



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the VP Perch</i>	2
<i>In Memoriam</i>	2
<i>Mila Brooks Fund</i>	3
<i>FQ's Annual Meeting</i>	3
<i>FQ Grantees</i>	4
<i>FDR</i>	9
<i>Local DR Committee</i>	9
<i>New FQ Board Member</i>	10
<i>DR- 26 Compadres</i>	10
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	11
<i>Honor Roll of Donors</i>	11
<i>Update FQ's website</i>	12
<i>English Course Inspires</i>	12

FQ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Lou Ferrand

Vice-President

BJ Warren

Treasurer

Bill Threlkeld

Secretary

Karen Clough

Events Chair

Tom Gittins

Newsletter Editor

Joanna Mauer

Directors

Minor Anderson

John Evans

Anita Friedman

E. Anne Kopley

Richard Laird

Gene Lane

Jennifer McGowan

David/Kathy Padilla

Robert Tafelski

FQ's DR Committee

Jennifer McGowan (Chair)

Marin Kirby

Diane Partl

Tammy Simo

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lou Ferrand

In reading in this newsletter about the Dominicans who have received grants and scholarships from Fondo Quisqueya in 2008, I was, as always, impressed with what a small amount of money can do when coupled with desire, interest, and hard work by our grantees. Almost all receive a grant or scholarship of no more than US\$300, and often less. They use this money to help to begin to build a better future for themselves and their families that might not otherwise have been possible or even conceivable.

It is almost like the opposite of a folk tale I learned as a child: *"For want of a nail, a shoe was lost; for want of a shoe, a horse was lost; for want of a horse, a soldier was lost; for want of a*

soldier, a battle was lost; for loss of a battle, a war was lost; and for loss of a war, the country was lost." You could craft your own tale about Fondo Q: *"From a contribution by a FQ supporter, a grant was given to a Dominicana to take a computer course; after completion of that course, she obtained a computer-related job; and with her earnings from that job and other subsequent training and jobs, she changed her future and made a better life for herself and her family."*

This is what Fondo Quisqueya is all about — former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff and others who want to help low-income Dominicans help themselves, donate money to Fondo Q, thereby starting the chain. Without these contributions, the first link in the chain would not be forged, the scholarship would not

be granted, and the positive change in the Dominicana's life situation probably would not happen.

We try to give out at least US\$12,000 each year in grants and scholarships, but the demand is much greater than our annual contributions. If you are a current contributor, thank you and please continue to contribute. If you have never contributed, I encourage you to join us and do so.

Now, some sad news. As you will read in this newsletter, some of our supporters have passed away this year. We will miss them. I send my personal condolences to their families.

Gracias y Saludos,
Lou

FQ SCHOLARSHIP GIVES MOTHER NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By Lily Mendelson, PCV, La Capilla, María Trinidad Sánchez

"It's a pleasure to study English. Many thanks for this opportunity that you have given me," says Cenía Pereyra, recipient of a Fondo Quisqueya grant that has allowed her to take a weekly English class in the nearby town of Cabrera. Cenía, a resident of a small *campo* in the northeast corner of the Dominican Republic, is 25 years old and has two sons ages four and six. In high school, she was one of the top students in her class and participated in various extracurricular activities. Cenía got married shortly after graduating and soon after was pregnant with her first child. Although this meant putting a hold on her plans to study at the local university, she continued to express an eagerness to learn new skills. Unfortunately, there are few opportunities for technical classes in the immediate area, and transportation costs prohibited Cenía from traveling to nearby towns.

(Continued on page 2)



Grantee Cenía Pereyra



FQ SCHOLARSHIP GIVES MOTHER NEW OPPORTUNITIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When I arrived to my site as a Youth, Families, and Community Development volunteer in November 2007, I gave a three-month English course. Cenia was one of the first of fifteen to sign up for the class and quickly proved to be the most motivated student. While the rest of the class was still memorizing the ABCs in English, Cenia was asking me to help her translate entire sentences she had heard in movies. She always went above and beyond with homework assignments and showed genuine interest in learning. I wanted to find a way to ensure that Cenia could continue to study English, and I knew that I couldn't give her the challenge that she was seeking. I talked to her about applying for a Fondo Quisqueya scholarship, and her answer nearly brought tears to my eyes. She said to me, "*Sabes, everyone always tells me how intelligent I was back in high school. I am still that smart! I want the chance to show my-*

self and other people that I can still succeed, even though I have a family now. My husband doesn't like me to leave the house, but if I get this scholarship, I will take the class. This is my opportunity."

