



## Connecticut RPCV E-News

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**President:** Terese Maineri-[tmaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com)

**January 2015**      David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)

**For the latest CTRPCV e-news with all the formatting, click -** <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/CTRPCV0115.pdf>

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>

All membership, donation, activity announcements, Peace Corps stories, and correspondence may also be sent to **CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144.**

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### Some Upcoming CTRPCV Events:

<b>Sunday, February 1, 2015</b>	<b>8th Annual Run for Refugees, New Haven</b>
<b>March 1 – 7, 2015</b>	<b>Peace Corps Week 2015, for more information, see</b> <a href="http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/">http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/</a>
<b>Saturday... April 18, 2015, 9 AM to noon.</b>	<b>CT Food Bank ... CTRPCV will sort food</b> - CT Food Bank in East Haven. If you are interested: call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169 or <a href="mailto:lafj@att.net">lafj@att.net</a> .



**Calling all RPCVs:** Join us for the 8th Annual 5K!

**Super Bowl Sunday, February 1st, 2015 – 10 a.m.**

**New Haven's Wilbur Cross High School (181 Mitchell Ave.) & East Rock Park**

Mark your calendar for our 5K run/walk on Super Bowl Sunday! Join 800 other friends of IRIS (including many Returned Peace Corps Volunteers) to support refugees with a brisk run or walk through East Rock Park in New Haven, followed by a fun and delicious post-race party.

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Start your Super Bowl festivities early with a fun-filled event that raises funds and awareness for the hundreds of refugees who start new lives in Connecticut each year. Form a team to raise funds to sponsor refugee runners. The challenging certified course runs through picturesque East Rock Park. Chip timing and T-Shirts to all participants!

**Post-Race Party** After the race, enjoy a warm, indoor post-race party with fabulous international food, beverages and entertainment.

**Fees:** \$30 Adult, \$20 Student (Dec 5th - Dec 31). \$32 Adult, \$22 Student (Jan 1st - Jan 31). Fees increase for raceday entries.

**Awards** Given to first 3 finishers in each age division. 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+ and Wheelchair

### **Peace Corps challenge --**

**If 20 or more RPCVs run or walk in the Run for Refugees, each one will receive a special gift, and a donation of \$1,000 will be made to IRIS.**

Sponsorship opportunities are available: contact [Chris George](mailto:cgeorge@irisct.org) (IRIS Executive Director and RPCV - Oman 1977-79) at 203 562 2095 x 206 or [cgeorge@irisct.org](mailto:cgeorge@irisct.org). For more information and online registration, please visit [http://www.irisct.org/run\\_for\\_refugees.html](http://www.irisct.org/run_for_refugees.html).



**CTRPCV HOLIDAY  
PARTY**  
**Sun... Dec. 14, 1 - 5 PM**

**At Maureen Shanley's home was a great success. Thank you, Maureen, for your hospitality and leadership.**

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**From:** Elaine Nelson <[elainelson@att.net](mailto:elainelson@att.net)>  
**Date:** November 19, 2014, 9:24:01 AM EST  
**To:** "[president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org)" <[president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org)>  
**Subject:** Speaker Bureau Request  
**Reply-To:** Elaine Nelson <[elainelson@att.net](mailto:elainelson@att.net)>

I coordinate the cultural arts week program at our elementary school (grade PK - 8) in Pomfret, CT. This year we are studying Ghana and are looking for a "keynote" speaker to kick off our week of studying the country. The kickoff day is March 2 and we would like to do an early morning 45 minute whole school assembly for grades 1 - 8 to give everyone some basic background information about the country. Would there be anyone in your speaker's bureau that might be interested in doing that for us? I look forward to hearing back from you. Thanks so much. Elaine Nelson - [elainelson@att.net](mailto:elainelson@att.net)

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### Volunteering in CT's prisons

