

WorldView



SPORTS AND THE PEACE CORPS

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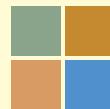
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National Peace Corps Association

WorldView

A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

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Grassroot Soccer

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COVER: Four Zimbabwean boys wear their labels from the game HIV Attacks, representing the ways the body fights an HIV infection through a dodgeball-style activity.
Credit: Alice Keeney for Grassroot Soccer

WorldView

A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

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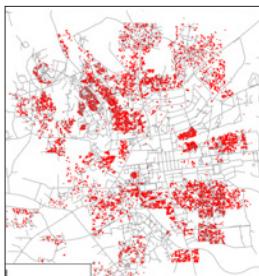


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Fall 2013

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Shared Connections, Ongoing Commitment

Reflecting on Peace Corps Connect - Boston

As our annual gathering, Peace Corps Connect, drew to a close on a recent Saturday afternoon in Boston, I glanced around the busy conference center and saw myself surrounded by five decades of the Peace Corps experience. All these generations, sharing photos, stories and memories, and connected by one idea: the Peace Corps.

I couldn't help but think that we collectively have a lot of wisdom, experience and commitment to keep giving here at home, and around the world. And from the energy and enthusiasm in the hallways, it was

obvious that there is a continued passion for our global mission.

We came home from abroad, but we brought the world with us, and we didn't forget about where we had been or the people we grew to know and love during our Peace Corps years.

Having just completed his service in Ecuador, Peter Constantian found just what he was looking for in Boston. "I came here to network and make connections for a job, and I've been very rewarded. I'm definitely going to Nashville next year," he told me. I could tell by his determination that he was going to keep making a difference in the world.

Joining the conference as unofficial photographer, my daughter Allie—also the NPCA's youngest member—was inspired by the countless testimonies of our service. The Peace Corps became more real and personal to her, and a compelling pathway in her future after college.

Claude and Becky Herrera, who had served in the Peace Corps with me in Guatemala back in the late 1980s, made it to Boston. There just wasn't enough time in the weekend to retell stories or catch up on our lives, but around the conference center hundreds of us were making the most of the intermissions.

Global Citizen Award recipient Dr. Mohamud Said of Kenya spoke to all of us in a very special way. His life and career were influenced by Peace Corps volunteers, as exemplified by his lifelong dedication to global humanitarian service and volunteerism. His story testifies to the often-unsung dividends of Peace Corps services.



Allie Blumhorst

National Peace Corps Association President
Glenn Blumhorst

If you weren't able to make it to Boston, this issue of *WorldView* will give you a glimpse of our experience. It's what Peace Corps Connect and the NPCA is all about—connecting and engaging, reminding us what we did and what we learned, and how we can keep being involved in the world. Our community is still committed in small and large ways to bridging societies, educating, and learning from each other.

We all feel that we came away from our Peace Corps experience better than when we first arrived. And we know we can do a lot more. Drop me an email to let me know your suggestions and ideas on what our organization should do collectively.

Next summer come to Nashville for Peace Corps Connect. Put it on your calendar now: June 20-21, 2014. You'll have a great time meeting up with your Peace Corps cohorts and being part of what we can do with an organization that is uniquely ours.

You and I know that America needs what the Peace Corps has to offer, not just for two years, but for a life time.

Glenn Blumhorst – President
RPCV Guatemala (1988-1991)

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Mark Hower, PhD

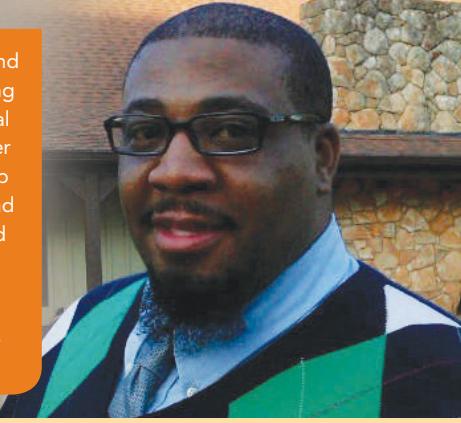


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Group News Highlights

A look at what NPCA member groups are up to

by Jonathan Pearson

BELIZE

A dozen schools across Belize are participating in the 2013-14 scholarship program organized annually by **Full Basket Belize**. Every year, the group grants scholarships worth up to US\$500 to secondary school students to help them further their education. For the upcoming academic year, the group is providing scholarships to 14 deserving students throughout the country. Nearly 100 awards have been provided over the past nine years that the scholarship program has been in existence.
www.fullbasketbelize.org

IRAN

The **Peace Corps Iran Association** took full advantage of the affiliate group offerings at Peace Corps Connect – Boston, this past June. More than 50 RPCVs who served in Iran participated in the Boston activities. Along with staffing an information table, several social events and a group tour of the John F. Kennedy Library, the group organized a full day of well-attended panel programs that featured Persian poetry readings, RPCV Iran writers, three current Iranian graduate students and two RPCVs who discussed



One of the many panels organized by Peace Corps Iran at Peace Corps Connect – Boston.

CALIFORNIA

Service to others can take many forms—and that includes service to current Peace Corps Volunteers. Sharing a few creature comforts from home is the initiative of the **RPCVs of Los Angeles** (RPCV-LA), who, like all members of the community, know how a small care package can go a long way to lifting the spirits of a Volunteer and keep him/her going through rough patches, with the knowledge that friends back home are thinking of them. Late last year, RPCV-LA members Alison Thieme and Marta Whitmore set up the necessary infrastructure to get the project off the ground. Since then, other group members have mobilized around the project. Since last December, the group has received more than 200 requests and sent out 80 packages to a wide range of countries including China, Georgia, Peru and Ukraine. The group tries to include a note in every package, which often includes some toiletry and health care aids, magazines and, of course, candy! (www.rpcvla.org)



RPCVs of Los Angeles prepare care packages for Peace Corps Volunteers.



