

Volume 5

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No. 2

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From the President's Corner

Greetings to all,

This has been a busy and successful year for Fondo Quisqueya — with your help, we will meet our target of \$10,000 in grants, we have incorporated new members to the FQ board, and we cosponsored an event with Friends of the D.R during the 40 + 1 Anniversary in D.C. which rallied many old and new PC friends.

Notwithstanding these good things, we have some sad news to share as well. Former D.R. Peace Corps Director Mila Brooks died this past September. Mila was very special in the history of Fondo Ouisqueva. As the D.R. Peace Corps Director, she was the energetic person who raised the funds and put together the gathering for the 25th anniversary of Peace Corps in the DR. And what a wonderful celebration it was! Those of you who recall the 25th anniversary celebration, remember that at the end of the conference, plans were formulated which were the beginnings of Fondo Quisqueya. Mila then became a frequent and consistent contributor to Fondo Q. She lived life to the fullest and in a grand style, and I am sure that she continues to make things happen in the same wonderful way she did while here with us. Please see the memorial articles in this Newsletter on Mila's life and that of former PCV Lester Eldridge who died recently in New York.

I am pleased to report that Andy Hernandez, the first Peace Corps Director in the DR, continues making good progress in his recovery from his heart by-pass surgery. If you wish to send a card, his address is PO Box 421, Santa Rosa, NM 88435.

We continue to fund scholarships for low-income Dominicans for technical vocational courses, and we support workshops and other educational activities.



What is a P.C. event without a group photo?

The most recent scholarships awarded are described later in the newsletter. Every three months, FQ's local committee in Santo Domingo selects approximately 10 recipients to receive scholarships of approximately US\$250, and this translates to FQ's need to raise more than \$10,000 each year to cover grants and scholarships and FQ's operating expenses (mainly for printing and mailing of FQ's newsletter).

As you consider your end of year giving, please be mindful that low-income Dominican youth benefit immeasurably from modest amounts of support. PCV Stephanie Hackenburg eloquently makes this point (in the grants section of the newsletter) as she describes the impact of computer studies on two young women.

Why not consider giving a donation in the name of a friend, companion, spouse or other loved one instead of buying a Christmas gift? Don't we have too much material stuff already?

I join with the FQ board and the local D.R. committee members in thanking you for the contributions that have made a big difference in so many lives.

Happy Holidays!

BJ Warren Fondo Quisqueya President



TREASURER'S REPORT

Lou Ferrand, FQ Treasurer

So far this year, Fondo Q has given out 44 grants and scholarships to low-income Dominicans, and we have received donations from 64 individuals (not counting spouses and significant others) and from one High School (Heritage High School), with some donors giving on more than one occasion. Some of the donations were given in memory or in honor of another person and some donations were made in the name of former D.R. P.C. Groups. For example: D.R. Group 11 donated money in memory of Carolyn Payton; D.R. Group 26 donated money in Memory of Kristen Fiske; and individuals made donations in memory of Philip P. Taylor and in honor of Steven Kneepkens and B.J. Warren. I think that it is a great idea for donations to be made in the name of former D.R. P.C. groups, and we encourage you to consider doing so next year and in future years.

We currently have approximately US\$5,000 available for grants and scholarships in the year 2003. Our goal is to give out at least US\$10,000 each year. This means that we need your support. Many of us donate money to Fondo Q on an annual basis, and we encourage you to do so too. In addition, Rick Laird and Patti Rambasek have a great idea; they are giving Fondo Q a Christmas present donation instead of giving each other a large gift. Whatever you can contribute will be much appreciated, and you will be playing an important part in helping low-income, motivated Dominicans achieve lasting changes in their lives.

Remember, your donation is tax deductible. Happy Holidays to all!

