



Connecticut RPCV E-News

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For the latest CTRPCV e-news - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CTRPCV0414.pdf>

All membership, donation, activity announcements, Peace Corps stories, and correspondence may also be sent to **CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144.**

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Have you paid your



CT Food Bank ...

CTRPCV will sort food ... on Saturday... April 19

The Connecticut Food Bank annually distributes more than 15 million pounds of food to six of the state's eight counties. Donations come from the food industry, through community member and corporate contributions, and via government subsidies.

At the CT Food Bank donations are organized and sorted by products before they are distributed at the warehouses. Member programs send representatives to the warehouses to shop for food that is then distributed to those who need it most at local food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters.

CTRPCV volunteers will inspect, sort and pack non-perishable food at CT Food Bank in East Haven on Saturday, April 19th from 9 AM to noon. Families welcome... it's a great service project for kids. If you are interested: call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169 or lafj@att.net.

annual dues? You support helps us stay connected!

Click [here](#) to join or pay your membership fees!

Stay connected through our Peace Corps links - just click below!

[CT RPCV Website](#)

[National Peace Corps Association](#)

Stay connected to our national community and representation in Washington!

[Peace Corps Website](#)

The Mother Ship – full of information for RPCVs from how to spread the word to finding great job opportunities!

[Contact Us](#)

<http://www.ctrpcv.org>

ctrpcv@gmail.com

Other links of interest :

[Peace Corps Online](#)

[The Independent News Forum serving Returned Peace Corps Volunteers](#)

[PC Online Crossroads Links to every Peace Corp website you can think of!](#)

Some Upcoming Events:

CTRPCV Calendar – more details below.

Saturday, April 19, 9 am - noon	Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven
Saturday, June 28 th 9:30 am - noon	The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT

Do you have an Event Or a Community Service Project that may be of interest to CTRPCVs?

Please email David Stoloff [eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu to let him know about your project.

- Create a NIGHT OUT with CTRPCVs that can be as simple as "Lets meet at [your favorite bar or restaurant].
- Host a POTLUCK DINNER and get to know more CTRPCVs.
- Are you involved in a Community Service Project that could use some helping hands?

Let David know and we can let other CTRPCV members know the details.

A brief PC Advocacy report from your CT Peace Corps Advocate, Atty. Joan Leonard:

The Peace Corps Day of Action in DC Feb. 27 went off well. As of March 26 a record 145 representatives signed on to Rep. and RPCV Sam Farr's Dear Colleague letter in support of Peace Corps funding. I was hoping for 100% CT delegation support but **neither Jim Himes nor John Larson signed on**. If you are in either man's district tell him of your disappointment and encourage him to join the others in the CT delegation who have pledged their support. **If you are in the other 3 districts, thank your congressman.**

Also currently only Rosa De Lauro and Elizabeth Esty are members of the Peace Corps Caucus. Thank them if you are a constituent, if not encourage the others to join. The Caucus is not a funding group - just an educational and support fellowship.

Both of our senators are cosponsors of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act and support the **Peace Corps Equity Act**. Thank them and encourage them to **press leader Reid to expedite the confirmation vote of Carolyn Hessler-Radelet to be the next Peace Corps Director**. She has passed through committee with flying colors and is acting Director but has limited power until she is confirmed and the vote has been hanging fire for months.

I was able to visit every CT senate and house office except Rosa DeLauro's, but she is already a strong supporter. I was well received everywhere, but sometimes the Peace Corps gets loved to death. Our senators and representatives need to not just say nice things about the Peace Corps but to stand up and be counted.

The amount of money we currently spend as a nation in one day is roughly equal to the amount of money our nation has spent on the Peace Corps over its entire 53 year history or put another way the annual **Peace Corps budget is equal to what the military spends on military bands**. Peace Corps funding was increased a little since the sequester but is still not up to the \$400 million we suggest and that is still not up to funding in years past. Currently only one in five Peace Corps applicants is accepted not because of lack of qualifications but because of lack of funding. There are now countries asking for volunteers and programs which have to be turned down because of the funding gap. Sad - when Peace Corps provides so much for so little.

Joan
Atty. Joan Leonard
jaleonard@snet.net
203-988-8260
P.O. Box 476, Clinton, CT 06413



Here We Go Again!

This Time in the Senate!

Because of you, a record 151 members of the House of Representatives signed a key letter requesting increased funding for the Peace Corps in the fiscal year that begins next October.

We need your help again. This time in the Senate!

A bi-partisan Senate letter has begun to circulate, thanks to the leadership of Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA).

