

# Friends of Colombia

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLOMBIA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

## Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Colombia,

It brings me so much joy and is extremely humbling to address our membership as President of Friends of Colombia (FOC), an organization that was built on the dedication and resourcefulness of its members.

To say 2020 has been a challenging year would be an understatement. Both the U.S. and nuestra querida Colombia face uncertain futures amidst a global pandemic that has shined a harsh light on racial inequities in both countries.

Although we may be stuck inside, I am so proud of our membership. We haven't taken this time to simply sit back and stay idle while quarantining. As an organization, we have taken the time to think critically about where we are needed and where we can be most useful. FOC's Committees have organized and lent our support to a more effective channeling of resources.

In the first half of 2020 alone FOC has:

- Started a mentorship program aimed at providing immediate assistance to the 96 evacuated Colombia RPCVs
- Held three Speaker Series discussions focused on careers after Peace Corps service
- Sent donations totaling more than \$7,000 to support inspiring, grassroots Colombian-run organizations.

With so much more planned for 2020, including the introduction of FOC's Small Grant Program, we need your support. Support can come in many forms like volunteering on one of our committees, writing something for our newsletter, or making a donation.

Thank you for your faithful partnership with, and support of FOC. We couldn't do this work without you! If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved with FOC, please email [President.Friendsofcolombia@gmail.com](mailto:President.Friendsofcolombia@gmail.com).

Un abrazo,  
Michael Band  
FOC, President  
RPCV Colombia 2011-2014

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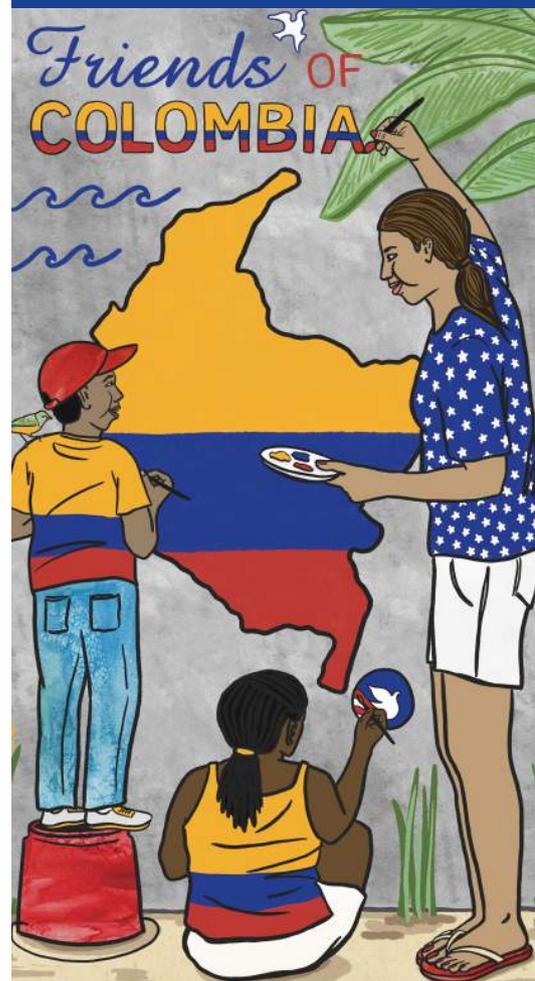
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# Friends OF COLOMBIA

CONNECTING returned Peace Corps volunteers and  
SUPPORTING Colombian community-based activities

## Meet the New Leadership



**President: Michael Band**  
2012-2014, C2-3, Education  
La Boquilla, Bolívar



**Vice President: Alyssa Galik**  
2016-2018, C2-8, Education  
Manzanillo Del Mar, Bolívar



**Treasurer: Jenna Glickman**  
2012-2015, C2-4, Education  
Barranquilla, Atlántico



**NPCA Liaison: Pat Wand**  
1962-1965, C1-8  
Buesaco, Nariño

## FOC Committees

### Communications

**Goal/Activities:** Manage communication strategy and operations for Facebook, LinkedIn, the FOC Newsletter, and other outreach.