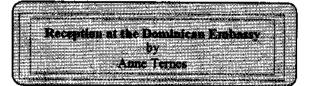
Members of the Board of Directors of Fondo Q and the FDR (including B.J. Warren, Tom Gittins, John Evans, Anne Ternes and Randy Adams) met over lunch with Stephen Murphy, the InterAmerica and Pacific (IAP) Regional Director, of the Peace Corps. We took the opportunity to explain the mission and activities of both organizations and to relate the strong collaborative relationship we have maintained with the Country Director, Ms. Anita Friednman, and her staff. Given the Board members' continued link and experience with the D.R. and the Peace Corps over the last 40 years, we were also able to provide Mr. Murphy with a history of Peace Corps country and regional initiatives - their successes and failures - to bridge some of the gaps in the history of the program that all new staff at Peace Corps face given the five-year rule for staff replacement. Mr. Murphy was quite interested in the activities of both organizations and offered his support for our efforts. Mr. Murphy then related his experiences in the Americas and his interests in enhancing the Peace Corps program in the region. He noted that he and P.C. Director Gaddi Velasquez were about to visit the



Kirby Jones, Minor Anderson and Cathy Padilla enjoy a quiet corner of the garden.

D.R. and meet with President Mejia. As lunch ended, Mr. Murphy expressed his great pleasure in learning about past programs and his appreciation for our perspective on some of his proposed ideas. He said that he was so delighted with our exchange that he would like to invite us to meet again in the near future to continue the conversation. A dinner with former PCV's & staff in the D.C. metro was held on November 22 with Mr. Murphy in attendance.





As part of the Peace Corps 40 + 1 Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C. in June, Fondo Quisqueya (FQ) and Friends of the D.R. (FDR) joined forces to sponsor a buffet dinner at the Dominican Ambassador's residence in Northwest D.C. The event was preceded in the afternoon by a D.R. Country of Service briefing that included FQ and FDR board members.

The early evening of June 22nd was a comfortable temperature and guests scattered throughout the generous back gardens of the residence that were dappled with late day sun. Former D.R. volunteers and staff and Dominican Embassy staff enjoyed an array of Dominican dishes that included appetizers, roast pork, rice and beans, tostones, salad, and flan, accompanied with Presidentes, beer, wine, and rum and coke. R.P.C.V.'s availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase 40th Anniversary tee shirts and P.C. D.R. hats, and to collect back issues of the FQ newsletter.

The Dominican Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Roberto B. Saladín-Selín, accompanied by his gracious wife, welcomed the guests and spoke with enthusiasm about the important contributions of the Peace Corps to his country. FDR President Neil Ross presented Ambassador Saladín with a P.C. D.R. tee shirt and FQ Vice President Anne Ternes thanked the Ambassador and his wife for their warm hospitality and the guests for their presence and support to FQ and FDR. The evening continued with Dominican music in the background and clusters of people chatting comfortably in the gardens, enjoying the early summer evening in friendly surroundings.



Anne and Neil give warm thanks to Amb. and Mrs Saladín.



At the recent November 22, 2002 joint meeting of Friends of the Dominican Republic [FDR] and Fondo Quisqueya members in Washington, DC, FDR President Neil Ross and Treasurer John Evans reported that recent member donations have allowed FDR to support the overall Peace Corps mission in the DR.

In 2002, FDR purchased a poster-laminating machine, a slide scanner, publishing software for the PCV newsletter, an Appropriate Technology collection of 27 reference CDs, and books for the library. In previous years FDR sent cash to purchase emergency roofing material following Hurricane Georges and also paid for buses to transport young Dominicans to a PC-sponsored Earth Day celebration. Each FDR contribution was requested by the PC Director, was directly supportive of Volunteer projects and could not have been supported within the regular PC budget. Thus far, FDR has contributed over \$4,000 in support of the national program. And much more is needed.

