



# Connecticut RPCV E-News

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This issue is found at <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/CTRPCV0413.pdf>

## In This Issue:

Health and innovation conference in New Haven, April 13-14

CT Food Bank – April 20

CTRPCV Board Meeting, CT Forest and Parks, April 27

Next Step Travel – Dominican Republic and Guatemala – Spring-Summer 2013

Peace Corps Connect: Boston 2013 – June 28 & 29, 2013

Peace Corps Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Service Project – Saturday, June 29

**International Game**

**Peace Corps Update**

**Have you paid your**

## Upcoming Events:

### CTRPCV Calendar

Friday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Citywide Youth Coalition House Party, New Haven</a>
Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14	<a href="#">Health and Innovation Conference, New Haven</a>
Saturday, April 20	<a href="#">CT Food Bank, East Haven</a>
Saturday, April 27	<a href="#">CTRPCV Board Meeting, CT Forest and Parks, Rockfall</a>
Spring-Summer 2013	<a href="#">Next Step Travel – Dominican Republic and Guatemala</a>
Friday & Saturday, June 28-29, 2013	<a href="#">Peace Corps Connect: Boston 2013</a>
Saturday, June 29, 2013	<a href="#">Peace Corps Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Service Project</a>

Recently I have become part of the board of directors of the Citywide Youth Coalition. They are an amazing organization in New Haven working to bring different youth serving organizations together to make a systemic change in how youth are offered supports, opportunities, and services in the New Haven area.

<http://www.cwyc.org>

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you all to the Citywide House Party on Friday, April 5th to support the upcoming Youth Summit.

The Citywide House Party will be at the gorgeous Grove Studios at Chetstone, located in the Fair Haven Heights section of New Haven.

**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**

**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>**

Come on out, have some food and drink after work, listen to some music, and have a great time while helping to raise money for the 2013 Youth Summit!

There is a suggested minimum donation of \$20.00 and we'll be selling \$20 raffle tickets toward a \$500 travel agency's gift certificate on a "Trip to Anywhere!" If you aren't able to make the house party, you can purchase raffle tickets from me for the "trip to anywhere", as you don't need to be present in order to win. There will only be 500 tickets sold, so your chances in winning are pretty good.

You can contact me directly to purchase raffle tickets- 203-710-3771 or [gross\\_matthew@yahoo.com](mailto:gross_matthew@yahoo.com) or for more information you can visit the website listed here- [www.cwyc.org/events/house-party](http://www.cwyc.org/events/house-party)

Bring your friends & colleagues. It will be a fun night! See you there!

Thanks!

Matt Gross, RPCV, Philippines Group 256, 2000-2002

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## **Health and innovation conference in New Haven**

April 13-14

Registration will go up at the end of Feb, and it sold out early last year. ( I got in on standby )

Last year I attended this conference after hearing about it last minute. I was impressed with the presentations, and learned about so much from a local women-run health clinic in Guatemala, to solar powered health improvements in Africa, to attention to child-centered care in orphanages to the Millennium Initiative's progress on the eradication of malaria, to the adaptation of a locally-sourced cooperative farming model to pull families out of subsistence in difficult to reach parts of the world.

It's sponsored by Unite for Sight - an organization that takes it's mobile eye clinic to all parts of the world- performing sight restoring surgeries not usually available to the impoverished - a fact that makes them even more at risk, since a blind person is not able to fully provide for a family in most circumstances.

ctrpcv@gmail.com

Other links of interest :

Peace Corps Online

*The Independent News Forum serving Returned Peace Corps Volunteers*

PC Online Crossroads

*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.*

I'm sending this to a medium sized group of friends who might be interested in the state and progress of some truly innovative approaches to the most pressing health and poverty issues we face. A presentation can spark a passion, and that can lead to more focus, more energy, more ideas and success - so I hope some of you will consider attending.

If so, let me know - I'll see you there.

Becky Errera  
[becky@smallbits.com](mailto:becky@smallbits.com)

<http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference>

1,500,000 patients served 61,724 sight-restoring surgeries sponsored  
8,900 fellows trained  
80% of blindness is preventable. 36 million are needlessly blind.

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/uniteforsight>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/uniteforsight>



**CT Food Bank ...**

**CTRPCV will sort food ... on April 20**

The Connecticut Food Bank annually distributes more than 15 million pounds of food to six of the state's eight counties. Donations come from the food industry, through community member and corporate contributions, and via government subsidies.

At the CT Food Bank donations are organized and sorted by products before they are distributed at the warehouses. Member programs send representatives to the warehouses to shop for food that is then distributed to those who need it most at local food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters.

CTRPCV volunteers will inspect, sort and pack non-perishable food at CT Food Bank in East Haven on Saturday, April 20 from 9 AM to noon. Families welcome... it's a great service project for kids. We are limited to 15 people, so if you are interested please call Lois Fucci at 203-239-0169.

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## CTRPCV Board Meeting

April 27, noon to 4 pm

**Everyone is Welcome...**

Please bring your ideas to the table!

