

# Peace Corps Times



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Issue 4, 2008

## Volunteers Build Partnerships Worldwide

In Malawi, a “Moonlight Clinic” project has been launched to build a new maternity ward and upgrade a health center that is overcrowded with HIV/AIDS patients.

In Nicaragua, the “Trash Treatment Facility” project intends to provide 8,000 villagers with a sustainable solid waste treatment facility that will improve air quality, lessen health risks, and beautify the community.

***PCPP can help link host communities' needs with the generosity of Volunteers' home communities.***

In Zambia, a project called “Camp GLOW” is being planned to educate and empower girls living in rural areas so they can become positive role models in their communities.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, a project intended to bring farming equipment to a boarding school for children with disabilities will allow the school's administration to cultivate the land for beans and potatoes.

In Cameroon, a “Food and Medicinal Plant Workshop” will present local farmers with the opportunity to better utilize their harvests by drying and preserving agricultural projects.

In the Dominican Republic, the “Community Aqueduct Project” is being

planned to provide safe drinking water to a community of 325 people who live without bridges, electricity, accessible water, schools, or paved roads.

These and many more projects around the world are part of the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) that was launched in 1964.

Each year, Volunteers undertake vital development projects with their host communities, often with little or no monetary assistance, through sheer ingenuity. However, there are times when projects require additional financial support. This is where PCPP can be of assistance.

We know communities may not have all the resources they need to implement new projects. We also know Volunteers' friends and family back home want to offer substantial support to Volunteers and their host communities. Fortunately, PCPP can help link host communities' needs with the generosity of Volunteers' home communities.

The program is administered by the Office of Private Sector Initiatives (OPSI), which has the unique ability to accept gifts on behalf of the Peace Corps. Because Volunteers are not authorized to raise funds on behalf of the Peace Corps, PCPP offers a transparent mechanism that allows individuals, groups, and foundations to give tax-deductible donations to community projects taking place in countries where Volunteers serve.

How can a Volunteer start the Part-



**Megan Chandler, an education Volunteer in Eastern Uganda, helped rebuild a school in her community with the help of her hometown of Hamilton, Montana. They raised funds through the Peace Corps Partnership Program.**

nership Program process? Once a Volunteer and his or her community have determined an appropriate need, he/she may work with overseas staff to submit a proposal to the program. Staff members have expertise on project planning and completing the user-friendly application. The application also includes helpful questions to consider while planning, options to measure success, examples of timelines and budgets, and a final checklist to ensure all vital information is included.

After completing and submitting the application, an OPSI regional specialist will post the project summary, written

by the Volunteer and community, on the Peace Corps website ([www.peacecorps.gov/contribute](http://www.peacecorps.gov/contribute)). The specialist will follow this by mailing letters to all referrals provided by the Volunteer and attaching the entire application to encourage financial support for the project. Volunteers should also send simple emails with their project number and basic information to those they would like to solicit for donations. Dozens of friends and family are thus directed to the website to contribute to the project. On the website, donors will be able to view the

*Continued on page 2*

## What You Should Know About the Peace Corps Partnership Program

**What PCPP is...** Since Volunteers are not authorized to raise funds on behalf of the Peace Corps, the Peace Corps Partnership Program paves a way for individuals, groups, and foundations to give tax-deductible donations to community projects where Volunteers serve.

**What PCPP is not...** PCPP is not a granting agency—it does not directly fund projects. Instead, Volunteers start the process by identifying donors. PCPP then facilitates by linking donors to approved projects.

**Community contributions...** Communities must contribute at least 25 percent of

the total cost of the project. This can be done in the form of cash contributions from community members and donations from local businesses.

Volunteers can also work with their community members to quantify in-kind donations such as labor, materials, or space. In many cases, communities end up contributing much more than 25 percent.

**Think outside of the box...** In developing your fundraising strategy. Potential sources include former teachers and classmates, co-workers, youth groups, church members, sororities or fraternities, or local charitable organizations such as

Kiwanis or Rotary clubs. Volunteers who broaden their list of potential donors often reach their requested funding amount much sooner.

**Raising money takes time...** On average, a project that is \$3,000 or less takes 45 days to raise funds online, whereas those requiring \$10,000 or more take three to four months. Volunteers must then factor in one month of processing time before the money reaches the Volunteer.

Be sure to allow enough time between your proposal submission and the planned project start date to allow the entire funding process to be completed before digging in.

