



Connecticut RPCV E-News

June 2012 Maureen Shanley, Chapter President, MaureenShanley@hotmail.com
David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu
This issue is found at <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/CTRPCV0612.pdf>

In This Issue:

CTRPCV call for officers

PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS

Opportunities to Serve: Hole in Wall Camp Volunteer Opportunity, June 30

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International Game

Have you paid your 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

Upcoming Events:

CTRPCV Calendar

June 16	Sat.	9 am – 5 pm	Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua
June 23	Sat.	12 noon -3 PM	Food Share Project-Hartford
June 30	Sat.	9:30 - Noon	Hole in the Wall Camp Project- Ashford
July 7	Sat.	2 PM – 5 PM	Board Meeting @ CT Forest & Parks Bldg.- Rockfall
July 7	Sat.	5:30 PM – 8 PM	CTRPVC Potluck Dinner @ Ct Forest & Parks Bldg
July 14	Sat.	2 pm – twilight	Annual Pot Luck Luau, Haddam Neck
August 4	Sat.	9 AM- 11 AM	Gardening- Food Share Project -Hartford
August 25	Sat.	12 Noon – 3 PM	Annual Summer Picnic-Hammonasset Beach, Madison
September 29	Sat.	2 – 5 pm 5 - 8:30 pm	Board Meeting. & General Annual Mtg.- CT Forest & Parks

CTRPCV NEEDS YOU !!!

We have a number of opportunities for you to become more active in the CTRPCV group. We have a couple of people who have been serving on the CTRPCV Board for many, many years who are moving on because of major changes in their lives. So there are opportunities waiting with YOUR NAME! [more about the Board](#)

PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS

I am interested in getting together with other RPCVs who have little kids and want to meet up for monthly playdates. [Read more](#)

Get updated news about events and our members!

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!

Peace Corps Encore!

Want to do it again? Encore! sends former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff members back into the field on short-term assignments (typically three weeks to three months) that match their professional expertise with specific social needs.

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

Community Service Day – Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua

When: 9 AM– 5 PM, Sat., June 16

Come for any length of time that works for you. If you are going to be there for a long time, bring something to eat.

Where: Bridgeport

Sponsor: Maureen Shanley [contact me at 203-775-9222 or maureenshanley@hotmail.com] [Read more](#)

Foodshare- Sort Fresh Vegetables June 23- Hartford

Join other CT-RPCVs and volunteer to help sort produce at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on Saturday June 23rd from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. [Read more](#)

Hole in The Wall Gang Camp

Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 30th in Ashford, CT

On June 30th, CTRPCV's will participate in a volunteer day at The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT. [Read more](#)

The Upper Road Utopian Socialist Society of Haddam Neck

is Pleased to Invite You to the *rain or*

SHINE

Annual Pot Luck LUAU

FOR DISCUSSION ABOUT THE IMPENDING

Apocalypse or the End of Times

Accompanied by Great Rock & ROLL, FUNK,

Links to every Peace Corp website you can think of!

Peace Corps Writers
A site for returned Peace Corps volunteers to post their stories. Offers writing workshops, awards, publishing, and other resources; newsletter archives, etc.

Global TeachNet
The objective of Global TeachNet is to promote students' knowledge of, understanding of and respect for the people, cultures and nations of the world. Global TeachNet is this country's premier resource for global education.

SOUL & BLUES

Saturday, July 14, 2012

2PM – TWILIGHT w/ MUSIC by
SOUL CITY

Rick Maurice BASS, Barry Rudolph LEAD GUITAR, Rick Wezner DRUMS,
Danielle Medrano, VOCALS and George Wezner,
KEYBOARDS

at Doug & Sharon's CABIN in
the WOODS

The Cabin Crew will prepare: BBQ Ribs,
Chix on Stix & more GOOD TASTING
LUAU Specials, PLUS SODA, COOL WATER
and ICE COLD delicious Micro Brews, plus
Plates, Tableware, etc.

YOU BRING: Family & Friends PLUS any
(and everybody's) FAVORITE Appetizer,
Salad or Dessert

RSVP DOUG 860-692-7580 or SHARON 860-
759-6151

Directions: Haddam Neck is best found by Hot Air Balloon, but if you must travel by land, we're located between the villages of Cobalt & Moodus midway between East Haddam & Portland.
e-mail 860.267.6742@att.net

Foodshare- Gardening Project August 4 - Bloomfield

Do you have younger children (age 5 and older) and prefer to spend time outdoors while performing valuable community service? Then join us on Saturday August 4th from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at Auer Farm (Bloomfield). [Read more](#)

CTRPCV Picnic at the Beach!!

