



PEACE  
CORPS

Times

SPECIAL  
PARTNERSHIP  
ISSUE  
FALL 2012

## Building Partnerships for a Better Future

Thirty years ago, the Peace Corps joined forces with the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide small grants for Volunteers to support sustainable community development projects.

Today, the Peace Corps forges hundreds of partnerships. From host country ministries to U.S. government agencies, international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and universities, the Peace Corps relies on partners with similar goals to collectively impact development at a greater level.

Leading up to the agency's 50th anniversary in 2011, Director Aaron S. Williams set forth his strategic vision for a 21st century Peace Corps. This vision reflected the consensus of the international development community: No organization can do it alone.

"We have learned to increase our development impact through innovative partnerships with international and domestic organizations that can leverage resources, promote knowledge sharing at home and abroad, and maximize the impact that Peace Corps Volunteers have around the world," Director Williams said.

Williams formed the Office of Strategic Partnerships to focus exclusively on forging these crucial, strategic relationships. Such connections have grown



Peace Corps Volunteer Kelsey Preston helps weigh babies for Saving Mothers, Giving Life, a partnership between the Peace Corps and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

rapidly, resulting in 20 global partnerships and 18 domestic partnerships since 2009. These include AmeriCorps grantees and minority-serving institutions.

The agency has relationships with more than 80 universities through its Master's International program and more than 70 universities through its Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program. Such partnerships have helped the Peace Corps to share its message with new audiences, provide

academic and employment opportunities to returned Volunteers, and add strong incentives to its recruitment toolkit.

The agency is also exploring opportunities to capitalize on the skills and resources of the corporate sector. Each sector brings unique and valuable approaches to problem solving that help the Peace Corps do its job. The agency's partners appreciate the Peace Corps' ability to reach "the last mile" with its placement

of well-trained Volunteers in rural areas, enabling both sides of the partnership to work toward their goals.

In this issue, the agency is proud to highlight Peace Corps partnerships in the United States and the 75 countries where Volunteers serve. The Peace Corps welcomes Volunteers to reflect on how partnerships have helped them do what they do best—promote peace and friendship throughout the world.

### M&E Shows Volunteers Make a Difference

Volunteers play a crucial role in monitoring the Peace Corps' work, evaluating impact, and reporting results to stakeholders. "Monitoring & Evaluation" is an inherent part of partnerships and is critical to the success of the agency. Watch for expanded Volunteer training on project frameworks, indicator development, data collection, Volunteer Reporting Tools, and other important aspects of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. And, remember: M&E demonstrates that YOU are making a difference!

## Feed the Future: Volunteers Work to Reduce Global Hunger

Peace Corps Volunteers have been helping communities achieve food security for more than 50 years. Under President Obama's Feed the Future initiative, the contributions of Volunteers, staff, and community counterparts are now part of a whole-of-government effort to increase agricultural productivity and improve nutrition—pillars of the Feed the Future initiative.



The Peace Corps plays an important role in Feed the Future. This U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-led initiative supports country-driven approaches to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. Long-term solutions to chronic food insecurity and undernutrition are a key element in this process. Through its partnership with USAID, the Peace Corps is dramatically scaling up its technical capacity in food security and providing more opportunities for Peace Corps staff, Volunteers, and community counterparts to participate.

All of the Peace Corps' food security activities in the Agriculture, Community Economic Development, Environment, and Health sectors contribute to Feed the Future. West Africa posts have leveraged a partnership with USAID to expand the technical training for all Volunteers, extending



Peace Corps Volunteer Jared Tharp works with a hospital in Dakar, Senegal, to grow vegetables for patients with nutritional deficiencies.

the Peace Corps' and Feed the Future's reach in Africa. Pointing toward early indications of success, Peace Corps/Benin Volunteer and Food Security

Advisor David Cowell notes, "Right now we have a rural Health Volunteer working on an animal husbandry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ■■■■■■■■■■▶



# Global Health Service Partnership: Training the Trainers

Opportunities in global health care have become more popular than ever.

In the United States, it is estimated that the number of university programs in global health has more than quadrupled since 2003.

“We’re really seeing the birth of a new academic field,” said Dr. Michael Merson, who directs the Global Health Institute at Duke University.

The rise in interest stems from a growing awareness that people in developing countries suffer from scarcity in medical care. In contrast to the United States, which has 280 doctors for every 100,000 people, in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa there is only one doctor for every 100,000.

Responding to this critical need, in March 2012, the Peace Corps, the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the nonprofit Global Health Service Corps launched an innovative, public-private partnership to place Peace Corps Response Volunteer doctors and nurses as adjunct faculty in training institutions overseas.

The nonprofit partner to the venture is directed by Dr. Vanessa Kerry, who also serves as director of Global Public Policy and Social Change at Harvard Medical School.