**Cesar Castro**, 2012-2015, C2-4, Tubará, Atlántico

**Jerry Norris**, 1961-1963, C1-6, La Plata, Huila

**Jeremy Booth**, 2013-2015, C2-5, Barranquilla, Atlántico

**Ned Chalker**, 1961-1963, C1-1, Titiribi, Antioquia

**Alex Wagner**, 2018-2020, C2-13, Mingueo, La Guajira

**Brianna Thompson**, 2016-2018 C2-8, Puerto Colombia, Atlántico

**Autumn Sprunk**, 2017-2020, C2-11, Galerazamba, Bolívar

### Membership

**Goal/Activities:** Manage the Mentorship program and networking / career panels and other opportunities.

**Maya Cross**, 2016-2019, C2-8, Manatí, Atlántico

**Alli Spring**, 2012-2014, C2-3, Cartagena, Bolívar

**Michelle Dilesio**, 2016- 2019, C2-8, San Jacinto, Bolívar

### Social Events / Fundraising

**Goal/Activities:** Organize social events like virtual cooking and art classes, DC happy hours, and FOC fundraising / marketing materials.

**Sarah Shaw**, 2014-2016, C2-5, La Boquilla, Bolívar

**Carmen Galvis**, Peace Corps Language Facilitator, 2013 & 2016

### Grantmaking, Monitoring & Evaluation

**Goal/Activities:** Manage FOC grant application process and evaluation/reporting standards. Review and select grantees.

**Brianna Castro**, 2012-2015, C2-4, Tubará, Atlántico

**Danny Butterfoss**, 2015-2016, C2-7 Response, Suan, Atlántico

**Christina Kuntz**, 2012-2014, C2-3, Cartagena, Bolívar

**Laura Zoellner**, 2017-2019, C2-10, Santa Ana, Magdalena

## Sushi for Breakfast and Reggaetón from the Rooftops

By Brynn Smith, in *Oíste*. Read the [evacuation-themed issue of \*Oíste\* here](#).

Today marks one month since I landed back in the States, and every day I still wake up dazed and confused, wondering whether my whole life in Colombia was just a dream, or if all of the chaos here is just a nightmare.

At about 10:30 p.m., on Sunday, March 15th, the United States Peace Corps announced they would be evacuating all volunteers from their sites worldwide due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I was a few blocks away at my sitemate's house when we got the email. We were bracing for news, but we didn't know it would be this traumatic. When it came, it was earth-shattering.

We spent the next 15 hours packing whatever we could fit into our luggage, and saying as many goodbyes as we could squeeze in. I sobbed as I climbed up the hill to my house for what I knew would be the last time. My host mom and Abuelita embraced me at the door and assured me that, *nos vemos ahorita*, I would be back soon. My siblings stayed up half the night with me and helped me pack.

In the middle of packing, almost as if to throw it all in my face, one of my tías leaned into my room with an apparent lack of concern for my fragile emotional state and requested that I leave her my lamp. Despite all of my attempts to integrate and break stereotypes, as I lay sobbing on the floor surrounded by my two suitcases worth of belongings, I realized I was not her heartbroken sobrina, I was just another American girl who could surely buy a new lamp in the States.

I left the lamp.

I spent my last morning at my site showing my host siblings how to make avocado sushi rolls with a kit I found for them in Barranquilla. They were always interested and open to everything I cooked. Despite initial fears and expectations I had, my host family never ridiculed or mocked my plant-based diet. They loved trying food that I made and they always made me feel like a good

cook. That last morning, I felt so lucky to be a part of their family, even if it was only for a little while. I left that afternoon with the other volunteers in my area.

We were consolidated in Barranquilla for about a week, and I spent it pretty much numb. Emotions in the back of the filing cabinet, I tried to focus on spending the last few days with the friends that had become lifelines of support over the past six months. Maybe it's just because trauma bonds, but I really do think that something special happens when you drop a group of strangers into a foreign country together. We danced on the rooftops to the songs that had been blasted throughout the pueblos the past few months, and we mourned together for having to leave behind the lives that we were building in Colombia.

