

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter—November 2015



Peace Corps

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Two boys in Morarano, Arivonimamo, Madagascar.  
Photo courtesy of Liz Toomey (Madagascar 2011—2013).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 5, 2015  
[OPEN STUDIO HARTFORD](#)

Saturday, November 7, 2015  
[WILLIMANTIC MEET-UP](#)

Saturday, November 21-22, 2015  
[FAIR TRADE INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR](#)

Saturday, November 21, 2015  
[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Sunday, December 6, 2015  
[ANNUAL CTRPCV HOLIDAY PARTY](#)

Saturday, January 9, 2016  
[DARIEN BOOK AID](#)

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## OPEN STUDIO HARTFORD

Check out local Return Peace Corps Volunteers' artwork at Open Studio Hartford!

### DATES & TIMES:

Thursday, November 5 • 6 PM – 8 PM

Saturday, November 7 • 2 PM – 4 PM

Sat & Sun, November 14 & 15 • 11 AM – 5 PM

### ADDRESS:

ArtSpace Hartford, 555 Asylum Street

For more information, please visit

<http://www.openstudiohartford.com/> or contact our President, Terese Maineri, at [TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com).



## WILLIMANTIC MEET-UP/POT LUCK

WHERE: Carmen Britton's house

WHEN: November 7th at 7pm

WHO: All are welcome

HOW: Please RSVP to Carmen by email, [carmenbritton@gmail.com](mailto:carmenbritton@gmail.com), for directions to her home.

\*\*\* If you attend any of our events, please make sure to take photos to share on our website! You can send photos with a short description to [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org)\*\*\*

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## FAIR TRADE INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR

The International Bazaar is a social justice event held in the hall of St. Patrick's Church of Farmington. The bazaar sells fair trade crafts, chocolate, and coffee, which guarantee a fair wage and support to the artisan. Fair wages, sustainable production methods and partnerships that promote the common good are hallmarks of Fair Trade. Your purchase brings hope to the poor and vulnerable by providing much needed income for their daily needs. The crafts come from the poorest of the poor countries such as Haiti, Guatemala, Peru, Bangladesh, Uganda, and more.

Help support communities in which you may have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer by purchasing gifts that support artisans in the developing world. More information about the International Bazaar can be found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsBazaar?fref=ts>.

**DATES AND TIMES:**  
Saturday, November 21, 2015  
9 AM – 6 PM

Sunday, November 22, 2015  
8 AM – 1 PM

**LOCATION:**  
St. Patrick's Church  
110 Main Street,  
Farmington, CT 06032



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# CONNECTICUT QUEST *for* PEACE

CT Quest for Peace is a faith-based non-profit organization that provides humanitarian aid to the poor of Nicaragua through a variety of educational, healthcare, arts and microfinance initiatives. CTRPCV has been asked to help with the Humanitarian Cargo Aid program. This vital program helps Nicaraguan families overcome generational poverty and it is the backbone of CT Quest's work in Nicaragua since the donated cargo shipments do triple service. Cargo shipments provide quality goods to the poor, creates funding for community programs, and builds relationships between you and the people of Nicaragua.

Peace Corps Volunteers in Nicaragua are also being helped because a major PC project is teaching English as a second language. We have collected and sent children and teen level reading materials that are being used in English Libraries that not only university and high school students can use, but they are also open to the community at large. A fun fact is that these libraries allow books to be taken home, which is not the way libraries in Nicaragua operate. Much to the surprise of the Nicaraguans who are running the libraries, the books are actually being returned. Who knows, maybe we will start a new trend in how libraries are run in Central America!

CTRPCV has been asked to repack boxes that will be shipped to Nicaragua. **We will meet at Bill's warehouse on Saturday, November 21 and work from 9 AM until 4 PM.** Bill will have all the packing supplies, but you might want to bring your favorite tape dispenser (gun) like I do. We also will be packing boxes every Saturday from 10 AM - 2 PM until 11/21 (except for 11/7). Everyone is welcome to come and lend a helping hand.

I have been working with CT Quest for Peace for years and I have traveled down to Nicaragua to see the various projects and to work with Donna Tabor (RPCV/Nica.) in Granada, Nicaragua. I have seen firsthand that these projects are working and that every effort we make here is greatly appreciated by the recipients. On a personal level, I would be pleased if you could come and assist us in our efforts to send humanitarian aid to the needy in Nicaragua. **Please call 203-775-9222 or email [maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com) to let me know if you are able to help with this project.** When I am at the warehouse you can call my cell: 203-788-0163.

