First Aid and CPR. The normal cost of such training was upwards of \$15,000, but through an agreement brokered by the PCMOs, the Red Cross provided 8 days of training for \$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 guides only, but the Red Cross trainers were extremely flexible and allowed other family members and friends to attend the workshops. Several family members and friends took part in the sessions.

The First Aid training was an intensive four hours (5:00 – 9:00 pm) for four consecutive nights. The sessions were long and tiring, especially after a long day's work and for those not accustomed to spending time in the classroom. The first two sessions were primarily lectures; the second two provided hands-on practice and scenario analysis.

The CPR training sessions were similar. Classes ran for the same four hour period, with a lecture to begin the week, followed by two days of intense practice and analysis. The last two hours included a hands-on evaluation and examination.

Joe's second grant from Fondo Q was for \$6,000 RD (\$200 US) and paid for the second half of a training workshop administered by the Sub-Secretary of Protected Areas. The total for both of these trainings totaled RDS15,500, of which RDS7500 was paid by the Guide Association, RDS1500 by a partner guide group, and the remaining RDS6,000 by Fondo Quisqueya.

All thirty guides and 8 trainees earned their certification.

This two-day workshop provided 16 hours of training in guide responsibilities, environmental interpretation, flora and fauna identification, review of other national parks around the country and theory of co-management agreements. The guides were able to solidify their knowledge in several of these areas as well as get another view on the overall purpose of the project. Seven different representatives from all over the country participated in the course.

Joe reports, *"I cannot overstate the support that Fondo Quisqueya has given me over the course of my service in the Dominican Republic. The skills learned during the First Aid and CPR courses have already been used several times successfully, resulting in much better safety and security measures at Damajagua. The environmental training was a prerequisite for obtaining our agreement with the Secretary of Environment, which itself formed the basis for my entire two years of service. Simply put, Fondo Quisqueya has given me the initial support and the added push I needed to get my project rolling."*

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!

**JOIN US AT THE 45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PEACE CORPS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ON**

February 8 – 13, 2007

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Peace Corps Dominican Republic, in partnership with Fondo Quisqueya and Friends of the Dominican Republic, invites you to join us in Santo Domingo on February 8-13, 2007 to help celebrate 45 years of continuous service, friendship, commitment and development in the Dominican Republic.

In the coming months you will be hearing more about the special events, forums, and other activities at the 45th Anniversary Celebration. All former DR PCVs and staff are encouraged to contact members of their DRPC group and colleagues to plan to get together in Santo Domingo on February 8 – 13, 2007. **SAVE THE DATE!**



**JOIN US AT
FONDO QUISQUEYA'S SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT
RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION
AT THE
RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED STATES
2930 Edgvale Terrace, Washington, DC**

*THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

Join your Dominican Republic Peace Corps friends and colleagues and other friends of the Dominican Republic at a special Fondo Quisqueya Scholarship Reception and Silent Auction at the Dominican Republic Embassy Residence in Washington, DC.

The event, hosted by Ambassador Flavio Espinal and his wife Minerva, is for a very good cause as all proceeds will go to the Fondo Quisqueya Scholarship Fund to benefit non-traditional and traditional vocational training, professional development and career development for deserving, low income Dominicans in the Dominican Republic. Plan to come and enjoy the festivities.....invite your friends from your PC group to join you and have a mini-reunion!

The Silent Auction will feature Dominican Republic and other vacation packages, signature Dominican baseball items including a baseball signed by American League Cy Young Award winner Bartolo Colon, prize winning artisan works donated by the DR's Ministry of Culture and much more. Together with Ambassador Espinal and his wife, the Host Committee includes OAS Ambassador Roberto Alvarez, Senator Christopher Dodd, DR Peace Corps Director Romeo Massey and other dignitaries.

Individual tickets are only \$ 75.00. Sponsorship categories are available as well: The \$250.00 UNA BECA level covers full sponsorship of one scholarship plus one event ticket; the \$500.00 DOS BECAS level includes full sponsorship of two scholarships and two event tickets; \$1,000 AMIGOS level includes full sponsorship of four scholarships plus a private dinner evening with Ambassador Espinal on another occasion. It's fun and it's for a very good cause.

To register in advance for the Benefit, please fill out the form below and return to:

*Fondo Quisqueya
P.O. Box 6628,
Falls Church, VA 22040-6628*

Make checks payable to Fondo Quisqueya. Contributions to sponsorship categories are tax deductible. \$50 of the individual ticket cost is tax deductible.

