

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter – December 2016



**Peace  
Corps**

## CONTENTS

Upcoming Events.....	Page 2-3
NPCA News.....	Page 4
Miscellaneous.....	Page 5
Membership.....	Page 6



“Thanksgiving in Spanish is “Dia de Acción de Gracias,” which translates to “The Day of Showing Gratitude through Action.” My fellow Peace Corps Volunteers are putting their gratitude into action by working with local partners in Guatemala to combat hunger and poverty through agricultural development. Take, for example, my peer Nicole Mortenson, who helped mothers of malnourished children in her community start home gardens that are increasing their families’ access to fresh, nutrient-dense foods that their children need to grow and thrive. “

-Indira Martinez, PeaceCorps.gov

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: **TERESE MAINERI**  
[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: **BRYAN GARCIA**  
[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

Treasurer: **MIKE HILTON**  
[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

Secretary: **JILLIAN CORLEY**  
[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

Newsletter:  
**ELISE KIGNER**  
[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large: **AL MAY**  
[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

Community Service Fund:  
**MAUREEN SHANLEY**  
[MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com)

Membership Coordinator:  
**ALLEGRA ITSOGA**  
[aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org)

## CONTACT US

E–MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)  
POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box  
1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

# CTRPCV Holiday Party

Sun. 12/11 at 1 PM to 4 PM

## Come and share a fun filled afternoon!

The Connecticut Forest and Parks building in Rock Fall (near Middletown) is where we will celebrate our CTRPCV HOLIDAY PARTY on December 11 from 1 PM - 4 PM.

CTRPCV will supply the soda, hot cocoa & paper/plastic products.

The menu is a bit different this year...

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

Finger foods are recommended and please bring serving utensils for your offering.

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

You can RSVP via email, or our CT RPCV Facebook group.

If you would like to help decorate the room, please let Maureen know. We'll meet there at noon : )

## Please bring...

Something *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 each or 3 for \$25.

As always, the proceeds will go to our CTRPCV 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 so that we will know how many people are planning on attending... and so we don't end up with all desserts and no appetizers.

Location:

CT Forest & Park Association (CFPA), 16 Meriden Rd, Rockfall, CT 06481... info@ctwoodlands.org

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: TERESE MAINERI  
[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: BRYAN GARCIA  
[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

Treasurer: MIKE HILTON  
[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

Secretary: JILLIAN CORLEY  
[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

Newsletter:  
ELISE KIGNER  
[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large: AL MAY  
[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

Community Service Fund:  
MAUREEN SHANLEY  
[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

Membership Coordinator:  
ALLEGRA ITSOGA  
[aitsoga@aflk.org](mailto:aitsoga@aflk.org)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)  
POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

## Pack Books for PCVs

**CTRPCV will be assisting Darien Book Aid on January 21, 2017 between 9am and 12pm. Participants are invited to pack boxes of books to be shipped to PCVs abroad. There will be an RPCV meet-up following the book packing at a nearby restaurant (TBD).**

**Address: 1926 Post Road, Darien, CT**

## Help Out with Holiday Cards

We are collecting holiday cards of all shapes and designs to be sent to our CT Returned Peace Corps mailbox at:

CTRPCV, PO Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144

This is a project aimed at creating useful and interesting ornaments and items from Christmas cards and the post markers from the envelopes. It's for my volunteer group with our special population. It's a great learning and creative exercise and all items are given away to the elderly in nursing facilities, hospitals, and veterans.

Please share with all your friends, relatives, co-workers, and social media outlets. It's easy and makes a big difference. We need lot of sent cards. Thanks for your help in advance.

Best Regards,  
NMike Hilton, Treasurer  
[Mjhilt@comcast.com](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.com)



## CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: TERESE MAINERI  
[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: BRYAN GARCIA  
[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

Treasurer: MIKE HILTON  
[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

Secretary: JILLIAN CORLEY  
[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

Newsletter:  
ELISE KIGNER  
[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large: AL MAY  
[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

Community Service Fund:  
MAUREEN SHANLEY  
[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

Membership Coordinator:  
ALLEGRA ITSOGA  
[aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)  
POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box  
1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



With the victory of President-elect Donald Trump, much is left unknown about his vision for America's aid and assistance programs, including the Peace Corps. What we do know is that President-elect Trump has already assessed America's partnerships with the world, and his conclusion is that change is needed. Our Peace Corps community can influence and drive that change.

Starting right now, let's tell President-elect Trump how much the Peace Corps matters.

Copy and paste the message below or compose your own, and [then click here to send it to President-elect Trump's transition team](#).

President-elect Trump,

Now more than ever the Peace Corps is needed to help tackle twenty-first century challenges. Please ensure a bigger, better Peace Corps. This will result in:

- **Stronger National Security** — 73 percent of host country counterparts have a better opinion of Americans after knowing a Peace Corps Volunteer. Volunteers teach democratic values, facilitate democratic institutions, and inspire democratic leaders. Moreover, Peace Corps is the farm system for our foreign service and overseas businesses with the language, technical and cultural skills needed for stronger partnerships. Simply put, the Peace Corps helps make the world a safer place.
- **More Jobs** — Because of a lack of funding, only one in five Peace Corps Volunteer applicants is invited to serve in the Peace Corps and thousands of host country requests go unmet. A lost opportunity to serve our country through the Peace Corps is a lost job. Let's create more.
- **Smarter, Cheaper Aid** — There are no handouts in the Peace Corps. Volunteers work on sustainable projects at the grassroots level and in partnership with communities to combat HIV/AIDS, educate girls, and give young men advancement opportunities. At just 7,000 Volunteers and \$410 million a year, the Peace Corps is the American taxpayer's best bang for its buck.