While Dr. Kerry acknowledged that a number of programs currently send health professionals to developing nations to provide direct care on a temporary basis, she noted, “What is often

missing is a strategy that focuses on clinical education necessary to build medical school capacity and ramp up the education of practicing physicians.”

In collaboration with the teams implementing PEPFAR in each country, the Peace Corps will work closely with ministries of health and of education to identify priority training institutions. The goal is to increase capacity and strengthen the quality and sustainability of medical, nursing, and midwifery education and clinical practices.

The program will begin by placing 10 to 12 health professionals in each of three pilot countries: Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda. Participants will serve one-year assignments through the Peace Corps Response program, which offers high-impact, short-term assignments for qualified Americans.

“This is an exciting innovation for the Peace Corps, but the commitment to health also finds deep roots in Peace Corps history,” said Buck Buckingham, director of the Peace Corps Office of Global Health and HIV, which coordinates the partnership.

At the launch on March 13, Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams elaborated on that history:

“From the moment John F. Kennedy first publicly suggested even the idea of a Peace Corps, before it even had a name, health care was in our DNA. Issuing an impromptu challenge to students during a 2 a.m. campaign stopover



Global Health Service Corps Executive Director Dr. Vanessa Kerry speaks about the need for health care professionals and education in underserved areas. Peace Corps Response Volunteer doctors and nurses will serve overseas through this public-private partnership.

at the University of Michigan, he asked, ‘How many of you, who are going to be doctors, are willing to spend your days in Ghana?’

“Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961. In announcing the order before TV cameras, he departed from the written announcement before him to once again affirm that volunteer nurses and doctors were to be a vital part of the story: ‘We are going to put particular emphasis,’ he said, ‘on ... men and women who have skills in teaching, agriculture, and in health.’”

Director Williams observed, “This

partnership ... brings us full circle to that vision; but conforms it to the priority on sustainability.”

The partnership began to take on fuller definition on July 21, when invited physicians and nurses from academic health centers and other centers of expertise in the United States and the three initial countries in the pilot program gathered at Peace Corps headquarters to further plan the contours of their work.

The application process began in August 2012, and the Peace Corps expects to begin sending doctors and nurses abroad in the summer of 2013.

## RPCVs a Hot Commodity in Today’s Workplace

As members of the Peace Corps community, we all know how valuable two years of project management experience in a foreign country is for professional development, but do employers recognize the value of the Peace Corps experience? Increasingly, the answer is yes!

In addition to having record numbers of employers attending Peace Corps’ career fairs, more and more employers are contacting the Peace Corps to coordinate special hiring events at their own agencies, exclusively targeting our impressive RPCV population.

The newly reorganized Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services is proud to have leveraged the myriad partnerships that the Peace Corps has created—with organizations ranging from educational institutions to government and private sector agencies—in its efforts to connect the talented RPCV population with quality employment opportunities.

Such federal employers as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State Department have organized special hiring events. Many

of these have focused specifically on recruiting candidates with noncompetitive eligibility (NCE), a special hiring authority which greatly simplifies the hiring process for federal employers. In January, another partner agency, AmeriCorps VISTA, teamed with the Peace Corps to host a job fair at the Department of Labor (DOL) for returned Peace Corps and VISTA Volunteers with NCE status. AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers also benefit from NCE upon completing their service in impoverished communities throughout the United States, making them a natural teammate for the DOL career fair. The event resulted in the extension of approximately 20 employment offers.

CDC is so committed to hiring those with Peace Corps experience that the agency has a special job search landing page on its website tailored exclusively toward RPCVs: <http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/employment/rpcv.htm>. CDC has also hosted several RPCV-only hiring events over the past few years, most recently in June. Within just one week of the event, CDC

reported extending one formal offer and anticipated five additional hires in the following months.

During the inaugural Take an RPCV to Work Day in March, the Peace Corps collaborated with such global partners as the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This pilot program proved to be a great networking and culture-sharing opportunity for RPCVs and organizations alike.

Gini Wilderson, senior human capital specialist for MCC, said, “We greatly enjoyed our participation in the first Take an RPCV to Work Day! We also appreciated receiving background information on the RPCVs, which allowed us to effectively match them with interested staff.”

Managers are recognizing RPCVs’ perspectives and professionalism as well. Clara Cohen, senior policy advisor at USAID, said, “We had great feedback here about the event. Both visiting RPCVs gave PowerPoint presentations

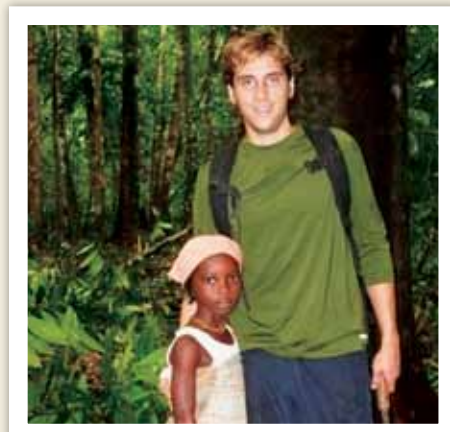
that were very well attended. I was extremely impressed by our [RPCV] visitors’ poise and professionalism.”

