



PEACE  
CORPS

Times

Commemorative Edition

March 2011



PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

# Fifty Years of Peace and Friendship

The Peace Corps was officially established by President John F. Kennedy's executive order on March 1, 1961. Just five months later, a group of Americans stepped off a plane in Accra singing Ghana's national anthem in Twi.

The pioneering spirit of that first group of Volunteers endures today.

Although much has changed since 1961, the Peace Corps' mission remains the same. The agency was established to promote world peace and friendship through three simple, yet monumental, goals: 1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served; and 3. To help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

Then-Sen. Kennedy inspired our mission during a 2 a.m. impromptu campaign stop at the University of Michigan on October 14, 1960. Today, Volunteers face many of the same challenges and opportunities President Kennedy and first Director Sargent Shriver envisioned. Poverty, disease,

famine, food security, and illiteracy are issues that continue to challenge the countries we serve. Our work has had a direct impact on local communities in 139 host countries.

“For every young American who participates in the Peace Corps—who works in a foreign land—will know that he or she is sharing in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life, which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace.”

—President John F. Kennedy,  
March 1, 1961

We can all take pride in being part of a legacy of service that continually adapts and responds to the challenges



The Peace Corps' first group of Volunteers leave Washington, D.C., for Ghana on August 30, 1961. Fifty-one Volunteers served in the country during that initial year.

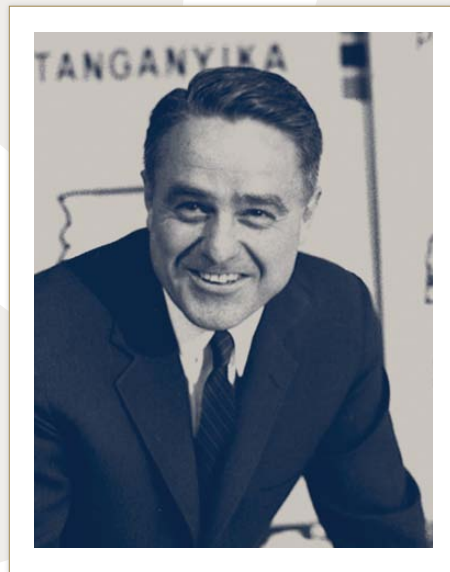
of our respective eras. A belief in service isn't limited to our Volunteers, but includes our dedicated staff members and friends around the world. Together

we carry forward the torch of President Kennedy's dream, realized every day through the dedication and efforts of our Volunteers.



## R. Sargent Shriver Fondly Remembered

As the Peace Corps commemorates its 50th year, it also mourns the passing of R. Sargent Shriver, whose imprint on the agency is unequalled.



Director R. Sargent Shriver was a frequent visitor to Peace Corps posts during the agency's early years. Here, he speaks to Peace Corps trainees in Tanganyika (Tanzania).

Shriver, known simply as Sarge to many, died at the age of 95 on January 18, 2011—nearly 50 years to the day that President John F. Kennedy stated in his inaugural address, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

A day after making that historic speech, President Kennedy called on Shriver to head a task force, leading to the establishment of the Peace Corps.

Shriver, President Kennedy's brother-in-law, frequently joked that the reason the president asked him to lead such efforts was that everyone thought the program would fail and that when the day of reckoning arrived “it would be easier to fire a relative than a friend.”

However, just six weeks after President Kennedy's inauguration, Shriver delivered a report to the White House, boldly stating, “Having studied at your request the problems of establishing a Peace Corps, I recommend its immediate establishment.” That can-do attitude was among the memories shared at Shriver's funeral mass on January

“Sargent Shriver was Peace Corps' founding father, friend, and guiding light for the past 50 years. Because of his determination and vision, more than 200,000 Americans have served in 139 countries as Peace Corps Volunteers around the world since 1961.”

—Director Aaron S. Williams  
RPCV/Dominican Republic  
(1967-1970)

22, 2011, in Potomac, Maryland. Family members joined returned Volunteers, world leaders, entertainers, philanthropists, and others in eulogizing a man who touched countless lives.

President Obama said in a statement, “Over the course of his long and

distinguished career, Sarge came to embody the idea of public service.”

Shriver's five children and 19 grandchildren also shared their memories. Tim Shriver, who serves as CEO of Special Olympics, the organization his mother Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded, said his father never coddled the children but “coached us to pursue those big, big ideas.”

He encouraged others to see the world the way his father did, “I hope you, too, will carry a little Sarge in you.”

We at the *Peace Corps Times* couldn't agree more, and know that all Peace Corps Volunteers past, present, and future will continue to carry a little bit of Sarge in their hearts.