Hawaii RPCVs at public radio fundraiser.

HAWAII

The **Hawaii Returned Peace Corps Volunteers** are preparing to staff the phones for the next Hawaii Public Radio fundraiser in October, and if it's anything like their previous participation last April, there's no doubt the group will be welcomed with open arms. Group members were answering phones this past spring when the station blasted through its spring fundraising goal and they got to participate in a champagne toast to mark the achievement. Group participants in last April's fundraiser included RPCVs Rosemary Casey, Laura Wilcox, Lara and Trenton Payne, Sena Pierce, Vince Cleveland, Lei Timario, and friends Linda and Stanley Arnold. (rpcvhi.wildapricot.org)

contemporary life in Iran and the United States, and RPCVs sharing their recent travel experiences to Iran.

KOREA

The regular reunion of Korea IV Volunteers (1967-69) at their original training site at the Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico included not only reflecting back to training days more than 45 years ago; it included some giving back as well. Having held 10 reunions at the site since the late 1970s, the group conducted a "needs list" regarding types of donations that could be most useful to the ranch. 19 Korea IV members funded a project to create 14 individually crafted Adirondack chairs (made by—as it turns out—a Peru RPCV). As a retreat and conference center, the chairs will benefit the reunion group and others for years to come as they view the magnificent scenery that surrounds the ranch.

MASSACHUSETTS

Along with being such great hosts this past June for our second Peace Corps Connect gathering, the **Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers** (BARPCV) organized a Friday night harbor cruise fundraiser. Threatening morning skies and rainshowers gave way to late afternoon sunshine and lower humidity as a capacity group of 125 RPCVs and friends enjoyed the Boston waterfront, good company and a beverage...or two! The event raised nearly \$500 for the Boston group. Proceeds will support **BARPCV** events like the Welcome Back/Send Off and new members parties. (www.barpvc.org)

MICHIGAN

For the past 15 years, the **RPCVs of West Michigan** have volunteered in Grand Rapids with the Inner City Christian Federation, which works to build stable communities by providing housing opportunities and services that encourage family responsibility and independence. The activity has been

coordinated through the years by group Vice President Ken Schilling. 10 people participated in this year's project, which involves painting and landscape work at one or more properties. Group President Mark Coleman says the work is appreciated because the RPCVs get right to work and require limited supervision. They say the activity often attracts several group members who don't attend social events at other times of the year. The work and informal get-together afterwards allows members to catch up with each other and have a shared sense of accomplishment. (rpcvwestmichigan.wordpress.com)

NIGER

Flooding last year in Niger severely damaged wells in the northern Agadez region. The **Friends of Niger** (FON) stepped in after a request from the American Embassy self-help program, which received more requests for assistance than it could handle. FON provided funds to support the reconstruction of a well in the rural commune of Ingall. In a letter to the group, the mayor of Ingall informed them that work on the well was completed in June. In addition to serving herders in the region, the project provided temporary employment for 12 men from the community. (www.friendsofniger.org)



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Peace Corps Community Comes Together

Hundreds gather in Boston for Peace Corps Connect

by Erica Burman

Mind candy." That's how one person described it.

On June 28-29, close to 400 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), current and former Peace Corps staff, friends and family came together in Boston for **Peace Corps Connect**, the National Peace Corps Association's event for the Peace Corps community to ... well ... connect!

The hallways and common areas buzzed with conversation. Attendees included RPCVs who had returned as recently as April, as well as others celebrating more than 50 years since their return. The two days were filled with a rich offering of panel discussions, workshops, plenary

speakers, exhibitors and social events.

"The Peace Corps conference in Boston was inspiring in ways I never expected," emailed one participant a few days later. "Peering once again through the eyes of a world citizen for a couple of days was exhilarating. Remembering what fun it is to drink out on the water. Learning that not all RPCVs are like my friends in the early groups, but have a range of backgrounds, professions, and interests."

If you weren't able to trek to Boston, don't despair! You can still vicariously experience Peace Corps Connect (www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering). Check out photos on Facebook. Watch the Peace

Corps Connect recorded final session and awards ceremony on our YouTube channel. Visit our website to read Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award recipient Dr. Mohamud Said's acceptance speech, and learn more about the winners of the 2013 Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service and the Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service.

Many thanks to the Boston Area Peace Corps Association, who was our co-host. We're already working with the Tennessee Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to plan next year's **Peace Corps Connect: Nashville**, June 20-21, 2014. Save the date!



Harbor Cruise



One of the many well-attended workshops.



RPCV journalist Marco Werman (left) meets Sen. Harris Wofford.



Friends of Iran panel.



NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst (right) chats with a member.



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Around the NPCA

Peace Corps Community Comes Together

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Manjula Dissanayake is the founder of Educate Lanka Foundation, Inc., a global, crowd-funded philanthropic initiative which has impacted 500 students in his home country of Sri Lanka.

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*-Manjula Dissanayake, MALD '12
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Peace Corps Community Comes Together

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Dr. Mohamud Said accepts the 2013 NPCA Harris Wofford Award. L-R: NPCA President Blumhorst, Dr. Said, Dr. Russell Morgan, Sen. Harris Wofford.



