

CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter — August 2017



Peace
Corps

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Twenty volunteers worked together to put fresh linens on 150 camper beds at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford last month. 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.



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Dinner at Sweet Basil

Meet up with CTRPCVs at Sweet Basil in Plainville

Monday, August 14

6:15-8 p.m.

Questions? Email Terese Maineri at tmaineri@yahoo.com

<http://www.sweetbasilplainville.com/>

CTRPCV Annual Summer Picnic

Please join us for this year's CT Return Peace Corps Volunteers picnic. This annual event is a great time for volunteers and their families to get together and enjoy each other's company. We encourage you to join us with your spouses, partners, kids, or anyone interested in learning more about the Peace Corps. This year's picnic will be held at:

Veteran's Memorial Park
570 Nova Scotia Hill Rd
Watertown, CT 06795

Date: Saturday September 9th
Time: 1 p.m.



We will gather at the Pavilion, which is located centrally in the park directly next to the playground, a great spot for the kids! We will have a raffle to raise funds and would love it if you would bring a small prize. (Something representative of the country where you served is always popular!) It's a potluck so please come with your favorite dish to share. Suggestions include:

Beverages
Salad (potato, macaroni, vegetable)
Chips
Burgers/Hotdogs
Fruit
Baked Beans

*Please note that alcohol is not allowed in the park, so all beverages should be alcohol free.

Parking is plentiful and free. We hope to see you there.
Questions? Email Allegra Itsoga at aitsoga@aflk.org



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Peruvian Restaurant Fundraiser

Peter Shaker (RPCV Thailand) and his organization, English Learner Support Services, are running a Peruvian Restaurant Fundraising and Networking Event for English Learner Support Services (ELSS).

CTRPCVs are welcome to attend and enjoy traditional Peruvian dishes. Proceeds from this event will go towards their pilot program at Norwalk High School starting this fall.

September 28 5-8 p.m. (Arriving later is fine.)

Aromas, 235 Main Street, Norwalk, CT

\$25 - A variety of Peruvian dishes

Prepay by check or use the "Donate" page - www.elss-fairfieldcounty.org.

Address:

ELSS, 65 High Ridge Rd. #221 Stamford, CT 06905. Payments must be received by 9/24/2017.

ELSS will provide tutoring services in small groups to English language learners with limited or interrupted formal education. The name of the program is ASPIRE (Academic Support Program to Inspire, Reinforce, and Empower). CTRPCV was instrumental in getting Peter's group established by providing a grant to enable them to receive 501 (c)(3) status.

A Message from CTRPCV Gerri Mezzoni

Dear CTRPCVs,

I have met many of you at the Christmas parties, or events around, and it has been a pleasure to be part of the CTRPCV team. It is with great joy that I inform you that on August 22nd I will depart for Liberia with Peace Corps Response as a literacy coach/teacher trainer. My position will entail bringing reading into all subject areas and working with the Ministry of Education on a plan for implementing reading strategies. I was also asked to start an after school program for those who are interested in additional reading resources and to build excitement for reading within the community. I will be following up on another PCR volunteer project and I am eager to learn of his/her work and build on it as I begin my next adventure with Peace Corps. After serving for Peace Corps Nicaragua in 2013-2015 as an environmental educator, I couldn't get it off my mind. I absolutely love working for Peace Corps. It's more than just a job, it's a lifestyle. I am, and we all are, part of the Peace Corps family, a network of caring individuals who are doing their part to help those in need and while doing that making this world a better place. So thank you all for your service in Peace Corps and once again, it has been a pleasure meeting all of you and I look forward to reconnecting upon my return.

Peace,
Gerri Mezzoni



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CTRPCV Summer Event Highlights



CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers marched in the 38th Annual Exchange Cub of Madison Independence Day Parade.

CTRPCVs waved American flags of the host countries where they served. Volunteers who served throughout Africa, Central America, Eastern Europe and South Pacific were represented. CTRPCVs also wore clothes from their host countries and Peace Corps t-shirts.

The group was met by many cheers of support from excited parade watchers who were happy to see CTRPCVs. Many parade viewers thanked RPCVs for their service and for participating in the Madison Parade. Despite the holiday, CTRPCV turnout was good and Peace Corps was nicely represented.

Thank you CT RPCV members for participating in this important initiative. Thank you Ken Shuey for the idea and work to make this event a success.



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CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers enjoyed a night out to watch a Hartford Yard Goats game in May. Family and friends enjoyed a full buffet, game, and fireworks. The Hartford Yard Goats won 6 to 5 against the Akron Rubber Duckies. It was a close game with a lot of great plays and good company. CTRPCV members were able to explore the new baseball park. The game was fun to watch and the weather was beautiful.

URGENT: Call your Senators Urge them to protect Peace Corps funding.

The President and the House have proposed \$12 million in cuts to the Peace Corps budget for fiscal year 2018. This limits opportunities for Americans to serve abroad, where they work along side local leaders to tackle the world's most pressing challenges, and to bring their skills back home, where they benefit American communities and the US economy.

Now it's now up to the Senate to protect level funding, to ensure that opportunities to serve with the Peace Corps are protected. We must act now to make our voices heard - the Senate is expected to make their final decision by early September.

The click-to-call tool at the right will help you get connected to your Senator: <https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/protectpeacecorps>

Here's what to say:

Hi, my name is [FIRST AND LAST NAME] and I'm your constituent in [CITY, STATE]. (I served our country as a Peace Corps Volunteer in [COUNTRY] from [YEARS].) I'm calling today because I'm very concerned about the proposed cuts to the Peace Corps. These cuts would limit the number of opportunities to serve, restrict American influence abroad, and threaten to roll back more than 56 years of global impact. With all of the global challenges facing America today we need a strong and effective Peace Corps to promote sustainable development, democratic ideals, and partnership between nations. I strongly urge the Senator to protect funding for the Peace Corps and ensure the agency is funded at \$410 million for fiscal year 2018.



CTRPCVs celebrated Cinco de Mayo at El Paso Restaurant in Plainville



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MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

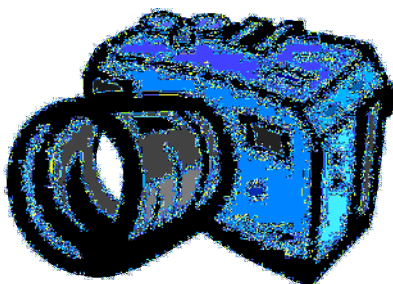
Let's make it happen!!

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.

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. 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 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).



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**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.

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.)?



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