I was one of the first to receive a plane ticket back to the States. We moved through the empty airports, masked and dazed as if extras in an apocalyptic film. The Peace Corps had given me a dream job. I had work that gave me purpose and independence, I learned to speak Spanish. I could travel and explore. It felt like it had all been ripped away and erased overnight. I felt cheated, I was promised more time. My community was promised more of my time, more of my resources. But then again, how bold of me to assume that any of us were ever really promised more time in the first place.

If living on the coast of Colombia should have taught me anything, it's that almost nothing will ever work out as you plan for it to, and sometimes, beautiful and different things will happen instead, things that you would have never expected. I only hope that maybe, despite all of the incredible loss caused by this virus, something beautiful will bloom from the ashes of it all. Until then, *hasta luego mi Colombia querida, y nos vemos ahorita*.

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## From the Field

### Transformative Chocolate

Recently evacuated Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Elyse Magen would like to thank FOC for contributing to her National Peace Corps Association fundraising campaign "Economic Empowerment of Women in Colombia." The campaign funding will be used to support a chocolate dessert business called Transformación, located in the municipality of Santa Marta, Colombia.

Transformación is run by four women and one young man who are all members of a farming collective called Guardabosques de la Sierra. The farming collective finds both national and international markets to sell the cacao grown by its members. As a small scale farmer, it is nearly impossible to live off of just selling cacao beans, thus Transformación was formed with the intention of transforming the cacao bean into different chocolate desserts and selling them to the ever-growing tourism market in their region. Campaign funds will go towards creating a workspace with machinery that will be able to produce chocolate bars.



## Don't Let the Evacuation Stop You

*We empowered our sites during service, and we can continue doing so, through TCP Global, an NPCA affiliated micro-credit organization.*

1

Connect an organization from your site with TCP Global

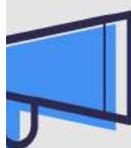


2

The local partner gives affordable loans to entrepreneurs in the community

3

The local partner uses the earnings from the loans on community projects



All Volunteers Welcome!  
CED Experience Not Necessary

#### For More Information:

Contact the TCP Global RPCV Team at [tcpglobal@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:tcpglobal@peacecorpsconnect.org) or visit website [tcpglobal.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://tcpglobal.peacecorpsconnect.org)

# Friends of Colombia

## From the Field: TCP Global Micro Loan Project

Yasmila often takes her Miracle Pot (La Olla Milagrosa) and a chicken to the poorest barrios around Fundación, inviting each family to contribute something—corn, yuca, potatoes, carrots or whatever they can spare. A few hours later, their stomachs bear witness to the greater good achieved when they work together. In the interim, Yasmila listens to their stories and shares her wisdom. She knows many of them as customers at her Fundación market warehouse, and she's always searching for ways to help them improve their businesses. She offers free training programs and, for the last three years, has provided TCP Global micro-loans. During the pandemic, the Miracle Pot is busier than ever serving over 1,200 meals in the first month, and these days Yasmila uses earnings from the loan program to pay for the food. Jonathan in Guaimaro/Salamina has a similar approach, using food as an incentive to bring people to his informal talks where he teaches improved farming methods, financial literacy and other life skills.

TCP Global partners come in many forms, but they share one common trait—all have a history of working effectively to serve their communities. The typical TCP Global partner is referred by an RPCV or PCV who then serves as a mentor to ensure the loan program's success through a relationship built on trust. Since 2007, the \$65,000 sent to Colombia has supported more than 1,600 loans valued at a total of \$422,000 and earned \$72,000 for the partners' special projects like facilities for persons with disabilities, scholarships and programs like Yasmila's and Jonathan's. TCP Global added 14 sites within the last year, now supporting 30 loan programs in 12 countries, more than 50% of which are mentored by an RPCV with a personal connection.