Our big annual potluck picnic –all are welcome including perspective RPCVs

What: Potluck style picnic at the beach

When: Noon – 3pm, Saturday, August 25th
sun and rain.

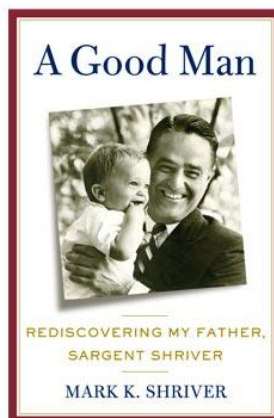
Where: Picnic Shelter #1 Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT (just off I-95) [Read more](#)

There will be a CTRPCV Board meeting at the CT Forest and Parks Bldg. on September 29 from 2 PM - 5 PM.

The Annual Potluck General Meeting will be at the CT Forest and Parks Bldg. on September 29 from 5 PM - 8:30 PM.

More news in the July newsletter.

Media recommendation by Maureen Shanley



[Read more](#)

Recommended place for unwinding
Toby's Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica [Read more](#)

CTRPCV NEEDS YOU !!!



We have a number of opportunities for you to become more active in the CTRPCV group. We have a couple of people who have been serving on the CTRPCV Board for many, many years who are moving on because of major changes in their lives. So there are opportunities waiting with YOUR NAME!

As a Board we meet only 2 or 3 times a year. Everything else is done by email.

We are looking for some newly returned RPCVs because we want some new people with new ideas. Or some RPCVs who now have a bit more time to help us make our CTRPCV group more inclusive and exciting.

If being a Board member isn't for you, but you think that you'd like to assist or work on a committee that would be great too!

Just contact Maureen and tell her that you are interested in becoming a more active member.

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Vice President Job Description

The Vice President of the CTRPCV Board and represents the President when s/he is not able to attend a CTRPCV activity.

- at times assists PC/NYC with recruiting or speaks to groups interested in learning more about the Peace Corps
- chairs at least one committee
- assists the president with planning events for CTRPCV

Connecticut RPCV Treasurer Job Description

The Treasurer is the officer assigned primary responsibility of overseeing the management and reporting of Connecticut Return Peace Corps Volunteer's (CT RPCV) finances. Treasurer duties include:

- Membership dues interfaces
 - o Connecticut paid dues are received by CT RPCV Membership and then sent to the Treasurer. The Treasurer deposits checks and processes payment of any portion of the dues slated for NPCA membership. This includes writing a check to NPCA, filling in member information on the NPCA form and mailing both to NPCA.
 - o NPCA paid CT RPCV dues are electronically deposited in the CT RPCV checking account
- Bank account maintenance – Sign checks, balancing statements and manage funds wisely

- Reports – Keeping the board informed of key financial events, trends, concerns, and assessment of fiscal health in addition to providing financial reports at Board Meetings and the annual report to NPCA

CTRPCV Database Manager [Membership Chair]

The average time commitment is approximately 3 to 4 hours per month, and the current database manager, Dulari Collier, will be happy to answer any questions (contact her at 860-767-2871 or wacollier@comcast.net) and to provide detailed, hands-on instruction about the database to the new database manager.

CTRPCV maintains a database with various categories of information about the organization's members—e.g.,

- contact information, country of service information, and dues payment information.
- Some CTRPCV members also belong to the National Peace Corps Association, which also provides CTRPCV with information about NPCA membership that is also entered into the CTRPCV database.
- For many years, we have been using File Maker Pro as the database software. The software is old, but it remains useful for CTRPCV's purposes.
- In addition, the database manager will be provided with a computer and monitor donated several years ago to CTRPCV by a local company. The hardware is also somewhat dated, but the computer's storage system contains only the CTRPCV and NPCA data.
- In addition to tracking the types of information listed above, the database manager is called on from time to time to compile directories of all CTRPCV members or to assist other CTRPCV members who are planning events (e.g., restaurant gatherings) and need contact information for members in a particular geographical area.

Fund Raising Chair

The primary duty of the Fund Raiser Chair is to raise monies for the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Fund that donates up to \$1,000 to a CTRPCV or PCV from CT who has a deserving community service project.