The Peace Corps’ private sector partners are also in hot pursuit of RPCVs. In June, Peace Corps partner Population Services International (PSI) hosted a networking event, introducing RPCVs to PSI staff members and highlighting job opportunities. Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams and PSI President and CEO Karl Hofmann mixed and mingled among the crowd.

PSI is a global health organization that focuses on family planning, HIV/AIDS, barriers to maternal health, and the greatest threats to children under 5, including malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, and malnutrition.

One thing is clear from the increasing number of glowing testimonials received from employers who have hired returned Volunteers: RPCVs are a hot commodity in today’s workplace based on their proven adaptability and broad skill set. With agency partners on board, RPCVs can expect even more career opportunities in the future.

### AmeriCorps Offers Path to Peace Corps Service



Cameron Lewis with one of the children he worked with during his Peace Corps service.

#### Cameron Lewis

RPCV/Suriname, 2009-2011  
AmeriCorps VISTA/Montana, 2008-2009  
AmeriCorps NCCC/Denver, Colorado, 2007-2008  
Selection and placement assistant for the Corporation for National and Community Service

*(VISTA is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. Authorized in 1964 and founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993. AmeriCorps NCCC (National*

*Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women aged 18–24. Its mission is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service.)*

**Q: How did you learn about the Peace Corps and what influenced your decision to serve?**

**A:** I was interested in community service in college. I volunteered with a couple of organizations on my own, and after I graduated I was looking for a more structured atmosphere for volunteering. I originally applied to Peace Corps when I was 21, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized that maybe I wasn't ready yet so I ended up applying for AmeriCorps NCCC first. After my first year at AmeriCorps NCCC, I decided to continue the service experience with AmeriCorps VISTA. During my time with VISTA I applied for the Peace Corps.

**Q: How did your AmeriCorps service influence/impact your Peace Corps experience?**

**A:** I think serving in AmeriCorps gave me a good idea of the social work world of America and what options were available for me to work in service. AmeriCorps gave me a good basis for what I wanted to gain out of my Peace Corps experience. For me, my AmeriCorps experience made me a lot more confident to do well in a different service atmosphere like Peace Corps. With NCCC it is very structured, but VISTA requires you to make your own way. You are on your own, and I was working with children who were victims of domestic violence. I loved the kids—it was a hard and challenging atmosphere and I definitely felt frustration ... But I also saw the impact that one person can have. That really prepared me for Peace Corps and similar situations.

**Q: How has your Peace Corps and AmeriCorps experiences influenced your professional aspirations?**

**A:** I think AmeriCorps NCCC really opened my mind to like-minded individuals. Being able to travel all over the country with other young people interested in service really sparked that passion for me. While doing VISTA, I had been considering a career in education or social work and I loved my VISTA experience.

Being a Peace Corps Volunteer, I knew I wanted to be a part of the service world. You really have to be a strong-minded individual for that kind of work overseas. All of these experiences shaped where I was headed. After AmeriCorps and Peace Corps I knew I wanted to stay connected to the service fields that provided so much for me. I love community service and that aspect of life. I want to work with so many projects—kids, homeless people, etc. My current work at the Corporation for National and Community Service touches all of those realms, so it was a perfect fit.

**Q: Any advice to folks considering Peace Corps and/or AmeriCorps?**

**A:** You really have to come with an open mind. The most important thing I have learned in all of these situations is that the world is not black and white. It is mostly gray. You have to take into account how you interact with others; everyone has different experiences. You can't throw a label at something and expect it to work.

### RPCV Finds the Sweet Spot as a Coverdell Fellow



Dilana Martinez graduated from her Coverdell Fellows Program at Carnegie Mellon University in December 2011.

#### Dilana Martinez

Program Specialist, Peace Corps  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Master of Public Policy and Management, 2011  
RPCV/Dominican Republic, 2007-2010

*(Named for the Peace Corps Director who served the agency from 1989 to 1991, the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program is a partnership between the Peace Corps and U.S. colleges and universities. As partners in the program, colleges and universities provide returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) with financial assistance to*

*support their graduate work. RPCVs, in turn, complete internships in underserved American communities.*

**Q: How did you hear about the Coverdell Fellows Program?**

**A:** I found out about it during my first year of Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic. I saw a publication with information about the different benefits of Peace Corps and Fellows was listed. I was immediately intrigued because I was already thinking about graduate school.