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Worldwide, the average TCP Global loan is \$235, the repayment rate is over 98% and the typical borrower lives in a community with fewer than 15,000 residents—communities that are largely off the radar of most micro-finance institutions and precisely the communities where TCP Global works best. Five recent Colombia RPCVs joined the TCP Global team and are donating their considerable talents to upgrade loan tracking systems and materials for training and outreach. They volunteered to become TCP Global's successors and committed to running the program as a volunteer effort so that 100% of donations will continue to be distributed as loans.

Thanks to connection with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), TCP Global received a sizable donation for micro-loans but is still in need of supplemental donations and funds to cover the NPCA administrative fee. For more information, or to bring TCP Global micro-loans to your Peace Corps community, contact [tcpglobal@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:tcpglobal@peacecorpsconnect.org) or visit [tcpglobal.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://tcpglobal.peacecorpsconnect.org).



# Friends of Colombia

**"At present, Peace Corps is dormant because it has no Volunteers in the field. But it does represent through its returned volunteers a cadre of well-trained, dedicated and skilled professionals."**



## Ensuring the Future of the Peace Corps

Op-Ed by Jeremiah Norris, FOC Board Member

In a March 15 open letter to Volunteers worldwide, Peace Corps Director Jody Olson wrote: we are acting to safeguard your well-being and prevent a situation where Volunteers are unable to leave their host countries.

Unfortunately, several U.S. media outlets interpreted that the intent of her letter was to also fire the Volunteers.. Returning Volunteers suddenly found themselves without paid leave, with health insurance for only two months, and ineligible for unemployment benefits. For some of those returning from countries with no coronavirus cases to U.S. hot spots in New York and California, their sudden “firing” seemed ill-advised.

In this unanticipated milieu, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) stepped forward with a humanitarian response designed to assist returning Volunteers through a Global Reentry program. It will roll out an array of academic and career resources to assist those evacuated in taking the next steps in their professional pathways. However, the most critical element in NPCA’s response is advocacy to “ensure the future of the Peace Corps.”

That element takes on increasing importance when the current coronavirus pandemic passes. It is likely that there will be substantial reductions in the Federal Budget for FY 2021. A question will be asked by budget cutters: how did your Agency contribute to a resolution of the coronavirus

pandemic?

If all Peace Corps can offer up is a self-serving notion that it evacuated all its Volunteers to keep them out of harm’s way, that is neither a compelling rationale for restoring its budget, nor to sustain the concept of Peace Corps as an independent Agency of our Government.

At present, Peace Corps is dormant because it has no Volunteers in the field. But it does represent through its returned volunteers a cadre of well-trained, dedicated and skilled professionals. The Peace Corps Director could offer to deploy them as Reserves to first line responders in such agencies as FEMA, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as to local health and education departments throughout the U.S. For the past few months and for many months to come, these first responders will be stressed to their utmost, necessitating the need for a Reserve Force that can stand ready to back them up.

In this manner, Peace Corps could be relevant to our nation’s current crisis with the coronavirus by saying to future Federal budget cutters: Peace Corps provided 2,500 of its Volunteers to back-up FEMA’s first responders and another 5,000 to various agencies at federal, state and local governments. Their deployment allowed these agencies to rest and recuperate their first responders. When we so sorely needed that kind of professional assistance, Peace Corps was there for us—here at home.

# Friends of Colombia

## First Cooking with Care was a huge success!

Thank you for the overwhelming support during our first Cooking with Care class! Not in our wildest dreams did we anticipate being able to send \$3,015 - \$2,015 of your donations and FOC's \$1,000 match - to our partners in Loricá, Córdoba.

Since May 2, when we all learned how to make delicious arroz con pollo, Adry Esther Behaine Pacheco and a group of four community volunteers in Loricá, Córdoba, have been busy purchasing food and delivering mercaditos (grocery packages) to vulnerable communities in and around Loricá that have been under Covid-19 lockdown since March. Mercaditos included staples like rice, beans, milk, pasta, and oil in addition to sanitary and cleaning supplies.

