



# Connecticut RPCV E-News

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

**October 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/2015/10/CTRPCV1015.pdf>

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/> - we have over 110 members on our Facebook website.

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:

### Event Calendar- Scheduling of Events for the 2015-16 Year:

- Sunday, 10/4/15: Annual Meeting, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, 16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall, CT, from 3 PM to 7 PM, organized by Terese Maineri-[tmaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com)
  - Saturday, 10/24/15, 9 am – 4pm: CT Quest for Peace, Bill's Warehouse, Bridgeport, organized by Maureen Shanley ([maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com)).
  - 11/5/15, 11/7/15, 11/14/15 and 11/15/15: Open Studio Hartford: check out CT RPCV Artists, see below for locations,
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and/or contact Terese Maineri-[tmaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com)

- 11/21/15 and 11/22/15: Fair Trade International Bazaar, Saint Patrick's Church, Farmington, CT, for details - connect to <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsBazaar?fref=ts>
- Saturday, Nov 7, 2015, 7 pm: CTRPCV Willimantic Meet-up, Willimantic meet-up/Pot-luck at Carmen Britton's house for November 7th at 7pm. All are welcome. RSVP to Carmen [carmenbritton@gmail.com](mailto:carmenbritton@gmail.com) for directions.
- Sunday, Dec 6, 2015, 12 – 3 pm: Holiday gathering at home of Joan and Jeff Leonard, necessary RSVP for the potluck contributions to Maureen Shanley [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com)
- Saturday, Jan 9, 2016, 9 am - noon: Darien Book Aid, RSVP to Maureen Shanley [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com)
- March 2016: Soul de Cuba, Maureen
- March or April 2016: Food Bank, Lois
- June 2016: Whole in the Wall Gang, Lois
- 7/4/16: Madison Fourth of July Parade or Willimantic Boom Box Parade

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### **CTRPCV Annual Meeting – Sunday, October 4, 2015**

Join the CTRPCV group on Sunday, October 4, 2015 for our annual meeting. The meeting will take place at Connecticut Forest and Park Association, 16 Meriden Rd., Rockfall, CT. The CT RPCV board meeting will take place 3 PM to 4:30 PM followed by a hike (if weather permits) on Connecticut Forest and Park Association's grounds from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, and a pot luck dinner from 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM. If it rains the hike will not take place and the potluck will follow the board meeting.

All are invited to attend all aspects of the event. If you are interested in being a member of the CTRPCV board, please attend the meeting beginning at 3 PM. Elections for the upcoming year will take place during the annual meeting and it would be so nice to have some new board members.

All are invited to attend: RPCVs, current Peace Corps Volunteers home on vacation, Peace Corps invitees, Peace Corps applicants, anyone considering applying, etc. You are all more than welcome to attend and check us out!

See you then,

Terese Maineri  
President of CT RPCV Association

Here is a tentative agenda. If you have any questions or additions, please email Terese Maineri-[tmaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com)

### **CT RPCV ANNUAL MEETING TENTATIVE AGENDA**

Sunday, October 4, 2015

3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Board Meeting 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Membership

- Gretchen Otto Hall

Website

- Call for digital photographs for J. Rosario to update website

Treasure Report

Community Service Project

- Funding of Community Garden

Review of upcoming events

- Planning of Restaurant Events

Election of Board

Hike 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

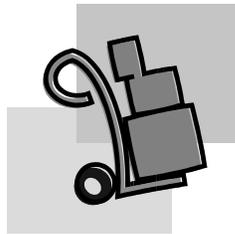
Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM to 6:45 PM

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## Community Service Day

**What: Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua**



**When: 9 AM– 4 PM, Sat., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Bridgeport**

**Sponsor: Maureen Shanley**

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. Because many of their partners embrace lives of poverty and voluntarily live among Nicaragua's most destitute, they are uniquely qualified to identify and develop essential initiatives that empower poor Nicaraguans to make lasting change. In addition to program development, their community-based partners provide solid administrative infrastructure, a track record of accountability—and extraordinary ability to stretch funds for maximum benefit.