A few weeks later, Cenia told me that her husband had agreed to her taking the weekly class, and I had talked to the director of the Professional English School in Cabrera. Cenia is in her fourth month of classes as I write this article, and on her first two tests, she has received scores of 86% and 90%. She continues to chat me for help with her homework and just to chat, in English of course. I am proud of Cenia for giving her best in the class and for recognizing the positive effects that the class has brought to her life. I can't wait to see what she will do next!

"I am proud of Cenia for giving her best in the class and for recognizing the positive effects that the class has brought to her life."

FROM THE VP PERCH

BY BJ WARREN

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and fall. As usual, we have had a great bunch of new applicants who need scholarships. We try to raise enough funds to provide at least 10 scholarships each quarter. As the year comes to a close, we hope that you remember to keep supporting these deserving applicants. No gift is too small, none too large.

I am saddened to report the loss of two friends and sup-

porters of Fondo Q: Joy Hudson Duarte and Jim Van Fleet. Joy remained active in her community and lived with her husband, Pete, in El Paso, Texas. Jim Van Fleet organized the Mila Brooks Fund for Women in Development (WID) scholarships in addition to his volunteer community service. We have received donations in Jim's name earmarked for the Mila Brooks Fund. Mila Brooks was the first female Peace Corps Director in the DR, and she put together the

reunion celebrating 25 years of Peace Corps in the DR. It was at this 25th reunion where the idea for Fondo Q originated.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and assistance.

BJ Warren

IN MEMORIAM OF FQ SUPPORTERS

Jim Van Fleet

Ex-PCV Jim Van Fleet, the founder of the Mila Brooks Fund of Fondo Quisqueya, died at his home in Naples, Florida this past August. The Mila Brooks Fund provides money for grants and scholarships through FQ to help low-income girls and women in the Dominican Republic achieve their full potential in Dominican society. Prior to retiring in 2000, Jim worked as a Senior Urban Economist for USAID. He was also a Professor and former Assistant Provost at the University of North Carolina. In addition to his contributions through Fondo Quisqueya, Jim made significant contributions to many organizations in his community, including the Collier County

(Continued on page 3)



Jim Van Fleet

IN MEMORIAM OF FQ SUPPORTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board, the Collier County Government Productivity Committee, the Collier County Historical Society, the Council on Foreign Relations, Sister Cities, and many others.

Joy Hudson Duarte

Joy passed away on September 29, 2008. She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1941, the third child of four to Josephine Marean Hudson and Charles T. Hudson. She attended Punahou School; she graduated in 1963 from Harvard University and she received a Master of Education in Elementary Education from Harvard in 1965.

Joy joined the Peace Corps in 1966 and was sent to the Dominican Republic, where she met her husband Pete T. Duarte. They were married in the Dominican Republic and then moved to El Paso, Texas, where Joy was employed by the El Paso Community College. Joy also worked at the Texas Department of Human Services, the Texas Workforce Commission, and Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Since her retirement in 1997, Joy filled her time as a registered Pet Partner for Delta Society (Paws for Love), where she shared the blessings of her beloved dogs with the sick and dying, and as a mediator for the Dispute Resolution Center. She also served as President of the Board of Directors of La Clinica Guadalupeana.

MILA BROOKS FUND-WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

If you wish to focus your FQ giving on 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. Checks should be made payable to Fondo Quisqueya, with a notation on the check that the donation is for the Mila Brooks Fund.

FONDO Q'S ANNUAL MEETING

BY BJ WARREN

Tom and Sue Gittins hosted a fun barbeque picnic in connection with Fondo Q's Annual Meeting, which was held at their home on June 8, 2008. Good conversations, horseshoes, and a type of tether ball competition were entered into with gusto.

At the meeting, it was reported that in the first half of 2008, we received US\$13,600 in requests for grants and scholarships, and we were able to fund 38 grantees who received a total of US\$8,100. Part of this money came from Fondo Q's Endowment Fund. This fund is there in case of such needs. Under Fondo Q's by-laws, at each annual meeting, the Board must decide the percentage of contributions that should go into the Endowment Fund. This year the

percentage approved by the Board is 10%, which is the same as in the past.

Lou thanked Janet Kerley for her great work as editor of Fondo Q's newsletter. He welcomed Joanna Mauer as the new editor. [Joanna served as the third-year PCV coordinator for Fondo Q in the last year of her Peace Corps DR service when she was a Volunteer Leader].

Elections were held for board member vacancies and for Fondo Q's officers. Board members reelected are Minor Anderson, John Evans, Rik Laird and Tom Gittins, and Dave and Kathy Padilla will share one Director spot. New members elected to the Board are Karen Clough and Anne Kopley. Outgoing Board

members Jeff Barber, Ryan Reid, and Stu Frisch were thanked for their help and support.