CT Forest and Parks Association Building  
16 Meriden Road (Route 66), Rockfall, CT 06481  
(west of Middletown on 66, before I 91)

This board meeting is very important because it is the first time that many of us will be working together... so we are embarking on a new journey together. This is a great time for any RPCV to just jump in since so many board members are new.

### Help Wanted:

- We are looking for people who are **connected to the social media**. We need one or more people who can update CTRPCV on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
- We need someone who will be our CALENDER poster who will update our CTRPCV calendar, post our events on the NPCA website, and just get our info about events "out there".
- Connect RPCVs with requests for speakers. We get about 3- 6 requests a year.
- Restaurant/Potluck/Friday Night Out... Coordinator... Basically someone who is interested in hosting one of these events contacts you and you share "The Plan" that CTRPCV has developed to help them organize their event.
- Fundraiser- we need to think of ways to replenish the funds for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. We can think big& small... all ideas are welcome.

This is a time to look at where we are or what we have been doing with "new" eyes. So please think about what you would like to do or change. We can have short and long range plans... so **please forward Maureen your ideas that she can put them into our agenda so that others can think about your ideas too. Or better yet, come to the board meeting since everyone is welcome.**

UPDATES:

Mike Hilton is now officially the treasurer for CTRPCV!!!

Keri Singh is our new membership chair. Bill and Dulari transferred to CTRPCV database to her last week!

Al May, our new VP of CTRPCV is writing a letter to ask RPCVs to join or rejoin CTRPCV. We want to list the reasons why YOU should be a CTRPCV member. Here is what we have so far... please feel free to send me some more ideas. We might list all of them in the letter, but we should add a long list to the website. Check out the list below.

At our next CTRPCV Board meeting at CT Forest & Parks, Maureen suggests that you bring a sandwich to eat since most of us have up to an hour drive just to get to Rockfall. She can make coffee and tea, but you will have to let me know ahead of time so I can bring the fixings. If ya'll want to order in... let her know. Or we can do a mini-potluck just for us for lunch? Let her know your thoughts.

So send Maureen your ideas.

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### **WHY** someone should **join** CTRPCV.

We need to create a list of **benefits** when one is a member of CTRPCV or a few reasons why we should be members of 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 or 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 a newbie RPCVs and help them navigate their transition
- help support PCVs and/or CTRPCVs through the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Program.
- You can keep in the PCV loop, know about short-term stints if you are interested

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### **Next Step Travel**

***National Peace Corps Association members love to travel and to travel***

***with a purpose. And who better to travel with than Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and their friends and families?***

NPCA Next Step Travel program features small group travel (up to 20), hands-on service projects, educational programs and a close-up view of the impact of volunteer service. Our all-inclusive trips are operated by Discover Corps, a program of Terra Education, an experienced leader in educational travel. Their CEO, Andrew Motiwalla, is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Honduras 1996-98)! Tickets are available – purchase early using the registration forms below and make your plans.

- **Request More Information**
- **Phone: 1-619-202-4114      1-619-202-4114**
- **Email Us**
- **Registration Form** (*Fill out, print, and submit via mail, email, or fax*)

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**Upcoming Trips – Spaces Still Available!**

**Dominican Republic – [click here to find out more](#)**

- May 18 – 27, 2013
- May 18 – May 31, 2013

**Guatemala – [click here to find out more](#)**

- March 9 – 18, 2013
  - March 9 – 22, 2013
  - June 1 – 10, 2013
  - June 1 – 14, 2013
  - August 24 – September 2, 2013
  - August 24 – September 6, 2013
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### **Hole in The Wall Gang Camp**

#### **Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> in Ashford, CT**

On June 29th, 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](mailto:lafucci@comcast.net).

WHEN: June 29th, Saturday

WHERE: Ashford, CT

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

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### **Peace Corps Connect: Boston 2013**

#### **SAVE THE DATE – Event is June 28-29, 2013**

Join us for the National Peace Corps Association's second annual gathering — **Peace Corps Connect: Boston 2013**. We invite you all to Boston, Massachusetts on the weekend of June 28-29, 2013 for an event that will encourage you to continue "bringing the world back home" while visiting with friends and having fun.

This being for the Peace Corps community, key elements of this event will be highly interactive and incorporate career networking and knowledge-sharing. By bringing our collective experiences together can support each

other and help to solve important development challenges.

Join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter using hashtag **#PCCBOS13**

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### Why Should You Attend?

**Be a part of something bigger than yourself:** We all share a Peace Corps history. Now is the chance to connect in-person and combine our collective experiences to learn from each other and help all of us succeed. You'll make new friendships that might last a lifetime.

**Groups:** This is a great time to get together with people who served in the same country or live in the same region! Contact Emily Bello to learn more.

