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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Lou Ferrand

These are exciting times! In September in Washington, D.C., Peace Corps will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its founding by President Kennedy. In February 2012, Peace Corps DR, along with Fondo Quisqueya and Friends of the Dominican Republic, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps in the DR at a wonderful get-together in Santo Domingo for RPCVs, staff, and their families and significant others, during which Fondo Quisqueya will also celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its founding in 1987. I encourage you to attend these events.

In the meantime, I invite all who will be in the Washington, D.C. area to join us on June 4, 2011 at Fondo Quisqueya's Annual Meeting, which will be held at Tom and Sue Gittins' home in Falls Church, Virginia. Look for more information in this newsletter.

During the past year, Fondo Quisqueya, through its grants and scholarships to low-income, motivated Dominicans, has continued to help make a difference in their lives. In the last two quarters, we have funded grants and scholarships for more than 100 people for courses and trainings including training on mangrove restoration; training for women on topics such as healthy cooking and nutrition, healthy pregnancies, and HIV/AIDS prevention; sustainable lobster fishery training for fishermen; teacher training; graphic design and computer repair classes; barber training; and English classes.

We are only able to do this through the generous contributions of former PCVs and Staff and their families and friends, and others who are interested in helping Fondo Quisqueya achieve its goals. We need your help!

Also, check out FQ's 50 for 50 campaign in this Newsletter.

Saludos, Lou

FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH GROUP

Las Placetas, San José de las Matas, Santiago

Our Brigada Verde environmental youth group used a Fondo Quisqueya grant for educational materials for our courses and for transportation to two training activities. We visited a sustainable coffee farm, and we attended a training to learn about the construction and maintenance of a community composting facility. We are very thankful for the support for our activities because they have had a positive impact on ourselves and our community. We have learned about many environmental topics including waste management, wastewater, deforestation, erosion, conservation, and biodiversity, which will give us opportunities to work in the environmental field. Our Brigada Verde group has also organized and carried out community projects including trash pick-ups, tree planting, and the construction of a community composting facility. We have become leaders in our community, and we can continue applying our new skills to plan additional projects in our community. Thank you very much to Fondo Quisqueya for your support!



Members of an environmental youth group



*Peace Corps DR 50th
Anniversary!*

50 AÑOS CON EL PUEBLO DOMINICANO

PEACE CORPS DR 50th ANNIVERSARY

Remembering, Reconnecting, Recommitting

February 7-10, 2012 Santo Domingo

In February 2012, we will join our Dominican friends and colleagues to celebrate 50 years of continuous service in the Dominican Republic. We want to honor the accomplishments of Peace Corps and the Dominican Pueblo. We will begin with an Opening Reception on Tuesday evening, February 7th followed by three days of programmed activities, Wednesday through Friday, February 8th, 9th and 10th in Santo Domingo. The official program will be followed by optional opportunities for short excursions and travel to old sites and friends away from the capital.



Take a look at what we have so far: [Note, with such advanced planning, some change should be expected but dates are firm!]

Tuesday, Feb. 7: Travel day with informal opportunities to visit with friends. Don't miss the Opening Reception around the pool and patio!

Wednesday, Feb. 8: Opening Ceremony followed by a full day of activities planned by Peace Corps and current Volunteers with a focus on *Peace Corps Today*. An ice cream social at the end of the day will provide an opportunity to meet and mix with current Volunteers, together with old and new friends. Afterwards, take a Volunteer out to dinner!

Thursday, Feb. 9: A shortened day dedicated to *Reconnecting and Remembering* our individual and group time of service—a look at our shared history through our own discussions; words from noted Dominican historian Frank Moya Pons; a panel discussion by former PC Directors; and a look at some of Peace Corps' Enduring Legacies. A buffet/working lunch organized by program sectors with facilitators will focus on discussing the historical evolution of programs and projects, providing valuable information for our 50th Anniversary History Project. At night we anticipate a grand reception offered by the US Ambassador [date to be confirmed].