Officers elected are: President, Lou Ferrand; Vice President, BJ Warren; Secretary, Karen Clough; and Treasurer, Bill Threlkeld. Tom Gittins will continue as Fondo Q's Events Chair, and Joanna Mauer is the Newsletter Editor.

"Elections were held for board member vacancies and for Fondo Q's officers."





FQ 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 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 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 DR Peace Corps Volunteer or staff member. Individual grants 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.

GRANTEES: 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH QUARTERS OF 2008

GROUP AWARDS

Grantee: 7 small business women ranging from 16 to 34 years old

From: Batey Central, Barahona

For: Small business training.

Khandle wrote: "Participants will gain accounting, finance, marketing, organizational, and planning skills. They will also learn how to create a feasibility study and marketing plan, anticipate financing needs, and manage organizational structure of a small business. Since this course is targeted towards women with families, participants will have the opportunity to supplement their household income with the creation of a small business."

Sponsor: PCV Khandle Hedrick

Grantee: 12 youth

From: Cambita Garabito, San Cristobal

For: A computer course.

David wrote: "Hoy en día, hay una fuga grande del campo a la ciudad. Los jóvenes que se trasladan llegan a una nueva vida sin la capacitación básica para tener éxito en la ciudad. Poder manejar una computadora y el Internet le ayudará a conseguir nuevos trabajos. También, para los jóvenes que deciden quedar en el campo y trabajar con el Nucleo de Caficultores y ser agricultor, ellos pueden usar la tecnología para mantener los costos invertidos en sus parcelas y de cosecha, además de los ingresos de la venta de su cosecha. Por fin, el proyecto tiene como objetivo integrar a los jóvenes en las Asociaciones y aprovechar de la computadora para mantener base de datos y informes de la asociación."

Sponsor: PCV David Mayo

Grantee: Directora Ligia Peña

From: Puerto Plata

For: Teacher training.

Ligia wrote: "La escuela Centro Educativo Los Domínguez tiene una gran cantidad de estudiantes que están de bajos niveles, especialmente en la lectura y la escritura. También, la mayoría de los cursos están sobre poblados y se presentan muchos problemas de conducta. Este entrenamiento va a ayudar los maestros en su práctica educativa y en la elaboración de materiales didácticos. La voluntaria ha preparado una guía de actividades y la va a dar a cada maestro. Además, les va a presentar muchas técnicas para trabajar con

"Hoy en día, hay una fuga grande del campo a la ciudad."

niños con problemas de aprendizaje. Así, nuestro equipo docente pueda trabajar a mejorar la calidad de educación que reciban nuestros estudiantes.”

Sponsor: Sarah M. Parker

Grantee: Health education for 250 families.

From: Mao, Valverde

For: Community health training.

Zahira wrote: “Currently, Dominicans and Haitians living in this community suffer from an elevated rate of preventable conditions and diseases. Based on my community diagnostic investigation, there is a high prevalence of heart conditions, high blood pressure, diabetes, physical disabilities and children born with or who develop special educational needs. The grant provided by Fondo Quisqueya will be used to develop materials to assist in teaching health concepts during home health education visits. This community outreach will increase community knowledge about using locally grown foods and resources to strengthen health practices and to improve health. Community meetings and visits to 250 homes will facilitate nutritional learning. Use of didactic materials and the development of a staple compilation of information for other volunteers, health workers and community members to access will facilitate continued strengthening of nutritional models.

Sponsor: PCV Zahira Navarrete

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grantee: Claribel Natali Rodriguez Reyes

From: Punta Rusia, Puerto Plata

For: Beauty and styling course.

Claribel wrote: “Cuando yo era niña, mis padres no me dieron la oportunidad de tener una educación. Me sacaron de la escuela para cuidar mis hermanos menores, y nunca aprendí de letras. Eso ha sido una desventaja muy grande en mi vida, porque es muy difícil tener una profesión, sin ser alfabetizada. Hace un año y medio, me dediqué a aprender de letras, y ya me siento más capacitada y confidente en mi misma. No obstante, no puedo leer ni escribir con facilidad, y ser profesional de belleza es una de las pocas oportunidades que tengo para poder mantener mis hijos sin tener que depender de nadie. Hace unos años, yo tenía la oportunidad de ayudar a mi tía en su Salón de Belleza en Las Matas de Santa Cruz. Aprendí mucho con ella, y encontré una carrera que me fascina. No solo quiero esta oportunidad porque así puedo ganar mi propia vida, sino también porque me gusta mucho la belleza y creo que la comunidad le hace falta un salón”.