Phil Lilienthal (right) accepts the NPCA's 2013 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service.



Taking part in NPCA's Why Peace Corps Matters initiative.



Friends of the Dominican Republic (center, right) accept the 2013 Ruppe Award. The Northern California Peace Corps Association also received the Ruppe Award, which is for an outstanding member group that promotes the Third Goal of Peace Corps and continues to serve host countries.



Public service panel.



Bringing the world home through their careers.
RPCVs Phil Lilienthal, Tim Prestero, Marco Werman.



Human rights panel.



Socializing at the concluding reception.

Wofford Award Winner in the U.S.

Dr. Mohamud Said shares story of Peace Corps' lifelong impact

Action packed" would be one way to describe Dr. Mohamud Sheikh Nurein Said's most recent journey to the United States. The 2013 recipient of the National Peace Corps Association's Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award, Dr. Said was invited to Peace Corps Connect, June 28-29 in Boston, Mass. to accept the prestigious honor. While the event itself only lasted two—albeit eventful—days, Dr. Said participated in a variety of exciting interviews, meetings, tours and receptions in the days leading up to and following the NPCA conference in Boston. At each stop, he shared the story of how his Peace Corps teachers set him on a path to a career in medicine and a lifelong passion for helping others.

Read Dr. Said's acceptance of the Wofford Award, plus links to more photos and news articles at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/woffordaward.

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award and are due by midnight Thursday, October 31, 2013. Visit www.peacecorpsconnect.org/awards for nomination instructions and forms.



NPCA

Capitol Hill visit with RPCV Congressman Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA). L-R: NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst, Rep. Kennedy, Dr. Said, Dr. Russell Morgan—Dr. Said's Peace Corps teacher in Kenya.



NPCA

At the BBC studios in Washington, D.C., Dr. Said and Dr. Morgan share a laugh while being interviewed by RPCV journalist Marco Werman for his public radio show, *The World*.



Sue Dorfman

Dr. Said visited the Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he discussed mutual challenges with staff. Dr. Said is the Governor of the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Capitol Hill Update

Peace Corps legislation you need to know about

by Jonathan Pearson

Senate Passes Peace Corps Commemorative

The United States Senate gave swift unanimous passage to S. 230, legislation that would authorize space near the National Mall for a privately funded commemorative to mark the historic significance of the founding of the Peace Corps. The legislation was sponsored by Senator Rob Portman (R-OH). Similar legislation (H.R. 915) introduced in the House of Representatives by RPCV Congressman Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA) awaits further consideration by the Natural Resources Committee.

Peace Corps Funding

There is currently a \$30 million difference between the Senate and House of Representatives concerning Peace Corps funding for fiscal year 2014. The Senate Appropriations Committee is recommending \$385 million for the Peace Corps. This is seven million dollars above President Obama's request of \$378 million. Meanwhile, the House Appropriations

Committee is recommending \$356 million for the Peace Corps. This figure would continue Peace Corps funding at reduced levels that were established earlier this year when across-the-board federal spending cuts of approximately five percent were implemented. The Senate and House will need to reach an agreement on these disparate figures as they finalize appropriations for FY 2014.

Senate Language on Equity Act, NCE

Along with reaching agreement on funding figures, the Senate and House will also need to reach agreement on certain Peace Corps policy language if and when they approve a final appropriations bill for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

The Senate included language on two issues NPCA has been working on. Language to incorporate the fix called for in the Peace Corps Equity Act (S. 813), allowing volunteers to have the same right as others serving our nation overseas in regards to reproductive health care, is included in the Senate

Appropriations bill (RPCVs can sign a statement of support by visiting <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/support-equity-act/>). Also included in the Senate bill is language that would call upon the Peace Corps to report on the possibility of extending the Non-Competitive Eligibility benefit provided to volunteers upon the completion of their service.

Senate Hearing on Peace Corps Director

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for Carrie Hessler-Radelet to become the 19th director of the Peace Corps. President Barack Obama nominated Hessler-Radelet, the current deputy director, on July 18. A hearing is expected sometime this fall.

Questions? Get connected. Contact advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org.

Jonathan Pearson (Micronesia 1987-89) is the Advocacy Director for the National Peace Corps Association.

Where in the World is WorldView?

Peace Corps Volunteer Libby Weiler's students used *WorldView* magazine to create environmental posters and collages during the environmental day of Spring Camp Zagora in the Atlas Mountains. How do you use *WorldView*?

Every issue of *WorldView* comes with a lesson plan. You can see all of them at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/worldview-magazine/lesson-plans.

Submit your 'Where in the World is *WorldView*' photo to news@peacecorpsconnect.org. We will post it to Facebook.



Grassroot Soccer

Using soccer in the fight against HIV

by Kristin Kennedy

It wasn't long into my service in Zambia when I realized how challenging it would be to deliver health information to subsistence farmers who were often too tired, too ill, or too busy to attend the formal health meetings my counterparts and I relentlessly scheduled. Meetings were cancelled for reasons as varied as bad weather and witchcraft. Sometimes, there was no reason at all. Twelve months into my service, I entered the stage of grief I believe is called "acceptance." I realized the truth in the old adage, "if you can't beat them, join them." It would have to be at the one place that people frequently and energetically gathered: the soccer pitch.

The passion that much of the world has for soccer is almost indescribable. Children who have never seen an image of Mickey Mouse know the names and stats of dozens of their favorite players. And the energy with which both young and old play, watch, and cheer on the beautiful game is unrivaled by anything else the village has to offer.