**Q: What were your Peace Corps projects at the time?**

**A:** I was working on two main assignments. One was an ecotourism project where I worked with community members and taught them how to be guides in a national park. They had lived on the land themselves before it became a protected territory. My second assignment was a jewelry-making project with the local women. I wrote a grant proposal to USAID and won matching funds to build a permanent workshop. As part of this grant, we also founded a tourism project where visitors to the Dominican Republic could make their own jewelry.

**Q: Why did you choose Carnegie Mellon?**

**A:** The program at Carnegie Mellon Heinz College allowed me to concentrate on both public policy and management. I was also able to visit the school before applying. I went there while I was on leave and met with an admissions officer and spoke to people in the career center to learn more about the program. They told me exactly how much financial aid I would receive as a Fellow and helped me to apply for other assistance as well. Their Fellows application process was also seamless.

**Q: What was your academic experience like?**

**A:** It was a very rigorous program. Carnegie Mellon is known for its quantitative and information technology coursework; there was a strong emphasis in both these areas. My experience was particularly challenging because I accepted an option to complete my degree in three semesters rather than four. This made the coursework all the more challenging, but I learned skills that were directly relevant to the work I wanted to do.

**Q: Did being a Coverdell Fellow help you to transition back to the U.S.?**

**A:** It was a big help. There were other Fellows and other RPCVs at school and we were able to meet and to talk to one another about our experiences. When you get back, almost all you want to do is talk about your experiences. We would have potlucks and social activities and it was an opportunity to meet with other people who had similar stories to share.

**Q: What do you plan for your career moving forward?**

**A:** Currently, I'm working for the Peace Corps and I manage a portfolio of international NGO (nongovernmental organization) partnerships. It's very satisfying because these partnerships provide Volunteers with opportunities to expand their project to meet the needs of their communities. In the future, I see myself either continuing to work in government or working for a multilateral institution.



# Expanded Library Serves as a Local Haven

By JAMES ELEAZER | PCV UKRAINE

In Ukraine, Volunteers have teamed with Dolynska Central District Library to develop ways to improve and expand the library's services.

My wife and I, Roberta Eleazer, work as Community Development Volunteers, while Anne Kreitzer teaches English at a secondary school. In search of a place to gather people of different ages and with varying interests, we learned about this library. We soon found that the library was not

just a place to come for a new book, but rather a real center of the community.

Working side-by-side with the director of the library, Lyudmila Freyiv, our team constructed "Window to the World," a resource and information center. Intended as a place where visitors could access English-language materials, an English Club was added. It provides a haven for seven local schools to conduct lively discussions in English and to learn about the culture of the United States. Freyiv has also

started a senior club called "Golden Autumn," where older residents can preserve their traditions and culture.

The library has made a true impact on the community, hosting an eight-week class to improve skills in English and provide help for testing in the American exchange program, FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program). This program allows Ukrainian students one year of study in a school in the United States and a chance to live with an American family. On April 9, Anastasia Koryakin, a Grade 10 board-

ing school student, and Julian Pavlik, a Grade 9 student, who took the class, learned that they were selected to study in the United States.

Through this partnership, Peace Corps Volunteers and the Dolynska Central District Library have expanded and improved services for the entire community.

*(James Eleazer and his wife Roberta are Community Economic Development Volunteers in Ukraine. They are scheduled to complete their service in 2012.)*

## FEED THE FUTURE FROM PAGE 1 ■■■■■■■■■■▶

project in his village, we have an Education Volunteer working on a small-scale agriculture project in her village, [and] we have an Environment Volunteer working on a savings and loan association in his village. So basically, any Volunteer can be a food security Volunteer."

### Feed the Future Peace Corps Volunteers

A five-year plan calls for the Peace Corps to field more than 1,000 Feed the

Future Peace Corps Volunteers in focus countries where U.S. government food security resources are concentrated. Post-level food security staff will train Volunteers and their community counterparts in evidence-based food security practices.

At a recent event celebrating the USAID/Peace Corps partnership, Director Aaron S. Williams praised the value of Feed the Future Peace Corps Volunteers (see accompanying article below). He stated, "In a world

where a child dies from hunger every six seconds and the world requires more agriculture production than ever before, I am confident that our new Feed the Future Volunteers will make a difference in the field. I know that when we work together, we can achieve big things."

### Submit Your Stories!

The Peace Corps is collecting stories, videos, and photos to share about the Peace Corps' participation in Feed the Future. Please send submissions to [feedthefuture@peacecorps.gov](mailto:feedthefuture@peacecorps.gov) or the Peace Corps Digital Library at [collection.peacecorps.gov](http://collection.peacecorps.gov). Volunteers should provide their associate Peace Corps director (APCD) or country director copies of any stories that are submitted.