Thank you Sarge!

*This edition of the Peace Corps Times is dedicated to our friends in the Peace Corps community who are no longer with us.*

# Peace Corps Milestones



## 1960s

October 14, 1960

In a 2 a.m. campaign speech, then-Sen. John F. Kennedy challenges University of Michigan students to contribute two years of their lives to help people in countries of the developing world.

March 1, 1961

President Kennedy signs Executive Order 10924, establishing the Peace Corps.

June 1961

Tanganyika I and Colombia I begin training for service. Trainings are conducted across the U.S.

August 30, 1961

The first group of Peace Corps Volunteers, Ghana I, arrives in Accra to serve as teachers.

September 22, 1961

Congress passes the Peace Corps Act.

October 14, 1961

The "dropped postcard" in Nigeria emphasizes a need for cross-cultural understanding.

September 1964

*National Geographic* features a Peace Corps cover story.

## 1970s

June 1966

More than 15,000 Volunteers are serving in the field. Historically, this is the highest number of Peace Corps Volunteers.

September 1966

Lillian Carter, 68, the mother of President Jimmy Carter, departs for service in India.

July 1, 1971

With Executive Order 11603, President Nixon folds the Peace Corps into a new federal volunteer agency called ACTION. However, the Peace Corps' original Congressional mandate remains unchanged.

November 1974

Christopher Dodd of Connecticut (RPCV/Dominican Republic, 1966-1968) and Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts (RPCV/Ethiopia, 1962-1964) are the first RPCVs elected to Congress.

October 1977

Carolyn Robertson Payton is the first female and the first African American to be Peace Corps Director.

May 16, 1979

President Carter signs an executive order that grants the Peace Corps full autonomy.

December 29, 1981

Peace Corps becomes an independent federal agency.

January 1983

The longest-serving Peace Corps Director, Loret Miller Ruppe, and USAID establish the Small Project Assistance (SPA) program. Today, SPA funds activities in over 40 Peace Corps posts.

## 1990s

September 1985

There are more women entering service than men, a first in the agency's history.

1988

Barbara Jo White (RPCV/Dominican Republic, 1987-1989) creates the first World Map Project. Volunteers continue to use the project as an educational tool worldwide.

1990

The first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to serve in Central and Eastern Europe depart for Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic.

1993

Carol Bellamy (RPCV/Guatemala, 1963-1965) becomes the first RPCV to be appointed as Peace Corps Director.

1995

The first Camp GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) is established in Romania. Camp GLOW continues to encourage young women to be leaders in their communities.

December 1995

Crisis Corps (known today as Peace Corps Response), a program that provides short-term humanitarian service to countries worldwide, begins in Antigua.

February 1997

Thirty-three Peace Corps Volunteers depart to work with teachers in post-apartheid South Africa.

## 2000s

May 2003

The Peace Corps commits an additional 1,000 Volunteers to fight HIV/AIDS as part of legislation signed into law.

September 2005

For the first time, Volunteers are deployed domestically when Peace Corps assists relief operations in the Gulf Coast region following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

2010

Peace Corps re-opens three historic programs in Colombia, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone and surpasses the 200,000 mark in total Americans who have served as Peace Corps Volunteers.

March 1, 2011

Director Aaron S. Williams participates in a commemoration of President Kennedy's historic campaign speech at the University of Michigan.

2011

The Peace Corps commemorates 50 years of promoting world peace and friendship with special events in the U.S. and throughout the world.

## DID YOU KNOW ... ?

By the Numbers, as of February 2011

**1** University of Colorado at Boulder ranks as the Top College for Peace Corps Volunteers in 2011, with 117 alumni currently serving.

**4** Returned Volunteers are serving as members of the U.S. Congress

**7** Percent of Peace Corps Volunteers currently serve with their spouses.

**9** Countries were being served in 1961: Chile, Colombia, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, St. Lucia, and Tanganyika (Tanzania).

**10** Per every 100,000 Vermont residents served as Volunteers in 2010—the largest per capita ratio. California has sent the most Volunteers historically, with 27,356 Volunteers since 1961.

**18** Director Aaron S. Williams is the 18th Peace Corps Director. He is also the fourth RPCV to serve in that capacity.

**28** Is the average age of a Volunteer in 2011.

**35** Percent of Volunteers serve in education—the largest of the Peace Corps' six sectors.

**86** Colleges and universities provide Volunteers the opportunity to get a master's degree through the Peace Corps Masters International program.

**87** Arthur Goodfriend of Honolulu, Hawaii, was the oldest Volunteer in Peace Corps history. He was 87 when he completed his service in 1994.

