



- ▶ Promoting peace and friendship in over 70 countries through technical aid



- ▶ Helping promote understanding of the American Culture among the countries served



- ▶ Taking the experience back home



# Peace Corps

## *Dominican Republic*

**BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVER 43 YEARS**

## Annual Report and Highlights

Dear Partners and Friends of Peace Corps DR,

During 2005, Peace Corps Volunteers and their partners continued our 43-year collaboration to build individual and organizational capacities in the campo, pueblos, and cities of the Dominican Republic (RD). Our work together always begins with a description of a need and an invitation by a Dominican governmental or non-governmental agency to work together to resolve a specific problem. In 2005, our Peace Corps Volunteers and their work

partners continued this four decades pattern by working in specific areas of Community Economic Development (with cooperatives); Education (Information Technology Education and Special Education); Health (Healthy Families and Healthy Environment); the Environment (Environmental Education and Agro-Forestry); and Youth and Families.

Our Peace Corps Volunteers live where they work, so that at the same time that we contribute in specific ways to the development of the Dominican Republic, we also create linkages and build the kind of cultural understanding that brings people together in lifelong friendships. When our Volunteers go home, many of them feel that they have two families, one in the USA and one in the DR.

This report documents some of the accomplishments that Peace Corps Volunteers and their Dominican work partners accomplished during the past year. Although they are impressive, the fact that we did it together is the greatest accomplishment of all.

Sincerely,

Romeo Massey  
Country Director



# Healthy Environment



The **Healthy Environment** project focuses on helping low-income families in rural areas have access to improved water and sanitation systems. The 11 current Volunteers work exclusively on environmental sanitation through constructing small aqueducts, organizing sanitation committees, and educating communities on sanitation and hygiene issues.

## *Last year, Healthy Environment Volunteers:*

- Built 6 water aqueducts.
- Organized or strengthened 12 water committees.
- Provided drinking water to 2,800 people.
- Trained 300 community members in sanitation and hygiene issues.

## Success Story

**Water and Sanitation Volunteer, Joanna Mauer** served as a sanitation engineer from 2003 to 2005 in the small rural community of Boma, in the municipality of Jarabacoa. Her main responsibility was to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases in approximately 31 families. She initiated her service by doing a community diagnostic to determine the number of cases of diarrhea in the community and an environmental health analysis of the potential causes of the incidence of gastrointestinal diseases.

As a result of her environmental analysis, she found that the lack of safe water and human excreta systems were the major causes of waterborne diseases in

Boma. With the support of the Canadian Embassy, she completed the construction of a gravity-flow aqueduct and a latrine project. Joanna trained the local Water Committee to organize community work brigades and to operate and maintain the aqueduct. Five months after the completion of the latrine project and the construction of the aqueduct, Joanna found a 10-16% decrease in the cases of diarrhea in the community of Boma.



# Our Partners

Peace Corps works in partnership with many organizations at the local and national level including:

## **Governmental Organizations**

- o Comisión Presidencial de Desarrollo Sostenible
- o CORAPLATA
- o Despacho de la Primera Dama
- o Dirección General de Desarrollo Comunitario
- o IDECOOP
- o Instituto Agrario Dominicano
- o Instituto Nacional de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado
- o Secretaria de Cultura
- o Secretaría de Estado de Cultura
- o Secretaría de Estado de Educación
- o Secretaría de Estado de Juventud
- o Secretaría de Estado de Medioambiente y Recursos Naturales
- o Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social

## **Internacional Agencies**

- o Amigos de las Américas
- o Canadian Embassy
- o Catholic Relief Services
- o Chemonics
- o DREAM Project
- o Esperanza Internacional
- o Heifer Project International
- o Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- o Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
- o Plan International
- o Programa de Pequeños Subsidios/ Fondo para el Medio ambiente Mundial (P.S./FMAM)
- o Programa Mundial de Alimentos
- o Proyecto Araucaria

## **Non Governmental Organizations**

- o ACALEN
- o ACOPRO
- o Alianza ONG
- o ASPIRE
- o Béisbol y Libros
- o Casa Caribeña
- o Casa de la Cultura de Monte Plata
- o CAUCA
- o CECALI
- o CE-MUJER
- o CIMPA
- o COOPAFI
- o Día Joven
- o ECLOF
- o FUDECO
- o Fundación ADEMI
- o Fundación Río Jaya
- o Fundación Salud y Bienestar, Inc.
- o Fundación Sur Futuro
- o FUNDEPROCUNIPA
- o FUNDEPRODA
- o IDAC
- o IDEAC
- o ILAC
- o LEMBA
- o Muchachos y Muchachas con Don Bosco
- o MUDE
- o Niños del Camino
- o Pastoral Juvenil
- o Patronato para la Protección Ambiental de Monseñor Nouel
- o SEGH
- o Sirve Quisqueya
- o SODAG
- o SODIN
- o SOEPA