**Be proactive...** In addition to making it onto the PCPP webpage, Volunteers can be even more persuasive by writing personal letters or emails about the project to potential donors. Submitting pictures to PCPP staff is also helpful in marketing each project to donors who may not be familiar with a Volunteer's country of service.

**Tell everyone to donate online...** All online donations are expedited. Please encourage your friends to donate to your project online to make the process go faster: [www.peacecorps.gov/contribute](http://www.peacecorps.gov/contribute)

**Remember...** Your work is important!

Continued from page 1

amount needed, as well as the community contribution, before contributing via credit card or electronic check.

Once a project has been fully funded, Volunteers will receive payment by check or electronic funds transfer and project implementation may commence. Donors who like to be updated on a project's progress may have their contact information passed along so the Volunteer can send updates, photos, and other fun information. Upon completion, Volunteers provide an account of the funds and narratives regarding the project's implementation and success.

So, what are the primary advantages of working with the Partnership Program?

1. *The PCPP process is an easy and transparent way for Volunteers to participate with project fundraising without being seen as a personal source of funds.*

2. *By contributing through the Partnership Program, donors are assured that 100 percent of their tax-deductible donation will be used toward a Volunteer project. A \$25 contribution results in \$25 sent overseas. Additionally, the Peace Corps will exchange the funds into local currency and either complete an electronic funds transfer or write a check directly to the Volunteer. This saves donors from any transfer and exchange fees.*

3. *Posting a project on the Partnership Program website also offers the potential for interested individuals, not connected to the Volunteer, to give to a project that peaks their interest. In this case, well written and interesting summaries are the key to pulling in further donations.*

Each overseas post has a PCPP coordinator, who can answer questions and provide access to information and resources. The coordinator can also provide

the following resources:

**The Volunteer Resource CD.** Created to be used by both Volunteers and post staff, this CD facilitates the entire Partnership Program application process. It includes the application form, final report form, and samples of each, as well as the *Project Design and Management Manual* and the *Peace Corps Partnership Handbook*.

**Peace Corps Partnership Program Video.** Produced after visiting actual Partnership Program projects and speaking to Volunteers in the field, community members, and donors in the United States, the video provides an excellent visual overview of the program's process.

**PCPP Informational Brochure.** The brochure explains the program and how to donate, and is sent to all Volunteer referrals with a postage paid return envelope to make donating to a Volunteer's project as easy as possible.

Any additional questions about the Peace Corps Partnership Program should be sent to: [opsitechnical@peacecorps.gov](mailto:opsitechnical@peacecorps.gov).

## Country Funds Program Makes Contributing Easy

On July 1, the Office of Private Sector Initiatives launched Country Funds to provide donors the opportunity to contribute to Peace Corps Partnership Program projects in a country where the Peace Corps is currently operating, rather than to a specific project.

Many returned Volunteers seek ways to stay involved with their host countries, and have found that Country Funds allow them to do this with ease. Even if Volunteers are not currently seeking funding through the Partnership Program, they can encourage friends and family members to donate to projects in their country, benefiting their colleagues in service.

After just two months, 26 countries of service have already received donations. Ask your PCPP coordinator for more information or visit us online at [www.peacecorps.gov/contribute](http://www.peacecorps.gov/contribute).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Volunteer Ingenuity on Display around the World



Director Ronald A. Tschetter visits a school in Thailand where Volunteer Colin Thompson is a teacher.

By Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter

The sheer ingenuity of our Volunteers and their fellow community members throughout the world is a constant source of pride for myself and the Peace Corps as a whole. Such creative thinking is often put on display through the many Peace Corps Partnership Projects (PCPP) that connect citizens in the U.S. with the developing world.

A recent look at our Internet website that helps raise funds through the program revealed an array of projects.

There's the "Raising Sheep to Save Elephants" project in Mali, funding efforts for local herders to raise sheep to

sell during the Muslim holiday. With elephants and man increasingly having to compete for many of the same resources, part of the proceeds will go to (The Friends of the Elephants Association) to protect Gourma elephants through community education, conflict resolution, and elephant rescue and rehabilitation.

In Benin, a project listed under the heading "Program for the Eradication of Informality Among Artisans" is intended to provide artisans with government-issued identification cards to provide them access to a variety of artisan support organizations and ministerial programs that often provide monetary support.