Since 1961, 220,000 Americans of all backgrounds have partnered with 141 countries in the pursuit of peace, progress and understanding. Let's build a safer world, provide more opportunities for Americans, and partner in smart, cost-efficient development by improving and expanding the Peace Corps.

Sincerely,

Source: [PeaceCorpsConnect.org](http://PeaceCorpsConnect.org)

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: **TERESE MAINERI**  
[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: **BRYAN GARCIA**  
[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

Treasurer: **MIKE HILTON**  
[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

Secretary: **JILLIAN CORLEY**  
[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

Newsletter:  
**ELISE KIGNER**  
[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large: **AL MAY**  
[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

Community Service Fund:  
**MAUREEN SHANLEY**  
[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

Membership Coordinator:  
**ALLEGRA ITSOGA**  
[aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)  
POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box  
1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

# MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

Let's make it happen!!

Share your ideas with us and let's make your ideas come to life. We can help spread the word through our social media platforms and the monthly newsletter. Events can be as simple as "Let's meet up at [restaurant name] on [date]".

Email us at [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org).

## CALL FOR PHOTOS!!!

If you have any photos from your service or from any of our past CTRPCV events, and wouldn't mind sharing them with us, please send them to our email address, [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org). For each photo, please attach a description of the photo's contents and yourself. Please include your name, country and years of service along with who/what is shown in the photo and a caption for the photo.



Peace Corps Response (PCR) provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. Opportunities are available in all six program areas. If you are interested in learning more about Peace Corps Response, please visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/> or send an email to [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov) to schedule an informational interview with your local Peace Corps recruiter.

## HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!

We have volunteer openings for the following positions:

**FUNDRAISER:** Devises ways to replenish the Community Service Fund. All ideas welcome.

**SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR:** Hosts/plans restaurant outings, pot-luck dinners, etc.

**SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR:** Maintains up-to-date information across out social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn).

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: TERESE MAINERI

[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: BRYAN GARCIA

[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

Treasurer: MIKE HILTON

[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

Secretary: JILLIAN CORLEY

[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

Newsletter:

ELISE KIGNER

[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

Member-at-Large: AL MAY

[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

Community Service Fund:

MAUREEN SHANLEY

[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

Membership Coordinator:

ALLEGRA ITSOGA

[aitsoga@aflk.org](mailto:aitsoga@aflk.org)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)

POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

  
**We  
Need  
Your  
Help  
Please**

# MISCELLANEOUS

We are updating our website and need your help! We will be debuting a new section of our website called 'CTRPCV Profiles' in which we will briefly share our members' stories. If you would like to take part, please fill out the questionnaire below and email your responses, along with photos from your service that you would like to have published on our website, to [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org).

## CTRPCV Profiles

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

---

---

---

Can you share your favorite memory from service?

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

---

---

---

Do you have anything else you would like to share with our readers related to you or your PC service (stories, poems, quotes, etc.)?

---

---

---

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

**President: TERESE MAINERI**  
[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

**Vice-President: BRYAN GARCIA**  
[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

**Treasurer: MIKE HILTON**  
[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

**Secretary: JILLIAN CORLEY**  
[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:**  
**ELISE KIGNER**  
[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

**Member-at-Large: AL MAY**  
[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

**Community Service Fund:**  
**MAUREEN SHANLEY**  
[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

**Membership Coordinator:**  
**ALLEGRA ITSOGA**  
[aitsoga@aflk.org](mailto:aitsoga@aflk.org)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)  
POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box  
1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)



## CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS \$\$\$

If you are interested in participating in the above-mentioned CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. If you would like to join and/or pay your annual CTRPCV membership fees, please go to the NPCA's website at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org). Login/Register at the top right of the page. Once logged in, you can choose to pay your CTRPCV membership dues only or make a donation to NPCA as well; the choice is yours.

Please also consider joining the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

Questions???. Simply email our Membership Coordinator, Allegra Itsoga, at [aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org).

### WHY someone should join 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 of 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 new 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, e.g. room rental for meetings, supplies for potluck meetings, group NPCA membership dues, state filing fees, communication costs (postage, paper, internet costs), etc.

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

**President: TERESE MAINERI**  
[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

**Vice-President: BRYAN GARCIA**  
[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

**Treasurer: MIKE HILTON**  
[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

**Secretary: JILLIAN CORLEY**  
[JillianOCorley@gmail.com](mailto:JillianOCorley@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:**  
**ELISE KIGNER**  
[EKigner@gmail.com](mailto:EKigner@gmail.com)

**Member-at-Large: AL MAY**  
[AMay47@SBCglobal.net](mailto:AMay47@SBCglobal.net)

**Community Service Fund:**  
**MAUREEN SHANLEY**  
[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

**Membership Coordinator:**  
**ALLEGRA ITSOGA**  
[aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)  
POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box  
1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)