For information about CT Quest for Peace go to [www.ctquestforpeace.org](http://www.ctquestforpeace.org). If you want to bring donations, CT Quest is always looking for SUMMER clothing, school supplies for children, books in Spanish, wheel chairs, kitchen utensils, and bed linens. A list can be found on our website.

We meet at William Evans Painting Co., 394 Main St., Bridgeport, CT 06604. Just follow the signs to the Port Jefferson Ferry. At the entrance (black iron gates), take a right and we are the second building on the left.

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## ANNUAL CTRPCV HOLIDAY PARTY

Come and share a fun filled evening!

Joan & Jeff Leonard have been kind enough to open their home to our CTRPCV group for a HOLIDAY PARTY on **December 6 from noon to 3 PM.**

Our hosts will prepare a main meat dish and CTRPCV will supply the soda and paper/plastic products. Attendees are asked to bring your favorite holiday appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. If you'd like, bring some wine or beer, but eggnog and soda will be served.

We would appreciate an RSVP so we can prepare ahead of time. Please let Maureen know what food item you plan to bring. **Call Maureen at 203-775-9222 or email [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com) so that we will know how many people are planning on attending** and so we don't end up with 12 desserts and no appetizers, wine or beer.

Please bring something special for the raffle... an item that would make a nice gift for a friend or family member. In the past we have raised \$550 at this event for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. Since we are asking for a higher quality raffle item for this Holiday Event, the price of instant raffle tickets will be higher than normal: \$10 for 1 ticket & \$25 for 3 tickets. As always, the proceeds will go to our Community Service Fund.

In addition we are asking people to please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Food items collected will be given to Al May (Costa Rica, 1970 - 1972), who will donate them to a local food bank on behalf of the CTRPCV.

If you have any questions about the holiday party on the day of the event, please call Joan Leonard at 203-457-7007 or email Joan at [jaleonard@snet.net](mailto:jaleonard@snet.net).

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## DARIEN BOOK AID

If you can make it, please RSVP to Maureen Shanley at 203-775-9222 or [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com).

Darien Book Aid is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to fostering peace and friendship through the distribution of free books. Approximately 60% of DBA's shipments fulfill requests from current PC Volunteers. DBA needs volunteers to pack boxes, select books to ship, sort books and much more. As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, you know how much of an impact educational materials can have on a community.

You can also bring books! Frequently requested books include:

- \* Preschool to teen levels, fiction and non-fiction
- \* Classics - and simplified classics
- \* Dictionaries in English, Spanish, French and picture dictionaries
- \* Encyclopedias/other information on CD-ROM (PC format)
- \* English readers and grammar books
- \* Crafts & how-to books
- \* Health, "Where There is No Doctor" type books
- \* Science
- \* Agriculture, vegetable gardening, beekeeping, animal husbandry
- \* Ecology and environment
- \* Books in Spanish or French for native speakers in all subjects
- \* Paperback editions of recent novels (mysteries, fiction, etc.)
- \* National Geographic - no more than 5 years old
- \* Textbooks (not older than 10 years) with up-to-date content are accepted

For more information about Darien Book Aid, you can visit their website at <http://dba.darien.org/>. If you are interested in volunteering individually, you can call 203-655-2777 or email [darienbookaid@yahoo.com](mailto:darienbookaid@yahoo.com).

DATE: Saturday, January 9, 2016

ADDRESS: 1926 Post Road, Darien, CT

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## Volunteer opportunity in Bridgeport

The International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) is a non-profit, non-sectarian agency dedicated to helping foreign-born persons achieve self-sufficiency. Their services include refugee resettlement, English and citizenship classes, counseling, translation/interpretation services and legal assistance. IICONN advocates for fair and equitable treatment of immigrants, refugees and others, and works to increase public awareness of the contributions of foreign-born persons to American culture and values.



IICONN provides immigration services to over 3,000 individuals in CT each year

IICONN is looking for volunteers to become mentors to our refugee client one day a week for one hour. When a refugee arrives in Bridgeport, they often come with nothing and know no one. A mentor would be a liaison between the client and the Bridgeport community. Mentors can do a variety of activities with their mentee. They may bring refugees grocery shopping, they may cook a meal together or they may just do something fun to build a friendship.

For more information, please visit the IICONN website at [www.iiconn.org/](http://www.iiconn.org/).



These children were born in refugee camps. IICONN resettled their families in CT, and each year serves over 100 new refugees

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## The following email was sent to us from AFS Intercultural Programs USA:

Hello CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers,

I hope this finds you doing well. I am reaching out as I work with AFS-USA Intercultural programs a non-profit that host international exchange students here in the U.S. and has for over 65 years! We also send U.S. students abroad for study abroad experiences. We host approximately 30 students in CT each year.