### Attending

**Location:** The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur Boston, MA 02115

**Registration:** We will announce registration prior to the event. There will be discounts for NPCA members, seniors and recently returned RPCVs as well as special Member Group deals. This is a good time to ensure that your membership is up-to-date. *Learn more*

**Schedule:** *Check back regularly as more details will be added.*

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### Where to Stay / How to Get Around

**Transportation:** Find out more about Boston transit here.

**Airport:** Book your airline tickets now! The closest airport is Boston's Logan Airport (BOS).

**Ground:** Most trains and buses connect in Boston's South Station.

**Accommodations:** NPCA is negotiating group rates at local hotels for event attendees. *Check back for updates.*

**Alternative Accommodations:** The National Peace Corps Association is partnering with [Tripping.com](https://www.tripping.com) to bring you alternative, affordable accommodations during the Annual Gathering. It's easy! Go here to search the Boston Rentals that are available during the weekend's activities. *(All bookings made through this link via Tripping will help to support the National Peace Corps Association.)*

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## Sponsorship

**Become a Sponsor:** There are many ways that you or your organization can sponsor this event. *Learn more*

**Exhibit Hall Requests:** You may request a table at the Exhibit Hall. To request a table contact *Development*.

**Program Ads:** For more information on placing an Ad contact Development.



### 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.

[back to beginning](#)

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### An International Game

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

suggested by David Stoloff – [stolofffamily@yahoo.com](mailto:stolofffamily@yahoo.com)

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from



From <http://www.peacecorps.gov/response/>

In February 2012, Peace Corps created a new office to help elevate the Third Goal and strengthen Americans' understanding about the world and its peoples. As we reflect back on our first year as the Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services, we would like to share some office highlights and put you in touch with some of our new offerings.

This Office is an important part of Peace Corps' efforts to support the continuation of service at home by promoting Third Goal activities. We also provide career, educational, and transitional assistance to over 3,500 Volunteers who return to the U.S. each year.

Did you know:

- \* We launched RPCV Career Link in January, which replaces the old Hotline jobs bulletin with an interactive, real-time jobs platform. Whereas we used to have 40 jobs advertised at any given time, we now have well over 300 vacancies posted, and users can easily search for vacancies.
- \* We hold returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Career Conferences in D.C. and around the country, and we have developed an on-demand library on career-related topics to assist RPCVs in the job search.
- \* Since the beginning of the year, we've had more than 1,000 people register their Third Goal events and activities for Peace Corps Week 2013 - a 400+ percent increase from the same period last year.
- \* We are revamping the Correspondence Match program and World Wise Schools website to extend our Third Goal reach and impact to K-12 audiences. And we are always looking for educators to connect with these resources.
- \* We rely on YOU to tell us what you need, what would be useful, what's not helpful, and what's out there that we should know about.

Thank you for your service. We hope to hear from you!

Eileen Conoboy

### What is the Third Goal?

The Third Goal of the Peace Corps aims to help Americans understand the people and cultures of other countries. When Volunteers and friends of the Peace Corps support and engage in Third Goal activities, they promote peace and friendship, and help Americans gain a greater understanding of the world.



Each month, Impact Newsletter features a story about the experience of a returned Peace Corps Response Volunteer. We are always looking for new perspectives from the field and would love to hear from you! Please send your story and at least three photos with accompanying captions to [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov). We appreciate the many Volunteers who help Peace Corps achieve the Third Goal!

### Open Positions

Peace Corps Response currently has open assignments in various programs around the world. We encourage you to browse the highlighted positions listed below as well as search our database for additional opportunities.

**Needed: Food Production Educators, proficient in written and spoken Spanish - Guatemala**

**Partner:** Feed the Future

*RPCV Only*

**Needed: An Education Quality Assurance & Standards Specialist, with a Ph.D. or Master's Degree in education or social science - Lesotho**

**Partner:** Council on Higher Education

*RPCV Only*

**Needed: A Sanitation Specialist, with advanced Spanish language skills - Peru**

**Partner:** Provincial Municipality and Regional Health Department

*Open to All*

**Needed: A Special Education Training Specialist, with a degree in special education or occupational therapy - Philippines**

**Partner:** Norfil Foundation, Inc  
*Open to All*

**Needed: Two Public Relations Specialists, intermediate Russian language skills - Ukraine**

**Partner:** All-Ukraine PLWH Network

*Open to All*



The Next Step In Changing The World

## Advocacy

NPCA and its supporters advocate on issues of importance to the Peace Corps community, including an independent and robust Peace Corps. We also seek to add the experienced voices of returned Peace Corps volunteers to other issues of global concern.

[View the National Peace Corps Association's legislative victories](#)

NPCA also serves to convey the voice of the Peace Corps community and ensure that the Peace Corps remains true to its founding vision and mission.

Find out the results of the largest independent survey ever conducted to ask Returned Peace Corps volunteers about their experience serving in Peace Corps and beyond.

Check out: [Survey Results Are In: Peace Corps' Impact Over 50 Years.](#)

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[back to beginning](#)

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**Send me your news and announcements for the next E-news!**  
[MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com).

**Have you paid your dues???** Do you have a new email address???

[Click here to join or pay your membership fees!](#)