- Assist in the organization of Raffles at our meeting and restaurant meetings
- Helping to organize a Fiesta or Gala with a silent auction is one way to raise money
- Contacting CTRPCVs who work for companies who grant matching funds or actually give grants to employees who are active in registered non-profit 501.c.3 organizations
- Search for grants that can help us help others.
- Or give us another way to raise money... we're open to

suggestions!

Restaurant Meeting Coordinator

The primary duty is to help other CTRPCVs identify locations and help organize a CTRPCV meeting at a restaurant.

- We prefer to have these meetings at ethnic restaurants, but we are not limited to that concept.
- Generally the CTRPCV needs to organize a pre-set menu with a fixed price. RPCVs are asked to mail their dinner choices and payment to the RPCV organizer.
- The coordinator will provide a CTRPCV Directory so the CTRPCV organizer can contact people who live within approximately a 45 minute radius of the restaurant.
- Help organize a local potluck or barbeque in someone's home.
- Arrange a Friday Night Out at your favorite "watering hole".

Group/Regional Advocacy Coordinator

To strengthen the connections and voice of the Peace Corps community on matters of public policy and grassroots citizen lobbying, the National Peace Corps Association seeks interested volunteers to serve as member group Advocacy Coordinators to serve as a liaison with NPCA's Advocacy Program.

The minimal requirements for this role are as follows:

- Sign up to NPCA's advocacy listserve, help disseminate key updates to other group members and recruit others to join this network. (You can sign up for the listserve by following this link: <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001uV3jncU8bYlmJuymyiUig>.)
- Be familiar with NPCA's advocacy webpages (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/>) and blog posts (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/npc/news/advocacy/>)
- Assist NPCA Advocacy with outreach and mobilization each March during our National Day of Action <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/>
- Assist NPCA Advocacy once a year with outreach and mobilization during our District Meeting Advocacy Days (Scheduled next for September 2012) <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/district-meeting-days/>
- Occasionally assist with outreach to targeted lawmakers in your state.

Beyond the minimal requirements, Member group Advocacy Coordinators would be invited to assist with advocacy training workshops, help with general promotion and/or fundraising to support and sustain NPCA's advocacy program, keep NPCA's Advocacy Program apprised of group advocacy initiatives, and gather and provide feedback and input related to advocacy surveys,

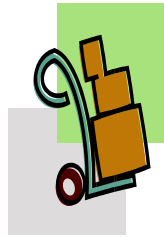
programming and planning.

Those interested in serving as a group Advocacy Coordinator may contact Jonathan Pearson with any questions.

jonathan@peacecorpsconnect.org

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Community Service Day – Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua



When: 9 AM– 5 PM, Sat., June 16

Come for any length of time that works for you. If you are going to be there for a long time, bring something to eat.

Where: Bridgeport

Sponsor: Maureen Shanley [contact me at 203-775-9222 or maureenshanley@hotmail.com]

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. They work with Nicaraguan community-based partners so that they can assist Nicaragua's neediest through trusted community-based organizers in Nicaragua.

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.

Donations are stored at Bill Evan's warehouse in Bridgeport, but many items need to be boxed or re-boxed so that the boxes have no empty space. I am sure that you are well aware of what humidity does to cardboard. Now can you imagine partially filled boxes losing their shape as they travel by ship on the Atlantic and then

enter the tropical humidity that is ever present in Nicaragua? The cargo in the truck container would look like a melted ice cream cake when it arrived in Managua.

CTRPCV will meet at Bill's warehouse and work from 9 AM until 5 PM. Bill will have all the packing supplies, but you might want to bring your favorite tape dispenser (gun) like I do.

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 or maureenshanley@hotmail.com to let me know if you are able to help with this project. On the day of the project, call me on my cell 92030788-0163.

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) 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.

Directions to Bill's Warehouse:

William Evans Painting Co.

394 Main St.

Bridgeport, CT 06604

Bill's Cell: 203-216-2115

Maureen's cell for June 16th... 203-788-0163

Directions: Basically... follow signs to the Port Jefferson Ferry. At ferry entrance, turn right, 2nd building on the left is 394 Main St. Northbound on RT 95 (Connecticut Tnpk.) Take Exit 27. Go straight off exit ramp for 3 blocks. Turn right onto Broad St. Go 200 yds. and go under the railroad bridge. Take immediate left onto Ferry Access Rd. Go 1 block to intersection. Turn right onto Main St. Travel 100 yds. The building is on left. Bill will have a sign in front and one of his trucks. Both have the name "William Evans Painting Co."