A look at the website shows projects ranging from \$157 to over \$36,000. The former is to help fund an environmental club in Madagascar, while the latter is for a school building project for youth in Togo. Such ranges show how much of an impact this medium can have.

Another key aspect of the program is the support provided by host countries. While PCPP posts showed Volunteers asking for nearly \$500,000 in funding in November, it's important to realize that up to \$200,000 is also being provided by those living in these countries. A community must make a 25 percent contribution to the total project cost and outline success indicators for such projects. This helps ensure community ownership, a greater chance of long-term sustainability, and, ultimately, success. In many cases, such projects go beyond that 25 percent plateau, with much of the contribution coming via free labor, which exhibits the pride and appreciation our friends throughout the world have for our Volunteers' help.

Mali leads the Peace Corps in PCPP projects, with 17 posted online as of December 10. The Dominican Republic has nine projects, and Panama and Senegal have posted seven each.

Some of the more popular projects revolve around computer technology, schools, youth centers, recreational facilities, dormitories, the building of wells and latrines, rural health clinics, and events focused on the empowerment of women.

The current food crisis throughout

the world has also resulted in a spike in funding for garden projects and other agricultural efforts aimed toward sustainability.

However big or small a project is, the impact is immeasurable. During my travels as the Peace Corps Director I have had the privilege of seeing many of our projects reach fruition.

I will always remember visiting Megan Guetzko's site in Swaziland, where she had raised funds to build a new school for the children of her village. As many of their parents had died from AIDS, the children are being cared for by their grandmothers now, and these remarkable women were working to build this school alongside Megan and other men in the village.

Participation in the PCPP also helps fulfill Peace Corps' third goal—helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans—by connecting individuals and community groups in the U.S. with the people in the countries in which Volunteers serve in a meaningful way.

Through sponsorship of a project, Americans back home are able to gain new knowledge about the development context in the country in which you serve, and learn more about the challenges people in your host country are facing. But even better, by becoming a PCPP sponsor, friends, family, and community members can become part of the solution.

As a Volunteer, please take advantage of these valuable resources.



# WHAT VOLUNTEERS ARE BLOGGING...

South Africa

## The Promise Sunshine Group

I visited the high school across from home. I met some very dedicated teachers. One leads a group of students who work on projects to improve their school, better the lives of other students, and discuss challenges facing youth today. This is an amazing group of 30 promising young adults who are surrounded by poverty, unemployment and HIV. They call themselves the Promise Sunshine Group.

I asked the group how I could help them. I expected to be deluged with costly requests.

However, they did not want 'things,' they simply wanted to show pride in their school, feel capable without resources, share their understanding of the challenges of their generation, and accept responsibility to help those facing greater challenges.

<http://kimspcjournals.blogspot.com>

Namibia

## Nets and Mattresses

I am collaborating with my community, a church community, a mattress company, and other group donors to coordinate a project to purchase mosquito nets, mattresses and do building renovations on the hostel schools for a combined school. We are in a hot zone for Malaria and many of the beds do not have nets. There is standing water in the showers and bathrooms that makes for prime breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Mattresses are absent or terribly thin. Kitchen facilities are inhumane. I will be writing a proposal with our church and hostel school committee to set up a donation link through the Peace Corps Partnership Program.

<http://sclazeon.blogspot.com>

Moldova

## Summer in the Village

Camp TARE, a women's empowerment camp, was a success. In Romanian *Tare* means "strong." As an acronym, it stands for *Tinere* (young), *Active*, *Responsible*, and *Egale* (equal). The theme was "My Dream Can Be Reality," with topics ranging from career development to breast cancer.

It was rewarding to see our work come to fruition. It was incredible to watch these girls grow and leave with new friendships, knowledge, and improved attitudes.

The girls organized a talent show. They ended by crushing the four of us directors in a 94-person group hug, which made me want to cry. At that moment I felt like I had really done something to make a difference. I had that "aha!" moment, realizing this was why I had joined the Peace Corps.

<http://katieinmoldova.blogspot.com>

Uganda

## Computer Launch

I am trying to complete what is called a Peace Corps Partnership Project. My plan is to bring computers and Internet to the village. I'll train the people who work and volunteer at my organization in computer and Internet use and troubleshooting techniques. They will train teachers and people living with HIV/AIDS how to use the computer and Internet. It's a fairly low-budget project so I hope the funding will come through quickly. Helping people learn how to use technology gives them a huge step up in applying for jobs. I'm not just going to dump computers on these people; they'll actually learn how to use and maintain them so the project doesn't end before I've left.

