

CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter – March 2017



Peace
Corps

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Thank you to all the CT RPCVs who helped pack books to send to PCVs abroad. The photo below shows a shipment of books that arrived in South Africa!

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CT RPCV's to Provide Assistance to CT Food Bank

As we begin the new year, let's lend a helping hand by joining fellow Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers at the [Connecticut Food Bank](#) to provide nutritious food to people in need. The Connecticut Food-Bank offers food distribution services and promotes public awareness about the problem of hunger.

Through a network of community-based programs such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, residential programs and day programs serving adults and children, the Connecticut Food Bank provides food and much needed resources to those in need. ****We need 25 volunteers to join. For more information, call 203-239-0169 .

"Save the Date" for Saturday, March 18th at 9:00 a.m. (until noon) at the Connecticut Food Bank at 2 Research Parkway, Wallingford, CT 06492



Save the Date

Saturday, April 1, 2017

CT Walks For Haiti's Eighth Annual Walkathon and Festival

Registration: 10:30 a.m. The walk starts at 12 noon from St. Peter Claver parish center, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford CT.

MC Joe Furey - music - Haitian-made crafts - food - silent auction - Red Sox ticket package - 2.5 mile walk through West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square. Proceeds benefit six 501(c)(3) charities that run nutritional, educational and medical projects in Haiti. Check out the website www.ctwalksforhaiti.org to learn more.

Join us! If you can't walk with us but want to contribute to this important work, check out our CrowdRise fund raiser on our website.

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CT RPCV El Paso Restaurant Meet Up

Come eat wonderful Mexican food at EL Paso Restaurant, 6 E Main Street, Plainville, CT 6-8 p.m. Saturday April 29. All are welcome!

Prior to the meet up is a CT RPCV board meeting scheduled for 4:30-6 p.m.

Address: The El Paso restaurant, 6 E Main Street, Plainville, CT .
<http://www.elpasoplainvillect.com>



Rally 3:00-4:30pm
Klein Auditorium (free parking)

March 4:30-5:00pm
UCC Bridgeport, 877 Park Ave.
followed by Candlelight Vigil on the front steps



RALLY FOR UNITY & RESILIENCE

Stand with Refugees & Immigrants

Join ICONN, along with refugee and immigrant advocates and direct service agencies, interfaith clergy, and elected officials to raise our collective voice to champion dignity and justice for all.

12th February

Klein Memorial Auditorium
910 Fairfield Ave.
Bridgeport, CT

Confirmed speakers:

Senator Blumenthal
Rev. Cass Shaw
Imam Nasif Muhammed
Rabbi Evan Schultz
Rev. Anthony Bennett
Daniel Trust, ICONN Board of Directors
Liz Torres, Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust
Akbar Radjab

Live music by local performers.

Rally Sponsors:



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NPCA Day of Action ... March 2 Advocacy Day for the Peace Corps

In these perilous times it is critical that government investments in diplomacy and development in the world beyond our borders is robust. The Peace Corps is an integral part of American efforts to build relationships with people and nations around the globe. As retired General James Mattis, the Secretary of Defense said in an address to Congress: "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition."

At the Day of Action March 2, 2017 RPCVs met with the offices of their senators and representatives to put the case for continued strong funding for the Peace Corps. We are lucky in CT that the entire delegation is pro Peace Corps and foreign aid. Every member of the delegation signed on to the letter requesting funding last year. Today when all development and diplomacy programs are at risk it is more important than ever to insure that Peace Corps remains a part of America's outreach to the world as it presents the very best face of America to the world.

Joan Leonard (Kenya 1969-72)
CT Advocate for Peace Corps

Please contact your Congress people and Senators to thank them for their past support and to urge them to support the proposed Peace Corps budget for FY 2018.

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MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

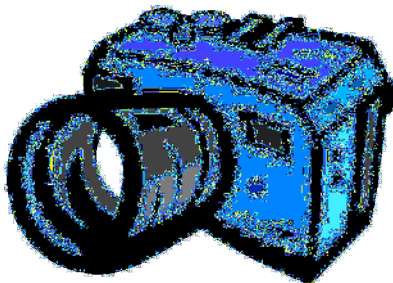
Let's make it happen!!

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.

CALL FOR PHOTOS!!!

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 (PCR) provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. Opportunities are available in all six program areas. 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.

HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!

We have volunteer openings for the following positions:

FUNDRAISER: Devises ways to replenish the Community Service Fund. All ideas welcome.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR: Maintains up-to-date information across out social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn).

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**We
Need
Your
Help
Please**

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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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/>.

Questions???. Simply email our Membership Coordinator, Allegra Itsoga, at aitsoga@afk.org.

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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