**130** Americans are serving as Peace Corps Response Volunteers.

**250+** Languages are taught to Peace Corps Volunteers.

**466** Volunteers are serving in Ukraine, making it the largest program in the Peace Corps.

**537** Students participate in the Peace Corps Fellows/USA program.

**3,457** University of California, Berkeley alumni have served in the Peace Corps, making it the "Top Historic College."

**5,399** Volunteers are currently matched with a classroom through the Coverdell World Wise Schools Correspondence Match program.

**8,521** Volunteers have served the Philippines, tops among Peace Corps countries.

**45,653** Applications were received in 1964, the most in Peace Corps' history.

**87,600+** Friends of the Peace Corps on Facebook. Go to [facebook.com/peacecorps](http://facebook.com/peacecorps) to join our fans.

**...still counting**

The number of lives affected by the Peace Corps.

## ON THE SCREEN

"Volunteers," with Tom Hanks, is widely regarded as the most famous "Peace Corps Movie," but over the years, we have been mentioned numerous times in popular movies and television shows. If you have heard about another show that mentioned the Peace Corps, let us know at [communications@peacecorps.gov](mailto:communications@peacecorps.gov)



### TV Series

Boy Meets World  
Buffy the Vampire Slayer  
Community  
Crank Yankers  
Dawson's Creek  
Entourage  
Family Guy  
Family Ties

Friends  
Grey's Anatomy  
How I Met Your Mother  
How to Make it in America  
Jeopardy  
Lost  
Mister Ed  
Rocky and Bullwinkle

Sex and the City  
That 70s Show  
The Addams Family  
The Facts of Life  
The Munsters  
The Patty Duke Show  
The Simpsons  
Two and a Half Men



### Movies

The Pink Panther (1963)  
The Graduate (1967)  
Animal House (1978)  
Airplane (1980)  
Volunteers (1985)  
Dirty Dancing (1987)  
Jumanji (1995)  
Shallow Hal (2001)

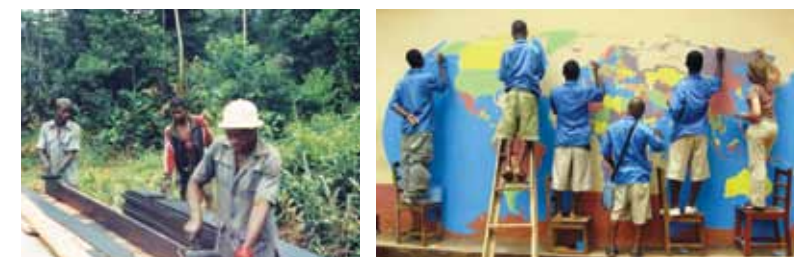
A Walk to Remember (2002)  
What a Girl Wants (2003)  
Christmas with the Kranks (2004)  
Mr. and Mrs. Smith (2005)  
Blood Diamond (2006)





# Promoting peace and friendship in 139 countries

Shown are photos and quotations that provide a snapshot of the 139 countries Peace Corps has served. Over 200,000 Volunteers have served since 1961. Today, 8,655 serve in 77 countries.



**Gabon**  
1963-1967; 1973-2005

"These young men and women represent what is good about America. I have met former Volunteers who have run major aid programs here, invested in our businesses, and I even count them among my friends and close advisors."  
Rwanda President Paul Kagame  
2009

**Rwanda**  
1990-1993; 2008-present



**Afghanistan**  
1962-1979



**Jordan**  
1997-present



**Russia**  
1992-2003



**Colombia**  
1961-1981; 2010-present



**Nicaragua**  
1968-1978; 1991-present



**Ghana**  
1961-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Albania**  
1998-1997; 2003-present



**Kazakhstan**  
1993-present



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**Cook Islands**  
1982-1995



**Niue**  
1994-2002



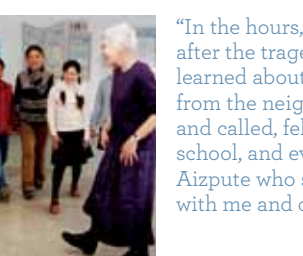
**Guinea**  
1963-1966; 1969-1971; 1985-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Kyrgyz Republic**  
1993-present



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



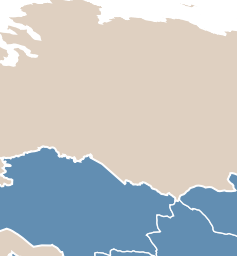
**Costa Rica**  
1963-present



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



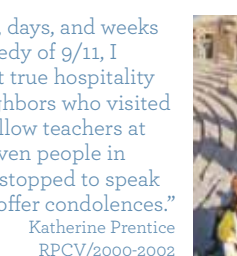
**Guinea-Bissau**  
1988-1989



**Armenia**  
1992-present



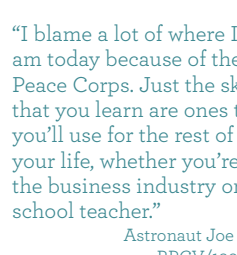
**Latvia**  
1992-2002



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Kenya**  
1964-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



