

Fondo Q

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Continuation of Caring

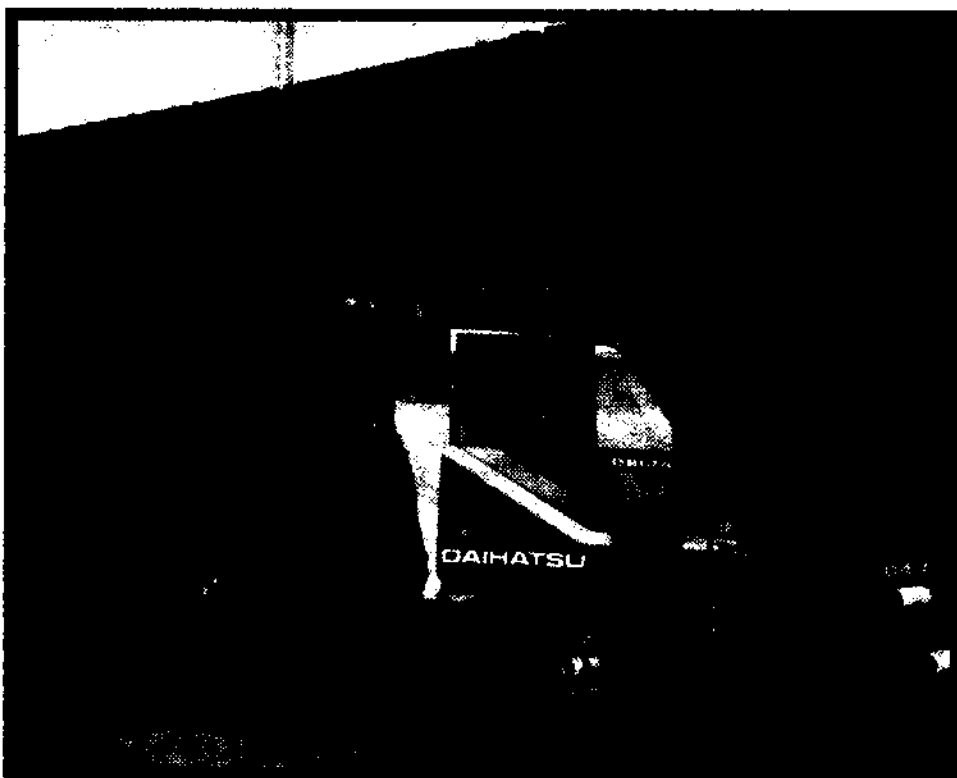
by

Mary Bosy, RPCV, Hato Mayor (1997-1999)

Phone calls after 10:00 p.m. always make me uneasy, but when my neighbor called me to her phone at 12:30 a.m., September 22, 1998 to take a call from the Peace Corps office in Santo Domingo, I was frightened. And when the PCV calling said that the anticipated Hurricane Georges had slightly altered its course and would now hit Hato Mayor directly with winds of 150 mph, I knew we were in serious trouble.

PCV's were evacuated from the northern coast of the island per the original storm trajectory, but the rest of us were given the choice of remaining at our site or going into the capitol. I opted to stay in Hato Mayor with my friends.

The town of Hato Mayor is ringed by hills and those 150 mph winds swirled overhead for 5 solid hours. We huddled in the inner hallway of a church (moving down as the roof blew off) and could watch while wooden houses collapsed, sheets of zinc whirled everywhere, and the rain rushed in horizontal sheets. Georges was my third hurricane, but it was the most destructive natural force I have ever seen in my life. Hato Mayor was devastated, and no one seemed to know anything about



Part of the generous contribution from FQ donors pictures the food distribution system set up by Bosy and others. After setting up the food distribution sites, Bosy and others went to work in setting up mechanisms to repair the schools.

rural areas. In my capacity as Resource PCV, I had done a lot of work with rural schools and knew the margin for error in rural existence was even more tenuous than in urban environments, so when a friend said he was going to the

campo on his motorcycle to check on his school, I asked him to take me along.

I was appalled. If anything, the storm destruction was worse — fallen trees were everywhere; roads

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