

CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter — May 2016

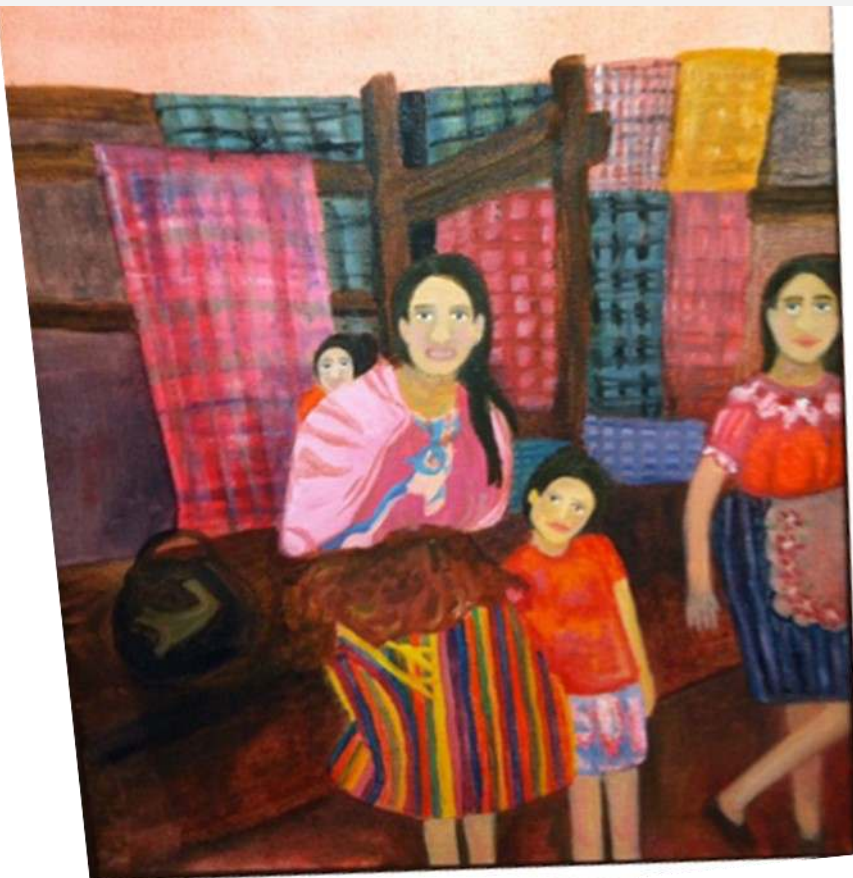


Peace Corps

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CTRPCV President Terese Maineri's Peace Corps inspired artwork. (Guatemala 2003–2005).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 7, 2016

[PEACE CORPS: SERVICE LATER IN LIFE PANEL](#)

Saturdays, May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Saturday, July 2, 2016

[HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP](#)

CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: Terese Maineri

TMaineri@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Bryan Garcia

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Treasurer: Mike Hilton

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Celebrate Older Americans Month:

50+ Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Panel



New Haven Public Library
Saturday, May 7 @ 2:00pm-3:30pm

REGISTER HERE:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/meet/events/25477/>

Did you know that 7% of current Peace Corps Volunteers are over the age of 50?

Whether you're fresh out of college, mid-career, or ready to retire, serving in the Peace Corps is a great way to immerse yourself in a new culture, learn a new language, and have the experience of a lifetime! Learn more about what it's like to serve later in life here: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/50plus/>.

Since 1961, the Peace Corps has sent more than 220,000 Americans to provide technical assistance to underserved communities in over 140 countries around the world. We have a wide variety of opportunities available for applicants of any age in 2016 and beyond.

Join our regional recruiter, Shannon McBride, and Returned Volunteers at this special event to learn about service overseas for those 50+ in honor of the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps. Hear stories from Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served later in life and get answers to your questions about Peace Corps service and experience. We will address some common concerns and answer any questions about the application process.

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

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CONNECTICUT QUEST *for* PEACE



CT Quest for Peace has served the poor in Nicaragua since 1987. In our CT Quest for Peace Warehouse at 394 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT (203-216-2115), we sort and pack boxes of clothing, household items, computers, school & health supplies... just to name a few items. More information is available on our website: <http://www.nicaragua-quest-for-peace.org>.

We are a 100% volunteer operation, so if you would like to come and help us at the warehouse, please contact: Maureen Shanley at MaureenShanley@hotmail.com
Home phone: 203-775-9222
Cell phone: 203-788-0163

We really need help starting May 21st because that is when we receive donations from community tag sales.