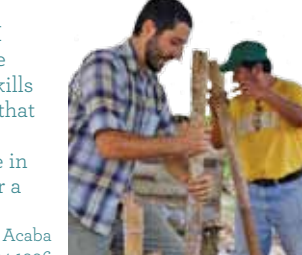
**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



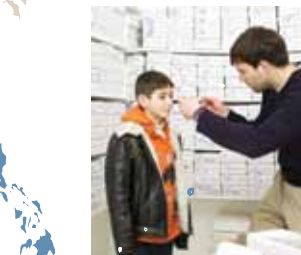
**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Lesotho**  
1967-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



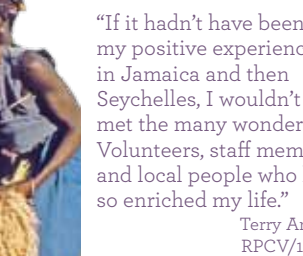
**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Liberia**  
1962-1990; 2008-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



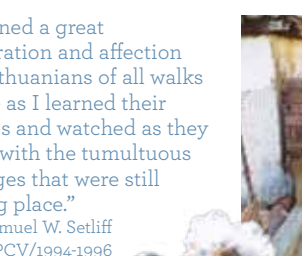
**Madagascar**  
1967-1990; 2003-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Malawi**  
1963-1976; 1978-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



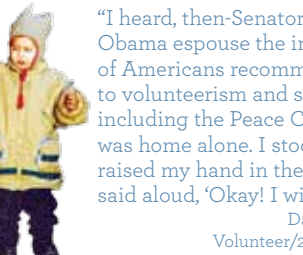
**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Mali**  
1971-present



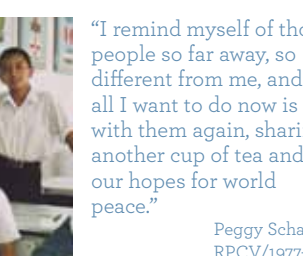
**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Mauritania**  
1966-1967; 1971-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Mauritius**  
1969-1976



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



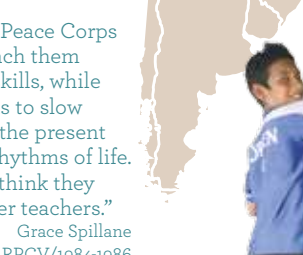
**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



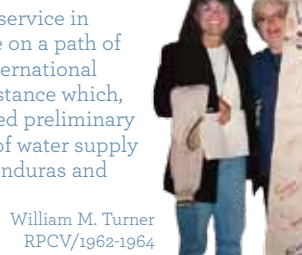
**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Mozambique**  
1998-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



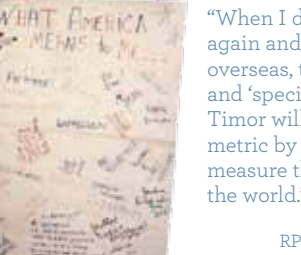
**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Namibia**  
1990-present



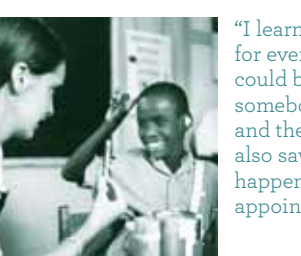
**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



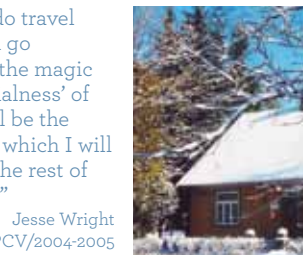
**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Niger**  
1962-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Nigeria**  
1961-1976; 1992-1995



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



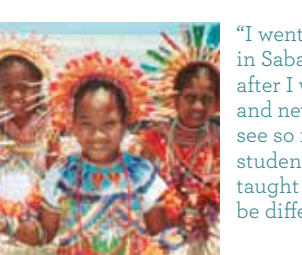
**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Uganda**  
1964-1972; 1991-1999; 2001-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



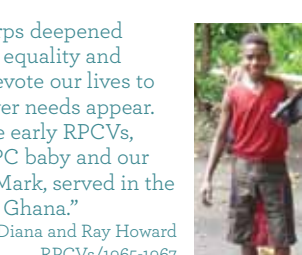
**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



