



2010 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The 2010 Annual Report outlines activities of the Friends of the Dominican Republic in implementing its in-country programs and providing services to DR RPCVs over the calendar year. The all-volunteer organization relies heavily on the volunteerism of its members to accomplish a number of activities in pursuing its three goals:

Friends of the Dominican Republic (FDR) is an active group of returned Volunteers and Staff, current Volunteers and other concerned individuals who are striving to help Dominicans improve their lives; helping to fulfill the Third Goal of the Peace Corps; and creating a community of all those who have the interests of the Dominican people at heart. We are working to accomplish these purposes by:

- Directly contributing to the work of Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic by providing funding for Volunteer-coordinated activities and projects, and/or in-kind contributions that support the development of Peace Corps programs.
- Supporting the presence of an online community that will enable a diverse array of people, and particularly DR RPCV's, to reconnect, stay connected, and share ideas and experiences.
- Helping to focus on opportunities that support Third Goal activities.

Highlights of 2010

As a result of the hard work of the Board and its committees, DR PCVS and staff were provided opportunities to utilize FDR services, participate in its activities and contribute to its programs.

The organization began in earnest planning the 50th Peace Corps Reunion/Celebration for RPCVS and staff in February 2012. FDR will be the lead and will be supported by its sister organization, Fundo Quisqueya. We anticipate up from 200-300 will participate in this major event.

FDR's primary community development program, the Community Challenge Fund, provided over \$20,000 to approved community development projects in 2010 (the second largest annual award in the program's 6 years) to assist over 300 families meet their basic needs for water, education and health. A total of 10 community improvement projects in communities in several regions of the Dominican Republic were provided funds.

Organizationally, the Board went through a process of redefining its primary responsibilities, identifying specific responsibilities for each position, updating its committee structure and committing to accountability for program assignments. Among the major steps were to improve services to members, update the website and increase communications through the CyberNews.

Board of Directors Responsibilities and Activities 2010 Year End Board of Directors

President – Mariellen Jewers
Vice President – John Epler
Treasurer – John Evans
Secretary – Kathryn Hanowell
Membership Chair - Janice Jorgensen

Immediate Past President – Roger Weiss
Founding President - Neil Ross
CyberNews Editor - Jim Shrefler
Director - Larry Deutsch
Director - Steve Johnson

Other Board Members Serving During 2010

Art Johnson - Web Support

Aaron Arnoldy - DR Chair

Morgan Krimbal - RPCV Mentoring

Tony Gasbarro - Director

2010 FDR Program Manager Responsibilities

Reunion	John Evans
Program Support Fund	Executive Committee
Community Challenge Fund	John Epler
Membership Services	Janice Jorgensen
History Project	Neil Ross
Third Goal Achievement	Bill Miller
RPCV Mentoring Invitee Match	Larry Deutsch
Financial Record-keeping and reporting	John Evans

Other Key FDR Responsibilities for Maintaining Strong Communication Venues

Web Support	Art Johnson
CyberNews	Jim Shrefler & John Epler
PC Connects	Neil Ross
LinkIn	Janice Jorgensen
Facebook	Janice Jorgensen

REPORTS

President – Roger Weiss, John Epler and Mariellen Jewers by John Epler

Roger Weiss, long-standing President, did not run for re-election. He continued on in several other capacities on the Board and provided advice and counsel to Mariellen and John during throughout 2010.

Vice President John Epler maintained leadership continuity in the position by stepping in as Interim President while continuing his responsibilities as Vice President.

Candidates for the position were sought and a current Board Member, Mariellen Jewers was nominated and elected in June.

Mariellen brought a new approach to the Board, focusing on broadening and improving communication with the membership and reaching out to younger members. She continued to provide leadership during the website updating process.

During the year, the Board bestowed the honor of “Honorary Member” to Joe Epler for his contributions in founding the Challenge Fund and providing funds to provide the match that has generated over \$200,000 in funds for projects in the DR. He became the third such honoree, following Andy Hernandez and Jack Vaughn.

The President, in concert with the Community Challenge Fund Manager, prepared the Annual Newsletter to accompany the annual solicitation of funds to support the CCF to over 2,500 persons. The outcomes were a better-informed membership on FDR activities and over \$16,000 raised for CCF projects in the DR.

Vice President – John Epler

In the role of support for the President, stepped as Interim President for 6 months following an illness-forced stepping down of Roger, the elected President. Following election of Mariellen as President, provided advice and counsel to assist her in carrying out her functions. Began assuming more duties for organizational work in the fall when the President was unable to fulfill some of the duties.