Friday, Feb. 10: Our final day will begin with a keynote by our own Aaron Williams, US Peace Corps Director, and a morning of activities dedicated to *Third Goal and/or Continuing Service* opportunities. We will feature short overviews of the missions and accomplishments of the sponsoring organizations, followed by a variety of workshops related to the Third Goal and Continuing Service. Examples include:

- Community Challenge Fund video and projects
- Fondo Quisqueya and Hernández Foundation accomplishments
- Workshops to get you back in the groove or grooving more

The conference will end with a closing luncheon ceremony and that night a fun-filled closing *Fiesta en la Zona Colonial*, such a beautiful and charming part of Santo Domingo.

[At present this will depend on the date of the Ambassador's Reception.]

Saturday and Sunday—Post Conference Activities:

- Opportunities for excursions to the Regions (Santiago, La Romana, Barahona, Puerto Plata, Jarabacoa) featuring interesting short tours— "Ruta de Café", 27 Charcos, beaches, birds, mountains, etc.
- Site visits, Community Challenge Fund sites
- Santo Domingo attractions such as Zona Colonial, Botanical Garden, Centro Cultural, and much more
- A service project in which to participate with Dominicans and PCVs

So, mark your calendars for **February 7-10** and plan to visit the Caribbean's most beautiful island and charming people! Look for registration materials by mid-summer and for more information in FDR's CyberNews and website at: www.fotdr.org, and at FQ's website at: www.fondoq.org.

FROM THE VP PERCH

BY BJ WARREN

We have spring and fortunately enough money to fund this round of scholarships. Don't forget to keep support coming so we can meet our goal of funding up to \$3,000 of scholarships each quarter. And on a lighter note, be sure to start making reservations to attend the Peace Corps Dominican Republic 50th Anniversary Celebration February 7-10, 2012 in Santo Domingo (see more details in this newsletter). There will also be events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Washington, DC September 21-25 for those of you who can make it. For more information about the September events, visit the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org.

Peace, BJ Warren



TRAINING HELPS ECO-TOURISM GUIDES IMPROVE THEIR BUSINESS

BY PCV LINSEY LONGSTRETH

A FQ grant was used for a training course on caves for eco-tourism guides of the Pedro Sanchez Guides' Association. Thanks to the trainings, the guides are now able to include as part of their tours an explanation of the formation of the caves, the pictographs in the caves, and the practices to conserve the caves.

As part of the training, the guides also learned how to keep their audiences intrigued and how to make small improvements to their trails. The training has raised the quality of the guides' tours to the point that the guides are now able to charge a competitive price in the market. The guides have also attracted the attention of tour operators and outside institutions. The increased interest in the site and the tours has resulted in more visitors and more income for the guides and their families.

A positive unexpected result of the trainings is a newfound interest in geology among the guides. The guides have taken it upon themselves to expand their research beyond the trainings to continue learning about geology, with a focus on the specific geology of their geographic region. This allows the guides to continue to improve the quality of their tours. This training was a huge success. Thank you for making it happen!

"Thanks to the trainings, the guides are now able to include as part of their tours an explanation of the formation of the caves, the pictographs in the caves, and the practices to conserve the caves."



Pedro Sanchez Guides' Association



FONDO QUISQUEYA 50 FOR 50

In February 2012, we will celebrate 50 years of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. On that occasion we will also celebrate the 25th anniversary of Fondo Quisqueya. For 25 years, Fondo Quisqueya has been providing grants and scholarships to deserving and needy Dominicans for various types of training and education in diverse professional, vocational and life skills areas. More than \$120,000 has been donated to some 680 individuals and groups for training and education and more than \$23,000 to help hurricane-damaged schools in the Dominican Republic.

