

Persuant to Board conversations regarding the FDR donation of \$500 post Hurricane Georges, I have done my best to remember and document what happened with the 1998 grant of \$500 from FDR. I remember that the grant came timely and there were no strings attached (something we were very grateful for).

I purchased a GPS system for about \$350-375 at the Walmart in Derry, NH when I was home on leave to be used in mapping the project coordinates for every PCV for emergency evacuation. I had a seasoned team of volunteers go to each site and identify a clear helicopter landing site in the event a rescue would be needed. These coordinates would be posted on the emergency locator form (ELF).

Another early purchase was a chain saw for about \$150 to cut down the debris surrounding our building in order to re-establish normalcy as soon as possible. We also purchased in country a portable 20" television, to be located in the CD office for use in keeping updated with the news regarding strikes, emergencies, storms, etc.(there was even a threat of a Tsunami shortly after the Hurricane).

Funds were also used to purchase seeds for a 90 day harvest – gardens were linked to the reconstruction of the 8 or 9 schools enabled through Fondo Quisqueya. Some monies for seeds were provided through AID, but I seem to remember a small amount of other funding which supported the overall purchase. We chose the seeds specifically because they would yield food known to Dominicans, and we were concerned about a food shortfall after the initial foreign aid dried up.

We were in the odd time of the Clinton impeachment hearings, and also in the time that Hurricane Mitch hit Central America. The funding pipeline to the DR was simply clogged with these other issues with monies originally scheduled for the DR were held up or diverted to the activities surrounding Mitch. So many things were happening at once. I was flying food drops almost every day in the first weeks, then going to several embassy meetings a day, 2-3 briefings a day with PCVs. calls to HQ and a quickly forming project development with the new Crisis Corps, a barrage of visitors, interactions with Fondo Quisqueya, ongoing meetings with AID, the World Food Program, all sorts of requests, family concerns, a huge amount of PCV and PCT (we had a large trainee class at Entrena) issues as they were all in town and we were reacting to their many needs, responding, and then creating an organized multi-sector emergency response, the set up of an all volunteer conference at the Hotel Dominican Fiesta to deal with the psychological impact of disasters, etc.

Best Regards,
Natalie Woodward

The key point was that this was FDR's first grant done in response to a dire emergency. We were not then sophisticated enough to ask for formal reporting. We sent the cash (a fourth of our total FDR funds at the time) without strings to be used as the PC

Director needed. She requested emergency money because the US AID office and embassy needed months to get her cash. As a result of our publicity and request for funding, Fondo Q donated \$10,000 for school reconstruction and another \$4-5,000 came in from our members. Perhaps some of Natalie's list was not funded by our original \$500 gift, but we sure did help them get more.

One important point is that FDR was the very First to respond with cash. All things considered, we did good and Natalie and her Volunteers were able to do even more! We all should be proud of their accomplishment and our small part in helping. This is one major reason why FDR was created.

Hope this helps,

Neil Ross