With your generous donations, our partners in Loricá were able to deliver 240 mercaditos to families in Loricá and five vulnerable communities outside of Loricá (Palo de Agua, Manantial Bajo, Cerro Buenos Aires, Puerto Eugenio, and El Playón).

## Second Cooking Class Pivots to Montes de María

On June 20th, Friends of Colombia hosted its second virtual Colombian cooking class hosted by FOC member Carmen Galvis. Viewers learned how to make a delicious Colombian recipe, black-eyed pea fritters (buñuelitos) with ají dipping sauce. Donations through this class will buy groceries for families in the Zona Media and Zona Baja of the Montes de María in El Carmen de Bolívar, Colombia.

One-hundred percent of the \$3,822 donation (\$2,822 of your donation and FOC's \$1,000 matching grant) went directly to La Mesa de Víctimas, a local advocacy group that works with leaders from each of the rural villages in this region. They are deeply connected to these villages through their work and have their own moto drivers who will deliver food assistance to families. La Mesa de Víctimas has advocated for food assistance for their region from the national government, but so far that aid has only been delivered to the urban center. Your donations will provide food aid to remote villages with the highest need.

## July Art Class for Afro-Colombian Scholarships

The FOC Social Events and Fundraising Committee has remained busy planning events. Artist Sarah Shaw (2014-2016) is planning a virtual art class on Sunday, July 12th that will raise money for university scholarships for Afro-Colombian high school students in Cartagena. Subscribe to the [FOC email list](#) or [follow us on Facebook](#) to receive updates on this event and more!



# Friends of Colombia

## Letters from Alfonso: Learning to Listen by Earl Kessler

Book review by: Margarita Sorock, Huila 1964-1966

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Earl Kessler (1965-1968) wrote an informative and engaging book about the development of Puerto Badel, a rural new town outside of Cartagena up the Canal del Dique, when he was a volunteer. The book "Letters from Alfonso: Learning to Listen" tells the story of the development of the Caño Salado community and Earl's friendship with Alfonso Perez Correa, the community leader. You can purchase the book and help FOC at the same time. Send a check for \$20 that covers the cost of the book, shipping, and a \$10 donation to FOC to:

**Earl Kessler, 109 Jimenez Street, Santa Fe NM 87501**



Earl's first Peace Corps sites were in the department of Huila. He spent two years in the towns of Neiva and La Plata, then extended for one year as a young architect with a Slum Improvement Team in Cartagena. In this site, he initiated a long-term friendship with Alfonso Perez. Over a span of 43 letters covering a period of 13 years, Earl and Alfonso kept their friendship alive while Puerto Badel, the community they helped found, continued to expand and develop.

In his Cartagena assignment, Earl learned a valuable lesson which served him well in future assignments with USAID, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and numerous non-governmental organizations). He had been asked to prepare a site plan for a new community, and he thought his plan was "great, neat, efficient, and eminently do-able." After his presentation, there was a respectful silence, broken only by Earl asking: what happened? That's when Alfonso stood and doffed his hat to say, "This might be nice in your country for people who live in the city. In fact, we are sure it is. However, it is really not appropriate for us here since we are farmers, rural people who have different needs and uses for our homes and land." Somewhat

startled, Earl asked Alfonso: why didn't you tell me this before? Alfonso responded: "We didn't think you'd listen." Subsequently, some of their initiatives worked, others didn't. Discouragement is always present but it never gets the upper hand. The book is a testimony to the value of not throwing anything away—the letters, for example, and reviewing them to cull their wisdom. And—yes, it is there!

What the protagonists describe is a process—a process in which Earl learned to listen and to appreciate the lives his clients lived and sought to improve. He could better help them because he trained himself to open his senses to the multiple clues they provided. This is an important lesson for everyone who has ever considered "helping" others. The process is proof that it can be done, but that it is probably more a sum of many little steps rather than a gigantic plunge into "development." Kessler's contribution, then, is showing the application of a listening process which resulted in improving the lives of the people of Puerto Badel. This is a sustained and sustainable effort applicable to other times and places, and a great lesson for those who desire to make the world more livable for us all.