Fondo Q is managed and administered by an entirely volunteer Board of Directors and depends on the generous support of former Peace Corps volunteers and staff and of friends and families. At the outset, the Board made the decision to put 10% of all contributions into a reserve fund for special needs and sustainability. For example, most of the funding for hurricane-damaged schools was allocated from this fund. This fund currently has around \$25,000, depending on the ups and downs of the market. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and the 25th Anniversary of Fondo Quisqueya, the Board is launching a one-time giving campaign to increase that fund to \$50,000. We are asking all former PCDR volunteers and staff, and families and friends, for a **one time fund gift** in addition to your normal giving to Fondo Quisqueya. The regular annual giving will continue to support the extremely successful grants and scholarships that have helped so many Dominicans in their lives and careers. The **one time fund gift** will go directly to the reserve fund for special needs and sustainability.

Please complete the form below to make your **one time fund gift** in support of the **50 for 50 campaign**.

Fondo Quisqueya is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation and your gift is tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

50 for 50 special fund gift of \$ _____ enclosed

Send to: Fondo Quisqueya
P.O. Box 6628
Falls Church, VA 22040-6628

Or go to: www.fondoq.org and click on "Donate/Support Our Work" (You can designate your donation for the 50 for 50 campaign using either JustGive or Network for Good)

“More than \$120,000 has been donated to some 680 individuals and groups for training and education and more than \$23,000 to help hurricane-damaged schools in the Dominican Republic.”

FONDO Q'S GRANTS & SELECTION PROCESS

The Fondo Quisqueya Foundation, Inc. ("FQ") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which was formed in 1987 by former Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff who had served in the Dominican Republic ("DR") and who wanted to give something back to the DR. FQ was incorporated in Virginia in 1993.

FQ provides low-income Dominicans with scholarships and grants for both traditional and non-traditional in-country education and training to assist them in bettering their lives and to help them attain personal development, skills, and advancement. Grants may be to groups of individuals such as members of a coffee cooperative or a women's group.

FQ's grants and scholarships are made possible through donations and in-kind support from ex-PCVs and PC staff and other friends of the DR. FQ has no paid staff. Examples of courses funded include accounting, diesel mechanics, beautician school, barber training, driver training, worm composting, bee-keeping, construction and cement skills, painting, journalism, mangrove restoration, ecotourism, in-verter repair, graphic design, English, and computer classes. Funds can be used for tuition, transportation, books and materials, and other expenses associated with the course or training.

Each applicant must be sponsored by a member of the Dominican community or by a Peace Corps DR Volunteer or staff member.

Individual grants and scholarships usually do not exceed US\$300. FQ's Local DR Committee reviews grant applications quarterly and makes recommendations to FQ's Board of Directors for selection. Funds permitting, the Board seeks to fund at least a total of US\$3,000 in scholarships each quarter, for a yearly total of at least US\$12,000. Please donate now. Help our grantees help themselves.



FQ provides low-income Dominicans with scholarships and grants for both traditional and non-traditional in-country education and training to assist them in bettering their lives and to help them attain personal development, skills, and advancement.

FONDO Q GRANTEES

Fondo Q normally awards grants and scholarships four times per year. Applicants are screened by Fondo Q's Local DR Committee. Most of the awards are for \$300 or less. Below are summaries of the grants and scholarships awarded during the last quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, which include 10 group awards benefitting more than 100 recipients in addition to 8 individual awards. These awards have provided funding for courses in subjects including journalism; graphic design and computer repair; mangrove restoration; sustainable lobster fishery training; barber training; and English.