In 2002, four years before I started my Peace Corps service, four professional soccer players in Zimbabwe realized the power that soccer had not only to unite communities, but also to break the silence and stigma around HIV and AIDS. They founded Grassroot Soccer (GRS) with the mission to use the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize communities to stop the spread of HIV. Eleven years later, half a million young people around the globe have graduated from a Grassroot Soccer program.

Grassroot Soccer harnesses this global passion for soccer to improve health by embedding critical life skills and HIV prevention messages into

an interactive, activity-based series of health 'practices' for young people. The activities are simple, but the messages are powerful. For example, "Risk Field"

requires children to dribble soccer balls through a series of cones or obstacles labeled with HIV risk factors such as having an older partner or using drugs

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Sports



Tate, a PCV in Botswana, looks on as a learner dribbles between cones to avoid risky sexual behaviors in "Risk Field."

and alcohol. When someone hits a cone, powerful discussion often follows. At the end of the game, the whole team does pushups together when cones are hit—representing the community-wide effects of HIV.

By the time I was posted to Zambia, Grassroot Soccer had a permanent office in the capital of Lusaka and agreed to try something new by partnering with me to bring Grassroot Soccer to a rural site in Luapula Province, about nine hours north of the city.

A magical moment came as we tested "Find the Ball" with a group of local teenagers. The youth formed two lines, secretly passing tennis balls labeled "HIV" behind their backs. Each team took turns guessing who held the balls. Often, their guesses were wrong—demonstrating the key message that you can't tell who is HIV positive by someone's appearance. As it often happens in the village, hoards of younger children circled around to watch. After a few moments, a group of 5-year-olds began to play the game themselves. With no instruction, they gathered mangoes and used them as balls, passing the fruit behind their backs in perfect formation just like the older group.

It was then that I saw the incredible power this new sport-based approach

held. For the very first time in my Peace Corps service, more children were interested in our programs than we had space for—children who were willing to teach themselves the activities just so they could participate.

Over the next several years, requests to work with Grassroot Soccer began pouring in from other Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) who saw the value in combining soccer with health education. As a response, in 2011 GRS developed the "Peace Corps Skillz" HIV prevention curriculum specifically for PCVs to use at their sites. In June 2013, a malaria education curriculum was developed and rolled out to 15 countries across Africa in partnership with Stomp Out Malaria (see *Stomping out Malaria in Africa, WorldView*, by Chris Hedrick, vol. 25, no 5). A girls-only program for PCVs will be released in early 2014.

Since the start of Grassroot Soccer's partnership with Peace Corps in 2011, 475 volunteers in 26 countries have reached more than 5,100 young people with the information they need to stop the spread of HIV.

"The kids absolutely love it because the program is so interactive and allows them to express themselves as they learn. In fact, during our most recent intervention, our 67 kids actually applauded us every



Mary, a PCV from Ethiopia, poses with her youth group at graduation after the students have completed their first skillz program.

time we entered their classroom for a session," explains Samantha Croffut (South Africa 2011-14), who helped pilot one of the very first Peace Corps Skillz programs in South Africa.

After participating in the Peace Corps Skillz program, youth are able to correctly answer 19 percent more questions that assesses what they know, believe, and communicate to others about HIV. Nearly three-fourths of the children who complete the program are able to correctly identify the way HIV is spread and how to stop it. Most say they would still be friends with someone who is HIV positive.

The program also empowers local counterparts who serve as Grassroot Soccer coaches to act as role models and HIV experts in their community. "Grassroot Soccer has given me confidence to stand in front of people and talk without fear. It has taught me more about AIDS and how to tell a young person about the disease. This program has made me a role model to some young kids that I have coached. I have grown personally and love my life," says Figo Booij, a Peace Corps skillz coach in South Africa.

Peace Corps Volunteers provide immense value in rolling out sport-based health interventions to youth who

otherwise might receive little or no formal health education. Volunteers provide access to communities that organizations such as Grassroot Soccer simply are not able to reach. Long distances, transport challenges, and the high cost of sending staff to remote areas means that many organizations cannot extend their reach to the places that often need them most, and when they do, the cost per person is very high. In partnering with Peace Corps, Grassroot Soccer has turned this equation on its head. By utilizing the skills, dedication, and community relationships that PCVs have, what should be one of the most expensive and difficult programs to run is actually one of the most cost effective and efficient programs in the Grassroot Soccer portfolio.

Grassroot Soccer's programs are also powerful tools for PCVs, who no longer have to develop health education programs from scratch. The Skillz

curricula are some of the only step-by-step guides PCVs can use to facilitate dynamic, interactive, and evidence-based health interventions with young people—and it is certainly one of the most fun. GRS also provides on-going support through a monthly phone call or email support session with PCVs and helps transition the program to counterparts after their PCV returns home.

PCVs across Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and Southeast Asia have found success delivering life-saving health messages through the fun, sport-based activities in Grassroot Soccer's Peace Corps Skillz. Young people respond best when they are active, engaged, and valued. PCVs and Grassroot Soccer work together to bring the values of teamwork, mutual respect, and a caring coach to so many young people worldwide. It's a beautiful game, indeed.

Through the generous support of our donors, Grassroot Soccer mails a Peace Corps Skillz kit to every PCV who wishes to implement the program. For more information, or if you are a PCV who would like to work with Grassroot Soccer, please contact PCSkillz@grassrootsoccer.org. RPCVs who wish to support the program can visit <http://www.grassrootsoccer.org/what-you-can-do/donate/> \$25 will ship a Grassroot Soccer kit to a PCV anywhere in the world.