Sponsor: PCV Alicia Srinivas

Grantee: Deymer Ramón Sandoval Báez

From: San Jose de Ocoa

For: English language study.

Todd wrote: “Deymer is a very intelligent and smart young man. He is constantly seeking out new information and is always borrowing books from me and searching for words in my Spanish/English dictionary. I have been offering non-academic, conversational classes in my community for anyone interested one day a week and Deymer has not missed a single class. He has been a help to other students in the class, and I have assigned him to work with me as a co-teacher/tutor for the less-advanced students who need additional basic practice. However, Deymer’s natural ability for learning and his deep interest in English are well beyond my capacity as an amateur teacher, so I know he will benefit greatly from this scholarship to study in a more academically rigorous course. Deymer’s mother and father - who work primarily in agriculture - are extremely supportive of his desire to get a good education and make a better life for himself. Although his help is needed in the agricultural work of his father, Deymer’s parents have decided that his education is much more important for his future.”

Sponsor: PCV Todd Haggard

“Cuando yo era niña, mis padres no me dieron la oportunidad de tener una educación.”





“Yo quiero estudiar inglés para trabajar en oficinas de relaciones públicas internacionales y puedo trabajar en redes hoteleras turísticas en Bávaro.

“

Grantee: Mayelin Fermin

From: Esperanza, Valverde

For: An art class.

Zahira wrote: *“The support provided by Fondo Quisqueya will enable the artistic development of a young, active member of the community who lives with a hearing impairment. With training in painting techniques and the development of a repertoire of artistic concepts, she will be in a position to use her interest and skills as a means of earning income. In addition, as she is currently employed as a teaching assistant by the same school for children with special needs she previously attended, the school has expressed interest in her future role as a creative arts teacher for other children with special needs.”*

Sponsor: PCV Zahira Navarrete

Grantee: Disrraily Francisco Rondon Flores

From: Matancitas, Nagua, Maria Trinidad Sanchez

For: A course in basic English.

Joan wrote: *“Disrraily comes from a very poor family with an absent father and a mother who has not been very supportive. Disrraily has risen above many of the difficulties in his life and is actively pursuing a better life for himself. Through it all he stays very positive and is always smiling and making people laugh. I feel Disrraily would be an excellent candidate for these scholarship funds.”*

Sponsor: PCV Joan Perreault

Grantee: Tahirys Nicolle Geronimo Dominguez

From: Colinas del Norte, Duarte, Santo Domingo

For: English language study.

Sponsor: PCV Megan Rounseville

Grantee: Carlos Alfredo Saldaña de los Santos

From: Yabonico paraje la Enea, San Juan

For: A course in computer use.

Sponsor: PCV Ben Lemkau

Grantee: Fransisco Encarnacion

From: San Juan de la Maguana, San Juan

For: English language study.

Francisco wrote: *“Yo quiero estudiar ingles para trabajar en oficinas de relaciones públicas internacionales y puedo trabajar en redes hoteleras turísticas en Bávaro. Seria un honor para el desarrollo de mi vida tanto laboral como académicamente.”*

Sponsor: PCV Adrienne Gilbert

Grantee: Silvia Massiel Marte Ulerio

From: Higüerito, Espaillat

For: An English language course

Sponsor: PCV Catherine A. Wood

Grantee: Hector Luis de Jesus

From: Nuevo Juanillo, Veron-Punta Cana

For: An English language course

Sponsor: PCV Colleen Gatliff

Grantee: Danny Parra Perdomo

From: Puerto Plata

For: An English language course.

Sponsor: PCV Stephanie Giddings

Grantee: Rosi Angela Sanchez Matos

From: Puerto Plata

For: An English language course.

Sponsor: PCV Stephanie Giddings

Grantee: Flouneris Sanchez Matos

From: Puerto Plata

For: An English language course.

Sponsor: PCV Stephanie Giddings

Grantee: Eulalia Rodríguez Cruz

From: Janico, Santiago

For: A secretarial training course

Sponsor: PCV Katie Devine

Grantee: Adonis Ovalles Germosén

From: Moca, Espaillat

For: English language training.

Sponsor: PCV Janet Espinosa

Grantee: Yuly Bautista, Mariaorquidea Bare Contreras, Idelka Taveras, Vreylin Abreu

From: Villa Riva, San Pedro de Macoris

For: Continued English language training

Sponsor: PCV Iris Laurencio

Grantee: Eulises Ureña López
From: Nagua, Maria Trinidad Sanchez
For: An English language course.