You can also follow the Feed the Future initiative on the Web ([feedthefuture.gov](http://feedthefuture.gov)), Facebook ([face-](https://www.facebook.com/feedthefuture)

[book/feedthefuture](http://book/feedthefuture)), Twitter ([twitter.com/feedthefuture](https://twitter.com/feedthefuture)), tumblr ([tumblr.com/tagged/feed-the-future](http://tumblr.com/tagged/feed-the-future)), and Flickr ([flickr.com/photos/feedthefuture/](http://flickr.com/photos/feedthefuture/)).

## DID YOU KNOW?

At the request of the government of Nepal, and in collaboration with USAID's Feed the Future and Integrated Nutrition Program, the Peace Corps has returned to Nepal to assist local communities in improving their food security. The first PCVs to serve in Nepal after an eight-year absence arrived in September 2012 as pioneering members of the new food security project.

'By joining forces, USAID, the Peace Corps, and Feed the Future have the potential to reach more of the world and reach them more effectively, efficiently, and sustainably.'

—Danielle Stoermer, PCV/Senegal food security program assistant

## Peace Corps and USAID 'Cultivating Food Security at the Grassroots'

On May 23, the Peace Corps hosted USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah at an event titled, "The Peace Corps and Feed the Future: Cultivating Food Security at the Grassroots." This celebrated the Peace Corps/USAID partnership and its impact on the Feed the Future initiative.

At the event, the Peace Corps explored its on-the-ground impact with an audience that included Peace Corps/headquarters staff, USAID staff, and representatives from partner organizations. The event featured two videos compiled by Peace Corps/Senegal and the West Africa Food Security Partnership of USAID and the Peace Corps. There was also a panel discussion moderated by Peace Corps/Africa Region Director Dick Day and the unveiling of a Feed the Future Peace Corps Volunteer T-shirt.

During opening remarks, Dr. Shah encouraged Peace Corps Volunteers to share their stories and said, "Your

voice is going to be just as important as the work you do in your communities."

### Feed the Future Panel: Diverse Perspectives

Each panel member provided a unique perspective on Feed the Future.

Paul Weisenfeld, who serves as assistant to the administrator in the USAID Bureau for Food Security, explained how USAID benefits from the Peace Corps' extensive reach into rural communities.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer James Allen provided a firsthand account of what Volunteers are doing in Mali to improve food security in their communities. Through Peace Corps/Mali's partnership with USAID/Mali, the post has expanded food security technical training to all Peace Corps Volunteers. The post created food security toolkits that include shea, moringa, climate change, soil



Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams and USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah show the T-shirts Peace Corps seeks to provide to the 1,000 Peace Corps Volunteers promoting food security in Feed the Future focus countries.

fertility, and soil and water conservation training materials. Each kit also has a USB key containing multimedia documents, including videos, radio shows, and photos. The toolkits enable any Peace Corps Volunteer to be a food security Volunteer.

Visit <http://bit.ly/M64NMS> and <http://bit.ly/OcONIB> to view the food security videos, and visit [whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/05/25/peace-corps-helping-feed-future](http://whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/05/25/peace-corps-helping-feed-future) to view a special White House blog post by Director Aaron S. Williams.



# Special Olympics, Peace Corps a Winning Team

Special Olympics and the Peace Corps are bound together by a history tied to the legacy of the Shriver family. Sargent Shriver was the first director of the Peace Corps and, with his wife Eunice, founded Special Olympics in 1968.

It is only fitting that today's Peace Corps Volunteers collaborate with Special Olympics globally to work with and for the underserved.

In March 2011, the Peace Corps signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Special Olympics to increase opportunities to support youth and people with intellectual disabilities through innovative programs around the world.

Through the partnership, more Americans are involved in global initiatives that support those with intellectual disabilities. Peace Corps Volunteers have helped plan, organize, and mobilize communities to support Special Olympics programs worldwide, focusing on education, youth development, and community engagement.

Peace Corps Response Volunteer Catherine Fabiano is one such Volunteer. Having served for two years as a community environmental conservation extension agent, Fabiano was prepared to draw upon her language skills and experience living and working in a rural Panamanian indigenous community as she took on a role with Special Olympics.

In April 2012, the second Special Olympics Central American and Carib-

bean Games kicked off in Panama City, Panama. Fabiano played a vital role in recruiting and coordinating close to 2,000 local Panamanian volunteers and 33 Peace Corps/Panama Volunteers to support the weeklong activities.

Fabiano worked alongside Special Olympics Games managers to ensure all aspects of the events ran smoothly. Her responsibilities ranged from calling to make sure lunch was on time for the athletes and volunteers in one sports complex, to discussing afternoon activity logistics at another sports field. Approximately 600 athletes from 14 countries participated in basketball, bocce ball, bowling, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, swimming, table tennis, tennis, and track and field.