At FDR's request, PC/DR has provided a Wish List of items that would enhance the program. To fulfill the needs, FDR needs to raise as much as \$5,000 SOON. PC knows that the Wish List is just that and that some of the items are big-ticket dreams, but they would help the operations tremendously. It's possible that RPCVs may have contacts to get in-kind donations. The list is



fairly long and specific, and can be found in the FDR Cyber Newsletter. Contact Ed Warmoth, Editor, to get an electronic copy: ejw5@msn.com Be sure to look it over and consider a tax-deductible donation before December 31st. Share the list with any friends who may also have a desire and avenue to help the Peace Corps efforts. If you have interest in a particular item, contact FDR President Neil Ross: neilross@cox.net. Monetary donations can be earmarked through FDR or Neil can put you in touch with PC/DR for in-kind donations. Any extra year-end gifts will go to the FDR Program Development Fund for future allocation in 2003.



Reception at DR Embassy



FORMER PC-DR DIRECTOR MILA BROOKS

Mila Williams Brooks, former Peace Corps Country Director in the Dominican Republic and economic development consultant, died on September 4, 2002 after a long and spirited battle with lung cancer. She was 75.

An independent woman of unsurpassed energy with a remarkable sense of adventure and fun, Ms Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas. She graduated from the University of Kansas with degrees in Political Science and French. After college, she married William Brooks, had five children, and became an early advocate of

divorce and serial marriage. In the mid-sixties Ms
Brooks drove to Mexico with four young children in tow
to establish a new life in an exotic culture, and offer her
children cross-cultural opportunities. In Mexico, she
married a cardiac surgeon, learned fluent Spanish,
attended graduate school, and hosted a radio show. In
1969, she returned to the United States and began work
as staff with the Peace Corps. In 1973, she was
appointed Deputy Peace Corps Director in Santiago,
Chile. Before returning to the U.S. in 1977, she served
as an economic development consultant for the U.S.
Agency for International Development and as the
Southern Cone regional representative of the Young
Men's Christian Association.

Following her return to the U.S., Ms Brooks founded the Bed' n' Breakfast Network of Washington, D.C., with a guest house ("The Manse") and one of two B and B reservation services in the Washington metropolitan area. In 1985 she was appointed as Country Director of the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, a post she held until 1988. She last returned to the DR in February 2002 to the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in the country. There she spoke enthusiastically of her Dominican years on a panel of other past country directors. Clearly Mila was a dedicated, dynamic leader and a fun woman much loved by those RPCVs and staff who knew her.

In 1989, she was selected as one of two Americans to work in pre-election activities in Nicaragua. Following the 1990 elections, where President Violeta Chamorro won a stunning victory over former dictator Daniel Ortega, she was selected to run USAID's democratic initiatives program in Nicaragua, a post she held until 1993. In 1993, again stateside, she settled in Napa, CA. and continued to consult internationally.

Mila Brooks was an inveterate traveler and boon companion, a fiercely devoted and loving mother. She was a crack rifle shot, a daring car driver, and she loved parties. Throughout her life, she had the gift of loyal and loving friends, who have been unswerving in their devotion right to the end - and who received the great gift of her love and friendship in return. She will be deeply missed and mourned by all who knew her.

Survivors include her brother, Robert E. Williams and his wife, Ruth Williams of Sterlington, LA; two sons, Trenton M. Brooks of Washington, D.C., and Bradford W. Brooks of Nambe, NM; and two daughters, Mila Brooks Brenner of Exeter, NH, and Holly Brooks of Arlington, VA. For Ms. Brooks, the fact that she had survived three husbands constituted a matter of great pride. Her three grandchildren, Tiffany Delphine Davieaud, Sophie B. Lang, and Maxwell W. Brenner, will sorely miss their beloved "Mimi".



RPCV LES ELDRIDGE

Lester Eldridge, age 65, died Thursday evening, August 30, 2002 of injuries sustained from being accidentally hit by a speeding police car in Lakewood, NJ. At the time of the accident, he was crossing the street after attending a wedding celebration of a friend, according to his brother Steve Eldridge.

Les joined the Peace Corps in 1962 and served in the Dominican Republic in DR group 2, English teachers. He served with great enthusiasm in San Cristobal until 1964. As a result of this experience, after returning to the State he became a Spanish language teacher serving with distinction at the Eastern District High School in New York. Often called a gifted teacher, he also taught classes history and mathematics there until retiring three years ago.