Kate wrote: *"I have known Eulises for over 2 years and though he is only 16 years old, he has taken on the responsibility of providing for his mother and two sisters while still excelling in high school. He has always been a very skillful construction worker and worked odd jobs locally to put his skills into practice. I tutored him in English and basic computing while I lived with his family and have seen firsthand his dedication to learning and improving his knowledge and skills. Eulises wants to enroll in a course that offers regular hour-plus classes weekly so he can improve his skills as rapidly as possible. I feel absolutely confident Eulises would put every effort into making the most out of this opportunity."*

Sponsor: PCV Kate Cavallin

Grantee: Cenía A. Pereyra García
From: Cabrera, Maria Trinidad Sanchez
For: An English language course.
Sponsor: PCV Lily Mendelson

Grantee: Fernando Pimentel Polanco
From: El Limon, Samana
For: Driver training for a truck driver's license.
Sponsor: PCV Lara Sepanski



Grantee: Altagracia Baret
From: Miches, El Seibo
For: A secretarial course including computers.
Sponsor: PCV Laura Romah

Grantee: Confesor Polanco Francisco
From: Altamira, Puerto Plata
For: Driver training to get a driver's license.

Confesor wrote: *"Con el curso y la licencia de chofer, yo voy a poder conseguir trabajo por medio de la misma, específicamente, ya yo trabajo con Fundelosa, una organización de desarrollo en Bajabonico Arriba, y esa está en el proceso de conseguir un vehículo propio. Va a necesitar un chofer, y está dispuesta de aceptarme por ese trabajo, lo que me proveerá una fuente de ingreso y trabajo fijo para poder aumentar mi calidad de vida y dar ayuda a mi familia. También, en general, tener las calificaciones de manejar vehículo es una ventaja en conseguir cualquier otro trabajo si me mudo a la ciudad u otro sitio en el futuro."*

Sponsor: PCV Kira Park

Grantee: Reine Miraida Perez Ledesma
From: Duverge, Independencia
For: An English language and computer course.

Reine wrote: *"Estos dos cursos me puedan ayudar conseguir un empleo más profesional de un nivel alto y cómodo. Yo estoy dando mi tiempo como voluntaria para desarrollar un sitio de ecoturismo en mi comunidad con la voluntaria de Cuerpo de Paz. Será bien si puedo seguir en este tipo de carrera que sea de ecoturismo o cualquier tipo de turismo. También me puede ayudar a conseguir un trabajo en una oficina que sea privada o gubernamental. Los cursos pueden facilitar un movimiento más fácil de reentrar en la universidad para terminar mis estudios. El logro más importante es que termine mis estudios y conseguir un trabajo bueno para mantener mi familia y tener una vida más cómoda."*

Sponsor: PCV Josette Wiggins

"He has always been a very skillful construction worker and worked odd jobs locally to put his skills into practice."





“Si yo dominara el inglés, podría tener un mejor conocimiento de esos talleres y podría estar en el grupo de traductores.”

Grantee: Natasha Nicole Santos Herrera
From: Moca, Espaillat
For: English language training.
Sponsor: PCV Cat Wood

Grantee: Ismairi Katherine Rosario Saldaña
From: Yabonico, San Juan
For: A computer course.

Ismairi wrote: “Me ayudará a mejorar mi nivel académico. Ya que todos funcionan bajo tecnología o computadora. Me ayudará a mejorar mi nivel de vida pues pienso en mi carrera universitaria. Esta ayuda me serviría de mucho ya que mi familia sufre de pocos recursos.”

Sponsor: PCV Ben Lemkau

Grantee: Ana Yajaira Estevez Reyes
From: El Rubio, San Jose de Las Matas, Santiago
For: English language training.
Sponsor: PCV Ryan Stock

Grantee: Arcenio Rafael de Leon
From: El Dean, Monte Plata
For: English language training.

Arcenio wrote: “Como soy profesor de Educación Física, podría tener mejores oportunidades en el campo del entrenamiento o enseñanza de algún deporte. Por ejemplo, en dos años consecutivos he participado en la Clínica Internacional de Voleibol para Entrenadores y Profesores de Educación Física. El curso estaba dado en inglés y con la ayuda de algunos traductores. Entrenadores de otros países han manejado esos talleres y ellos han preguntado si algunos de los participantes hablan inglés pero pocos o nadie dominaba ese idioma. Si yo dominara el inglés, podría tener un mejor conocimiento de esos talleres y podría estar en el grupo de traductores. Además, si un día quisiera optar por otro tipo de trabajo, tendría la posibilidad de conseguir un mejor trabajo y quizás mejor condiciones de vida.”