Kristin was a Community Action for Health Program Volunteer in Zambia (2006-08) before obtaining a Masters of Science in Public Policy and Management through Carnegie Mellon's Peace Corps Fellowship program. She is now the Partnership Manager for Grassroot Soccer, where she leads the rollout of GRS programs to PCVs worldwide.



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Have Ball, Will Travel

Hey, how'd you get that soccer ball out here in the boonies?

By Mal Warwick

Walk into just about any village or any neighborhood, practically anywhere in the world, with a soccer ball under your arm, and it won't be long before children, who are clamoring to play, surround you.

If you're currently serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV), or have done so in the past, you're probably well aware of this. Soccer—or football, fútbol, or futebol, as it's otherwise called—is the world's game. Soccer looms so large all around the planet that its reach is effectively beyond the average American's comprehension: the "beautiful game" has literally several *billion* fans. A single soccer team (Manchester United) alone boasts nearly 700 million. American sports teams don't come even remotely close in the breadth of their appeal.

So, why doesn't every Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) arrive in country carrying a soccer ball?

The nearly indestructible soccer ball

Recognizing the goodwill value of carrying a soccer ball, and the demonstrated potential of soccer as a teaching tool, PCVs from a dozen countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Central Asia turned to One World Futbol Project to obtain one to 480 of the company's unique, nearly indestructible soccer balls. The requests started coming in shortly after the project launched in 2010, and they've kept coming.

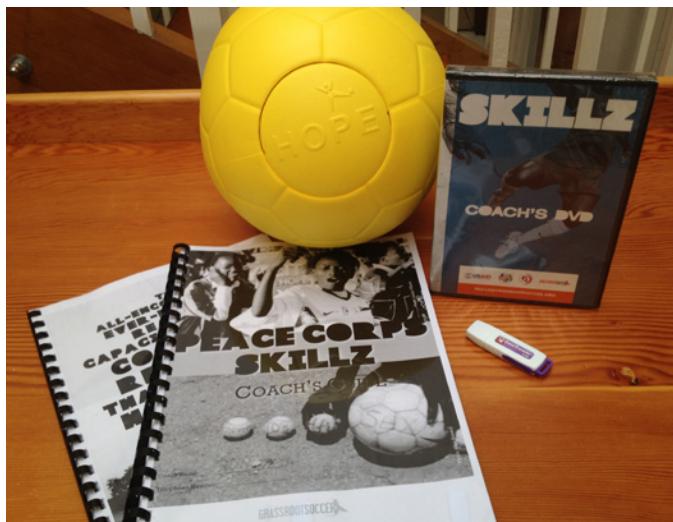
To date, three-year-old One World Futbol Project, a mission-based business based in Berkeley, Calif., has distributed more than 500,000 of its balls in 162 countries around the world, benefiting an estimated 15 million children and youth. Support from its founding sponsor, Chevrolet, has enabled the young company to distribute container-loads of at least 5,000 One World Futbols to government agencies, NGOs, schools,

orphanages, and faith-based organizations in each of more than 40 countries.

In 2011, the Project partnered with an NGO, Grassroot Soccer, to provide the balls to PCVs at 26 Peace Corps posts where the NGO works. To date, the futbols have gone to 475 Volunteers, who put them to use in Grassroot Soccer's sport-based curriculum to teach essential life skills to youth.

Grassroot Soccer (<http://www.grassrootsoccer.org>) uses the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize communities to stop the spread of HIV. Founded in 2002 by four professional soccer players, Grassroot Soccer works with youth ages 12 to 19 by engaging local coaches such as PCVs. The NGO's skillz curriculum builds basic life skills and healthy behaviors through a series of soccer-based interactive activities and discussions.

A spokesperson for Grassroot Soccer explains, "The brightly colored balls



Grassroot mails the Peace Corps skillz toolkit directly to PCVs with all the materials needed to deliver soccer-based HIV-prevention activities.



Fútbol is beloved around the world.

attract youth to PCV programs in communities where a real soccer ball may never have been used before. Additionally, One World Futbols are the only balls that can withstand the rough conditions in these rural communities, making them a sustainable development tool.”

The spokesperson pointed to the experience of a PCV in Ethiopia named Caitlin to illustrate the impact of the One World Futbol in its skillz program, one of the world’s best examples of the emerging field of sport for peace and development.

Soccer for peace and development

Caitlin is a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Ethiopia who attended a Grassroot Soccer training program and implemented the skillz curriculum at her site. Like every Peace Corps Volunteer who enrolls in the training, Caitlin received a kit of materials that included the One World Futbol. Though at first the ball seemed like just one of a number of items in the kit, Caitlin quickly realized the futbol was invaluable to the success of the skillz program.

“In villages filled with stones and thorns and lacking in paved roads and soccer pitches, the balls are key,” said Caitlin. “Knowing that the balls are all-but-indestructible and that you can smack them around is really awesome.”

Breaking down barriers

The One World Futbol also plays a key role in facilitating a PCV’s entry into the community and helps to bridge cultures, genders, and languages. Caitlin explains, “A problem in my community is the difference in socio-economic status between children. For example, one child may wear clothing with more holes than someone else, or speak worse English compared to someone else, which causes that child to be treated differently. This ‘class issue’ is a huge problem in my community, but the One World Futbol brings people together and makes them forget about the differences.”

