



## The Newsletter, Spring 2023



*Our mission is "to provide for low income Dominicans in the Dominican Republic, grants for educational and training purposes designed to assist them in bettering their lives and designed to help them attain personal development, skills, and advancement."*

### **In This Edition:**

- Peace Corps Update!
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- New Board Members



*Photo from a Fondo Quisqueya success story. Read below to learn more!*

### **Peace Corps Update: Back to Normal**

Peace Corps life in the DR is slowly returning to normal. PC Director Jennifer McGowan reports that there are 36 trainees and 35 PCVs in country, making it one of the largest PC programs worldwide. The trainees will be sworn in on May 10th and they are expecting 45 more trainees in August. The staff is in the process of reinstating volunteer leadership programs, which is a challenge given that a PCV needs to have served prior to the pandemic.



## New Program: FEM Dominicana

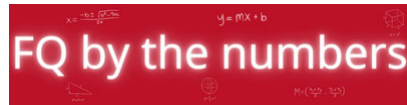
FQ recently approved \$3,000 to help fund a new program targeting at-risk young women with training and mentoring to become self-sustaining and productive members of society. This program focuses on three pillars: family planning, technical training and mentoring, and job placement. Since its inception, the foundation has helped more than 50 direct beneficiaries of its programs, and has also reached more than 500 people through educational activities that promote female empowerment on issues of sexual and reproductive health, economic development and awareness. FQ's support will provide RD\$10,000 each for 14 women to pursue training intended to result in employment.



*Paula Santos, pictured here, is a beneficiary of the new program. She is training to be a manicurist specializing in acrylic nails. We look forward to providing information on these 14 beneficiaries in future newsletters.*

## Success Story

Our new board member Stephanie Giddings told us the story of Pablo. One day, he approached Stephanie about wanting to learn English. He felt this would be a pathway for him to earn a living. Stephanie was able to get a grant from FQ so that he could take English classes at the local language school. After several courses, his English was vastly improved. Before Stephanie returned to the States, she remembers Pablo asking for help with a cruise line application. Pablo got a job with Crystal Cruise Lines working trans-Pacific cruises. Years later, he found Stephanie online to thank her. His life and his family's life had been forever changed. He had made connections with people worldwide, became proficient in English, and had basic skills in many other languages. Most importantly, he supported his two daughters in completing college.



### US\$100,000+

Fondo Quisqueya grant allocations to support over 300 students at the *Instituto Tecnico Superior Comunitario (ITSC)* over the past 8 years.

### 19

Number of laptops that Fondo Quisqueya helped ITSC purchase to loan to students in need during distance learning.

### 36

PCVs training in the DR as part of the newest cohort!



According to the ministry of tourism, nearly 100% of people who work in the tourism sector in the DR are vaccinated.

## Announcement: Annual Meeting Notice

FQ's annual meeting will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of Dave and Kathy Padilla in Falls Church, VA - 4:00-6:00 PM EDT. Elections will be held to confirm new board members Stephanie Giddings and Josh Rosenthal. Dave and Kathy Padilla will also be on the ballot for re-election. Board officers will also be elected.

If you would like to attend the meeting in person, please check in advance as space is limited. You may join us by Zoom at the following link from 4:30-5:30 PM EDT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86476921610>

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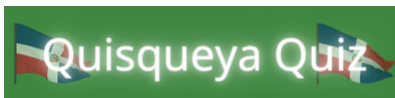
## Years of Support of Technical Training

FQ has supported students of the [Instituto Técnico Superior Comunitario \(ITSC\)](#) for the past 8 years with total grants over \$100,000. This support has helped over 300 students with grants to help defray transportation costs so they could afford to attend classes. More recently, we have supported distance learning with the purchase of 19 laptops that ITSC loans to students in need. This assistance has helped students in a variety of technical disciplines such as dental hygienist, radiology assistant, network management, fashion design, and refrigeration, among many other specializations. We look forward to continuing support for this important program.



## Newsletter Follow-Up

In our last newsletter we published this photograph of Yale Professor Timothy Snyder and asked who knew his connection to PC/DR. His parents, Christine and Gene, were volunteers in Villa Mella (1964-65). BTW, if you want to learn more about Ukraine and understanding the awful war, check out Professor Snyder's series of lectures on YouTube, "The Making of Modern Ukraine."



***First three to respond correctly to the quiz will win an FQ t-shirt!***



According to the NYTimes, this is the DR's most "Photogenic Town"

Photo Source: *Dominican Today*, 12/12/21

Punta Cana

Bani

Miches

Moca

## From the Board

We're delighted to welcome Stephanie Giddings and Josh Rosenthal to the FQ Board. They both will be on the ballot at the Annual meeting in June to be elected to 3 year terms.



**Stephanie Giddings** was a volunteer in Puerto Plata (2006-08) working with youth and community development. Her work there spanned many areas of education, including teaching, art therapy, vocational training, and fitness. Much of her work was focused on decreasing children's involvement with sex tourism and street vending. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and board-certified art

therapist, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in organizational leadership. She is in private practice serving up to 30 clients per week. Stephanie travels frequently to the DR with her Dominican husband and children.



**Josh Rosenthal** was a PCV in Guatemala (2004-06) where he worked in small business development with an organization offering microfinance opportunities to women from Mayan communities. After Peace Corps Josh worked in several teaching positions in the US and Peru. In 2012 he took a job with the

Colorado Rockies baseball team to work in the Dominican Republic with current and aspiring professional players. Josh led a comprehensive educational program to facilitate acculturation of the young players. While in the DR he married a Dominican and settled in Punta Cana. He currently works with

## Board of Directors

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Tito Coleman, President  
Minor Anderson, Vice President  
& Co-Editor Newsletter  
Janet Kerley, Secretary  
Bill Threlkeld, Treasurer

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John Evans  
Dan Golub  
Kathy Padilla  
Dave Padilla  
John Yuasa

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Mary Ferrand  
Mike McCabe

the Cap Cana Heritage School in Punta Cana. Josh has a Ph.D. in education.

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