Sponsor: PCV Marin Kirby

Grantee: Lenny Maria Reyes Ventura
From: Higuero, Altamira, Puerto Plata
For: A computer course.

Lenny wrote: “I just graduated from high school, but I’ve been unable to obtain employment because I lack computer skills required by most professional offices. I currently still live at home with my parents, but eventually I’d like to move to Puerto Plata and find a job to start saving up enough money to enroll in a university program in tourism. Completion of this course will give me all the basic computer skills I need to make me employable. An opportunity to work and attend a university would transform my life. The only alternative to becoming a professional is getting married and starting a family, but my goal is to be able to support myself and be independent.”

Sponsor: PCV Emily Babbitt

Grantee: Albania del Carmen Guzman Matias
From: Las Guazumas, Moca, Espaillat
For: Intensive English course.
Sponsor: PCV Cat Wood

Grantee: Sandra Peralta

From: La Ciénaga, Manabao, La Vega

For: A computer course.

Sandra wrote: *“Este entrenamiento va a avanzar mi conocimiento de la tecnología y aumentar las oportunidades de conseguir trabajo de tecnología. Yo puedo conseguir un buen trabajo en La Ciénaga para trabajar en la oficina del Parque Bermúdez como secretaria. También, me gustaría ayudar a mi familia a tener una vida más cómoda y avanzar mis oportunidades para conseguir más ingreso.”*

Sponsor: PCV Idonah Molina.

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.

NEW FQ LOCAL DR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bienvenidas!!!



Marin Kirby is the third-year DR Peace Corps Volunteer Leader (PCVL) for the Youth, Family and Community Development sector and the new Volunteer Liaison for FQ. She is also one of the national coordinators for “Escojo Mi Vida,” a program that focuses on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, STDs, and unwanted teen pregnancies, and she was a co-coordinator this past summer for the DR’s Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World).

As a PCV in El Dean, Monte Plata (a rural community of approximately 4,000 people), Marin was assigned to work

with the Parent/Teacher Association of the local public school, focusing on developing sports opportunities for girls, preventing unwanted teen pregnancy, and developing a leadership program for adolescents. Her projects included starting a girls’ volleyball program, training two “Escojo” youth groups, leading a Summer Book Club, facilitating a family strengthening course, and teaching English classes.



Tammy Simo started working for Peace Corps in 2000. She entered as a program assistant and is currently working as the Executive Secretary for the Country Director and PTO. She performs general duties including maintenance of

volunteer data, coordination of grants, and communication with PC/Washington. Tammy is also responsible for training and coordinating the work of three Program Assistants. Tammy is known for being the “institutional memory” of Peace Corps DR. As a member of Fondo Q’s Local DR Committee, she is responsible for providing information to PCVs about FQ.

We want to welcome Marin and Tammy to the Fondo Quisqueya team and to thank them for their help in making FQ a success!

“Yo puedo conseguir un buen trabajo en La Ciénaga para trabajar en la oficina del Parque Bermúdez como secretaria. También, me gustaría ayudar a mi familia a tener una vida más cómoda y avanzar mis oportunidades para conseguir más ingreso.”





NEW FONDO Q BOARD MEMBER

Anne Kopley is an attorney working in the DC area. After graduating from college in New York City she needed an adventure, and being a community economic development volunteer working with farmers to set up a weekly farmers' market in Sabana Grande de Boya, Monte Plata, was perhaps the toughest job she'd ever love. During her time in the DR, Anne worked with women's groups to try to market homemade wines and worm fertilizer, taught business classes, dance classes, and a smattering of English, and helped set up a community library. Anne returned in 2002 to work for the City of New York as a policy analyst on health and human services issues, and since she graduated from law school in 2007 has been working for a small Federal foreign assistance agency.



New Board Member Anne Kopley

IN MEMORIAM OF COMPADRES OF DR-26

[The following is an edited portion of a letter written by Roger LaBrucherie, with contributions from Jan Nersinger and Gail Brayley van der Linde, accompanying a donation to Fondo Q by members of DR-26 **“in memory of our fellow Voluntarios: Tom King, Tami Pierson, Kristin Fiske Martinez, Tony Menendez, and Tim Sweeney – They will be alive always in the hearts and memories of their compadres of DR-26.”**]

Two decades after my service as a PCV, I attended a Peace Corps recruiting function, and I remember well the recruiter saying to the gathering, “In Peace Corps, there is a country experience, an international experience, and a Peace Corps experience.” To this day I wonder why he did not add that there is a group experience. But then, perhaps our group, DR-26, had an especially memorable group experience.