Treasurer – John Evans

The Treasurer’s primary job is to handle corporate finances, to process and account for all monies received and, conversely, to account for all monies spent or disbursed. Three quarterly reports and one annual report were prepared and submitted to the Board in 2010. With assistance from fellow board members, Weiss and Deutsch, added a new Balance Statement to complement the standard Operating Statement (cash status) to better

reflect the organization's overall financial condition. In summary, on a cash accounting basis, Treasurer received \$21,846 in "new" money and re-handled \$55,796.72 in "old" monies transferred between our investment accounts or used to fund projects. In turn, the organization disbursed \$26,149.29 including \$15,271.11 for programmatic activities, \$3,693.99 for administrative expenses, and \$7,184.19 for investment for future programmatic activities. See Treasurer's 2010 Year End financial reports for details. In addition, maintained a separate spreadsheet for donations to, and disbursements made on behalf of, the Community Challenge Fund (CCF) and liaised frequently with the CCF Program Manager and Peace Corps Partnership specialist at Peace Corps headquarters. Provided assistance to the Annual Newsletter/CCF fund-raising communication by re-mailing letters returned by the Postal Service.

In addition to the principal financial responsibilities, the Treasurer completed the following actions in 2010:

- Annual re-affiliation package for NPCA
- Annual filing of Form 990 and supporting schedules to the IRS
- Annual report to the Virginia Corporation Commission on status of the organization.
- Transferred to NPCA 27 memberships received
- Confirmed 11 donations to the Program Support Fund for tax deduction purposes
- Updated expiration dates of individual memberships in corporate web database
- Updated address changes received from USPS in corporate web database
- Liaised with Fondo Quisqueya; attending their bi-monthly Board meetings in DC area
- Participation in monthly Board conference calls as well as frequent calls and emails to/from Executive Committee
- Began planning for the 50th Anniversary Reunion in Santo Domingo 2012, setting up both a US committee and a local committee in the Dominican Republic. Set dates with Dominican Embassy, DR Peace Corps Director, and coordinated announcements on several Internet social networks.

Secretary – Kathryn Hanowell**2010 Actions**

- Continued to provide timing and informative reports documenting the decisions of the Board
- Developed a system for expeditiously correcting and approving minutes
- Updated the Program Support Fund webpage
- Established a Annual Board Workplan

2011 plan of action:

- Within two days following the Board meeting, will send the draft minutes for corrections.
- The Thursday before the monthly board meeting, will send final draft for review and approval at Board meeting.
- Within 2 days following monthly Board meeting, post approved minutes on Board Yahoo Website.
- As requested, edit CyberNews.

Membership Director - Janice F. Jorgensen (as of 7/7/11)

- FACEBOOK (now has 292 people signed in) and LinkedIn (has 70+). These two locations provided 40+ updates to former PCVs and help get email addresses for folks missing them.
- Put group numbers in for many PCVs. The hard ones are the 1-45 groups or until 1982 when the PC went to a system showing country, group 1, 2, or 3 of fiscal year, and fiscal year.
- Our database of e-mail addresses has grown from 700 in 2005 to over 1800.
- All registrants are approved by the Director and verified that they are a PCV or friend of a specific PCV before they are authorized.
- "Bounces" from our Constant Contact Cyber News website are reviewed and the database updated.
- A monthly review of the "event viewer" on the website database is made to determine who tried to log in but could not for some reason. They are sent a password reminder if they are legitimate.
- Some database statistics:

2472 names in database
98 Not DR PCV
80 deceased
352 with No email ever

- Issues in need of resolution:
 - Need for assistance in reviewing Facebook/Constant Contact for PCVS.
 - Need individuals to “represent” their group and let us know what has changed and who they have addresses for.
 - Find a way to educate people on how to use the database.. (some board members may never have searched for anyone; therefore unfamiliar with the info and system).
 - Work with Bob Howell to modify parts of the database to make searching easier.
 - It would be good to know why some people do not receive the CyberNews because of an issue with the ISPs.
 - Review other PC/DR Facebook sites for potential people to recruit to be a member

Cyber News - Jim Shrefler (assisted by Roger Weiss) by John Epler

The number of CyberNews editions increased in 2010 through a concerted effort to obtain information that would be informative to our member base. A new process for preparing and disseminating the CyberNews was adopted which was intended to make produce editions on a more regular timetable through a defined process.

Chair of the 50th RPCV/Staff Reunion and Conference in 2012 – John Evans by John Epler

John Evans continued to lead the planning for the Conference, conferring with Fondo Q on major early decisions. John’s membership on both Boards has provided an opportunity for a high level of coordination between the two major RPCV groups. To a lesser extent contact was made with leadership of the Andy Fund to keep them apprised.

The Committee, which increased to more than 8 members during the year met frequently to begin the design of the Conference. Kathryn agreed to

serve as Co-Chair with John Evans. Neil Ross and Kathryn took on the key role of preparing a draft Conference agenda. The DR-PC Director indicated he would support the Conference and have PCVs help plan and implement various components of the Conference and work with the Committee. We have since found that this commitment was kept and the PCVs have been a great addition to the planning process.

DR Committee Report

At one time early in the year, the DR Committee consisted of 5 persons who met periodically to develop a workplan and serve as an on-site advisor to the Board. The group was originally centered in Santo Domingo but as members transitioned to other duties and sites, it became increasingly difficult for members to focus on the areas they had developed as a workplan. Eventually Aaron Arnoldy was no longer able to continue due to workload issues and the Committee became inactive.