Directions Southbound on RT 95: (Connecticut Tnpk.)

Take Exit 27. At bottom of ramp take immediate left onto Broad St. Go 200 yards and go under the railroad bridge. Take immediate left onto Ferry Access Rd. Go 1 block to intersection. Turn right onto

Main St-. Travel 100 yards. The building is on left. The name is "William Evans Painting Co.".

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PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS

I am interested in getting together with other RPCVs who have little kids and want to meet up for monthly playdates. Now that Spring is here, and Summer is around the corner, I would like to set up monthly gatherings in different places (i.e., children's museums, the zoo, the aquarium, local farms, bicycle trails and parks, bouncy "fun" zones, etc.). The possibilities are endless. If you are interested in being a part of this playgroup, please send me an email with your name, your child's name (or children's names) and age(s), and the town where you live. Expressing your interest doesn't commit you to participate, but it will help me gauge the level of interest and plan the location of the playgroups. Also, if you have any thoughts or ideas regarding the playgroup, please include this with your email. All input is most appreciated.

Keri Singh (Thailand, '94-'96) Email: epigirl105@yahoo.com

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Foodshare- Sort Fresh Vegetables June 23- Hartford

Join other CT-RPCVs and volunteer to help sort produce at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on Saturday June 23rd from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

We will help inspect and repackage fresh vegetables. This is also a wonderful opportunity for those RPCVs with children 12 years and older to bring along your children and share the joy of community

service.

Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Keri Singh (RPCV, Thailand 94-96) at epigirl105@yahoo.com or (860) 324-6519 no later than June 9th.

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Hole in The Wall Gang Camp

Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 30th in Ashford, CT

On June 30th, 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, lafucci@comcast.net.

WHEN: June 30th, Saturday

WHERE: Ashford, CT

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

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Foodshare- Gardening Project August 4 - Bloomfield

Do you have younger children (age 5 and older) and prefer to spend time outdoors while performing valuable community service? Then join us on Saturday August 4th from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at Auer Farm (Bloomfield).

We will work in the vegetable garden and harvest crops, as needed, for Foodshare. There will be gardening captains at the farm to organize and coordinate the effort, so don't despair if you think your thumbs are not green enough! Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, please contact

Keri Singh (RPCV, Thailand 94-96) at epigirl105@yahoo.com or (860) 324-6519 no later than July 21st.

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CTRPCV Picnic at the Beach!!



Our big annual potluck picnic –
all are welcome
including perspective
RPCVs

What: Potluck style picnic at the beach

When: Noon – 3pm, Saturday, August 25th

Only lightning & thunderstorms will make us cancel

because we have a large pavilion to protect us from the sun and rain.

**Where: Picnic Shelter #1 Hammonasset State Park,
Madison, CT (just off I-95)**

What to bring: your own drinks, something to grill, and a dish or dessert to share.

(CTRPCV will provide the paper and plastic products and mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, charcoal.)

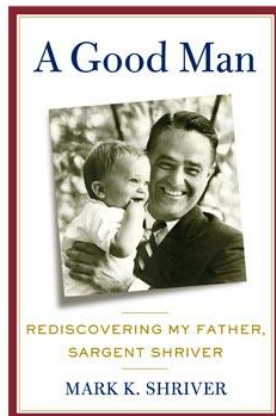
Raffle: There will be an INSTANT RAFFLE and the proceeds will go to the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Fund. Please bring something from your travels, a plant, a bottle of something, use your imagination... the more items we have the more winners there will be!

Come out and join your fellow Connecticut RPCV's for an afternoon of fun in the sun!

Our annual picnic will be held this year on Saturday, August 25th from 12-3p.m. at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, CT, just off I-95. We will be at picnic shelter #1. Please note, that there is a parking charge for entering the state park. However, if you are 65 or older, you can apply for a senior park pass, which lets you enter free of charge. You can also purchase family park passes that allow you access to all state parks. Check out www.ct.gov/dep for more information on these passes.