I/we will attend the April 27, 2006 Scholarship Benefit Event. Please register me/us for the following:

___ Amigos \$1,000
___ Dos Becas \$500
___ Una Beca \$250
___ Tickets @ \$75 each

Enclosed is my check for \$ ___ for ___ persons.
I/we cannot attend. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____



Welcome to New Fondo Q Board Member DUSTIN SALVESON

Dustin Salvesson became the 15th member of Fondo Q's Board of Directors as a result of a January, 2006 decision by FQ's Board of Directors. A recently returned PCV, Dustin was a Community Economic Development volunteer assigned to work with a micro-credit organization in Barahona. Dustin knows the value that the FQ scholarships provide in the lives of low income Dominicans. While serving in the Dominican Republic, he sponsored several youth in Barahona for Fondo Q scholarships to further their English studies and thus enhance their income earning potential in the hotel industry. Dustin has already begun to participate actively in Board activities by comparing FQ's address list to the new Peace Corps listing in order to increase the number of people on our mailing list. When notified of his election, he said, "I look forward to working with all of you to help Fondo Quisqueya reach its goals and achieve its mission." Welcome, Dustin!

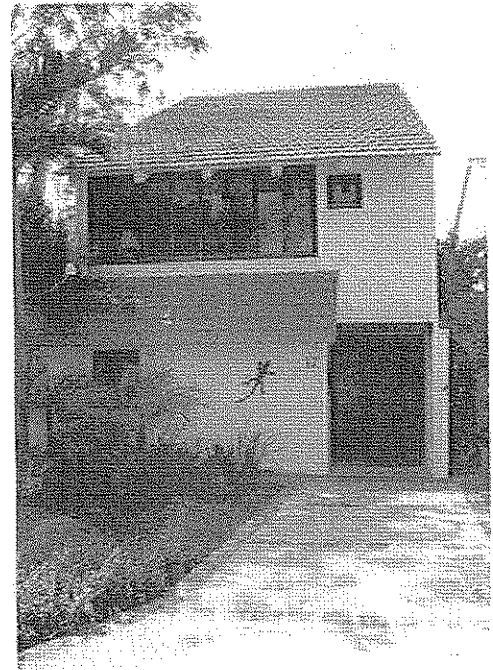
CAN YOU HELP WITH THE SILENT AUCTION?

Going Once! Going Twice! Sold to the highest bidder! The silent auction at Fondo Quisqueya's April 27 Scholarship Benefit Reception at the Dominican Republic Embassy Residence in Washington, DC promises to be a fun and profitable part of the evening's events. Many interesting items have already been donated.

However, more donations are needed. Can you help? Reflect on your hobbies, interests and careers, past and present and consider whether you have something that you could offer for the Benefit. Consider the following:

- Are you a good cook? Could you teach a cooking class to kids or adults? Or host a cocktail or dinner party at your home?
- Could you donate tickets to the Redskins or the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap or another theater?
- Do you have a vacation home you could donate for a weekend?
- Do you or any of your friends or relatives own a restaurant, store, or business? Would they donate food, an item or a gift certificate?
- Have you received duplicate luxury gifts (jewelry, perfume, designer handbags, etc) that are taking up valuable room in your closet?
- Do you have an interesting job that might offer a behind-the-scene career perspective to a student?

To donate items or services, please contact Janet Kerley (ikerley@erols.com) or Mary Ferrand (mferrand@acps.k12.va.us).



Beach House at Casa de Campo, La Romana, Dominican Republic. Generously donated to the April 17, 2006 Silent Auction at the DR Ambassador's Residence, by the Lairds.

News from Friends of the Dominican Republic

FDR supports **The Community Challenge Fund ("CCF")** and **The Program Development Fund ("PDF")**. CCF supports small PCV-organized infrastructure projects (up to \$2000) in poor Dominican communities. Contributions are matched by CCF's founder, RPCV John Epler (DR 13) and his family. Local communities provide approximately 25 percent of project cost through labor and other in-kind donations. PDF has been used to assist various DRPC programs and activities. Since 1998, it has contributed \$22,625 to support PCVs and their projects. PDF also arranged an in-kind contribution from Typing Master for 2000 licenses, and it gave \$2000 for flood relief in 2004 and \$2199 for several Brigada Verde environmental workshops in 2005. FDR welcomes contributions for either fund. Send checks to John Evans, Treasurer, 4512 Park Road, Alexandria, VA 22312 or at www.fodr.org. To receive FDR's *Cyber News*, send your email address to wisacre@verizon.net.



**PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL
ADDRESS!**

Please provide us with your e-mail address. Increasingly, Fondo Q is moving towards electronic communication. It's faster. It's more effective. It's cheaper. Any money we save on communications adds to the number of grants and scholarships that we can award to deserving Dominicans. As Minor Anderson, our Board Communications Director says, "Over the long haul this will be a much more effective way for us to communicate, but we only have about 150 addresses in the database currently."

So, please send your e-mail address right away to Minor Anderson at "manderson@med.miami.edu". Minor asks that you type 'Fondo' in the subject line and your email address in the body. Minor says, "That way I will know it's not spam."