Community Challenge Fund – John Epler

Project Activities – In spite of the continuing weak economy and its affect on donor ability to provide contributions (the lifeblood of the Program), we were able to increase the number of projects assisted from 6 to 10 in 2010. The approval of 10th project met our goal for projects approved set early in 2010.

This Fund provides financial resources to projects planned and implemented by a partnership of Peace Corps Volunteers on site in the DR and local community-based Dominican committees. Grants of up to \$2,500 are made to support activities which meet “basic community needs”. The grant funds are used for purchasing construction materials. The community donates all the labor and often a significant amount of the construction materials.

Projects approved in 2010 assisted 2,600 Dominican families and included:

- 5 community latrine projects
- 3 aqueduct projects
- a healthy homes cement floor project
- an expansion of a remedial education facility.

The projects approved in 2010 raised the total number of projects approved to 41 in the 6 year history of the Program which was initiated in 2004. A total of 2,600 families and almost 11,000 persons have now been assisted during the life of the program. The total funds awarded to projects has now reached \$78,834. The invested reserve fund continues to provide enough resources from earnings to pay for a significant portion of the awards to complement the funds raised annually for project activities.

2010 Donations – A total of 110 donors (up from 102 in 2009) contributed \$17,447 during the year, down about 8% from 2009. More than 20% of the 2010 donors were new contributors showing expanding interest in the program’s activities. The Robert Kulstad Memorial Fund (named for an early years DR PCV, provided \$3,000 in matching funds to support the 3 new water projects.

2010 Projections – 2010 goals are set at approving 10 new projects (for an award of approximately \$22,000). Our fund-raising goal is to reach \$20,000 in new donations (a 15% increase).

Program Support Fund – Executive Committee by John Epler

This is a small grant program for financial assistance to activities of PCVs for which there are no funds in the PC budget to pay for items which will enhance a program sector delivery of assistance. The PSF is funded from individuals who donate specifically to the Fund and from available general account resources.

One project was approved by the Executive Committee under the PSF Program in 2010. The project was for specialized equipment to assist Water Resources PCVs to design effective water systems for DR communities. As a result of a growth in PCVs working in water resources, the timely availability of leveling tools and GPS equipment, etc. was being stretched and causing major project delays and inefficiencies. The PSF provided \$1,553 to purchase a Pipe Threader, GPS, equipment box and a Leveler - equipment for shared use by the Water Resources Development PCVs.

Kathryn and Roger improved the PSF webpage to make it more understandable and enhance the potential for specific donations to the Fund.

Invitee Match & RPCV Mentoring – Larry Deutsch

In the past year the Friends of DR Mentoring Program has continued as an ongoing program. We use the NPCA website, Cyber News announcements and Facebook to advertise our programs. We match recently returned DR volunteers to mentors, where possible making matches in their region or area of interest. Interest has been steady. We made approximately a dozen matches over the past year. Future initiatives will seek to have the PC DR allow the FDR to provide introductory materials to PC volunteers about to leave the DR.

The Invitee Match Program links invited DR trainees to returned volunteers. This program gives the invitees the chance to ask questions about everything from packing to site selection and can provide reassurance during what can be a very stressful time. Six contacts were made in 2010. The next initiative will be to see if PC management will allow us to add a letter to invitee packets.

PC DC and NPCA Liaison – Mariellen Jewers by John Epler

The Liaison reported updated information on NPCA activities by monitoring information coming from NPCA. We endorsed the candidacy of a RPCV from the DR as a Board member in the election for the NPCA Board.

Web Team – Art Johnson & Roger Weiss by Roger Weiss

Art lead the Web Team consisting of himself Janice Jorgensen, and Neil Ross. The three reviewed the website for clarity, consistency, usability, timeliness and functionality and made several major changes and improvements to the site during the year.

The Membership content was re-formulated with the help of Janice as was the History section with Neil's help. A major revision of the Program Support Fund section was made with the help of Katherine who took responsibility for the focus / content.

As a result of their efforts, the Board formalized that the responsibility for maintaining program or activity sections and webpages at the website rest with the person who has taken on responsibility for that program or activity. As a result the vast majority of webpages were refined and updated, making it a more user-friendly communication tool.

Roger assumed the role of Web Team Leader when Art had to resign from the Board due to a serious illness. He continued to reshape the website, adding color, adding a legal document page.

The future: There is much to do in 2011 in preparation for the Reunion. A number of the items from the major Web Workplan of a year ago have not been completed and the organization and appearance need to be excellent for the Reunion. The Web Team should prioritize what needs to be done. There will be a number of new pages added to the site to promote the reunion since this will be the visible headquarters. A new PayPal system

must be set up for registration for the reunion with all the options and prices listed. The web site is about to undergo a major update of the DotNetNuke operating system and we do not know how smoothly that will go.

History Committee

Media & Third Goal Committee