GROUP AWARDS

Grantees:	25 Youth
From:	La Pascuala, Samana
For:	Journalism Course PCV Kaitlyn Malkiewicz wrote: "This course will teach youth how to start and run a newspaper. They will learn how to find stories and interview people, and they will also participate in a computer course to learn how to type their articles and maintain a database of past issues. This newspaper will cover news from across the community, province, country, and world. The international section will allow the kids to learn about what is happening around the world while honing their geography skills."
Sponsor:	PCV Kaitlyn Malkiewicz
Grantees:	6 Youth
From:	Los Guineos, Miches
For:	Mangrove Restoration PCV Evan Poirson wrote: "Brigada Verde members from Los Guineos will participate in the restoration of mangroves near Punta Cana, in collaboration with the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation (PCEF). This activity will be accompanied by classes in ecological management. Mangrove restoration will offer a hands-on complementary experience to the lessons that Brigada Verde members are learning in weekly charlas. Mangroves are an important but endangered ecosystem in the region of Los Guineos, and working to restore them within the region will provide an incomparable level of reinforcement and enrichment for these youth."
Sponsor:	PCV Evan Poirson



“Día de las Doñas Women's Exchange and Workshop is designed to allow women the opportunity to discuss issues important to them and their families while also providing methods in which to address those topics.”

Grantees: 30 Women
From: La Angostura, Jarabacoa, La Vega
For: Women's Exchange and Workshop
 PCV Marite Perez wrote: *“Día de las Doñas Women's Exchange and Workshop is designed to allow women the opportunity to discuss issues important to them and their families while also providing methods in which to address those topics. Presentations will include HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness, healthy cooking/nutrition, healthy pregnancies, illness prevention/basic sanitation, breast and cervical cancer detection and awareness, healthy relationships/domestic violence, working in teams, resolving group issues, how to develop a project/action plan, income generation projects, family budgeting, and famous women of the Dominican Republic. Following the workshop, the participants will give health presentations to their women's groups and other community members”*

Sponsor: PCV Marite Perez

Grantees: 20 Youth
From: El Limon, Samana
For: Journalism Field Trip
 PCV Stephanie Garry wrote: *“The funds will be used to coordinate an educational field trip for four PCVs and their youth groups to travel to Santo Domingo to visit a newspaper/magazine facility. In most cases, the youth groups are already working on community blogs/newspaper projects, and this trip will provide a hands-on experience which will allow the youth groups to see the environment in which a newspaper is put together.”*

Sponsor: PCV Stephanie Garry

Grantees: 2 Youth
From: Los Hatillos, Hato Mayor
For: Graphic Design & Computer Repair
Sponsor: PCV James MacAulay

Grantees: 15 Teachers
From: El Limon, Samana
For: Teacher Training
Sponsor: PCV Stephanie Garry

Grantees: 4 Youth
From: Tubagua, Puerto Plata
For: Computer Classes
Sponsor: PCV Justin Hitchcock

Grantees: Elementary School Students
From: Tireo al Medio, Constanza
For: School Library
Sponsor: PCV Malia Dimler

Grantees: 6 Fisherman
From: Los Cacaos, Samana
For: Sustainable Lobster Fishery Training
Sponsor: PCV Sara Wyckoff

Individual Grants and Scholarships

Grantee: Emmanuel Quezada Quezada
From: Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional
For: English Class
 PCV Jennifer Barker wrote: *“Emmanuel will use the grant funds for an intensive 6-month English course covering four levels of English. Emmanuel currently works as a supervisor of invoice control for Grupo Ramos. Many of the products are in English. Learning English will help Emmanuel in his current job and will give him the skills to solicit new work. It will also give him an advantage in the struggling job market, which will hopefully help him more easily support his family.”*
Sponsor: PCV Jennifer Barker

Grantee: Emmanuel Ulloa
From: Higuero, Moca, Espaillat
For: English Class

Emmanuel wrote: *“Me interesa aprender inglés, pero mi familia no tiene los recursos para pagar la clase. Ya es necesario saber inglés para poder trabajar y estudiar aquí o en Estados Unidos. Y me gusta el idioma y yo estudiaba con tres voluntarios de Cuerpo de Paz por cuatro años. También, en mi escuela mi nota en inglés está excelente, 100%, pero quiero aprender más de lo que estoy aprendiendo en la escuela.”*

Sponsor: PCV Kelly Connors

Grantee: Angelis Rosario
From: La Penda, Hermanas Mirabal
For: Barber Training Course
Sponsor: PCV Robert Tuttle

