

Saturday, February 17, 2007

To the Friends of the Dominican Republic ,

My name is Carlos Encalada, and I currently serve in the DR as an IT PCV in the Dajabón area. Having to work with many students who have never had the opportunity to practice computers, finding solid reliable software packages that assist my students is critical to developing classes that really allow the students to practice in an efficient and exciting manner. The Typing Master donation facilitated by the Friends of the Dominican Republic has helped all IT volunteers since we received the software in providing an interesting and diverse way to practice typing skills. The program itself provides self-paced lessons that the user can save in a profile format and return to their left lesson whenever. Along with this, the program also provides educational games using the skills learned in the lessons. This software has been of utmost use to many non-IT PCVs as well as IT secondary projects are becoming increasingly popular amongst volunteers. For all the current and past volunteers that have benefited from the use this beneficial and necessary software, I would like to thank the Friends of the Dominican Republic for this donation.

In addition to this donation, the Gringo Grita (GG), the Magazine of Peace Corps Dominican Republic Volunteers, received a scanner and PageMaker software which have completely changed what GG staff are capable of producing every issue. Using PageMaker along with PhotoShop has increased our creativity and professionalism. The scanner has allowed current and past volunteers to begin an archiving process of old Grita issues so that they are not lost to history. Eventually, we hope to post old Grita issues online. Without these resources, many of these initiatives would have remained stagnant and unfeasible. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Carlos Encalada  
IT PCV '05-'07

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"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the "Universe," a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest - a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." - Albert Einstein