We need you to reach out to your Senators to ask them to sign the Feinstein-Isakson Peace Corps Funding Letter. With an anticipated deadline of April 11th, we urge you to [take action now](#) .

We will provide an update on signatures over the coming days, including early next week as part of our April monthly advocacy update.

>>Please Take Action Now!

**PCV Nicole Kennedy from CT
received a CTRPCV Community Service Grant**

[An email from <nicole.kennedy.ccsu@gmail.com>, Peace Corps Volunteer in [Chala, Republic of Georgia](#)]

Hello all!

Just a quick update on photos! We have been working hard with our world map as well as organizing our classroom. Our 9th grader boys have taken over the painting portion of the project, which has been fun to see their motivation and interest grow.

My main counterpart and I have been working hard to organize our past project work, education trainings, and etc. We have a new grading system (e.g. folders for tests to be graded, tested graded and need to be entered into the class journals, and tests to be filed). It's been great thus far and she just said today that she felt much better having things organized as it was a headache before. Georgian teachers sometimes wait until the end of the semester to grade all tests from the semester. Therefore it is a lot of unnecessary stress on the teachers as well as no feedback throughout the semester to the students.

We just ordered our classroom organizer and it should be arriving in a couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, due to the weather (it snowed and has been extremely cold again) and my Peace Corps admin/medical work (I am fine, just a lot of work concerning closing out my service) in Tbilisi, we have been unable to make the progress we were aiming for. Therefore we think we will need another 15 days, basically to finish the project in mid May. However the 9th grader boys as well as others are very interested in doing the next map as we will finish our 1st map in a few more days.

Hope you are all well!!



A project supervised by Nicole Kennedy <nicole.kennedy.ccsu@gmail.com>, Peace Corps Volunteer in **Chala, Republic of Georgia**

Summer Picnic

Joan and Jeff Leonard have graciously offered to host this year's CTRPCV Summer Picnic at their home in Guilford. More details will be in the next CTRPCV E-Newsletter.

CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS

You are one of over 400 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. The Connecticut RPCV has about 85 dues paying members.

If you are interested in participating in the above CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. Please click here to join and/or pay your annual membership fees!

Please also consider joining the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group at

Help Wanted at CTRPCV:

- We need a **SECRETARY** to take notes at our board meetings that occur 3 to 4 times a year.
- We need someone who will be our **CALENDER poster** who will update our CTRPCV calendar, post our events on the NPCA website, and just get our info about events “out there”.
- **Connect RPCVs with requests for speakers.** We get about 3- 6 requests a year.
- **Fundraiser-** we need to think of ways to replenish the funds for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. We can think big& small... all ideas are welcome.
- **Restaurant/Potluck/Friday Night Out... Coordinator...**

Basically someone who is interested in hosting one of these events contacts you and you share “The Plan” that CTRPCV has developed to help them organize their event.

JOBS ARE BEING FILLED:

- **Jonathan Rosario will be connecting CTRPCV members through the social media** on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
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Hole in The Wall Gang Camp

Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 28th in Ashford, CT

On June 28th, CTRPCV's will participate in a volunteer day at The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT. Since 1988 the camp has served as a non-profit residential summer camp and year round center for children coping with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. All of the camp's services are free of charge. This unique camp, created by Paul Newman and his friends, provides a sense of normalcy for children who may have missed out on aspects of their childhood. We will be changing bed linens (about 150 beds) for the campers who will arrive the next day. This is truly a rewarding project and well worth our time and efforts.

Please plan to participate and bring your family (children should be 15,16 or older). If you are able to volunteer call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169, lafj@att.net.

WHEN: June 28th, Saturday

WHERE: Ashford, CT

TIME: 9:30 AM -12:00 (noon)



**Recommended
places for unwinding**

As you travel, think about making a recommendation for your fellow

CTRPCVs.

[back to beginning](#)

An International Game

Knovation (2013, August 12). In Search of the Ways of Knowing Trail. Retrieved from http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/pagegen/wok/index_f4.html .

suggested by David Stoloff – stolofffamily@yahoo.com

A request to complete a survey -

[Maureen completed this survey and it was painless ;)]



Meaghan Kallman

3:19pm Apr 3

Greetings! My name is Meghan Kallman, and I am a PhD candidate in the department of sociology at Brown University. I am writing a dissertation about the relationship between organizations and social change work, using the Peace Corps as a case study. I am looking for RPCVs to complete a survey about their experiences abroad. Any RPCV from any period of time, serving in any country, is eligible to take the survey. The link is here:

https://brown.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0v3sObMYOUf8N0N

Please circulate widely, and thank you!