Grantee: Benito Polanco
From: La Penda, Hermanas Mirabal
For: Barber Training Course
Sponsor: PCV Robert Tuttle

Grantee: Jhobnatan Rosario Santos
From: Las Lajas, Altamira
For: English Class
Sponsor: PCV Kacie Sis

Grantee: Rafelina Claribel Custodio Filpo
From: Villa Mella, Santo Domingo
For: English Class
Sponsor: Jennifer McGowan

Grantee: Francis Espinal Torres
From: La Lima, Santiago Rodriguez
For: High School Diploma
Sponsor: PCV Elias Rodriguez

Grantee: Yohanny Denis Japa Muñoz
From: Los Hatillos, Hato Mayor
For: English Class
Sponsor: PCV James MacAulay



Grantee Yohanny Denis Japa Muñoz

“En mi escuela mi nota en inglés está excelente, 100%, pero quiero aprender más de lo que estoy aprendiendo en la escuela.”

BECOME A FAN OF FONDO QUISQUEYA!

Become a fan of Fondo Quisqueya on Facebook. Just type in “Fondo Quisqueya” on the top of your Facebook page in the box that says “find people and more;” then click on the box that says “become a fan.” You will receive messages about upcoming FQ events and ways you can contribute to FQ. Facebook is a great way to keep in touch with other Returned Volunteers and to stay connected to your PCDR friends.



DR DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

BY MINOR ANDERSON

As Stanley Meisler noted in his recent book, *When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and Its First Fifty Years*, "The Peace Corps has always brimmed with pride over the deportment of the Volunteers during the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic during a civil war in 1965. The Volunteers in the capital of Santo Domingo refused to leave despite heavy fire and bloody mayhem. They rushed to hospitals that were bereft of power and supplies and, amid awful, searing scenes, cared for the wounded, some cut down by U.S. marines and paratroopers. Despite muzzles from Washington, they sided with their impoverished Dominican friends and cried out against U.S. intervention. It was a glowing moment in Peace Corps history."

Although it was an exceptional and unique experience for DR Volunteers, it exemplifies the Peace Corps' ideals as carried out by over 200,000 Volunteers who have served throughout the world. This episode in Peace Corps history validates the vision of John F. Kennedy as shaped and carried out by Sargent Shriver.

This documentary will use interviews with past and present staff and volunteers and Dominicans, actual footage from the Dominican Republic of current and historic events, newsreels, photographs, and possibly even some reenactments from the recent play about the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic during the revolution.

On April 1st & 2nd Casey Case, Harry Keramidas (both spent their careers in the movie industry), Kirby Jones and Minor Anderson (misspent their careers in other areas) met in Los Angeles to outline and discuss the project. Please visit us on [Facebook at "Peace Corps Documentary Dominican Republic 65"](#) to join in the design of the project and tell your story.

"This documentary will use interviews with past and present staff and volunteers and Dominicans, actual footage from the Dominican Republic of current and historic events, newsreels, photographs, and possibly even some reenactments from the recent play about the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic during the revolution."

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY BILL THRELKELD

Happy 50th Anniversary to the Peace Corps! Most of our readers are connected to Peace Corps in one way or another so it's a great time to reflect on all that Peace Corps has brought into our lives and how it has impacted the lives of those we served.

Next year we will be celebrating Peace Corps service that started in the Dominican Republic 50 years ago! I hope you will pay particular attention to FQ's "50 for 50 Campaign" discussed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. It is a great time to remember your annual contribution(s) to FQ and also make a special contribution to bolster the economic sustainability of our program.

Our end-of-the-year contributions for 2010 were not as strong as they were for 2009. By the start of February, approximately \$6,000 had been collected since our fall newsletter. This is about \$4,000 short of what we were able to collect in approximately the same period last year. So we have some ground to make up. In February and March, we received about \$1,800. Let's see if we can close the gap heading into mid-year. Can you help us raise another \$4,000 in time for our annual meeting in June? (Mark your calendar for the meeting – June 4, 4:00 p.m., at the home of Tom and Sue Gittins).