For more information

A two-minute video online at <http://bit.ly/11KI3Hp> features PCVs in South Africa engaged in the Grassroot Soccer Program. In addition, One World Futbol Project has abundant resources online at its website: (<http://www.oneworldfutbol.com>), its Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/oneworldfutbol>), its Twitter feed (<http://www.twitter.com/oneworldfutbol>), and its YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/oneworldfutbol>).

Mal Warwick (Ecuador 1965-69) is one of three partners in the One World Futbol Project LLC. He is a writer, social entrepreneur, impact investor, and consultant who is best known for his many books on fundraising for nonprofit organizations and for his involvement in the movement for socially responsible business. His latest book, co-authored with Paul Polak (author of Out of Poverty), is The Business Solution to Poverty, which will be published by Berrett-Koehler Publishers in September 2013.

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Raising the Roof

A scrappy basketball league lays the foundation for civic healing in Liberia

by Joe Jauregui

When I first arrived in Gbarnga, Liberia in 1968 I was assigned to a traveling team of educators, providing in-service training to the teaching staffs of the schools in the surrounding towns. I was also asked to establish a basketball league among the up-country schools. Football (soccer) was the most popular sport in the country but interest in basketball was growing to the point where a tournament had been held among several schools the previous year. Gbarnga was the perfect tournament venue: it was at the intersection of the main roads in the center of the country—and it had the only gymnasium up-country.

Two schools in Gbarnga, Gboveh High School and W.V.S. Tubman Jr. High School, already had basketball teams. I wasn't in town very long before students from a third school, St. Martin's, came to my house and asked if I would be their basketball coach for a full season of games.

The new league and the availability of a gymnasium provided a new experience to the St. Martin's students, who were mostly 6th and 7th graders. I made a scoreboard using scrap lumber, and salvaged a car horn from a wrecked car I found in town and attached it to a breaker switch. We borrowed the battery from the Peace Corps vehicle to power the horn. The gymnasium was always filled to standing-room-only capacity with fans, because, of course, there were no stands.

Traditionally, students would write a "challenge" letter to a neighboring school, asking to compete in football, basketball, and volleyball. When game day arrived, all the students and some



Vice President of Liberia Joseph N. Boakai attended the most recent upcountry basketball tournament in Gbarnga, Liberia.

townspeople would climb onto the back of a flatbed truck in the early morning and travel to the game site. What I remember most about these excursions was riding in the back of a truck packed with students singing at the top of their lungs to the beat of a drum as we lumbered down the dusty African road.

Game Day

In addition to coaching, I was also the Gbarnga correspondent for the national newspaper, *The Liberian Star*. Even though I submitted the game results, the report on St. Martin's first league game did not come close to capturing the excitement that was present in the gym on that afternoon. We started out slow, but were trailing by only one point at halftime. As the second half began, the St. Martin's players matched their opponent basket for basket. The crowd became louder and louder.

As the game progressed, with the lead changing constantly, the crowd gave a deafening roar each time St. Martin's made a basket. On several occasions



St. Martin's first basketball team, Gbarnga, Liberia, 1968.

following the crowd's response I heard a loud crack. I didn't give it much thought, assuming it was a nearby lightning strike accompanying one of those thunderstorms that passed through on a regular basis. At the end of regulation play, we were tied, 43-43. We went into overtime and scored seven unanswered points to earn our first victory.

Jim Gray

Joe Jauregui

Afterwards, outside, I realized that the ground was dry; no storm had passed through during the game. Looking to the top of the gym I noticed the corrugated metal sheet roof. The loud cracking sounds I had heard were the corrugated sheets slapping against each other, lifted each time the crowd let out its deafening roars. The walls of the gym were thick and the only direction the energy and noise of the crowd could go was up. The St. Martin's basketball team had literally "raised the roof."

The young team would go on to the tournament at the end of the season, the last of eight teams to qualify.

Next Chapter

The tournament grew in popularity over the years but was discontinued when civil conflict erupted in the 1980s. In 2012, due to the efforts of the Liberian Youth and Sports Minister, S. Tornorlah Varpilah, the up-country tournament was reestablished. Minister Varpilah, a graduate of St. Martin's, Gboveh High School, and Cuttington University, was a participant in the tournament in the 1970s. He is currently implementing a five-to-ten-year National Youth and Sports Development Program that he hopes can help bring Liberians together after years of civil war.

As reported by the *Liberian Daily Observer*, the 2012 tournament officially began when Liberian Vice President Joseph N. Boakai tossed the jump ball for the opening game held at the W.V.S. Tubman-Gray's gymnasium in Gbarnga. The tournament was renamed The McGowan Tournament in honor of Harold McGowan, a former Peace Corps Volunteer who dedicated 20 years of voluntary service to the development of basketball in Liberia.

And, oh yes, St. Martin's was the 2012 tournament champion.

Joe Jauregui served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, West Africa, from 1967-1969. While there he worked as a teacher and basketball coach at St. Martin's

School. Upon returning to his hometown of Santa Paula, Calif., Jauregui also returned to his high school alma mater and served

for more than 30 years as a teacher and administrator with the Santa Paula Unified High School District.

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Grit

How the Peace Corps prepared me to be an Ironman

by Kendra Goffredo

I shivered my way into the lake and inch my way to the back of the pack of novice triathletes. I stared incredulously across the lake to our turnaround buoy. My teeth chattered, my heart pumped, and butterflies battled in my stomach.

The last time I felt this afraid I was staring at the door separating me from my first classroom of Nepalese elementary students. I listened through the walls as they yelled at each other in words I didn't understand. I took a deep breath and pushed open the door.