# Friends of Colombia

## Grant Application Release

We're happy to announce the imminent release of the FOC Grant Application for 2020. We plan to grant up to \$10,000 total to various community-based organizations and foundations in Colombia by September (maximum \$1,000 per grantee). We will release the application on our website, Facebook, and via email, so check back in mid-July. The application process will be very simple; a maximum 3-page proposal detailing the project's objectives, community's needs, and budget. The FOC Grantmaking Committee will set monitoring and evaluation requirements with grantees. We encourage all Colombia RPCVs to reach out to any local organizations or projects that would make great candidates and ask them to apply by September 1.

The application will be available in both English and Spanish at [friendsofcolombia.org](http://friendsofcolombia.org).

## Career Panel Speaker Series

Thanks to all of our speakers and attendees that participated in our Career Panel Speaker Series! We kicked off **our first panel on April 9**, which focused on **Careers in the Federal Government**. Regina Ernst (2013-2015) gave a great overview of how human resources, NCE, and USAJobs works. Mike Deloge (2011-2014) spoke about his role at the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. And, Andrea Doyle (2012-2014) was able to speak about her job at Peace Corps and new role at the General Services Administration.

**Our second panel on April 25** focused on a diverse array of careers available in the **Education sector**. The virtual event was led by Alli Spring (2012-2014), who is now a principal at an immersion school in China. Panelists included: Don Wise (1972-1976) - an Education professor who has worked in the U.S. and several Latin American countries, Michelle Dilesio (2016-2019) - a STEAM educator at the Boston Children's Museum, Lindsay Schiltz (2016-2018) - a Spanish teacher in suburban Chicago, Jeremy Booth (2013-2015) - Communications Director at Childhood Education International, Nate Mullen (2012-2014) - Assistant Principal at a Denver charter school whose network primarily works in Latino communities

On May 27, we were fortunate to have **a panel on the State Department Foreign Service**. Constance Ray (2012-2014) spoke about the application process for Consular Fellows while Danny Butterfoss (2014-2015) spoke about his experience applying for the Foreign Service as an Economics Officer. Meanwhile, Caroline Iglesias (2012-2014) spoke about her daily work and life as a Consular Fellow in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

## Mentorship Program

FOC had general goals of beginning a networking program that would better connect Colombia RPCVs, but the evacuation of 90 Colombia RPCVs due to Covid-19 made the establishment of a mentorship program all the more pressing. The unique history of Peace Corps Colombia means that the first-generation of volunteers have a wide range and depth of career and life experiences that second-generation volunteers may find meaningful. Especially during a time of great uncertainty, simply having someone to talk to for emotional support or provide direction on what to do next can make a big difference. To date, more than 30 mentorship matches have been made. These connections have helped RPCVs navigate job searches, grad school applications, and transitions from Colombia to the U.S. The FOC community has really stepped in to offer their support and serve as mentors during this time.

If you'd like to get involved, [please fill out this brief form on our website](#).

# Friends of Colombia

## Corona Contradictions by Margarita Sorock

This past weekend (May 23-25) was a long one, including Monday. Sunday and Monday were days of strict quarantine and dry law, even for beverages made and consumed at home. No stores were open except, perhaps, an occasional pharmacy. Today's newspaper reported the weekend tally: 720 fights requiring police intervention and 600 underground parties. It sounds like a normal long weekend—which it would have been, before coronavirus.

Cartagena, my home for the past 39 years, had the dubious honor of reporting the first case of coronavirus in Colombia—an 85-year-old British woman, now fully recovered, who came on a cruise ship—and the first death from coronavirus, a 58-year-old taxi driver who transported sneezing European visitors. Quarantine officially began on March 25 and has been extended through May 31.