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 has been asked to repack boxes that will be shipped to Nicaragua. We will meet at Bill's warehouse and work from 9 AM until 4 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](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 [www.ctquestforpeace.org](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.

Directions to Bill's Warehouse:

William Evans Painting Co.  
394 Main St.  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Cell: 203-216-2115

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RPCV Willimantic meet-up/Pot-luck, Saturday, November 7th at 7pm.

All are welcome.

RSVP to Carmen Britton [carmenbritton@gmail.com](mailto:carmenbritton@gmail.com) for directions.

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## CTRPCV Holiday Party ...

Sun. 12/6 from noon to 3 PM



**Come and share a fun filled evening!**

Joan & Jeff Leonard have been kind enough to open their home to our CTRPCV group

for a HOLIDAY PARTY on December 6 from noon to 3 PM.

Our hosts will prepare a main meat dish and CTRPCV will supply the soda & paper/plastic products.

Attendees are asked to bring your favorite holiday appetizer, side dish or dessert to share.

If you'd like, bring some wine or beer, but eggnog and soda will be served.

We would appreciate an **Rsvp** so we can prepare ahead of time.

**Please bring...**



Some thing *Special for the Raffle...*

an item that would make a *nice gift* for a friend or family member.

We would appreciate something that is *a bit special.*

In the past we have raised \$550 at this event for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund.

Since we are asking for a higher quality raffle item for this Holiday Event,

the price of instant raffle tickets will be higher than normal.

\$10 for 1 ticket & \$25 for 3 tickets.

As always, the proceeds will go to our Community Service Fund.

Please bring something special for this raffle.

**Let Maureen know what food item you plan to bring. Call Maureen at 203-775-9222 or email [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com) so that we will know how many people are planning on attending... and so we don't end up with 12 desserts and no appetizers, wine or beer.**

**If you have any questions about the holiday party on the day of the event,  
please call Joan Leonard at 203-457-7007. (jaleonard@snet.net)**

**Address:**

**178 Durham Road, Guilford, CT 06437.**

CTRPCV website has more information about the group. [[www.ctrpcv.org](http://www.ctrpcv.org)]

**Directions:**

Location: Joan & Jeff Leonard, 178 Durham Rd. Guilford, CT 06437

Directions from East (From New London) – Take I-95 to Exit 58. Right off exit onto Route 77/Durham Rd.

Go north six-tenths of a mile on Rte 77/Durham Rd. Past the police/fire station, tennis court, graveyard. Pass Hubbard Rd on left. Around curve, next left is Sign 176-186 Durham Rd. Look for mailboxes in a small covered structure. Take left onto street/driveway. House is next to last at end of street/driveway.

Directions from West (From New Haven) – Take I-95 to Exit 58 to traffic light. Left off exit onto Route 77/Durham Rd. Follow above directions.

Directions from North (Middletown, Hartford) – Take Route 9 to Middletown then Route 17 to Durham. Go straight through town on Main Street (Rte.17) south. Go through traffic light, then bear left at second fork onto Route 77 south to Guilford 8.4 miles; Cross Route 80 and proceed 3.8 miles, slow down; Sign 176-186 Durham Road will be on right. Look for mailboxes in a small covered structure. Take right onto street/driveway. House is next to last at end of street/driveway.

If you need help with directions, call 203.457.7007.

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**CT RPCVs Help Darien Book Aid Help PCVs - January 9, 2016 Saturday... 9 - Noon,**

January 16 (snowdate)



If you can help with the packing of books, PLEASE CONTACT MAUREEN so that she will know who is planning on attending this event. [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com or 203-775-9222]

One year when we were packing books at DBA, a PCV on his way to the airport to return to his PC post in Africa stopped by DBA to thank them for the books they had sent to him and to tell them the difference that these books were making in his village. His visit made us (CTRPCVs) realize that our few hours of packing boxes of books for PCVs *IS REALLY IMPORTANT*.

Perhaps some of you read books that were in the PC library in your country that DBA had sent.