2010 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2010)

GENERAL DONORS: Anis & Sonia Acimandos, Jacqueline Alcorn, Blair Bertaccini, Lawrence Blas-kopf, Rebecca Brown, Christina Bruff, Richard Carlson, Susan & Harold Case, Mac & Carmen Chapin, Dave & Lil Clary, Jan Clayberg & Olaf Bexhoeft, Karen & Richard Clough, Joe & Margaret Deslaurier, Lynda Edwards, John & Jeanne Evans, Lou & Mary Ferrand, Anita Friedman & Victor Juan Amram, Lucy & William Friedman, Stuart Frisch, Tom & Sue Gittins, Robert & Marsha Holm, Julie Howard, Kirby Jones, James Kelly, Harry Keramidas & Renee Rastorfer, Peggy & Matthew Kieras, Elizabeth Kleckner, Anne Kopley, Rik Laird, Karen Lippold, Carolyn Long & Scott Brum-burgh, Gerald Lutes, Gerald & Madeline Malovany, Craig Marken & Wanda Wynne, Joanna Mauer, Michael McCabe & Rosemarie Hidalgo-McCabe, Jennifer McGowan, Gregory Michaels, William Miller, Jeffery Morton, Gerald Murray & Maria Alvarez-Murray, Chick & Judy Nelson, James & Anne O'Connor, Gary & Julia Orso, David & Kathy Padilla, John & Amparo Prusia, Virginia Richards, Sara Robertson & Michael Yocum, Neil Ross Consultants, Joel & Cecilia Roth, George & Patricia Row-land, Vida Sanchez, Mary Smrekar & Randy Adams, Stacy & Purvis Stacks, Ronald Stevenson & Pamela Parmer, Robert & Carolyn Tafelski, Anne Ternes, John & Helen Torphy, Stefan Ufer, Steve & Darlene Vick, Mary Walker, Rachel Waterman, Sarah Wells, G. Geer Wilcox, Holly Ann Williams & Art Hansen.

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- B. **IN MEMORY OF DAVID LARSON AND PHIL TAYLOR:** Randy Adams.
- C. **IN HONOR OF RANDY ADAMS:** Howard & Susan Lamb.
- D. **IN MEMORY OF KRISTIN FISKE, "SHE WAS AS FINE A PERSON AS I EVER MET, AND THE WORLD IS A POORER PLACE THAT SHE IS NO LONGER IN IT.":** David Axelson.
- E. **TOWARDS A NURSING PROGRAM:** Vincent & Paulina Vlastic.
- F. **IN HONOR OF CRIS CASTELLO'S 38TH BIRTHDAY:** Verna & Daniel Sundquist.
- G. **IN MEMORY OF ORESTES CUCURULLO, D.M.:** Kathryn Hanowell & David McMurry.
- H. **IN MEMORY OF JAMES VAN FLEET FOR THE MILA BROOKS FUND:** Mary Kritz & Douglas Gurak.
- I. **IN HONOR OF FAITH ORTLER, PEACE CORPS, D.R.:** Edmund & Gertrude Ortler.
- J. **IN HONOR OF TOM W. GITTINS, JR., "HAPPY FATHER'S DAY":** Tom M. Gittins
- K. **IN HONOR OF DR GROUP 26:** V. Dianne Streator.
- L. **IN-KIND DONATION OF WEB SERVER SPACE:** Bill & Carine Threlkeld.

2011 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

(REFLECTING DONATIONS JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2011)

GENERAL DONORS: B Rebecca Brown, James & Susan Busch, Gina Caceci, Susan & Harold Case, Paul & Jan Doyle, Richard Elrauch, Loren & Jan Floto, Lucy & William Friedman, Terry & Beverly Fullmer, Tom Gittins, Jerry & Carmen Healy, Robert & Marsha Holm, William Large, Jr., James Linn, Joanna Mauer, James & Anne O'Connor, Bruce Potter, Alan Randall, John & Lola Smith, John & Helen Torphy, T. & L. Ward, Sarah Wells.