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer career & engagement survey

brown.co1.qualtrics.com

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Survey



From <http://www.peacecorps.gov/response/>

Addressing Critical Needs Around the Globe

Peace Corps Response provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. When you serve as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, you bring your skills and experience to projects in places where you are needed most.

Search for positions, apply, or modify an existing application here:

[Search ♦ Apply ♦ Update](#)



See the latest e-newsletter at

<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=548623&q=716797726&qz=82e847>

Dear Peace Corps Family,

On Tuesday, April 22, Earth Day will be marked around the world with programs and celebrations aimed at increasing local and global environmental action, awareness, information, and social responsibility. I know that many of you will connect with your communities on this special day to focus on environmental awareness and protection. Among Volunteers in the field today, 17 percent are actively engaged in the areas of agriculture and environment, and many more work to promote environmental awareness every day. Whether Volunteers are implementing sustainable agricultural practices, preparing English lessons on environmental issues, solving the problems of solid waste, or finding cleaner ways to cook and prepare meals, I offer a special thanks to them this month for their efforts to preserve our planet and make peace and development possible.

Indeed, it could be said that every day is Earth Day at the Peace Corps. Our Volunteers are engaged in impressive efforts to help their communities preserve and protect the environment. In the past year, Volunteers and counterparts in the Philippines were trained and certified to assess and monitor human impact on coral reefs. In Cameroon,

Volunteers promoted widespread planting and cultivation of the moringa oleifera tree, a fast-growing, drought-resistant species whose seed pods and leaves can be eaten as vegetables. Peace Corps/Jamaica implemented a new partnership with that country's Ministry of Water, Land, Environment, and Climate Change, and leveraged Peace Corps Response Volunteers to successfully complete the ministry's website.

We are also committed to recruiting highly trained Volunteers who can respond to environmental and agricultural needs in a broad array of assignments. To learn more about why every day is Earth Day at the Peace Corps, [visit the agency webpages](#), which include a video, an overview of environmental projects, and Earth Day resources.

With warmest regards,

Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Acting Director
RPCV, Western Samoa, 1981–83

A Message from NPCA's Advocacy Committee Chair

Dear Friends,

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, I have participated in the National Day of Action since 2009. It is one of my favorite programs.

This year as a member of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, my goal is to strengthen the program, so we continue to have more success.

For the past ten years, NPCA has had to cover the cost for the Day of Action from our general operating funds and limited donations. It costs about \$18,000 to prepare for and carry out this event.

Our committee decided one of the best ways to improve the program was to make it self-sustaining. **For that reason, we have put our idea into action and [created a fundraiser on Crowdrise](#).**

Please help us reach our goal:

[Become a Team Member](#), create your own goal and ask friends to donate as little as \$10.

1. [Donate](#) \$25, \$50, \$150 or more to NPCA (the Team Leader) or your favorite Team Member.
2. [Send this link](#) to all your friends and family.
3. Still not sure about donating this way? Send a check or donate to the advocacy program via the [NPCA website](#).

Sincerely,

Kristina Owens (Bolivia 2000-02)
Chair - Public Policy and Advocacy Committee



National Peace Corps Association

To Honor distinguished RPCVs

Whether as innovative social entrepreneurs or as people making sustained contributions to humanitarian causes at home or abroad, RPCVs lead lives of service. Honor outstanding RPCVs with a nomination for the 2014 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service, to be awarded at Peace Corps Connect—Nashville on June 21, 2014. The deadline for nominations is March 31. Learn more about NPCA's Sargent Shriver Award here at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards/>.

From Peace Corps Connect - www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org

Peace Corps Connect – Nashville 2014

I just returned from my first site visit to Nashville and it was great! I'm very excited for Peace Corps Connect - Nashville. It's a great city that has a lot to offer our community. We hope your group is

planning to join us! We'll be getting things together and completed earlier this year, so please be thinking about how your group can get involved. We'd love to be able to showcase all the NPCA Member Groups. For specific questions about and/or suggestions for Peace Corps Connect - Nashville, please email us at events@peacecorpsconnect.org.

We will also be providing regular updates about Peace Corps Connect – Nashville in these monthly emails.

Please email me at emily@peacecorpsconnect.org if you have questions about any of these topics.

Thank you for all that you do for the Peace Corps Community!

Emily Bello

Manager of Membership and Operations

Benin '02-'04

Upcoming events of potential interest:

**These are events that involve fellow RPCVs...
we'd like to let you know about them...**

**(Please send David – stoloffd@easternct.edu info about an event
that you want to publicize!!!)**



Send me your news and announcements for the next E-news!
MaureenShanley@hotmail.com.

Have you paid your dues??? **Do you have a new email address???** **Click here to join or pay your membership fees!**