Another example is Peace Corps Response Volunteer Meisha Robinson. Her experience as a Small Enterprise Development Volunteer in Benin, as well as her graduate school education concentrated in marketing, would lay the groundwork for her success in working with Special Olympics.

Robinson supports Special Olympics South Africa (SOSA) by serving as a marketing and community events coordinator for the Africa Unity Cup, scheduled for October 2012. This is the first Special Olympics Africa Regional Unified Football Tournament and will involve teams from upwards of 16 countries. They will compete for a qualifying



Peace Corps Response Volunteer Catherine Fabiano (pictured in black) joins Mexico soccer team members after they received their medals.

place at a FIFA-endorsed Special Olympics Unified Football Cup in Brazil in 2013 and will provide a platform to increase awareness of the Special Olympics movement in Africa.

In her role, Robinson is developing local, regional, and national marketing plans. To drive awareness and engage the local community, she has initiated Special Olympics "Get Into It" Youth Clubs at three high schools. Such clubs keep students physically active while educating and motivating them to make a difference in their schools and communities.

Supporting SOSA directly, Robinson developed a social media strategy, re-launched the SOSA Facebook page, assembled a social media toolkit, created

marketing materials, and is serving as the local Special Olympics spokesperson.

In July, both Catherine Fabiano and Meisha Robinson were recognized for their outstanding work by participating in an event with Director Williams and Tim Shriver, CEO and chairman of Special Olympics. Fabiano and Robinson joined the event remotely via video conference and shared their successes, challenges, and best practices for Peace Corps posts to adopt.

The Peace Corps is excited about the productive collaboration through this partnership with Special Olympics and looks forward to increased cooperation in the coming years.

Learn more about Special Olympics at [specialolympics.org](http://specialolympics.org).

**3-12 MONTHS**  
CAN MAKE A **LIFETIME OF DIFFERENCE**

**PEACE CORPS**  
**RESPONSE**

Peace Corps now offers short-term Volunteer assignments overseas for 3 months to 1 year for especially skilled professionals with at least 10 years experience.

[peacecorps.gov/response](http://peacecorps.gov/response)



# Volunteers Join Forces to Combat Malaria

By JESSE SEILER | RPCV SENEGAL

Before I arrived in Senegal as a Volunteer, I didn't know anything about malaria. During training, experienced Volunteers, Senegalese educators, and local community health workers showed us with basic information about the disease: It's characterized by high, cyclical fevers, horrible headaches, and vomiting. A child dies of malaria every minute, while the disease costs Africa \$12 billion every year. It's particularly dangerous for pregnant women and children under the age of 5.

And the real kicker? Malaria is entirely preventable and treatable. In fact, it was eradicated from the United States—completely wiped out—in 1951.

In spite of such facts, I believe we're living in a time of unprecedented opportunity. New technologies, growing awareness, and a fresh zeal to eradicate malaria convince me that we're about to see the end of this disease's hold on humanity.

Stomping Out Malaria in Africa, established in April of 2011, is a Peace Corps initiative that aims to combat the disease across the continent, using every intervention we can come up with. We're partnering with the best in the field, such as the President's Malaria Initiative, our flagship partner, and Population Services International and Malaria No

More. We're also using technology and the Internet in unprecedented ways, pulling together an international team of malaria experts to help ease the disease's grip on this continent.

Stomping Out Malaria started small in Senegal. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the Senegalese National Malaria Control Program, and other major players had been pushing the use of insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets, but never with a holistic view toward comprehensive coverage. To deepen coordination and impact, a handful of Peace Corps Volunteers joined forces with the Senegalese Ministry of Health's local preventative health care providers and pioneered what has become the standard practice for distribution in Senegal: universal coverage of mosquito nets, paired with a comprehensive system of anti-malaria education for those receiving nets.

The program spread quickly—from a handful of villages in one corner of Senegal to compounds and homes across the country. From one nation in West Africa to countries across the continent, Stomping Out Malaria in Africa has transformed the way the Peace Corps fights this disease.

Through programs like NetWorks and Malaria No More, our amazing base of Volunteers and Response Volunteers is making all of this possible.



Peace Corps Africa Operations Program Manager Matt McLaughlin speaks at the Stomping Out Malaria Conference in Senegal in June 2012.

We take the expertise and funding of NGOs and our larger partners and pair them with the unique skills of PCVs—cultural understanding, language skills, and ingenuity—to tackle the challenges of the last mile. The energy, creativity, and tireless work ethic of 3,000 Volunteers currently serving across Africa are bringing malaria prevention to the doorstep.

The result? In communities across Senegal (and soon throughout Africa), malaria is no longer a mystery disease

that takes children. We know malaria now, and we know how to fight it.