Many things contributed to making DR-26 an especially close-knit group: we trained in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and many of us – we were only 25 trainees in all – lived together in rooming houses, all within walking distance of each other....

Within any such small group, some personalities always stand out, and Tim Sweeney was one of our standouts... Tim was a year or two older than most, with a sophistication and training in business



that put him strides ahead of the rest of us in the technical business skills needed by the co-ops the guys worked in.... But Tim's technical proficiency was just part of what made him a standout—he seemed to know just about everybody in Bani, from the provincial Gobernadora, to the local USAID técnico, to the padres and nuns of the town's Catholic Church. And both in training and in-country, Tim was the guy with

the ever-ready quip, the tongue-in-cheek wit, the wry smile as he told a joke, an easy-going personality that made him a friend to all.

When his two years of Peace Corps service ended, Tim...., like many of us, decided he should get back to “the real world.”.... From the 1970s to the 1990s, he made his life in the corporate world in the LA metro area. Then in the

(Continued on page 11)

“Within any such small group, some personalities always stand out...”

(Continued from page 10)

late 1990s, ... he was offered a job with the Red Cross in Central America. He spent the next seven years in Guatemala, where he seemed to find a fulfillment in international aid work, as well as a camaraderie with dozens of new friends, such as he had not had since his Peace Corps

days. In late 2006, after more than a year of declining health, he returned to California where he was eventually diagnosed with the multiple myeloma and amyloidosis that took his life. Although Tim had a number of girlfriends before, during, and after Peace Corps, he never married; he is survived by his four siblings and their families.

Tim was the fifth member of our group to die. In making a joint donation [we, members of DR-26] memorialize Tim and the four other group members who died before him.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD, FQ TREASURER

When it seems like there is bad news about the economy everywhere you turn, it is refreshing to see that Fondo Quisqueya still has a generous base of contributors. Since our Annual Meeting in June, we have received approximately \$5,000 in donations. This healthy infusion, along with a transfer of funds from the endowment fund that was authorized by the board at the Annual Meeting, has placed FQ in a much better position to fund the next round of grantees.

Our revenues are slightly above expenses for the year, by about \$1,500, which is a bit better than where we were the last time I wrote you. By tapping into our endowment fund to bridge the gap from last year, we have just over \$2,000 currently available for general grants and scholarships. Of course, during the four quarters of 2008, we have reviewed nearly \$20,000 in scholarship/grant requests, of which we have

funded nearly \$14,000. Thus, we have exceeded our goal of \$12,000 in grants and scholarships per year.

My friends in the Dominican Republic tell me that remittances from the U.S. and Spain are down substantially, an outcome of the global economic crisis. This, of course, is occurring while the costs of fuel and daily staples remain high. Needy families are searching for ways to make their pesos go further, but their best opportunities for family stability will come from increased opportunities to earn income. That is what FQ's program does—help create those opportunities. Please give generously as we close out the year. When the going gets tough, non-profits are called on to do even more. Let's be among those who vigorously answer that call.

My friends in the Dominican Republic tell me that remittances from the U.S. and Spain are down substantially...

2008 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(reflecting deposits January 1 – October 16, 2008, not donor check dates):

A. GENERAL DONORS: Martin & Helida Adler, Thomas & Ruth Alexander, Victor Amram, Jr. & Anita Friedman, A.W. & Mary Armour and Darlys J. Wong, Joe & Janet Blackburn, Thomas & Barbara Bobal, Annie Bovone, Teresa A. Chapa, David & Lillian Clary, Jennifer Daniels, Lisa Daugherty, Frank S. Deland, Joseph & Margaret Deslaurier, Tom and Sue Gittins, Marcial A. Santos Díaz & Leslie K. Domínguez, George & Sally Edgerton, Richard Elrauch, John & Jeane Evans, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Stuart Frisch, Anthony F. Gasbarro, Laura Guogas, Ethan W. Hemming & Nicole A. Tembrock, Heritage High School, Michael H. Hirsh, Robert & Marsha Holm, John D. Hopper, Susan & Roger Johnston, Gene Lane, Gerald S. Lutes & Marsha M. Zellum, Joanna Mauer, William A. Miller, Keith & Judy Olson, David & Kathy Padilla, T. H. Quinn & R. A. Wolf, Leo & Helena Reed, Ronald & Corinne Rieder, Dennis Rotman & Mary Fisher-Rotman, George & Patricia Rowland, Ruth Mackenzie Saxe, Stephen Slater & Miyo Ohshima Slater, John & Helen Torphy, Gail P. Van Der Linde, Hazel Vespa, S. Vick, Susan K. Vlach, T. & L. Ward, Jewel Wegs (Peterson), Mark & Janet Widoff, Natalie S. Woodward, Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Stu Frisch, Rik Laird & Patti Rambasek, Jewel Wegs, BJ Warren.