Doug Kulmacz encourages CTRPCVs to consider volunteering in CT's prisons. To find out about volunteer roles, Doug invites us to visit the Department of Corrections' website at [www.ct.gov/doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc). From the Home Page, just below the Banner/Picture there are two columns of text. Third up from the second column click on "Volunteer & Recreation Services". If you have any questions, please contact Doug at the following addresses:

Doug Kulmacz, Director	(CTRPCV-Micronesia, Palau Is., Youthworker, 1977-79)
CT/DOC VIP & Recreation Unit	(CT-VISTA-CT Legal Services, Paralegal, 1976-77)
24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109, Office: 860.692.7580, FAX: 860.692.6263, <a href="mailto:doug.kulmacz@ct.gov">doug.kulmacz@ct.gov</a> , <a href="http://www.ct.gov/doc">www.ct.gov/doc</a>	



## **CT Food Bank ...**

### **CTRPCV will sort food ... on Saturday... April 18, 2015**

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 18th from 9 AM to noon. Families welcome... it's a great service project for kids. If you are interested: call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169 or <mailto:lafj@att.net>.

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**Do you have another Event  
or a Community Service Project  
that may be of interest to CTRPCVs?**

Please email David Stoloff [ eNewsletter editor, [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)] to let him know about your project.

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## MEET AND GREET FELLOW RPCVS

- Create a NIGHT OUT with CTRPCVs that can be as simple as “Lets meet at [your favorite bar or restaurant].
  - Host a POTLUCK DINNER and get to know more CTRPCVs.
- Are you involved in a Community Service Project that could use some helping hands?

Let David Stoloff ([stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)) know and we can let other CTRPCV members know the details.

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<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>

### **Get Published in 2015! Write for *WorldView*!**

Are you an RPCV with something to say about development, the Peace Corps experience, life in Peace Corps countries? Are you doing interesting post-Peace Corps work? Know of innovative and creative RPCVs, PCVs, or host country nationals that the wider Peace Corps community should know of too? Write for *WorldView*.

Themes for 2015 (but we're looking for stories beyond these as well.): On the Frontlines of Health, Peace Corps & the Media - telling our stories, Peace Corps & the Private Sector, and Peace Corps & Public Service.

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Learn more, check out the submission deadlines and access back issues on our website: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/worldview-magazine/>

### **NPCA Ebola Relief Fund - new microsite and fact sheets**

Thank you to those Member Groups who have made contributions to the Ebola Relief Fund and/or are planning upcoming events to benefit the fund.

NEW! Visit our new microsite at [www.NPCAEbolaRelief.org](http://www.NPCAEbolaRelief.org) to learn more about this effort and to download full- or half-page fact sheets for sharing at your events.

Be sure to take a quick look at the reminders list at the bottom to see if your group needs to follow-up/respond to anything there as well.

Thank you for all you do for and with the Peace Corps community!

### **Have your Group Featured on the NPCA Homepage**

There are many ongoing ways the National Peace Corps Association recognizes the outstanding work of our affiliated groups, including awards at our national gathering, group news in *WorldView* magazine, features in social media and more! Beginning in the spring and in response to views expressed at an NPCA Group Leaders Forum, we have begun another way to feature member groups: Highlighting one group each month in the Community News section of our website homepage.

Featured to date: RPCVs of Long Island (May), Peace Corps Iran Association (June), Atlanta Area RPCVs (July), Friends of Liberia (August), RPCVs of Los Angeles (September), Friends and RPCVs of Guyana (October) and RPCVs of South Florida (November).

[Read the highlights here.](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/npc/news/community-news/) - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/npc/news/community-news/>

This is another great way to highlight your good work and bring attention to the broad Peace Corps community. If you would like to have your group featured in the coming months, please contact [jonathan@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:jonathan@peacecorpsconnect.org).

