

CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter — May 2017




Peace
Corps

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Grrrr!  [Peace Corps Macedonia](#) Volunteer Brycen leads a lively sing-along about a bear hunt with his 4th grade class in order to teach students new English language vocabulary.

See more posts like these on the Peace Corps Facebook page!



CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: **TERESE MAINERI**

TMaineri@yahoo.com

Vice-President: **BRYAN GARCIA**

Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com

Treasurer: **MIKE HILTON**

Mjhilt@comcast.net

Secretary: **JILLIAN CORLEY**

JillianOCorley@gmail.com

Newsletter:

ELISE KIGNER

EKigner@gmail.com

Member-at-Large: **AL MAY**

AMay47@SBCglobal.net

Community Service Fund:

MAUREEN SHANLEY

MaureenShanley@hotmail.com

Membership Coordinator:

ALLEGRA ITSOGA

aitsoga@afk.org

CONTACT US

E-MAIL: President@ctrpcv.org

POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box

1803, Hartford, CT 06144

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Festive Evening with the Hartford Yard Goats

Join Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for an evening of fun on **Saturday, May 20th** at 6 p.m. at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford where the Yard Goats will take-on the Rubberducks from Akron.

The evening in the Picnic Pavilion or the Party Deck will include a buffet and post-game firework show. Tickets are between \$30 to \$40 each.

Please reserve your seats by contacting Bryan Garcia at bryan.garcia@ctgreenbank.com



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Hole in The Wall Gang Camp

There is an opening for CTRPCV to volunteer on Saturday, June 24th.

[Lois needs to know by this Sunday, May 7](#) if you're interested. She needs to have 10 people signed up in order to hold the date. If you can volunteer on this date, please call Lois Fucci, [203-239-0169](tel:203-239-0169) or email lafj@att.net

Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 24th in Ashford, CT

On June 24th, 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](tel:203-239-0169), lafj@att.net.



WHEN: June 24th, Saturday
WHERE: Ashford, CT
TIME: 9:30 AM -12:00 (noon)

Darien Book Aid Plan & CTRPCV Volunteer

Opportunity

Please join us on June 10, as we pack boxes of books with Darien Book Aid Plan to be distributed to current PCVs around the world! Following the event, you are welcome to join us for lunch at a nearby café.

Location: Darien Book Aid Plan, 1926 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820

Time: June 10, 2017 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Last time, CTRPCV helped pack 35 boxes, fulfilling 35 PCV requests for books! These packages are continuing to make their way around the world.



A few thank you notes from the PCVs who received our last shipment...

"I have received 38 books from Darien and I can't wait to put them to good use in class and the library. Your organization is first rate and an indispensable resource to PCVs and anyone else looking to startup a fledgling library." - Mitchell, Southern Africa

"The children will all be excited to have these new choices in our little library. Thanks Again! David, Dominica

"The sun is shining in Morocco, but things just got a little bit brighter. We received the package today!! This is a wonderful start to our humble library." William, Morocco

"Thank you so much for everything that you do for young people around the world. Know that your organization, with a simple gift of books, creates an immense amount of positive impact globally. You truly are the epitome of an organization that can create change." Mitesh, Albania (Picture below)



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Put YOUR News in CTRPCV Newsletter

Want to meet fellow RPCVs in YOUR part of the state!!! This is a comment from some, but the truth is YOU can be a motivating force if you just get the word out there.

Do you have an event that could use some helping hands?

- Community Service ... that is a main focus of CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.
- Write a short article inviting others to join you. Be sure to list the mission statement of your group... why are you doing this event.
- Organize a potluck dinner or a picnic. You just need to pick a time and a place. We will advertise your event in our newsletter and on our Facebook page.
- Do you have a favorite restaurant??? An ethnic restaurant is ideal, but it is not a requirement. Many places will let people pay individually. Or set a menu and a fixed price (alcoholic drinks separate).
- Is your church, organization, or school hosting a special event that might be of interest to RPCVs?

Please write a short article including the details/specifics. Photos and/artwork is always appreciated. Send your information to ekigner@gmail.com



PEACE CORPS FUNDING VICTORY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017! BUT THE PUSH CONTINUES...

Congratulate yourselves! Congress is passing a spending package with level funding of \$410 million for Peace Corps through fiscal year 2017. But we'll need an even bigger push to secure level funding for fiscal year 2018. Join our next [#ProtectPeaceCorps](#) action and send Congress postcards urging their support.



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Thanks to NPCA's partnership with [Water Charity](#) and the generous support of the Peace Corps Community (this means you), school children in Senegal and Albania now have access to clean water and sanitation facilities and training. Many schools still have no such access, increasing in the risk of waterborne diseases like guinea worm. Girls in particular suffer when there's no bathroom at school, so they end up missing days or dropping out entirely.

At the conclusion of the Agnam Tonguel School Water Project in Senegal, Peace Corps Volunteer Jillian McIntosh reports:

Two bathroom stalls were built, and the existing damaged stall was fixed. Thus, the primary school now has three working bathrooms for their students and staff.

Ten primary school teachers, and the director, received WASH training by the PCV. We discussed the 5 times that are crucial for hand-washing to prevent disease: before eating, after using the toilet, after washing a child's bottom, before cooking, and after greeting an ill person.

Hand-washing stations were distributed to each classroom after the teacher recreated the hygiene lesson to their students, while observed by the PCV. Students demonstrated to the PCV and teacher that they could thoroughly wash their hands and recite the 5 crucial times.

Jillian has completed her service, but a new PCV who has continued the work by painting hand-washing murals at the school and ensuring that the facilities are maintained. Thank you, Jillian!

At the conclusion of Vehcan School Water Project in Albania, Peace Corps Volunteer Kyle Moye reports:

The plan for the project was to renovate three bathrooms and plumbing, serving 94 students.

To promote personal hygiene, a health fair was organized prior to the bathroom reconstruction. The health fair included local nurses, students, and representatives from the local Red Cross and State Health Department. The entire community was invited to attend the health fair, which consisted of hand washing and personal hygiene lessons for the children, and diabetes testing, blood pressure checks, and an information panel by the Red Cross, for the adults.

After the health fair was completed a team of local experts, students, and school staff were assembled to take on the task of planning the reconstruction of the bathrooms. With the help of a local plumber and some community members the bathroom was quickly renovated and is now fully functional.

The community is very thankful for the final result. The girls and community of Vehcan now have a clean bathroom with running water at their school
Thank you, Kyle!

These two projects were completed in the last month alone, and at least six more like them have just been approved. If you'd like to support the work of currently serving and returned Peace Corps Volunteers to increase access to clean water and sanitation for the world's most marginalized people, give today to our [Community Fund campaign](#).



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MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

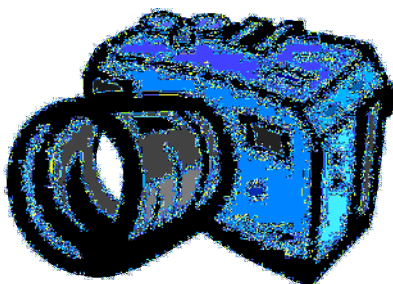
Let's make it happen!!

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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