If you have any questions about the picnic, or about rain cancellations on the day of the picnic, please call Maureen Shanley's cell (203)788-0163. We hope to see you there!
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Media recommendation by Maureen Shanley



“A Tribute to Sargent Shriver

After a lifetime of searching for the path to his father's success in the public arena, Mark instead turns to a search for the secret of his father's joy his devotion to others, and his sense of purpose. He discovers notes and letters from Sarge; hears personal stories from friends and family that zero in on the three guiding principles of Sarge's life-faith, hope, and love-and recounts moments with Sarge that now take on new value and poignancy. In the process, Mark discovers much about himself, as a father, as a husband, and as a social justice advocate. *A Good Man* is an inspirational and deeply personal story about a son discovering the true meaning of his father's legacy.” from <http://www.sargentshriver.org/>

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FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER DAY – A REPORT

On April 21st over 20 RPCV'S, friends and family of RPCV'S spent the morning at the Food Bank in East Haven. One RPCV, Mary-Ann Tirone Smith was unable to come so her daughter came in her place. This turned into a "family" project when the Feltes arrived with their 3 sons and David Jones brought his daughter, Emily. One volunteer brought 2 co-workers, and I had 2 young neighbors in tow.

It was a great gathering.

We spent 3 hours sorting cans, packing boxes and chatting. We actually finished the project they had assigned us so we completed a second task.

Working with RPCV'S is always a rewarding experience. Everyone is willing to pitch in to do their part and to help others.

The Food Bank project is a task we volunteer for yearly. The staff truly appreciates the hard work and the initiative we take to complete our task. Each year I see some of the same volunteers returning to help. Also, each year, some RPCV'S are there for the first time. Volunteering in our community is an important part of our commitment as RPCCV'S.

To those who came my MEGA THANKS. You are all awesome. Perhaps next year others will volunteer for the first time. Anyone interested in arranging a volunteer day at the Waterbury or Fairfield Food Banks may contact Lois at lafj@att.net or 203239-0169.



Recommended places for unwinding

Introducing a new section for the CTRPCV e-newsletter where members share a special place for unwinding in the world. The location may be in Connecticut or anywhere away from home. Please send a short description (100 words) to the [e-newsletter editor](#) with the name of place, location, cost for the rental, amenities, local places of interest and restaurants, transportation, contact information, and other details.

Toby's Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica **Recommended by David Stoloff – stolofffamily@yahoo.com**

“Toby's Resort is located approximately a mile from the Donald Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. The hotel is at the beginning of the “Hip Strip”, at the corner of Kent Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. The Doctor's Cave and Cornwall Beach are just a few minutes stroll away, with the ever-popular Margueritaville and Coral Cliff just about ten minutes walk away. Duty free and local shopping just half a block away. Activities, such as, tennis courts, golf, horseback riding and water sports nearby.”

Mailing Address

1 Kent Avenue, Po Box 467, Montego Bay, Jamaica
USA Toll Free: 1-888-790-5264
Phone: 876-952-4370 & 952-6636
Fax: 876-952-6591

Email: reservations@tobyresorts.com WWW: <http://tobyresorts.com/>

I have spent two one-week visits to Toby's Resort, leading global field experiences for Eastern Connecticut State University students in Jamaican schools. During Spring break 2012, our group of 20 spent the week of March 17-24, 2012 at Toby's – breakfasts each morning, before we went to visit schools, and dinners on the first and last evening and spent about \$360 per person for the 7 nights.



Toby's Resort is a good base for visiting the north coast of Jamaica – beaches in Negril and Dunn River Falls and a great restaurant at an restored plantation in Ocho Rios, the Ruins at the Falls. If you go, please send Professor David's regards to Shane, the third-generation Chinese-Jamaican owner and captain of the Jamaican National Polo Team, Ms. Allicin, the front desk manager, and Andrew Burke, the manager of Good Eats, the resort's restaurant. There are two pools, easy access to the Hip Strip and public and private beaches, and a good security staff. [back to beginning](#)

An International Game

Visit the Peace Corps Challenge Online Game –
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/kids/>

suggested by David Stoloff – stolofffamily@yahoo.com



Share a story and photos from your Peace Corps experience!

Peace Corps invites current and returned Volunteers and Staff to share a story and photos from your Peace Corps service or

employment. Help us reach our goal of collecting stories and photos from each country where Peace Corps has served, and from each decade of Peace Corps history.

Volunteers

[Contribute a Volunteer Story](#)

[Contribute a Volunteer Photo](#)

Staff

[Contribute a Staff Story](#)

[Contribute a Staff Photo](#)

If you are not a Volunteer or Staff but would like to submit material to the Digital Library, please contact us at digital@peacecorps.gov.

For more information on what the digital library is and is not, download [Using the Peace Corps Digital Library](#): a guide for the Peace Corps community (PDF).



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!](#)