I am reaching out to you, as a returned Peace Corps Member in CT, you are passionate about the same things that AFS cares deeply about. We have a number of exchange students who were are still looking for wonderful host families for throughout the U.S.!

Our placement deadlines are the end of August and I am hoping you may be interested and or able to help spread the word that we are looking for families to host these really amazing young people.

Below I have included some more information about hosting a student. We are looking all throughout the U.S. for families. We appreciate any assistance you can provide. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with additional questions, or if you have ideas on people we can reach out to for further networking.

### AFS-USA Hosting

Become a global family by hosting an AFS Intercultural Programs high school student this school year. Welcome an AFS Exchange Student from one of 90 countries. Families are accepted year-round. Local AFS Volunteers will support you and your hosted student throughout your experience to help you both receive the most from your time together. You provide a bed and meals for your student, but most importantly, you should be eager and excited to share your life and activities while providing the same kind of care, support, and comfort as you would to your own child or family members. AFS welcomes all kinds of families. Students study in high schools and are eager to experience what it's like to live in America. Sharing daily life with a teenager from another country and culture is a rich and rewarding experience and is a wonderful way for you and your family to build a more just and peaceful world.

The students arrive September 10<sup>th</sup> and leave the last week of June. Families can host for 12 weeks, a semester or a year. Most students are here a full year. We have a large volunteer support network available to assist you all throughout the year. Each family is paired with a local volunteer to connect with at least once a month to help through the year.

A host family provides 3 meals a day, a bed (can share a room w/sibling of same gender), and local transportation. Our students come with spending money for additional costs and health insurance. The student's attend the local high school and participate in classes, sports and everything else at the school. Our host families complete a full screening with an application, interview, references and background check.

Start the process at [www.afsusa.org/host](http://www.afsusa.org/host), call 1-800-AFS-INFO, or send an email to [hosting@afsusa.org](mailto:hosting@afsusa.org) for more information.

Thank you for your help.

Cheers,  
Allie Auger Birchmeier  
Team Development Specialist

Email:  
[Abirchmeier@afsusa.org](mailto:Abirchmeier@afsusa.org)

Phone:  
646-381-3346

Cell:  
603-991-5984

Toll free:  
1-800-876-2376

Fax:  
646-937-5993

Address:  
120 Wall Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

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# PEACE CORPS Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services

You told your Peace Corps story, now tell us!

Each year, the Peace Corps captures information on RPCV impact and how RPCV-led events serve as a bridge to global understanding. In the last year, have you:

- Shared your Peace Corps story with a classroom, organization or other group?
- Participated in a Peace Corps recruitment event?
- Written an article or op-ed about your Peace Corps experience?
- Participated in an open mic event with a story, poem or song?
- Done any other activity or event that shares your story with the public?

If your answer is yes, let us know! [Register](#) your past events. Why?

- Show your host country pride! Teach about its customs, local dress, food, music, etc. Let us know and you'll get a pin on our map with your country's flag.
- Make sure your hometown is getting Peace Corps love and increasing their global knowledge! Every American should know about your Peace Corps country and the opportunity to serve. You might be the first RPCV an adult or child meets.
- Every year Peace Corps reports to Congress and other stakeholders on the number of RPCVs who are involved in activities promoting intercultural understanding.

We know this doesn't give us a true picture of RPCV impact, as most of what you do to share your Peace Corps story happens without us ever knowing. However, we ask that you [register](#) any past events since September 2014 so we can capture the great work you have done. Don't forget to [register](#) future events! As soon as you have something planned, visit our map and [register](#)!



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# National Peace Corps Association

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is the national organization for the Peace Corps Community – the hub of a network of individuals and affiliate groups (such as ours) working together to make the world a better place.

The NPCA is excited to announce a change to their membership policy, one that will make our community more robust, inclusive, and diverse, while reflecting the increasingly more mission-driven nature of the organization.

Going forward, membership in the NPCA will be complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community - serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff, former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so long as the NPCA has accurate service and contact information for you. **As of January 1, 2016, the dues required for NPCA membership are eliminated.**

This exciting change coincides with NPCA's launch of the boldest and most visionary initiative in its 36-year history: the **Peace Corps Community Fund**. The Community Fund enables the NPCA to do important work that it has never before been able to do in all three of their fields of activity: increasing the Peace Corps community's global development impact, supporting returned Volunteers, and advocating for Peace Corps.