B. DONATED IN MEMORY OF FRANK MERINO HERNÁNDEZ: BOB & Carolyn Tafelski.

C. DONATED IN MEMORY OF PEDRO JUAN JIMÉNEZ WHO WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND A FRIEND OF PC IN THE 1960S: Robert E. Myers.

(Continued on page 12)





(Continued from page 11)

D. DONATED FOR THE SCHOOLS DAMAGED BY TROPICAL STORM NOEL: Gary & Julia Orso.

E. DONATED IN HONOR OF BJ WARREN'S BIRTHDAY: Judith Light

F. DONATED TO HELP FUND A TWO-DAY BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY PCV CHARLES PHILLIPS: Evelyn M. Wedge.

G. DONATED IN MEMORY OF JOHN GUY SMITH: Lynda Edwards.

H. DONATED TO THE MILA BROOKS FUND/CAMP GLOW: Joseph & Margaret Deslaurier, Gerald & Madeline Malovany

I. DONATED IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF LLOYD WILLIAMS AND LAURA GUOGAS: Marcial A. Santos Díaz & Leslie K. Domínguez

J. DONATED IN MEMORY OF RAMON TRICHE HERVEY: David & Lillian Clary.

K. DONATED IN MEMORY OF FAMILY MEMBER ELEANOR FISKE: William & Marjorie Manley.

L. DONATED IN MEMORY OF FELLOW VOLUNTARIOS TOM KING, TAMI PIERSON, KRISTIN FISKE MARTINEZ, TONY MENENDEZ, AND TIM SWEENEY – THEY WILL BE ALIVE ALWAYS IN THE HEARTS AND MEMORIES OF THEIR COMPADRES OF DR-26: Merry Alt, Stephen Amdahl, Roger Labrucherie, Susan Melendez, Janice Nersinger, Linda & John Scott, V. Diann Streator, & Gail Van Der Linde.

“My fear was that after my service, my students would lose the English they had learned.”

HELP UPDATE FONDO Q WEBSITE!

We need volunteers to help update and maintain our website! Check it out at www.fondoq.org. **It needs a lot of help!** If you could help or would like to be in charge of the website, contact FQ Vice President BJ Warren at rwarren@msi-inc.com or FQ President Lou Ferrand at louisgferrand@gmail.com.

ENGLISH COURSE INSPIRES FOUR GIRLS

By Iris Laurencio

Peace Corps Volunteer Leader, Information Technology/Education

Fondo Quisqueya has given my students the opportunity to continue learning English after my service in Las Taranas de Villa Riva. I started my English class with 20 students, but by the time we finished the course, only four remained. These four girls learned an amazing amount of English during the nine months I gave the class. Not only did they learn from our class, but they also took the initiative to watch movies in English, read books in English, and speak in English as much as possible. These girls were self-motivated and saw speaking English as a way to open up opportunities to them in the future.

My fear was that after my service, my students would lose the English they had learned. Thanks to Fondo Quisqueya, they continue to learn English at a language insti-

tute in San Francisco de Macoris. Traveling to San Francisco and taking classes builds a sense of pride and confidence within them. The girls feel fortunate to have been given such great opportunities that they have decided to give English classes in their community as a way to pay it forward—60 people have already signed up!

Thank you, Fondo Quisqueya, for allowing these girls to continue to learn English and to contribute to their community in such a great way. The link below will take you to a video of these students speaking English.

<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=sAM00MI9Or0>

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>.



Grantee Silvia Marte Ulerio



Grantee Tahirys Geronimo





FONDO QUISQUEYA
P.O. Box 6628
Falls Church, VA
22040-6628

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Merrifield, VA
PERMIT # 1344

Make Checks Payable to:

Fondo Quisqueya

P.O. BOX 6628

Falls Church, VA 22040-6628



My tax deductible contribution to Fondo Quisqueya \$ _____

I want a T-shirt (\$10.00 of which is tax deductible) \$ _____

I want # _____ T-shirts @ \$20.00 each (postage paid) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please send me the newsletter by email

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please DO NOT forward my email address

**The Dominican Republic and
Peace Corps benefit from your
continued support.**

When making your estate plans, please remember Fondo Quisqueya.