

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter – November 2017



## Peace Corps

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The CTRPCV annual meeting and picnic took place on Saturday, September 9, 2017. The board of CTRPCV remains, as follows: Terese Maineri, President; Bryan Garcia, Vice President; Jillian Corley, Secretary; Al May, Member at Large; and Mike Hilton, Treasurer. The by-laws previously sent to members were passed and the language was revised.

Members enjoyed picnic festivities at the Watertown Veteran's Memorial Park following the annual meeting. Various international and local recipes were shared by all.

Sara Masotta, Service Year Alliance ambassador, attended the CTRPCV picnic. Here is the link to the "[take action](#)" section of the Service Year Alliance website where folks can sign up to get involved. If you sign up there the group will have your information in their system for when they send out invitations to events via email or text.

A fond farewell was given to Maureen Shanley, who will be leaving us for Florida. Thank you Maureen for all of your service to CTRPCV.



## CTRPCV OFFICERS

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**What: RPCV Meet Up**

**When: Thursday November 2, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

**Where: Soul de Cuba - [283 Crown Street New Haven, CT](#)**

**How: RSVP to Maureen at [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com)**

We can seat about 20 people, so an RSVP is important. Everyone can order whatever they want because we will have individual checks. I know personally that the food is delish and the Mojitos are fabulous!

Personally, I am looking forward to seeing as many people as possible because 2018 will find me living in Florida. Yes, I will still return to CT for visits and I will try to coordinate with the CTRPCV calendar... but this is likely to be the last CTRPCV event that I will host. We will have our Instant Raffle for our CT RPCV Community Service Fund. Please bring something perhaps from your world travels, a jar of homemade jam, a great book that you read, a plant, someone once brought a beautiful cake that she made and decorated. Use your imagination... it makes the Instant Raffle more fun!

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### **Community Service Day - Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua**

**What: TRUCK PACKING**

**\*\*\* Sat., Nov. 4th... 9 AM– 4 PM**

**Sorting & Packing boxes...Every Saturday in October 10 AM – 1 PM**

**Where: 394 Main St., Bridgeport**

**Sponsor: Maureen Shanley**

All CT Quest funded humanitarian aid programs are provided freely to needy Nicaraguans regardless of religion, creed, race or tribal origin. While there are five programs that support Nicaraguan families' independence, 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, create funding for community programs and build relationships between you and the people of Nicaragua.

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 contact me at [203-775-9222](tel:203-775-9222) or [maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com) to let me know if you are able to help with this project.

For information about CT Quest for Peace go to <http://www.ctquestforpeace.org>. If you want to bring donations, contact Maureen Shanley at ([maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com)) to see what they need. CT Quest is always looking for SUMMER clothing, school supplies for children, books in Spanish, wheel chairs, kitchen utensils, and bed linens. **We also send books in English to Nicaraguan PCVs who are teaching English as a second language. We send DVDs, CDs and VCR tapes as long as we have a VCR player to send with the tapes.**

Directions to Bill's Warehouse:

William Evans Painting Co.

394 Main St.

Bridgeport, CT 06604Iso

Bill's Cell: [203-216-2115](tel:203-216-2115)



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**What: Volunteer with Darien Book Aid**

**When: November 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 (9AM to 12PM)**

**Where: Darien Book Aid [1926 Post Road Darien CT 06820 US](#)**

**How: Contact Jillian Corley at [jilliancorley@gmail.com](mailto:jilliancorley@gmail.com)**

Darien Book Aid. Book Aid sends books in response to specific requests from Peace Corps volunteers, libraries and schools all over the world. Books are also donated to libraries, prisons, hospitals, and Native American and Appalachian groups in the United States. Join fellow RPCVs to pack boxes and send them to those who need them most.



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**What: Volunteer with Christian Community Action**

**When: November 18, 2017** 10 am to 3 pm. Come for the full day or for whatever amount of time you want. For details, you can call John Noonan, CCA Director of Development or me [203 606 0994](tel:2036060994).

**Where: [168 Davenport Avenue New Haven, CT 06519](#) 10 a.m.—3 p.m.**

**How: Contact Albert May at [amay47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amay47@sbcglobal.net) or call 203-606-0994 for more information**

Volunteer to fill Thanksgiving Food bags for families in need. Each bag will have a turkey and all the fixings to make someone's holiday a little brighter.

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**What: CT RPCV Holiday Party**

**When: December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3PM**

**Where: CT Forrest and Park Association [16 Meriden Road Rockfall, CT 06481-2372](#)**

**How: RSVP to Allegra Itsoga at [aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org)**

Join us for our annual holiday potluck. Please RSVP and let her know what kind of dish you plan on bringing. Suggestions include: salads, appetizers, desserts, beverages, etc...

# Sponsor-A-STAR Home For The 2017 Winter Season

THE  
BRIDGE  
FAMILY CENTER



EVERY FAMILY. EVERY CHILD. EVERY TIME.

The Bridge Family Center operates five Short-Term Assessment & Respite (STAR) homes in West Hartford, Southington, Manchester, Wolcott, and Harwinton Connecticut. All STAR homes have a licensed bed capacity of six (nine in West Hartford) girls or boys (Wolcott is for boys and the other four for girls) ages 11-18 who receive assessment and clinical services in a small, structured home-like setting. The goal of the homes is to provide a high quality of care for every youth served. This means providing for, or advocating for, every need that a child has when she/he enters the program. Those needs include shelter, food, clothing, medical and dental care, counseling and family reconciliation support, primary education, life skills training, drug and sex education, and recreational and social activities.

## Let's Make A Difference In Our Community

**What:** We will be creating a 'Gift Card Tree' in order to purchase needed supplies and resident wish lists. We will be purchasing winter supplies for the resident's, plus needed item's for the Connecticut STAR Home's, for the winter season.

**How:** All Gift Cards (of any denomination) can be sent through mail to: Michael Hilton, Treasurer, Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144. If you have any questions, please contact Mike at [mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:mjhilt@comcast.net) or (860) 568-1039.

**When:** All gift cards should be received by December 1st, 2017 (Or can be brought to our CTRPCV Holiday Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>). We will purchase all the supplies, gifts, etc. and hand deliver everything to the STAR Home' in time for the Winter festivities. **Any help will make a huge difference. Thank You in advance!**

### Gift Card Suggestion's for Gift Card Tree:

•Gift Card's to: Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Old Navy, Sears, JCPenney, Home Goods, Home Depot, etc.



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Katrina Clark, RPCV Colombia, passed away on August 25. On October 29 there was a memorial service for her at Yale's Battel Chapel. About 300 people attended on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

Katrina attended the Yale School of Public Health after her Peace Corps service and later co-founded the Fair Haven Community Health Clinic in New Haven, serving a predominantly Hispanic population. She was the clinic's executive director for 40 years until her retirement in 2013.

Friends and family spoke about Katrina's life and work and a couple of them mentioned her Peace Corps service. Katrina's passing was noted on social media and there was a post by someone from the village in Colombia where Katrina had worked on a water project, saying that he had named one of his children after her.

Katrina Clark was the recipient of the first Sargent Shriver Award in 1986, having been nominated by Connecticut RPCVs.

She is survived by her wife Bonnie Bayuk and their two sons and two grandsons, as well as her three siblings

# 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).

## 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](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 (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](mailto: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](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org).

## CTRPCV Profiles

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

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

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What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

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Can you share your favorite memory from service?

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

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What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

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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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