CT QUEST FOR PEACE SORTING/PACKING SCHEDULE

Sat. May 7: 10 AM to 1 PM
Sat. May 14: 10 AM to 1 PM
Sat. May 21: 10 AM to 1 PM
Sat. May 28: 10 AM to 1 PM
Sat. Jun 4: 10 AM to 1 PM
Sat. Jun 11: 9 AM to 4 PM **TRUCK PACKING DAY!!!**



a seriousfun camp

On Saturday, July 2, 2016 we will be volunteering our time 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 life-threatening diseases. All of the camp's services are free of charge. This unique camp, created by Paul Newman, provides a sense of normalcy for children who may have missed out on aspects of their childhood.

We will help to change bed linens (about 150 beds) for the campers who will arrive the following day. It will truly be a rewarding project and well worth our time and efforts.

If you would like to attend, or for more info., please contact Lois Fucci at lafj@att.net.

*** 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***

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The following article, which quotes our very own Maureen Shanley, was recently written in the Darien Times! (This article has been edited for content and space. For the full article, please [click here](#))

For more than 70 years Darien Book Aid has worked to deliver books of all kinds to hundreds of countries around the world. Conceived as a mission of goodwill following World War II, Darien Book Aid started with a mission to promote peace, understanding and friendship, and continues to help spread literacy both domestically and abroad.

President Heather Ferullo began volunteering with Darien Book Aid 14 years ago. “Sooner or later you’ll see every volunteer standing in one of the aisles reading a book; everyone gets caught up in it,” Ferullo said. “You start looking at it and think, somebody has to have this! She added, “people who want to volunteer here are going to be people who like books, and are interested in promoting literacy and education.”

In addition to dozens of regular volunteers, Darien Book Aid receives occasional help from local schools and volunteer groups, as well as returning Peace Corps volunteers. Still, more help is always needed. Volunteers individually pack dozens of boxes to be shipped out each week and are constantly working through requests. “We need volunteers who work during the day; we can’t just have volunteers who are free from 10 to 12 during the week,” Ferullo said. The organization shipped more than 25,000 lbs of books last year, with each box weighing 30 lbs. Based on the Book Plan’s website, a donation of \$100 pays for a full box of books to be shipped.

Peggy Minnis serves as the Darien Book Aid’s Peace Corps Corresponding Secretary, fielding about 10 requests a week from locations as distant as Kurdistan, Moldova and Madagascar. Minnis said that the organization is able to deliver boxes to approximately 500 Peace Corps members each year.

On Saturday, April 16 Minnis had some extra help, as a group from the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (CTRPCV), arrived to lend a hand for the day. Maureen Shanley, who served with the Peace Corps in Colombia from 1977 to 1979, was able to organize a group to make the trip down.

“I knew that Darien Book Aid helped Peace Corps Volunteers, but I didn’t realize how many requests came in, so I we try to make it down here at least twice a year,” Shanley said. “I try to get Peace Corps volunteers to come because they’re helping other Peace Corps volunteers”

Shanley also works with Connecticut Quest for Peace, which works to provide humanitarian aid to Nicaragua. That organization has been able to furnish seven English libraries in the South American country.

“This is mana from heaven,” Shanley said. “When you’re a Peace Corps volunteer and you can put books into the hands of these kids – it changes their lives.”

To learn more about Darien Book Aid and see some of the people they have helped across the work, visit their Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/darienbookaid>. For information about volunteering, visit their website at www.darienbookaid.org.

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Please support a local campaign: Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteer member, Philippa Wood (Guatemala, 2009), is looking to raise funds for [Outside Perspectives](#), a nonprofit expedition program that aims to partner with youth development organizations to provide transformative outdoor experiences. Their immersive wilderness expeditions for under-served youth from New York City and larger cities in Connecticut will help create focus for teens who are often looking for direction. [Find out more and donate HERE!](#)



Below is an email we received recently from CTRPCV supporter Dan Rossano:

I wanted to share some exciting news! I've officially started up a bike touring company called BikeTrex! We're based out of northern Connecticut and plan to lead bike trips all around the New England area to start, then eventually expand to other states and ride international trips!

Why choose us?!

Because we're awesome! I've been riding with groups for over 3 years and have lots of experience. We know where to find the best views, the best restaurants and pubs, and the many hidden treasures of each area we tour. And our leaders are qualified, medically trained, and professional. Get out of the city get out of the house and come enjoy being outside!

Please help me by sharing this information with your friends and family. Sign up for our mailing list for all the latest news and updates. Our first tour starts in May 2016 from Monroe, CT!