Please give a few hours to return the favor and support a PCV who is now serving.

Darien Book Aid is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to fostering peace and friendship through the distribution of free books. Approximately 60% of DBA's shipments fulfill requests from current PC Volunteers. DBA needs volunteers to pack boxes, select books to ship, sort books and much more. As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, you know how much of an impact educational materials can have on a community.

You can also Bring books – check their website <http://dba.darien.org>

Frequently Requested Books:

\* Children's Books - for all ages - preschool to teen levels, fiction and non-fiction

- \* Classics - and simplified classics
- \* Dictionaries in English, Spanish, French and picture dictionaries
- \* Encyclopedias on CD ROM. Other information on CD ROM (PC format)
- \* English readers and grammar books
- \* Crafts & how-to Books
- \* Health, "Where There is No Doctor" type books
- \* Science
- \* Agriculture, vegetable gardening, beekeeping, animal husbandry
- \* Ecology and environment
- \* Books in Spanish or French for native speakers in all subjects
- \* Paperback editions of recent novels (mysteries, fiction, etc.)
- \* National Geographic - no more than 5 years old

\* Textbooks

Text books (not older than 10 years) with up-to-date content are accepted.

Darien Book Aid would love to hear for you. For more information about them, visit on the web at <http://dba.darien.org>. If you're interested in volunteering individually, you can call (203)655-2777 or email [darienbookaid@yahoo.com](mailto:darienbookaid@yahoo.com).

Directions to Darien Book Aid Plan, Inc.

**Northbound:** Take I-95 to Exit 10. Take Noroton Avenue toward Long Island Sound. It T's at US Route 1 - the Boston Post Road.

Take a left and you will find Book Aid on the right, about 1/2 a block down at 1926 Post Road.

**The white wooden building looks like an old firehouse with a "bell" tower on top of the building.**

**Southbound:** Take Exit 11. Make left onto US Rt. 1 for about 1+ mile. DBA is on left just after the 5<sup>th</sup> light.

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The International Bazaar in Farmington

The International Bazaar is a social justice event held in St. Patrick's of Farmington's Church Hall. The bazaar sells fair trade crafts and food, which guarantee a fair wage and support to the artisan. The crafts come from the poorest of the poor countries such as Haiti, Guatemala, and Peru. Help support communities in which you may have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer by purchasing gifts that support artisans in the developing world. Please find more information about the International Bazaar at: <https://www.facebook.com/StPatsBazaar?fref=ts>

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## Open Studio Hartford

Check out local Return Peace Corps Volunteers' artwork at Open Studio Hartford.

[Open Studio Hartford - openstudiohartford.com](http://openstudiohartford.com)

**Thursday, November 5 • 6-8 pm**

### **Kick-Off Reception**

ArtSpace Hartford, 555 Asylum Street

[Read More - http://openstudiohartford.com/kickoff](http://openstudiohartford.com/kickoff)

**Opens November 5th**

### **Group Show**

ArtSpace Hartford, 555 Asylum Street

[Read More - http://openstudiohartford.com/group-show](http://openstudiohartford.com/group-show)

**Saturday, November 7 • 2-4pm**

### **Ekphrasis: Poetry, Music & Dance**

**Inspired by Visual Art**

[Read More - http://openstudiohartford.com/ekphrasis](http://openstudiohartford.com/ekphrasis)

**Sat & Sun, November 14 & 15**

11am - 5pm

**Open Studio Weekend**

A City-Wide Self-Guided Tour in the artistic neighborhoods of Hartford

<http://openstudiohartford.com/map>

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Hello CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers-

I hope this finds you doing well. I am reaching out as I work with AFS-USA Intercultural programs a non-profit that host international exchange students here in the U.S. and has for over 65 years! We also send U.S. students abroad for study abroad experiences. We host approximately 30 students in CT each year.

I am reaching out to you, as a returned Peace Corps Member in CT, you are passionate about the same things that AFS cares deeply about. We have a number of exchange students who were are still looking for wonderful host families for throughout the U.S.!