He last visited the DR in February 2002 where he attended the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in that country. He was surprised and pleased to reconnect with many Dominican friends in his former city of San Cristobal near the south central coast. Among his many recent activities, Lester was an active bicyclist, sailor and world traveler. He was an avid genealogist who liked to use family studies to bring people together for reconnection or the first time.

Les was living in Elmhurst section of Queens, NY at the time of his death. His brother is his only survivor. Send condolences and stories of Les's lively life to Steve Eldridge, mailing address: My Way (there is no #), Weston, CT 06883-2023, tel 203-222-8846, email: scees@aol.com

Fonde Quisqueya 2nd, 3nd, and 4th Quarter Grunts & Gruntee News 2002

Twenty-one grants were made in the second, third, and beginning of the fourth quarter. The grants indicate that young Dominicans are intent on improving their work place skills in such areas as drivers' training, English, computer skills, librarian training, and completion of high school. The grants are grouped by type of training



Miguel Presinal Presinal, El Limón, San José de Ocoa

DRIVERS EDUCATION

Miguel Presinal Presinal Plinio Sánchez Lara Rafael Boivar Echavarría Severino Presinal Echavarría

El Limón, San José de Ocoa

PCV Sponsor - "Tico" Roderick Cross

The 450 members of the community of El Limón, 9 kilometers from San José de Ocoa, have a history of solid organization and accomplishment. They have brought electricity via a microhydroelectric plant, installed computers, built housing and latrines, and practiced soil conservation, irrigation, and new animal husbandry techniques. Rotary International recently awarded the community a truck for taking produce to market to get a better price, and for transporting both students and people needing medical services to San José. The four men will take a six-week driver training course in Baní so that they can drive the truck and provide community service.

COMPUTER TRAINING

Basilio Perux Altagracia Roberto Batista Castillo

Los Róbalos, Samana

PCV Sponsor - Connie Rush

Basilio and Roberto are bright young men whose family circumstances are such that computer study is out of their reach. They will take a 4 month course in computer basics, learning word processing and Excel as well as how to use the Internet. They will subsequently look for work that uses and builds on these skills.

Ruddy Esther Zavas

Baní

PCV Sponsor - Rene Seitz

Ruddy participated in a Reading Olympics program in her school where her diligence brought her to Rene's attention.



Ruddy, a single parent, has a goal to finish high school and study hotel management. She will take a basic computer skills course at CEPI in Baní, a step that will enhance her employability as well as her studies.

David D. Castro

Puerto Plata

PCV Sponsor - Amanda Bucci

David is an educator working in the teaching center Integración Juvenil, a center for problem youth. In the near future the center will establish a modest computer facility and David wishes training to enable him to teach basic computer skills to the center youth. He will learn Windows at Ceducomp in Puerto Plata.

Randy Martinez Abreu

Villa Vasquez, Montecristi

PCV-Sponsor – Justin Joseph Hopkins

Randy, a high school graduate and President of
the Information Technology group in the rural
area of Los Conucos, has worked closely with IT

PCV Hopkins in establishing the local IT lab of 4
computers. Lamentably, his high school had a
lab but no professor to teach the students. He will
take a Saturday course on Windows and
Microsoft Office at the Escuela Nacional de
Informatica in Santiago. When Justin finishes his
service, Randy will assume charge of the IT lab
and committee.

Gissel Altagracia Ventura

Altamira, Puerto Plata

PCV Sponsor - Mark Hofmeister

Gissel, a bright, nineteen year old high school
graduate, is planning on getting a college degree.