Please visit our website: <http://www.ridebiketrex.com/>

Thanks!
Dan

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This is an exciting time to engage with National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). Between the opening of membership to include any and all who support our mission, elimination of member dues and launch of the Community Fund, NPCA is demonstrating how it is a mission-driven, community-based organization: your organization. Getting here took a lot of time and effort from a dedicated Board of Directors and staff. They are members just like you with a deep passion and commitment to the Peace Corps community.

To continue this progress, we need individuals with strong leadership skills and experience in helping non-profit organizations execute strategy and development plans to serve on the NPCA Board of Directors. We have a particular interest in candidates who are well-connected within and beyond the Peace Corps community and who can help us bring in new resources, partnerships and expertise to meet our three strategic goals:

- Enable members and affiliate groups to thrive
- Help the Peace Corps be the best it can be
- Increase the Peace Corps community's development impact

Each year, at least one-third of our Directors are up for election by the membership, the affiliate groups, or the Board. This year we have a particular interest in candidates who have **expertise in finance, fundraising, partnership development, media/communications, and/or nonprofit law.** We value diversity and an affinity for Peace Corps ideals.

NPCA Directors serve three-year terms and are expected to participate in quarterly board meetings (two in-person and two teleconferences), serve on a board committee, and support NPCA financially within their personal capability. You can find out more about [NPCA Board and committee service](#) on the NPCA website.

NPCA Members who are interested in considering Board or committee service are invited to fill out a [Board Interest Form](#). While the recruitment of board director and committee member candidates is an ongoing one, this year we have eight positions up for election. All are for three-year terms beginning in September 2016 unless otherwise noted.

- Three Board-elected Director positions – all will be elected by the Board in September
- Four Member-elected Director positions representing the Upper Midwest; The Americas; West, Central and Southern Africa; and the US West (one-year term) – all will be elected online by members in those divisions
- Affiliate Group Network Coordinator (two-year term) – elected online by affiliate groups

Anyone interested in a member-elected or group-elected position above will need to complete formal nomination paperwork (available on the NPCA website) by **MAY 27, 2016.**

We will review all interest forms submitted and may contact you for a phone conversation. If you are not contacted this year, we will keep your interest form on file for future consideration.

Thank you for your interest in NPCA service.

Regards,

Joby Taylor

Chair, Board of Directors – National Peace Corps Association

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National
Peace Corps
Association

WRITE FOR NPCA GLOBAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

The next Global Education Newsletter will focus on immigration and refugees. We welcome resources for teaching about these issues.

We are combining the spring and summer issues, so this will also be the issue where we include suggestions for summer reading. If you have a book(s) to recommend, please include title, author, and a paragraph about the book and why you chose it.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MAY 8

[Email the editor](#)

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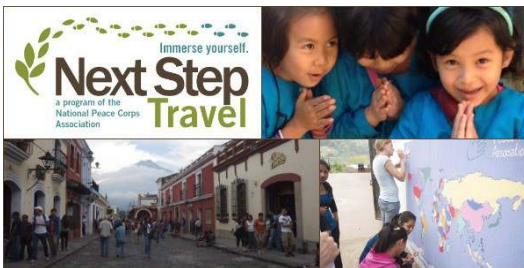
HAVE YOU JOINED?

Did you know that NPCA membership is now free?

We want to make our community more robust, inclusive, and diverse, while reflecting the mission-driven nature of our organization. Membership in NPCA is 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 we have accurate service and contact information for you.

[Join the network](#)

Over and above your membership, when you choose to support the [Peace Corps Community Fund](#) as a Mission Partner, your tax-deductible contributions go farther than any you ever have made before.



CUSTOMIZE TRAVEL FOR YOUR SCHOOL OR CLASS

Connect with the Peace Corps community to get a "taste of the Peace Corps" through NPCA Next Step Travel.

[Contact us to learn how to customize your program](#)

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) offers lots of resources to help you bring a global perspective to your classroom and community. Whether you need new lesson plans, a travel program for your students or ways to support education programs around the world, you'll find it here.

[Visit our website](#)



Bring Global Perspectives to your Classrooms and Communities

Each quarter, National Peace Corps Association publishes a resource-filled newsletter to steer you to ideas, lesson plans, books, websites, resources and other opportunities to help you carry out Peace Corps' Third Goal: bring a global perspective to your classrooms and communities. Each issue is available as a PDF in the [Education section of the NPCA website](#). Each issue features:

- **Around the NPCA:** featuring *WorldView* Magazine Lesson Ideas, Next Step Travel, affiliate group highlights
- **Peace Corps Highlights:** updates on Peace Corps programs, such as Third Goal Kits, Let Girls Learn
- **Community Forum:** articles submitted by our community, including book recommendations and reviews

Global Education Resources, Professional Development and Travel Opportunities and more!