Our placement deadlines are the end of August and I am hoping you may be interested and or able to help spread the word that we are looking for families to host these really amazing young people.

Below I have included some more information about hosting a student. We are looking all throughout the U.S. for families. We appreciate any assistance you can provide. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with additional questions, or if you have ideas on people we can reach out to for further networking.

**AFS-USA Hosting**

Become a global family by hosting an AFS Intercultural Programs high school student this school year. Welcome an AFS Exchange Student from one of 90 countries. Families are accepted year-round. Local AFS Volunteers will support you and your hosted student throughout

your experience to help you both receive the most from your time together. You provide a bed and meals for your student, but most importantly, you should be eager and excited to share your life and activities while providing the same kind of care, support, and comfort as you would to your own child or family members. AFS welcomes all kinds of families. Students study in high schools and are eager to experience what it's like to live in America. Sharing daily life with a teenager from another country and culture is a rich and rewarding experience and is a wonderful way for you and your family to build a more just and peaceful world.

The students arrive September 10<sup>th</sup> and leave the last week of June. Families can host for 12 weeks, a semester or a year. Most students are here a full year. We have a large volunteer support network available to assist you all throughout the year. Each family is paired with a local volunteer to connect with at least once a month to help through the year.

A host family provides 3 meals a day, a bed (can share a room w/sibling of same gender), and local transportation. Our students come with spending money for additional costs and health insurance. The student's attend the local high school and participate in classes, sports and everything else at the school. Our host families complete a full screening with an application, interview, references and background check.

Start the process at [www.afsusa.org/host](http://www.afsusa.org/host), or call 1-800-AFS-INFO  1-800-AFS-INFO FREE or email [hosting@afsusa.org](mailto:hosting@afsusa.org) for more information.

Thank you for your help.

Cheers,  
Allie

Allie Auger Birchmeier  
Team Development Specialist- Southern New England/Vermont/Randolph  
AFS-USA

Email: [abirchmeier@afsusa.org](mailto:abirchmeier@afsusa.org)

Phone: (646)381-3346  (646)381-3346

Cell: (603)991.5984

Toll Free Phone: 1-800-876-2376  1-800-876-2376 FREE ext. 3346  
Fax: 646-937-5993

National Headquarters:  
120 Wall St, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

Join our global community: [Meet our AFS Exchange Students](#) or plan a trip [abroad!](#)



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

### **CTRPCV will sort food ... this spring**

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. Families are welcome... it's a great service project for kids. If you are interested: call Lois Fucci at 203-239-0169.



## **Hole in The Wall Gang Camp**

### **Volunteer Project... a Saturday in June in Ashford, CT**

In June 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 or older). If you are able to volunteer call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169, [lafucci@comcast.net](mailto:lafucci@comcast.net).

WHEN: A Saturday in June  
WHERE: Ashford, CT  
TIME: 9:30 AM -12:00 (noon)

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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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CALL FOR PHOTOS!!! We are redesigning and updating our website and we need your help! 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.

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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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Host Country Heroes: Who do you wish Americans knew from your Peace Corps country  
Submit a 2 min video and share the people and culture of your Peace Corps country with Americans through your own hero’s story.  
Check out the link! <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/videochallenge/>

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

From Anne Baker [<mailto:groups@peacecorpsconnect.org>]:

I am pleased to share this week's updates and reminders for NPCA Affiliate Groups. Keep signing on to the letter to the President and sharing the blurbs on Gathr and Netagogo, as sent earlier.

### **Annual Group Sign-on Letter to the President and District Meetings**

We are hoping for a record number of signers for our NPCA Affiliate Groups Sign-on Letter to President Obama Regarding Peace Corps Funding For FY17, and many of you (52 groups and counting!) have already done so. Thanks! If you haven't yet had the chance, please sign-on [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Wix0PcMguribFCTSrrXmWS0-HAPwy89NLmdCJQZGOco/viewform?edit_requested=true) - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Wix0PcMguribFCTSrrXmWS0-HAPwy89NLmdCJQZGOco/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Wix0PcMguribFCTSrrXmWS0-HAPwy89NLmdCJQZGOco/viewform?edit_requested=true)

. The advocacy team will be sending out friendly reminders as the Sept. 13 deadline approaches.