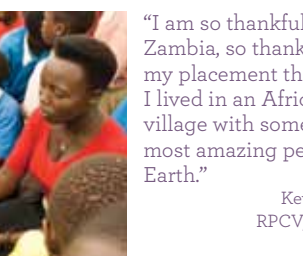
**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



**Zambia**  
1994-present



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



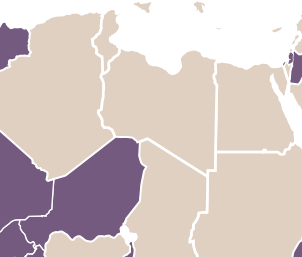
**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1966-1991



**Panama**  
1963-1971; 1990-present



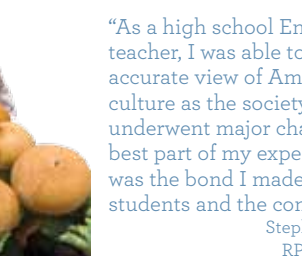
**India**  
1961-1976



**São Tomé and Príncipe**  
1990-1996



**Armenia**  
1992-present



**Libya**  
1966-1969



**Slovak Republic**  
1990-2002



**South Korea**  
1



# promoting and answering the call



The tools used to promote the opportunity for Peace Corps service have changed over time, each reflecting the nuance of its era. Through five decades Peace Corps' communications have resonated with both potential Volunteers and the public, while staying true to the authenticity of the returned Volunteer experience. While the formats evolve, the message is constant - Peace Corps is a life-defining experience through serving others, whether the vehicle be direct mail, posters, public service announcements (PSAs), the Web, or social media. See the latest Peace Corps PSAs at [www.peacecorps.gov/psa](http://www.peacecorps.gov/psa).

## Why Do We Serve?

Over 200,000 Americans have answered the call to serve in 139 countries, but why do they do it? The following are thoughts from Volunteers who have given two years of service to benefit others.



Visit [youtube.com/peacecorps](http://youtube.com/peacecorps) to enjoy 50 years of Peace Corps public service announcements and interviews with Volunteers past and present.

### Frank Fountain RPCV/India (1966-1968)

"The Peace Corps as articulated by President Kennedy was one of the most inspiring experiences of my early life. It ignited an interest that I already had for foreign cultures and the U.S. relationship with those countries. I saw it as a great opportunity for me to get to know a different culture—to operate and function in that culture and to make a contribution to mankind."

### Marta Metelko RPCV/Costa Rica (1990-1992)

"As children of immigrants, we were brought up to be very, very proud of being American and always taught that we should give back to our country. And

for me, in many ways, it was a way to really give back to the country that had helped our family be successful and to serve. So in a nutshell, I don't know if I can say why I joined the Peace Corps, but more than anything, it was to repay a debt that, to some extent, I felt we were obligated to America."

### Shannon Hy RPCV/Paraguay (2004-2006)

"I joined the Peace Corps because I always wanted to give back to society. I grew up in a developing country and understand the lack of resources, especially for people with disabilities. I've grown and changed and learned throughout this whole experience. It has taught me patience and the need

to be flexible. I understand life a little bit better. I'm really helping and doing something productive."

### Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet RPCV/Samoa (1981-1983)

"I feel like I was 'hardwired' for the Peace Corps. My aunt was a Volunteer in Turkey in the early '60s. In fact, she was the 10,000th Volunteer to complete her service. Then my grandparents served in Malaysia in the early '70s. I was always intrigued by the stories they would tell and decided I wanted to be a part of that whole experience."

### Diana Gomez RPCV/Armenia (1999-2001)

"I have a business degree, and my background was in fundraising for children, orphans, and a nonprofit association called the Mexican American Foundation. I joined the Peace Corps when I was 56 years old, and it was like being born again, like having a second life. I enjoyed my work in the United States very much, but as I got older, I began to think less about 'me' and more about 'we.' I loved working for the Peace Corps; I felt like I did something for the world, for the planet."

### Roger Conrad RPCV/Ethiopia (1973-1975)

"My decision to join Peace Corps dates back to elementary school when we did a program where every student had to pick a country. Also, I knew I wanted to

be a part of the Peace Corps after seeing a returned Volunteer come back and show slides when I was in junior high school."

*Peace Corps Volunteers represent the best America has to offer. Please share your stories about the Peace Corps at [pctimes@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pctimes@peacecorps.gov).*

## PEACE CORPS | Times

*A publication for Peace Corps Volunteers serving worldwide*

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We welcome all Volunteer submissions and suggestions. Contact us at:

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