We accept articles year round. Contact the editor, Susan Neyer, at susanneyer@astound.net. Deadline for the next issue is **May 8, 2016**.



JOIN OUR NPCA AFFILIATE GROUPS

NPCA affiliate groups do amazing work on multiple levels - supporting countries of Peace Corps service, volunteering in home and workplace communities, providing opportunities for networking and support for RPCVs, and advocating for important causes.

Engaging with our groups is the best way to stay connected and continue carrying out the Third Goal!

- [Join our groups!](#)
- [Learn more about our groups.](#)
- [Form a new group!](#)

WORLDVIEW LESSON PLANS AVAILABLE FOR EACH ISSUE

Encourage your students to think critically and make the stories in *WorldView* relevant to their lives by utilizing our discussion guides and lesson plans based around the articles.

Download our most recent lessons:

- * [Hopeless Iraq? Another Perspective](#)
- * [National Service](#)
- * [Communicating about Cameroon: A Case Study in Considering How We Learn and Teach](#)

[ACCESS ALL LESSON PLANS](#)

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Announcing Group Challenge Winners



We are happy to announce the winners of the Peace Corps Week Group Challenge. Thank you to everyone who participated.

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[Submit your Photos](#)



[Storytelling Competition](#)



[Malawi Education Minister](#)



[360 view of Zambia](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

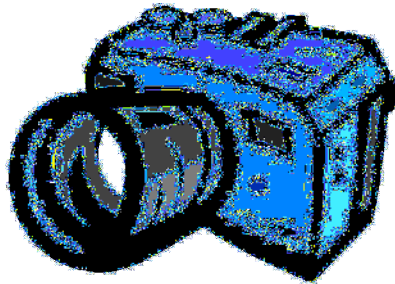
Have an event or community service idea?
Let's make it happen!!

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.



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. 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 to schedule an informational interview with your local Peace Corps recruiter.

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MISCELLANEOUS

We are updating our website and need your help! We will be debuting a new section of our website called 'CTRPCV Profiles' in which we will briefly share our members' stories. If you would like to take part, please fill out the questionnaire below and email your responses, along with photos from your service that you would like to have published on our website, to president@ctrpcv.org.

CTRPCV Profiles

Who are you (please include name, country of service, years of service and anything else you want to add)?

Why did you choose to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

Can you share your favorite memory from service?

How has serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer affected your life?

What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

Do you have anything else you would like to share with our readers related to you or your PC service (stories, poems, quotes, etc.)?

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MISCELLANEOUS



**We
Need
Your
Help
Please**

HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!

We currently have openings for the following positions:

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.

We are also searching for the following positions ASAP as Jonathan Rosario has accepted an employment position in Washington DC and will be this month:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

- Design the newsletter as you wish! You can keep the current design or create your own. The current design was created using Microsoft Publisher, but you are free to use any program you would like.
- Incorporate new information into the newsletter including new events, advocacy updates, CTRPCV announcements, etc. (Most info. remains relevant for several months, so you would not have to create a completely new newsletter each month. You can simply update the previous month's newsletter)
- Eliminate outdated information.
- Correspond with CTRPCV officers to ensure all information is relevant and up-to-date.
- Email the newsletter at the end of each month to president@ctrpcv.org. Our email coordinator/website updater, Jonathan Rosario, will then make sure to send it to all newsletter recipients on the 1st of each month and upload to our website.

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR:

- Maintain up-to-date information across our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn).
- Create Facebook events as they are planned by the CTRPCV officers.
- Maintain email communication with CTRPCV officers.
- Engage with social media community members by responding to their questions.
- Increase membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 7, 2016

[PEACE CORPS: SERVICE LATER IN LIFE PANEL](#)

Saturdays, May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Saturday, July 2, 2016

[HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP](#)

CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: Terese Maineri

TMaineri@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Bryan Garcia

Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com

Treasurer: Mike Hilton

Mjhilt@comcast.net

Secretary: Jillian Corley

JillianOCorley@gmail.com

Newsletter: Jonathan Rosario (interim)

Rosario014@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large: Al May

AMay47@SBCglobal.net

Comm. Svc. Fund: Maureen Shanley

Maureenshanley@hotmail.com

CONTACT US

E-MAIL: President@ctrpcv.org

POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS \$\$\$

If you are interested in participating in the above-mentioned CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. If you would like to join and/or pay your annual CTRPCV membership fees, please go to the NPCA's website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org. Login/Register at the top right of the page. Once logged in, you can choose to pay your CTRPCV membership dues only or make a donation to NPCA as well; the choice is yours.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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