Her immediate goal is to acquire skill in the use
of Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint as a
means of supporting herself while getting a
degree and as a basis for future coursework.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING

Rober Jander Matos
Leandro Ogando Enc.
Rafael Antonio Coca Rossó
Jonathan Gespedes Vallejo
El Cercado, San Juan
PCV Sponsor – Dan Taber
The 4 young men listed above have taken
beginning English classes with Dan and one,
Rober, has progressed enough to act as a
substitute in the El Cercado high school. Each is
well aware that employment opportunities in the



Plinio Sánchez Lara, El Limón, San José de Ocoa

area are scanty and that hotels, banks, schools and government all look for people with solid English. With an eye to employment in close by San Juan, the youths want to inscribe in an intensive, 4 month course at the Manhattan Institute in Las Matas de Farfán. A certificate from the Institute is a sound employment credential, especially since the school has three native English-speaking professors.

Cristina Ortiz Peña Victor Horacio Pérez Medina

Paraíso, Barahona

PCV Sponsor - Ryan Reid

These two young people want to learn English by taking courses at the Instituto de Barahona and the Centro de Música e Idiomas de Barahona respectively. Their goal is to learn English and increase their employment options.



Rafael Boivar Echavarria, El Limón, San José de Ocoa



Carlos Alberto Bueno Bueno

Sabaneta - San Juan de la Maguana PCV Sponsor - Aáron Drendel

Carlos is an active member of an environmental association in his community and has been learning to act as an environmental tour guide. To accommodate English-speaking tourists who visit the Pico Duarte area, Carlos wishes to take an intensive 7-month English course in the Boston Institute in San Juan de la Maguana. When he finishes the course, he will be able to lead tours in English.

Sonny Beltre

Ansonia, Azua

PCV Sponsor - Renee Seitz

Sonny, recently graduated from high school, is preparing for college in Santo Domingo. He will take English at the Fisk Institute in the capital.

Romer Andrés Matas Bertié

Paraiso de Barahona

PCV Sponsor - Ryan Reid

Romer will take an eight week English course at the Centro de Musica e Idiomas de Barahona. His intermediate goal is to be a tour guide in his area and subsequently he wants to become a teacher. Acquiring English is a means to these ends.

High School, Teacher Resource Center, Librarian Training

Johanna Rosalis Baéz Perez

Matanzas, Peravia

PCV Sponsor - Saba Firoozi

Johanna is a highly motivated young woman who was forced to leave high school after the first year due to family economic pressures. She works Monday through Saturday in the Duty Free Zone and will study for her high school degree on





1. Johanna Baez, bard at work in the Zona Franca and 2. relaxing with PCV Saba Firoozi.



Carlos Alberto Bueno Bueno, showing his tour guide charm.

Sundays at a high school in Bani that charges tuition.

PCV Amy Werner

Gaspar Hernandez, Espaillat

- Amy is assigned to the Educational District of Gaspar Hernández, which has 67 schools. After seeing a general weakness in the teaching of French and English in grades 5-8, Amy and the foreign language specialist devised a plan to establish a language resource center for the 90 foreign language teachers in the district. The center, open year round in the district office, received 3 computers from Codetel and is offering one-on-one training, help in devising materials, instructional videos, and use of special software. FQ funds are for didactic materials, books, videos, software and copies.
- Amy has library science as part of her PCV duties and heads the P.C. Library Committee. She has carried this interest to Gaspar Hernández, which has 10 libraries and plans underway for 6 more libraries. The current and the new librarians need training, and Amy has planned a rigorous course content. FQ funds support transportation, copies, and materials.

NEWS OF FONDO O'S GRANTEES

Martires Acosta Green

Los Robalos de Samaná

Martires writes, "Four years ago I started a computer course thanks to your support...I am very grateful for your generosity to me and my classmates. I believe that with people such as you, young people can continue getting ahead and continue to help others who also want to get ahead. This course was very special to me. I believe that you are aware of our gratitude as we write and send our greetings; I hope you are well and enjoy my letter."



PCV Stephanie Hackenburg wrote to FQ about the following four grantees:

Fausto Drullard

Samana

Fausto has completed his driver's school and passed the written and driving exams on the first try. He is now looking for a job in the Samana area and has a sense of pride in this accomplishment, now aware that he can achieve other goals as well.