Back in Lake Anna, Virginia, about to race my first triathlon, I recalled that fear. And just as I pushed through the door to the unknown in Nepal, I put my face in the water and started swimming.

That was two years ago.

Today, I am a five-time Ironman triathlete.

An Ironman is the ultimate endurance challenge, joining 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of biking, and 26.2 miles of running all in a single grueling day.

Here, I examine how the Peace Corps prepared me to be an Ironman.

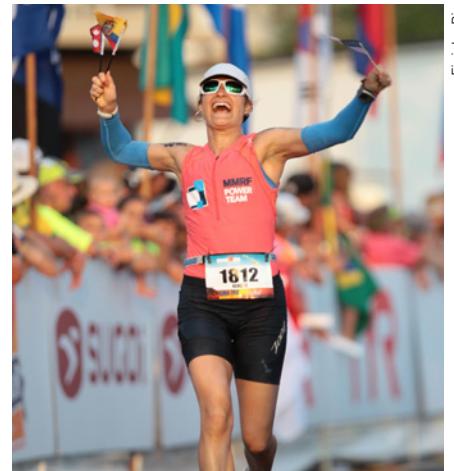
The modest Peace Corps allowance forced me to explore more economical hobbies than the live concerts and downtown dining I enjoyed back home. For my first Peace Corps tour (Nepal, 2003), I adopted a frugal new hobby: dodging goats on a Peace Corps-issued mountain bike. On my second tour (Ecuador 2005-2007), I took up jogging with the locals. Today, biking and running remain my favorite forms of entertainment; they are also pillars of Ironman training. And just as I did in Peace Corps, I continue to refuel with lentils and rice.

In a competition that can last up to 17 hours, a lot can—and does—go wrong.

At Ironman Arizona, I had two flats before mile ten of 112, and only one spare tube. At Ironman St. George, when the winds kicked up waves so high that I couldn't see to the next buoy, I floated on, and in the final few miles of Ironman Lake Placid, dehydration forced me to recalculate my goal pace. Luckily, rolling with the punches was a skill I developed in the Peace Corps. Each time the bus didn't show, or a meeting started two hours late, or a strike meant no mail for a month, or the monsoon rain re-soaked my hand-washed, nearly-dried clothes, I was really just rehearsing to roll with the punches of Ironman competition.

I was also rehearsing to spend long hours alone. When my host families went to bed early, I fought through the homesickness and learned to embrace loneliness. As an Ironman, I do a lot of training alone. While racing, I am also alone: a face in the water prevents making friends while swimming, and to negate the possibility of drafting on the bike, Ironman rules prevent riding within 10 meters of other competitors. And by the time I make it to the final leg of competition (i.e., the marathon), exhaustion and pain replace the desire to converse. But none of that matters, because my experience in the Peace Corps taught me to be strongest in my moments alone.

Training and racing alone places exceptional importance on self-accountability, a trait I developed in the Peace Corps. With remote guidance and little direct supervision from country staff, I was accountable mainly to myself. I arrived to class on time, even if my local counterparts did not. On my own initiative, I found local language tutors and worked to improve my communicability. I reached beyond



Kendra crossing the finish line at Ironman World Championships, representing the United States and her two Peace Corps countries, Nepal and Ecuador.

my given assignment as teacher trainer (Nepal) and public health educator (Ecuador) to build income generation projects, lead a violence prevention campaign, and coach a youth track team. As an Ironman-in-training, I am equally accountable to myself. No one stands at my bedside at 4:30 am when the alarm sounds. No one pushes me out the door to run. And when I get out of the pool, I am the only one who knows if I swam 2500 yards or 5000. As I cross the finish line, I am the only one who knows if I could have pushed harder.

This past October I crossed the most revered Ironman finish line in the world, that of the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. As I charged down the finishers' chute, I raised three small flags. With my left hand, I waved the flag of my country, the United States of America. And with my right hand, waving the flags of Nepal and Ecuador, I honored the children, the people, the goats, and the Peace Corps experiences that had prepared me to be an Ironman.

Kendra Goffredo works as a strategy consultant in Washington, D.C. In 2012, Kendra placed top 10 at the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. On her blog, chitoandkgo.com, she explores the intersection of endurance sport and public service.

Ball One

Baseball provides a key to youth transformation in the Ukraine

by Chris Kajtor

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine, I have witnessed firsthand the powerful effects of sports on a community and its young generation. Sports have always been a passion of mine, especially for their ability to reach different types of students, to forge stronger relationships with others, and as I learned in Ukraine, to serve as a link and bridge between languages and cultures. All too often though, sports are sidelined in areas where people's focus is mainly on survival. Living in a Ukrainian city and teaching at a university, I have seen these struggles firsthand.

"I don't have time to chase a ball around, Chris."

That is the response I got when I invited one of my first-year students to the local baseball camp. On another occasion one of my high performing female students quipped, "Oh no, Chris, that is for boys. Sports are not for girls."

I was in shock. My young, naïve self, thought that the whole world shared my values, especially when it came to sports. Growing up in the United States, I saw sports as providing a context in which to teach boys how to become men, and to help young women increase their self-esteem and confidence. I could not understand how such extremely intelligent, forward thinking and highly motivated students could make such statements. I later learned that there were multiple social barriers that kept people, especially women, from achieving their dreams in Ukraine.

For men in Ukraine, playing sports are often viewed as childish or a waste of one's time. The common mentality is that a man who is not working is lazy and irresponsible. I wanted to teach my male students that sports could offer

them real benefits.