### **Peace Corps Community Archives**

The Peace Corps Community Archive at American University is looking for donations of personal memorabilia from RPCVs in order to create a living history of the Peace Corps and the communities where volunteers have served. The archive also accepts donations of materials that have been accumulated by any of the regional or country groups in order to give a home to these groups' collections. If you are interested in making a

donation please contact the archive at [archives@american.edu](mailto:archives@american.edu) by telephone at

+1 (202) 885-3256. For more information, feel free to

Best regards,

Anne Baker  
Vice President

### **Communicate with your representative to the NPCA Board of Directors**

To facilitate your communication with the NPCA Director elected to represent your region on the NPCA Board of Directors, we established permanent emails as follows

Northeast: [NPCANortheast@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:NPCANortheast@peacecorpsconnect.org) (Teresa Devore)



See the latest news at <http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=646104&q=821882516&qz=d6b8e2>

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>

"Dear Peace Corps Family,



From the very first group of Volunteers, the Peace Corps has embraced diversity. Today, we strive to be inclusive of different races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and religions. It has long been our goal to ensure that our Volunteer force represents the rich diversity of the United States and guarantee that our host communities fully understand the beautiful multicultural tapestry that is our nation.

We have much to be proud of. For the third year in a row, the Peace Corps holds the number one spot in the “Support for Diversity” category among small federal agencies on the Partnership for Public Service’s 2014 Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings. The Support for Diversity category measures employees’ belief that actions and policies of leadership and management promote and respect diversity. And, our diversity efforts continue to grow.

Over the past year alone, we have seen some of the highest rates of diverse applicants and Volunteers in our history—with 33 percent of Peace Corps applicants and 25 percent of our Volunteers self-identifying as coming from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. We have hired seven diversity recruiters to reach out into new, underreached communities. In addition, we have expanded the Peace Corps Prep program to include more than 25 universities to better prepare students for service. We have selected 220 campus ambassadors to expand knowledge of the Peace Corps to previously unreached communities on their college campuses. We have also partnered with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the first intercollegiate fraternity established for African-Americans, to help members access Volunteer, higher education, and career opportunities with the Peace Corps.

While much has changed in the United States since our founding, we must work every day to be inclusive, respectful, and open to creating and sustaining an environment that makes this nation great. As a country and as an agency, we still have work to do. Strengthening the cultural fabric of the Peace Corps is more important than ever. It is imperative that we are intentional in our efforts to foster a diverse and inclusive workplace.

As we begin 2015, I challenge us all to be purposeful about diversity and inclusive in our relations with others. While we already have much to show for our efforts, there is still room to grow. It is in the best interest of the Peace Corps, the United States, and the world to make a daily effort to promote open dialogue. As an agency founded on the ideals of peace and friendship across cultures and across nations, we can do no less.

With warmest regards,  
Carrie Hessler-Radelet, Director  
RPCV, Western Samoa, 1981-83”

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**Be Part of Peace Corps Week 2015**



Peace Corps Week 2015, taking place March 1-7, is just around the corner! Building on the success of [last year's video challenge](#), the Peace Corps is again calling for your videos. This year, submit your videos and [tell us all about your Host Country Heroes](#). Who do you wish Americans knew from your Peace Corps country? Tell their

story and shine a spotlight on your host country hero. The winner will receive an iPad to help him/her continue to share the Peace Corps story.

You're also invited to bring this year's celebration around the country through Peace Corps Week Festivals. [Learn how you can be a part of this nationwide celebration](#) to share the value of Peace Corps service and the beauty of Peace Corps countries with the American public.

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## An opportunity from [Hesperian Health Guides](#)

Peace Corps Volunteers and RPCVs tell wonderful stories about how [Where There Is No Doctor](#) and other Hesperian books have helped them handle emergencies, promote health, help their host families, or care for their own health during their time in the Peace Corps. Whether *Where There Is No Doctor* was your go-to health reference or just your bedtime reading, every story you share helps us develop books and resources that better meet the needs of Peace Corps host communities and Volunteers.