We are also hoping for a record number of summer recess district meetings with your U.S. House and Senate representatives. We have dozens of meetings finished and planned, and are hoping for more. We are still in need of RPCVs to organize meetings with key members of the House and Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees. Please [contact us](#) if you'd like to schedule a meeting with the following members or their offices:

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA, district 15)

Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL, district 17)

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA, district 13)

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)

For more information on how you can help advocate to your members on increased Peace Corps funding and support of the Peace Corps, please visit us [here](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/fundpeacecorps/) - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/fundpeacecorps/> .

Please reach out to our advocacy team at anytime!

Thank you for your support. Your efforts make a better Peace Corps community possible!

### **Tip of the Week**

Are we connecting members to your group and to NPCA as well as we can? At the beginning of each month (e.g., next week), we close out all membership transactions for the previous month and generate a report for each of our affiliate groups listing everyone who joined your group. We email the group leader, treasurer and membership officer when that report is ready for you (and when we've deposited the corresponding membership dues in your bank account). **At the same time, please make sure you are forwarding names and membership dues to us for anyone who joined NPCA via your group.** Please send the information monthly using [this form](#) -

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Form-for-the-Transfer-of-Dues-to-the-NPCA.pdf>

, or send us the same info in a format that works best for you. Questions? Contact us at [groups@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:groups@peacecorpsconnect.org).

### **Reminders**

In each of these messages, I include a list of reminders from past emails. 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!

Best regards,

Anne Baker  
Vice President

This email goes to all current affiliate group board members. If you are no longer on an affiliate group board, simply reply and let me know.

### **Reminders:**

- Spread the word and collect requests to bring the **NPCA International Film Series** through [Gathr](#)
- Let your members know how to get **discounted international calling** while supporting your group through [Netagogo](#)
- Submit your application for an [Education Small Grant](#) (next deadline: November 1)
  
- Join our [Affiliate Group Network Facebook group](#)
- Join our Affiliate Group Network on the [NPCA Community Builder](#)
- [Submit your contact information](#) for our affiliate group [Google map](#)
- [Designate your preferences](#) for membership options and dues

**Group Admins:** The list of members joining your group in July is available in the database. [Log in here.](#)

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Returned PCV HOT JOBS - <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/careercen/careerlink/jobs/>

See other latest news - <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>





## You told your Peace Corps story, now tell us!

Each year, the Peace Corps captures information on RPCV impact and how RPCV-led events serve as a bridge to global understanding. In the last year, have you:

- Shared your Peace Corps story with a classroom, organization or other group?
- Participated in a Peace Corps recruitment event?
- Written an article or op-ed about your Peace Corps experience?
- Participated in an open mic event with a story, poem or song?
- Done any other activity or event that shares your story with the public?

**If your answer is yes, let us know! [Register your past events.](#) Why?**

- Show your host country pride! Teach about its customs, local dress, food, music, etc. Let us know and you'll get a pin on our map with your country's flag.
- Make sure your hometown is getting Peace Corps love and increasing their global knowledge! Every American should know about your Peace Corps country and the opportunity to serve. You might be the first RPCV an adult or child meets.

- Every year Peace Corps reports to Congress and other stakeholders on the number of RPCVs who are involved in activities promoting intercultural understanding.

## Register Your Event

[https://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/register/?utm\\_campaign=Prove+Your+Peace+Corps+Impact&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=RPCV+News+and+Opportunities](https://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/register/?utm_campaign=Prove+Your+Peace+Corps+Impact&utm_medium=email&utm_source=RPCV+News+and+Opportunities)

We know this doesn't give us a true picture of RPCV impact, as most of what you do to share your Peace Corps story happens without us ever knowing. **However, we ask that you register any past events since September 2014 so we can capture the great work you have done. Don't forget to register future events! As soon as you have something planned, visit our map and register.**

Thank you for helping to prove the Peace Corps' domestic dividend!