<http://beachuganda.blogspot.com>

**Editor's Note:** The Peace Corps edits blog excerpts for length and grammar but does not change the content of the entries.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Many returned Peace Corps Volunteer [RPCV] groups are active in funding projects through the Peace Corps Partnership Program [PCPP]. For example, the members of the RPCV/Washington group demonstrate their ongoing commitment to Volunteers each year through the sponsorship of a PCPP project. This year, they are helping with a project Sarah Mendelsohn, a PCV from Ohio, and her community in Cape Verde have done. Sarah's project has received full funding and is now close to completion. Here is her story.)*

The tiny island archipelago country of Cape Verde believes in the importance of renewable energy. The National Strategic Plan of Cape Verde strives to see 50 percent of the country living on renewable energy by 2016. While the use of oil is being re-evaluated, engineers, development workers, teachers, businessmen, and others have been searching for a solution. For Hortelão, solar energy is our reply.

Hortelão is a rural community on the island of Santiago, the largest of the Cape Verde archipelago. The community consists of only 66 families. Unfortunately, electricity has not yet made it to Hortelão, like many villages in Africa. In a monthly

community meeting, it was decided that solar panels, similar to those in neighboring zones, would benefit the people of Hortelão.

Our community is now aware that energy improves health standards and nutrition, increases employment, and greatly assists in the ever-prevalent food security crisis by providing water pumping and cooling refrigeration, thus decreasing farmers' harvest losses.

Solar panels were the need; all we needed was the means! The Peace Corps Partnership Program allows American communities back home to witness the results of their generosity firsthand, by linking local communities with American individuals, communities, and businesses. Through the PCPP, we were able to combine our community resources with American technology, know-how, and kindness to bring solar panels to Hortelão, allowing them to use renewable, clean solar energy.

A group of girls has already formed a study group, which will take place in our community center once it has lights. The women involved in our jam-making income generating project are looking for suggestions for new products that will now be possible with refrigerators. There are so many possibilities.

## VOLUNTEERlife



Sarah Mendelsohn  
CAPE VERDE

I am happy to report that we have purchased two solar panels, two batteries, a breaker (we were given this), and a solar circuit charger. We used a "house-like" iron structure to protect the panels, and hope to have them working by the end of November. A fellow PCV who is an electrical engineer is working on our inverter for the panels. We are still in search of two microwave ovens that we can dissect for pieces of our inverter. The project is coming along nicely.

Finally, the community of Hortelão has taken a big step forward in its development. By merely installing two glass-like silicone grids to the roof of our community center, we anticipate being able to increase the education tools available to children, diversify employment opportunities, and improve overall health standards for everyone in our island community.

## Rwanda Program Reopens

On July 18, United States Ambassador to Rwanda Michael Arietti and Secretary General of Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Amandin Rugira marked the return of the Peace Corps to Rwanda. The program began in 1972 and 114 Volunteers worked in education, health, and environment sectors before the Peace Corps left in 1994. The new group of Volunteers will work in health, education, information technology, and community development.

## Peace Corps Among Most Ideal Employers

The Peace Corps was recognized by undergraduate students as the eighth most ideal employer to reach their career goals and ranked 13<sup>th</sup> as an overall ideal employer for the minority student population. The 2008 results were based upon a survey by UNIVERSUM Communications, an employer research firm. The Peace Corps' ranking as an ideal employer has increased dramatically in recent years, from No. 138 in 2006 to as high as No. 5 in 2007.

## First Group of Volunteers Arrives in Liberia

On August 20, the Peace Corps officially announced its plans to return to Liberia and the first group of 12 Volunteers arrived in October. Experienced Volunteers are serving in the Peace Corps Response program around the country. Peace Corps Response in Liberia will work in the education sector to develop training, curriculum, and education policy.

## Peace Corps Recognized With Government Awards

On May 9, the Peace Corps Teen Website was awarded the Best Government Website of 2008 by The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. The annual Webby awards are the leading international award honoring Internet excellence.

On August 27, the organization received recognition for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and diversity programs within a federal agency. The Peace Corps was acknowledged for addressing workplace issues.