IN-KIND DONATION OF WEB SERVER SPACE: Bill & Carine Threlkeld.



*Honor Roll of
Donors*



NEW FQ BOARD MEMBER

Christina Bruff joins the Fondo Quisqueya Board of Directors as the Events Coordinator. From 2004-2007, she served as a Community Economic Development Peace Corps Volunteer in Batey #4 (Barahona) and as a Volunteer Coordinator in Santo Domingo. She worked with youth, artisans and community groups on a variety of income generation projects including a youth business plan competition and a national artisan fair. After finishing her service, Christina received a master's degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, where she specialized in development studies and completed projects with the United Nations Development Programme and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She currently works as an analyst with the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.



New FQ Board Member Christina Bruff

ENGLISH CLASSES PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

BY PCV ALANNA HUGHES

“For Edelmira, the opportunity to continue studying English has shown her that it is never too late to develop a new professional skill.”

English classes funded by Fondo Quisqueya have provided new opportunities for Alexander (Alex) Perez Vilorio and Edelmira Rosa. For Alex, the classes have given him a greater sense of self-assurance. As it had been a year since he had graduated high school, he was beginning to question whether he would ever have the opportunity to continue studying. This course has enabled him to “get back on the wagon,” and he is already talking about registering at a university sometime in the near future. He would like to study law. The opportunity to study English has also given Alex a greater vocabulary to use when working as a tour guide and when selling the jewelry he designs to foreigners. Additionally, an unexpected benefit of taking the class is that his professor has also identified the possibility of him working with Canadian volunteers in Hato Mayor once the course ends. This would be another way for Alex to continue practicing his English and to gain professional experience.

For Edelmira, the opportunity to continue studying English has shown her that it is never too late to develop a new professional skill. As a cocoa farmer, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother, she could have easily felt like she had a lot on her plate, but instead she desired to go above and beyond the *campo* norm. Her new course has reignited her interest in school and especially languages, and she knows that she will be able to apply what she learns to her work as a tour guide and to her responsibilities at the regional cacao growers' organization.



FQ Grantees Alexander Perez Vilorio and Edelmira Rosa

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE OR BY CHECK

FONDO Q

In addition to making tax deductible donations to Fondo Q by check, you can make them through **Pay-Pal**, **justgive.org**, and by using the **Network for Good Giving System** (NGGS). To donate online, follow the links at the bottom of FQ's "Ways to Contribute" page at <http://www.fondoq.org/contribute>.

MILA BROOKS FUND- WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

If you wish to focus your FQ giving on low-income women in the Dominican Republic, please send your tax deductible donations to: FQ for the Mila Brooks Fund, c/o Fondo Quisqueya, P.O. Box 6628, Falls Church, VA 22040-6628.

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.



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Join us for Fondo Q's Annual meeting and BBQ on Saturday, June 4 from 4-7 p.m. at Tom and Sue Gittens' home in Falls Church, Virginia. The BBQ will feature Tom's famous chicken and sausage and homemade delicacies contributed by attendees.

All current and past DR PCVs, Staff, and other friends of FQ and their families are invited!

Elections for new Officers and Board members will be held, the annual report on finances and scholarships awarded during the past 12 months will be given, and ideas and plans for grant and scholarship activities for the next 12 months will be discussed.

Please come! Confirm your attendance with Tom Gittins.

Saturday, June 4, 4-7 p.m.

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

6834 Woodland Drive, Falls Church, VA 22046

E-mail: GITASOCINC@aol.com

(703) 241-0634

*Come to FQ's
Annual Meeting At
Tom Gittins' Home
On June 4, 2011!*

To See This Newsletter In Color, Go To FQ's Website At www.fondoq.org



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