Dionicio Maldonado

Samana

Dionicio, with a great deal of determination, completed his driver's course. Passing the two exams required several attempts but Dionicio battled his frustration and prevailed. He is currently looking for work in Samana to support his two sons.

Adriana Maldonado and Fiordalisa Javier Samana

Adriana Maldonado and Fiordalisa Javier have successfully completed their three months of computer classes. They began with the basics of using a computer: how to use a mouse, open and close programs and access the Internet. They then completed a class in Microsoft Word, which taught them to create documents, the formal means of writing documents and to save and access these documents. The last course was on the Internet and was their favorite. They chatted with people from all over the world, saw pictures of their favorite stars, and, more importantly, learned to access a variety of information that connected them to a wider world.

In addition to computer skills, the girls also learned that they can be more than housewives and mothers. They saw there is a wider world and they know how to access it. The skills they learned can be used at any job or in the university, and these two girls from the campo can now compete with those from the city. Very importantly, the classes instilled in the girls' confidence in themselves. The classes were the first undertaking that they did on their own. No one was watching over their shoulder as they traveled to and from their pueblo every Saturday, interacting with people that they probably never would have met. They have opened their minds to a whole new world and have gained a level of confidence in themselves that otherwise might not have occurred. It is with the deepest thanks that I write this letter to the members of Fondo Quisqueya that made this grant possible. Fiordalisa, Adriana and I thank you! PCV Connie Rush wrote to FQ about a group of students in Los Robalos, Samana.

PCV Connie Rush wrote to FQ about a group of students in Los Robalos, Samana.

"The students from Los Robalos thank Fondo Quisqueya for their financial support in the computer class. The class had come to an end the 14th of May, 2002. They worked hard and learned so much. We took 2-3 extra days out of the week to practice on the computers and to learn new things out of the classroom setting. The class ended with the internet, and all of the students opened an account and learned how to work the Internet. The impact was incredible for them because they now have so many more opportunities now that they know the computer programs and Internet. They see that they can further their education in computers or just work for a company that uses them. Jose Isidro never thought it possible to learn the computer, and now he is smiling because he has completed the classes and has received a certificate for his efforts. They all thank FO for the support."

Grantee: Miguelina Fermin Altagracia

Los Robalos de Samana

Me dirigo a ustedes esperando que esten bien y para darles las gracias por todo su apoyo por haber permetido hacer mi curso de Secretaria Recepcionista. Este fue el curso que yo elegi y se trata sobre varias cosas y modas de una persona. En este curso yo estoy aprendiendo como hablarle a una persona, sentarme, saludar, tambien varias abreviaciones, a llenar una solicitud de trabajo, como hacer una cita, como cancelar una cita, como escojer un empleo, y varias cosas mas. Todavia yo no he terminado el curso. Yo me graduo de Secretaria Receptionista el 27 de Julio del 2002. Espero un dia verles de nuevo y que estemos en contacto.



Severino Presinal Echavarría, El Limón, San José de Ocoa



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VI. <u>DONORS IN HONOR OF BJ WARREN'S</u> BIRTHDAY

Janet Kerley & Martha & Charles Tarner



Steve Murphy enjoys an anecdote from histrip to the D.R.

Disnor at the New Orleans House Restaurant

On the evening of November 22, 2002, Fondo Q and Friends of the D.R. hosted a dinner at the New Orleans House Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia. A good size crowd of former D.R. volunteers turned out to enjoy each others company and to hear Steve Murphy, current Peace Corps Regional Director for the Inter-America and Pacific Region, speak about his plans for the future and his



B.J. presents Steve with an FQ t-shirt.

impressions of the D.R. program. He traveled to the D.R. in August, accompanying Director Gaddi Vasquez in his country visit. Steve was very upbeat in his impressions of the P.C. program in the D.R. and encouraging about the prospects for work in the future.



An attentive audience includes Neil Ross from the FDR.