Best,  
Meleia Egger

RPCV Malawi 2007-2009  
Third Goal Program Specialist—RPCV Group Liaison  
[Thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov](mailto:Thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov)  
202.692.1961

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[www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal](http://www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal)  
Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services

1111 20th St NW  
Washington, DC 20526



Greetings from Peace Corps! We're writing with some exciting news. You are among the first group of RPCVs invited to join Peace Corps' new RPCV Portal.

**We invite you to access your personal page in the RPCV Portal to view the following data and update any missing or incorrect information:**

- **Country of Service**
- **Service Dates**
- **Contact Information**

Updating your contact information will also ensure you stay in the loop and receive updates about RPCV opportunities including career resources, Peace Corps Response openings, social meetups, events, and more.

In the coming months we will be adding many new features, such as certification requests, speakers match enrollment, Third Goal Kit registrations, and more ways to connect with the RPCV community.

Help us spread the word! Tell your RPCV friends to request an invitation to the RPCV portal [here](#) -

<https://rpcvportal.peacecorps.gov/login/invitation-request/> .

Questions? Drop us a line at [RPCV@peacecorps.gov](mailto:RPCV@peacecorps.gov).

Best,  
Peace Corps

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## **NPCA MEMBERSHIP renewal:**



[Renew your NPCA membership today](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login_page) - [https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login\\_page](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login_page) - and remain connected to a talented network. Our community is full of inspiring individuals, like the RPCV who [donated a kidney](#) to a stranger she had never met and knew nothing about, other than that he also happened to be an RPCV. Or the RPCV who was asked to introduce First Lady Michelle Obama at the launch of the [Let Girls Learn](#) initiative for her work with the women's collective Bosh Bosh. Or the RPCVs who opened a [barbecue restaurant in Moldova](#) and documented their experience online to inspire others in their local community to take the leap toward starting their own businesses.

These are just a few of the many members who make up our vibrant community, members who—like you—are an integral part of the Peace Corps community. [Renew your NPCA membership today](#). Be inspired by the stories of your fellow RPCVs and use our platforms to share your own.

The NPCA is here to champion you in a life of service. As a member, you are eligible for **grants** to support your Third Goad activities, have exclusive access to **scholarships** to elite graduate programs, are presented with opportunities to **travel** alongside fellow RPCVs, and so much more. There is no better way to stay engaged with our community.

[Please renew your membership today](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login_page) - [https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login\\_page](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login_page) - and let us champion you in your lifelong commitment to service.

Best wishes,  
Glenn Blumhorst  
Guatemala 1988-1991  
NPCA President & CEO  
[www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org)

P.S. After you renew your membership, register for [Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley](#) and join us for the annual gathering of the Peace Corps community! NPCA members receive a special discount.

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## **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 360 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. The Connecticut RPCV has about 40 dues paying members. CTRPCV and National Peace Corps Association need more 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!](#)

Please also consider joining the [Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/) at

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

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## Help Wanted at CTRPCV:

- We need a **SECRETARY** to take notes at our board meetings that occur 3 to 4 times a year.
- We need someone who will be our **eMail editor of our e-newsletter** who will send out an e-newsletter monthly, 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.
- **Member-at-large**
  - Someone who can bring ideas to the table.

### Thank you to .....

- **Jonathan Rosario** is connecting CTRPCV members through the social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
  - **Doug Latham** is our membership chair.
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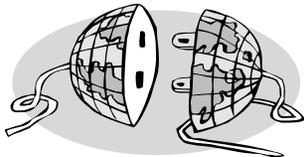
## **WHY** someone should **join** CTRPCV



Here is a list of **CTRPCV Member benefits**:

- 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 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: “room” rental for meetings, supplies for potluck meetings, group NPCA membership dues, state filing fees, communication costs (postage, paper, internet costs), etc.**



**STAY CONNECTED!!!!**

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**Volunteer Opportunity in Bridgeport**

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.

Mattea Heller, 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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## **Peace Corps Response....**

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!](#)

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