What does life feel like? Well, coronavirus has dominated all communications media. Colombia, when compared to other countries, tends to receive high marks. Are they warranted? It is difficult to know. The president and his ministers appear nightly on television from 7:00-8:00. They have videos and presentations which sound very convincing, leading us to believe that everything is under control. The national news I watch from 9:30-11:00, with equally convincing and polished presentations, contradicts what was said by the president and his ministers between 7 and 8, showing protests, neglect, oversights and especially, overspending. Is it possible for things to have changed so drastically between 8:00 and 9:30?

I also listen to national radio sporadically during the day, watch Telecaribe news in the morning and get email and WhatsApp messages in huge quantities. I have NEVER heard so much talk about fútbol now that, like most other sports, it's in total recess and re-negotiation. It is still the most popular topic—followed by cycling and the fates of the Vuelta (Spain) the Giro (Italy) and the Tour (France). It is truly a globalized world where Bayern-Munich and Lionel Messi are intensely debated by foreign and national experts in great detail, along with Junior, Millonarios, and Santa Fe.

Street vendors in pushcarts selling fruit, vegetables, fish and some prepared foods (peto) visit the neighborhood daily, but now, all wear masks and most use gloves. I get at least one visit daily from people asking for donations, which I prefer to make in food rather than money. These are private people, not representatives of organizations. Many Venezuelan refugees have opted to return to Venezuela, and they have gotten some transportation assistance from the Colombian government. Colombia says it is helping everyone who needs help without regard to nationality. I hope that is true.

Take-out and messenger services have boomed. A definite improvement has been the presence of the SuperGiros van coming to my neighborhood every day between 11:00 and noon, announcing its presence with great glee (some would say with great scandal).

There are over 20,000 cases of coronavirus in Colombia now (as of the end of May). Most are treated at home. Just under 10% end up in hospitals. The public health system is responsible for testing and treatment. Private health care providers, most of whom owe huge sums of money to public hospitals and laboratories, have taken virtually no action, arguing that coronavirus is a public health problem. There are protocols galore dealing with deceased victims, but it appears that rapid service is the last thing anyone can expect. And we are having a heat wave of unprecedented proportions with no rain in sight!

There are recurring complaints about the increases in public utilities bills. The utility companies say they will not cut off water, electricity or gas for nonpayment or late payment, that there will be readjustments and subsidies, and yada, yada, yada. It sounds great, but so far the "dialogue" has gotten lost in promises—promises not reflected in the monthly bills. Last of all, there are people in dire straits—probably in excess of 25% of the population. The cheerful local news program serving the Caribbean coast has said that a new subsidy is being created for those who have not received assistance through other means and "all you have to do is log onto [helpisontheway.com](http://helpisontheway.com) and fill out the simple form." I know people who should be beneficiaries of this assistance but "logging on" and "filling out" are not in their range of skills. This means they will probably have to avail themselves of the assistance of local politicians to get the help they need and deserve. And speaking of politicians—those at the national level, not particularly interested in coronavirus, have taken advantage of the situation to sneak through controversial policies when they know people's attentions are focused elsewhere.

So what is the verdict? Of course, there are important lessons to be learned and acts of heroism and sacrifice to be admired. But, the other night an international news program focused on a section of Lima, Perú, showing "before" and "after" coronavirus. The only visible difference was the presence of masks (tapabocas) in the "after" version, but the same activities, with the same crowding, are still very much present. Have we learned anything? I hope so, but meanwhile, I confess, I have yet to wear my new tapaboca with the NY Yankees logo...

# Membership Form

## FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete one form for each member!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in Peace Corps (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Peace Corps Service (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Cohort Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sector: \_\_\_\_\_

Site (include city/village and department): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

New       Renewal

Annual Individual      \$ 25.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Couple      \$ 40.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Individual      \$ 500.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable over a two-year period)

Donation to FOC for projects in Colombia      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation specifically for *Paso a Paso*      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:** FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA  
PO Box 15292  
Chevy Chase, MD 20825

**NOTE:** FOC is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.  
Consult your tax accountant regarding personal tax deductions.