The NPCA welcomes all to join the community as a **Mission Partner** by contributing to the Peace Corps Community Fund. And if you have not been receiving their communications, make sure you register for your complimentary membership in the NPCA on their website: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/>.

Questions? Visit the FAQ page on the new membership model at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/community/npcas-new-membership-model-and-faqs/>.



## ACT NOW ON PEACE CORPS FUNDING!!!

### [Use Online Tool!](#)

With [key negotiations](#) on Fiscal Year 2016 federal spending continuing, **now is the time to make sure Congress hears from you about the importance of prioritizing and supporting the Peace Corps.**

And, NPCA now offers you our [new online tool](#) that will allow you to take action much more efficiently.

You are [one click away](#) from sending a quick and critical message to your members of Congress.

### [Take Action Now!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 5, 2015  
[OPEN STUDIO HARTFORD](#)

Saturday, November 7, 2015  
[WILLIMANTIC MEET-UP](#)

Saturday, November 21-22, 2015  
[FAIR TRADE INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR](#)

Saturday, November 21, 2015  
[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Sunday, December 6, 2015  
[ANNUAL CTRPCV HOLIDAY PARTY](#)

Saturday, January 9, 2016  
[DARIEN BOOK AID](#)

## CTRPCV Officers

President: Terese Maineri  
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Newsletter: Ellen Papciak-Rose  
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Member-at-Large: Maureen Shanley  
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# MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?  
Let's make it happen!!

Share your ideas with us and let's make your ideas come to life. We can help spread the word through our social media platforms and the monthly newsletter. Events can be as simple as "Let's meet up at [restaurant name] on [date]".

Email us at [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org) and make sure to email Ellen, our newsletter editor, at [Inthestudio@mac.com](mailto:Inthestudio@mac.com).

## CALL FOR PHOTOS!!!

We are redesigning and updating our website and we need your help! If you have any photos from your service or from any of our past CTRPCV events, and wouldn't mind sharing them with us, please send them to our email address:

[president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org). For each photo, please attach a description of the photo's contents and yourself. Please include your name, country and years of service along with who/what is shown in the photo and a caption for the photo.



PEACE CORPS  
RESPONSE

Peace Corps Response (PCR) provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. When you serve as a PCR Volunteer, you bring your skills and experience to projects in places where you are needed most. PCR is recruiting talented Volunteers to serve in a wide range of positions and countries including Georgia, the Philippines and Vanuatu. Opportunities are available in all six program areas and selected applicants can be in the field as early as January.

If you are interested in learning more about Peace Corps Response, please visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/> or send an email to [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov) to schedule an informational interview with a recruiter.

## HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!

We currently have openings for the following positions:

**SECRETARY:** Takes notes at board meetings 3 to 4 times a year.

**NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR:** Sends monthly email to our members.

**FUNDRAISER:** Devises ways to replenish our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. All ideas are welcome.

**SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR:** Hosts/plans restaurant outings, pot-luck dinners, etc.

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**We  
Need  
Your  
Help  
Please**



## CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS \$\$\$

You are one of over 360 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. The Connecticut RPCV has about 45 dues paying members, but needs more.

If you are interested in participating in the above-mentioned CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. [Click here to join and/or pay your annual membership fees!](#) You can also update your contact information, if necessary, on the same page.

Please also consider joining the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

### WHY someone should join CTRPCV?

- A chance to break bread with people who are not only like you, but also LIKE you.
- Connect with an RPCV who might just be your neighbor!
- Ability to receive CTRPCV Directory so you can request help with your favorite community service project.
- If you are newly returned RPCV... we will LISTEN to your story because we too have been there! RPCVs are FAMILY. We never tire of hearing your stories, frustrations, what you miss and what you are finding strange about your return.
- Help an RPCV find a new job through the Mentor program. Mentor new RPCVs and help them navigate their transition.
- Help support PCVs and/or CTRPCVs through the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Program.
- Keep in the PCV loop, know about short-term stints if you are interested.
- Find opportunities to continue to serve locally or overseas.
- Find someone who: has kids the same age as yours; others who have married host country nationals.
- Let others know about YOUR art, social, sport or local community service project.
- Spread the GOOD WORD about the Peace Corps.
- We want to add a page to our website that would offer FREE ADVERTISING for CTRPCV members who own a business. Please let us know if you have a business that you would like to have posed on our website.

FYI: Your dues pay our expenses, e.g. room rental for meetings, supplies for potluck meetings, group NPCA membership dues, state filing fees, communication costs (postage, paper, internet costs), etc.

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