**[Send us](#) your story about using Hesperian books during your time in the Peace Corps, and be entered to win a Hesperian library for your host community.** Humor, heroism, hysteria, hypochondria - we want to hear it!

Include in your submission the name of the country, region and village where you worked and how you used *Where There Is No Doctor* or other Hesperian book. You'll get bonus points if you include a photo or video.

**The three Peace Corps Volunteers or RPCVs who submit the best stories will win a complete library of Hesperian publications, to be designated to their host community.**

So write a few paragraphs and send them to us. Your participation will help extend the impact of these books and Peace Corps Volunteers for a new generation. Send your story to Lizzie LaCroix at [rpcv@hesperian.org](mailto:rpcv@hesperian.org).

Please help us spread the word to other RPCVs! Share this email and join "[Friends of Where There Is No Doctor](#)" on Facebook to stay connected with other RPCVs dedicated to global community health issues.

[Hesperian Health Guides](#) is a small nonprofit organization and depends on your support to keep our books updated and translated. Please consider [purchasing](#) a book or making a [donation](#) today.



Peace Corps Response 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 our website (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/>) or send an email to [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov) to schedule an informational interview with a recruiter.

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## **CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS**

You are one of over 400 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. The Connecticut RPCV has about 85 dues paying members.

If you are interested in participating in the above CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. [Please click here to join and/or pay your annual membership fees!](#)

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Please also consider joining the **Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group** at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

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## Help Wanted at CTRPCV:

- **FILLED>>>** We need a **SECRETARY** to take notes at our board meetings that occur 3 to 4 times a year.
- **FILLED>>>** 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.
- **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.
- **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.

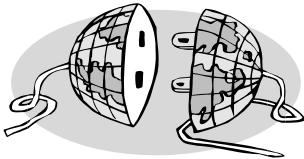
## JOBS ARE BEING FILLED 😊

- **Jonathan Rosario** is connecting CTRPCV members through the social media on Facebook, Linkedin, Twitter, etc.
  - **Carmen Britton** is our new secretary.
  - **Doug Latham** is our member-at-large and he will also assist with the membership.
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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.
- 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 Corpss.
- **We want to add a page to our website that would offer FREE ADVERTISING for CTRPCV members who own a business.**



**STAY CONNECTED!!!!**

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Volunteer opportunities

The International Institute of Connecticut is looking for volunteers to become mentors to our refugee client one day a week for one

hour. When a refugee arrives in Bridgeport, they often come with nothing and know no one. A mentor would be a liaison between the client and the Bridgeport community. Mentors can do a variety of activities with their mentee. They may bring refugees grocery shopping, they may cook a meal together or they may just do something fun to build a friendship.

If this is something you believe your members may enjoy, please feel free to pass on our the attached flyers and e-mail me for more information. I would also be pleased to come speak with your group. We would love to have your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mattea Heller  
Volunteer  
International Institute of Connecticut  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

<http://iiconn.org/>

**The International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) is a non-profit, non-sectarian agency dedicated to helping foreign-born persons achieve self-sufficiency. Our services include refugee resettlement, English and citizenship classes, counseling, translation/interpretation services and legal assistance.**

**IICONN advocates for fair and equitable treatment of immigrants, refugees and others, and works to increase public awareness of the contributions of foreign-born persons to American culture and values.**

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

## **Addressing Critical Needs Around the Globe**

Peace Corps Response provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various

programs around the world. When you serve as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, you bring your skills and experience to projects in places where you are needed most.

**Search for positions, apply, or modify an existing application here:**

**[Search ♦ Apply ♦ Update](#)**

See the latest resources at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>

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## **Other Upcoming events of potential interest:**

These are events that involve fellow RPCVs...  
we'd like to let you know about them...

(Please send David – [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu) info about an event  
that you want to publicize!!!)

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**Send us your news and announcements** for the next E-news! [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com) or [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)

**Have you paid your dues??? Do you have a new email address??? [Click here to join or pay your membership fees!](#)**