INTER-AMERICA AND  
THE PACIFIC

Youth Reach Out

Kids helping kids. This is the impetus for a partnership between four young girls in the U.S. and children in the Dominican Republic that was launched nearly four years ago. Today, Kids to Kids is a project that affects Peace Corps worldwide, with children throughout the U.S. holding fundraisers to help with development projects.

Although Kids to Kids was not originally connected with the Peace Corps, it currently works with the Partnership Program to support Volunteer projects in the Dominican Republic, Belize, and Costa Rica. Contact your country director for more information.

BULGARIA

Boys Basketball

A community member in Bulgaria approached Volunteer Stephen Kapfer about developing a basketball program for boys ages 11-18. PCPP provided the project with \$3,639 to supplement the \$1,213 contributed by the community to go toward training, supplies, and facilities for a new league. The basketball games will provide the boys the



Children compete in league basketball play in Bulgaria.

# Notes



## from the field

opportunity to socialize and become responsible, empowered citizens.

PHILIPPINES

Computer Training Relieves Stress



Residents participate in a computer training course held at a school in the Philippines.

In a small Filipino school, teachers spent hours completing paperwork by hand, adding stress and time to their duties. To relieve this stress, Volunteer couple RyAnn Allred-Heller and Eli Heller held a 10-week computer training course. Once all teachers passed with an 85 percent average, RyAnn put together

a plan and, with \$3,845 raised through the Peace Corps Partnership Program, bought eight computer units. The new computers helped teachers find more time and resources to aid their work, and discover new teaching tools and methods.

MALI

Composting Latrines

Students in a town in southwest Mali struggled with the lack of restrooms in their school, which prompted the use of unsanitary alternatives. A PCPP proposal was supported by the father of a Volunteer and funds were raised for the construction of three latrines.

When latrine holes are filled with waste, a tree is planted and is nourished by the compost within the hole. Community members attended seminars about the use and adoption of these latrines into the community.

COSTA RICA

'Peace' of Art

Residents of one Costa Rica town are now able to provide creative outlets aimed toward conflict resolution for those ages 9-15. Rachel Keller gathered funds from a PCPP grant, and she and fellow Volunteers have organized a three-day workshop where youth will be trained in the arts, abstract peace, and conflict resolution. Art mediums such as painting, poetry, and theater are used to encourage self-expression and teamwork.

SOUTH AFRICA

Solid Book Effort Aids 20,000 Students



Some of the 20 Volunteers involved in the Books for Africa project take time out to appreciate the books during the sorting process.

When a teacher contacted Rose Zuliger in search of books for her students, the Volunteer contacted the nonprofit organization Books for Africa. The non-governmental organization provided the books, but shipping costs had to be paid. PCPP came to the rescue, with about \$5,000 being raised to add to the \$200 the local communities provided. About 20,000 students in 30 communities received books as a result, ranging from instructional to fiction and nonfiction.

## RECIPES

MAC N' CHEESE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup dry macaroni
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 triangles Laughing Cow Red (or 2 tablespoons Velveeta)

DIRECTIONS:

Boil macaroni until soft, strain and put aside. Brown diced or pressed garlic with butter on low. Add milk. Start adding cheese, continuously stirring. Add the Laughing Cow triangles, and slowly add the *Fromage Rouge* (cut into pieces). Stir in salt and pepper to taste. When the cheese is completely melted, pour it over the pasta in a bowl. Mix until coated.

KATHERINE FORREST, MOROCCO

Prep Time: 10 min. Cook Time: 30 min.

- 2-3 tablespoons *Fromage Rouge*/ Red Ball (Edam in the U.S.)
- 1/8 cup milk
- Salt and red or black pepper to taste

### Save a tree!

*Peace Corps Times* is printed on 100 percent recycled paper using forest products that are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified, establishing new environmentally-friendly standards for this and future editions of the publication.



FPO for FSC Logo

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Please send us your thoughts, ideas, and stories related to working with youth and educational programs.

We want to hear from you!  
pctimes@peacecorps.gov

## Peace Corps Times

A publication for Peace Corps Volunteers serving worldwide

Do you have something to share about your Volunteer experience? We welcome all Volunteer submissions and suggestions. Send your inquiries to:

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**Kate says:** "I know it's simple, but I know some of you guys don't really cook either, so simple is not a bad thing." For more easy cooking ideas go to <http://katecooksinsmorocco.blogspot.com>. Enjoy!