Read more about this initiative at [stompoutmalaria.org](http://stompoutmalaria.org).

*(Jessie Seiler was a Health Education Volunteer in rural Senegal from 2009 to 2011 before moving to Dakar to become Senegal's Peace Corps malaria coordinator, a liaison position between Peace Corps and the President's Malaria Initiative. She currently studies at Columbia University in New York City.)*

## AKA Sorority Lends Itself to Peace Corps Diversity

The Peace Corps steadily works to ensure Volunteers reflect the extraordinary diversity of America. After serving as a Volunteer in the Dominican Republic from 1967 to 1970, Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams became the Peace Corps coordinator of minority recruitment and project evaluation officer in his hometown of Chicago. Today, his vision for the agency has led to the development of strategic partnerships with 10 national service organizations that are helping recruit the next generation of Volunteers.

In 2012, the Peace Corps formed a partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA), an organization with a strong emphasis on service. Peace Corps Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet (RPCV/Western Samoa, 1981-1983) and AKA International President Carolyn House Stewart signed the Memorandum of Understanding to expand opportunities for diverse Americans in international service. Shantrice Jones and Keisha Herbert, both Peace Corps Volunteers and AKA members, joined the event via the Web to share their experiences and inspire future Volunteers.

As a Healthy Homes preventive



Peace Corps Volunteer and AKA member Shantrice Jones teaches nutrition and HIV/AIDS to women and youth groups.

health specialist in Guatemala, Jones works with a local health center to train health promoters. She also works with local women and youth groups to address critical topics, including nutrition, hygiene, and HIV/AIDS education.

"[AKA] magnified my desire to serve others because I gained experience planning, organizing, and implementing service projects as an AKA. The skills and dedication required to serve people

in the United States are also necessary to serve successfully abroad. I am proud to say that I serve nationally and internationally as an AKA and Peace Corps Volunteer," said Jones.

Herbert shares such feelings. "Peace Corps service is an unparalleled experience where sustainable development programs and community projects are developed through invaluable intercultural exchange. As a lady of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and a Youth in Development Volunteer in Guatemala, I serve with the aim of exemplifying the AKA mission of 'service to all mankind' and core expectations of the Peace Corps," she said.

The demonstrated leadership, commitment, and service of AKAs make them outstanding candidates for Peace Corps service. Through their strategic collaboration, the Peace Corps and AKA will spread the word to historically under-represented communities about opportunities to serve and promote world peace and friendship through Peace Corps service.

In addition to AKA, the Peace Corps has partnered with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Asian

and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Council of 1890 Universities, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Phelps Stokes, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and UNCF Special Programs Corporation. If you are affiliated with any of these partners, please contact [diversity@peacecorps.gov](mailto:diversity@peacecorps.gov) to share your story.



Peace Corps Volunteer and AKA member Keisha Herbert helps students create tire gardens to increase environmental awareness and access to healthy food.





# NOTES *from the* FIELD

## *A Brief Look at Posts and Projects*



### **VSO International:**

Peace Corps/Vanuatu Volunteer Megan Burrows collaborated with VSO International to improve nursing care in her province. Burrows and a VSO volunteer planned and carried out a workshop that provided nursing zone supervisors with the knowledge and resources to better perform their supervisory work, a necessity to improving nursing care.



### **Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas:**

Peace Corps/Panama Volunteer Jim O'Neil received an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas grant to provide cookstoves to communities and to train community members in the human health and environmental effects associated with cookstoves. O'Neil engaged community members in building 14 fuel-efficient, family-model stoves and two fuel-efficient, industrial-model stoves.



### **International Alliance for Youth Sports:**

In November 2011, Children International, Inc. trained Peace Corps/Guatemala staff and Volunteers on the use of the International Alliance of Youth Sports' *Game On!* curriculum. Youth and Community Economic Development Volunteers worked with communities to form youth groups and sports teams, enhancing leadership skills and promoting positive relationships between peers, parents, and adults.



### **Grassroot Soccer:**

Peace Corps/Tanzania Volunteer Grant Yoder was among 10 Peace Corps Volunteers and 20 community counterparts at a five-day training hosted by Grassroot Soccer. Through the training, participants learned how to apply the Zinduka curriculum, designed to educate youth about HIV transmission and teach them to make better informed decisions regarding sex and alcohol.



### **Habitat for Humanity International:**

In celebration of the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary and Peace Corps/Romania's 20th, the Peace Corps and Habitat for Humanity Volunteers led a Blitz-Build for an impoverished family in rural Transylvania. Forty Volunteers contributed by roofing, applying siding, hanging drywall, and painting this new home in less than six days.



### **USAID/Global Education Framework:**

Through the Global Education Framework, USAID/Philippines provided Peace Corps/Philippines with resources to conduct English-language camps. Fifty Peace Corps Volunteers and teacher-trainer community counterparts conducted four camps, reaching 149 teachers and 38 administrators from schools in the area. They were trained in English-language teaching, Internet communications technology, and teaching methodology.



# Peace Corps Small Grants

The Peace Corps offers a selection of small grant opportunities, funded through agency partnerships and donations. These grants enable Volunteers to assist communities by tapping into resources for small development projects. Projects must be driven by the communities themselves and be sustainable beyond the life of the small grant.

## TOP QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE APPLYING FOR A PEACE CORPS SMALL GRANT

- Is the project based on needs or priorities directly expressed by my community? Will the community be taking the lead?
- Have all local sources of financial, material, and technical support been explored?
- Have I gotten feedback from Peace Corps staff about my project?
- What is my timeline? Have I been in-country longer than three months? Am I about to end my service?
- Will the project continue to serve the community when the external sources of funding are exhausted or when I leave?



Students in Lesotho help build a bridge funded through PCPP.

“A lesson I learned from this PCPP grant was the importance of having the project come from the community. Allowing the community members to take control and have ownership of the project allowed this health structure to truly be theirs.”

—Hadiel Mohamed, PCPP grant, Senegal

“I’ve had small successes with teaching and health education, but this project made an immediate impact, and after just eight weeks, the community is already seeing the benefits.”

—Ruth Townsend, SPA grant, Morocco

## LOOK FOR THESE UPDATES

Peace Corps/headquarters is working to streamline PC small grants programs. What does this mean for you?

- PCPP, SPA, VAST, and other PC-approved small grants will have the same:
  - Application Form
  - Completion Report
  - Handbook
  - Procedures
- Volunteers will select the type of grant when filling out the application form
- Volunteers will work with their posts to determine the grants that are available and whether they make sense to pursue

The new forms and procedures should be available by early 2013.

## MOST COMMON PEACE CORPS GRANTS

### Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP)

- Available in every country where Volunteers serve
- Project details are posted online to raise funds
- All donations are tax deductible

### Small Project Assistance (SPA)

- Available if your post has negotiated funds with USAID (46 posts worldwide)
- Projects must fit within certain program areas defined by USAID
- Ask the SPA coordinator in your Peace Corps office for information on the current availability of funds

### Volunteer Activities Support and Training (VAST)

- Supports HIV/AIDS-related projects
- Available in select PC countries (contact your small grants coordinator for this information)
- Funding provided by the U. S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

The Peace Corps also supports regional grant programs such as Department of State/Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) (available in South America) and West Africa Food Security Partnership (WAFSP) (available in West Africa). Contact your small grants coordinator to find out more.

**SPA TURNS 30  
in 2013!**

Thank you to USAID  
for 30 years of small  
grants collaboration!



Kindergarten students in Costa Rica are among those benefiting from a PCPP project.

# Peace Corps Partnerships

## GLOBAL PARTNERS

### Health

- U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- Population Services International (PSI)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Grassroot Soccer (GRS)
- Malaria No More

### Environment

- Department of State/Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

### Youth

- Special Olympics
- International Alliance for Youth Sports (IAYS)

### Education

- USAID/Global Education Framework (GEF) Agreement

### Agriculture

- World Food Program (WFP)

- USAID/Global Food Security Agreement

- World Cocoa Foundation
- Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### Community Economic Development

- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

### Cross-Sectoral

- USAID/Small Project Assistance Agreement
- CHF International
- VSO International
- Save the Children
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

## DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

### Corporation for National and Community Service

### AmeriCorps Organizations

- National Association of Community Health Centers
- City Year
- The Corps Network
- America’s Service Commissions
- Teach for America

### Minority Higher Education Organizations

- Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- Phelps Stokes
- Council of 1890 Universities
- United Negro College Fund
- Hispanic College Fund
- American Indian Higher Education Consortium
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund
- United Negro College Fund
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

### Other

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)
- National Human Services Assembly

## PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Please visit [peacecorps.gov/learn/whyvol/eduben/univandprog](http://peacecorps.gov/learn/whyvol/eduben/univandprog)

## PEACE CORPS Times

A publication for Peace Corps Volunteers serving worldwide

### Staff

Director of Communications

Maureen Knightly

Editors

Mark Huffman, Nicole Mlade

Design and Layout

Theresa Welling

Staff Contributors:

Ellen Alderton, Buck Buckingham,

Erica Herrmann, Lara Federov,

Sara Lopez, Meg Monroe, Allyson Snell,

Jeff West, Kiva Wilson

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

Peace Corps Times

c/o Office of Communications

Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters

1111 20th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20526

or email

[pctimes@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pctimes@peacecorps.gov)

FSC