Women often see sports as something that men do, not something that could enrich their own lives. Many women believe fulfillment will come from

following society's expectations—namely getting married, raising children and mastering domestic skills. I wanted to use sports as a vehicle to help my female students gain confidence and

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Sports

break through these artificial and suppressive social boundaries.

I knew that once they stepped on the field they would feel the instant benefits to their physical, intellectual, and social well-being, and perhaps develop the courage to lead the lives they dreamed of, not the ones forced on them. I knew not to push too hard, though. As Joseph Campbell once said, “Preachers err by trying to talk people into belief; better they reveal the radiance of their own discovery.”

So, my baseball practices began as lazy gatherings in the afternoons with a few students from the university. A couple months later, through word of mouth, some local kids joined us. The casual practices grew in size and frequency.

To build off of this interest, I invited these students to the local baseball camp that was started by past Peace Corps Volunteers. The camp taught kids the basics and stoked their interest in being active and playing sports, especially the American game of baseball, which was seen as “cool.”

The first year was rough and tough, with supplies minimal. I have memories of 12 kids sharing five broken gloves held together with sticks and tape, a ball sewn by the local village *babushka*, and one dilapidated bat that looked like it was straight from the New York Knickerbockers circa 1845. In my second summer I received major help from friends and family back home, especially from Greg Francois, Pat Brown (a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer) and the Santa Barbara Peace Corps Association, who generously helped supply the kids with new baseball equipment through the Peace Corps partnership grant.

Baseball started catching on in a big way; the local news crew even did stories on us. The camp had almost as many female campers as male campers, and the girls were competing at a high level. A year later, the university added a full-time baseball team to its sports program—the first in our city’s history!



Taking a break during baseball camp.



With the university baseball team.

As I sat on the grass watching the students play baseball one fall day, I felt humbled and gratified. These young athletes had confirmed my ideas about the positive effects of sports. I now know that sports are a great way to build community, teach life lessons and values, and provide an alternative to unhealthy lifestyles. Sports also provide structure for young boys and girls, and help to build up their self-esteem. Increased confidence can help them to achieve their dreams, even if their society and community members doubt the validity or feasibility of those dreams.

This is the potential of sports. Peace Corps gave me a great opportunity, as

well as the freedom to work toward change in the way my community partners and I saw fit. We found that sports were as effective as any other vehicle for developing our community. Even after we part ways, I hope we all keep striving for excellence, one swing at a time.

Chris Kajtor served as a TEFL volunteer at Khmelnitsky National University in Ukraine from 2010-2013. Chris is originally from Los Angeles, California and believes that sports and education can work together to improve lives and provide our future generation with valuable skills and life lessons.

Running Through

A Lesotho Volunteer tackles an ultramarathon

by Heather Mangan

Lt was somewhere between kilometers 46 and 48. I had been running for nearly six hours and was climbing a steady incline. The runners around me were walking, but my legs felt strong enough to continue the jogging pace. As I weaved in and around them, I wonder what was allowing me, a rookie marathoner, to keep up my pace.

It was Lesotho, I decided.

During my second year as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in this southern African nation, I began training for a 56-kilometer ultramarathon to be held in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2013. Like many Volunteers across the world, running is my coping mechanism after a long day at the secondary school where I teach English. Running offers me comfort and normalcy in a world that is beyond my comprehension. It is sometimes the only thing that makes sense in my day.

Before coming to Lesotho, I had never run more than 13 miles but decided I could run the ultra when I learned other PCVs had in previous years. I had already mustered up the courage to chase my

dream of joining the Peace Corps, so I figured it was time to tick off another item on my life's to-do list and signed up for the race.

For seven months, I ran along Lesotho's uneven and rocky dirt roads, being careful not to twist an ankle or step on broken glass. Herd boys took breaks from watching their flock to stare at me, sometimes offering a "hi" in a tone a few decibels higher than their normal voices, and women harvesting corn and beans happily greeted me as I passed.

My arms pumped and my legs dug on the paved road as I tried to tackle the Mountain Kingdom's rolling terrain. Those walking to and from different villages asked where I was going and young children, often hidden inside compounds, screamed "Lekhooa," or white person in Sesotho. My workouts were regularly stopped to wait for crossing cows or to make sure a village dog didn't come too close.

Occasionally, I picked up a running buddy. Sometimes flocks of children,

continued on page 35



Katie Buechel

Heather Mangan, a current Volunteer in Lesotho, trained for and ran an ultramarathon during her service. She finished the Old Mutual Two Oceans Ultra Marathon in six hours, 38 minutes. The race was held in March in Cape Town, South Africa.

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Letter to the Peace Corps Community

Acting Peace Corps Director update on Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response program

by Carrie Hessler-Radelet

Dear Peace Corps Family,
As always, the health, safety, and security of our Volunteers are Peace Corps' highest priorities. I am personally deeply committed to providing Volunteers with the training, guidance and support they need to remain healthy, safe and productive throughout their service.

The Peace Corps has established significant new policies and practices that reflect our strong commitment to reducing risks for Volunteers and responding effectively and compassionately to those who are victims of sexual assault and other crimes.

On Sept. 1, the Peace Corps formally launched the final stages of our Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response program, which has been developed over the past few years in consultation with post staff and Volunteers worldwide, as well as nationally recognized experts, including recommendations from the Department of Justice; the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN); and the Peace Corps' newly developed Sexual Assault Advisory Council.

With their help, we have developed a two-pronged approach. The first part is to reduce risks through training for Volunteers, including bystander intervention, risk assessment, and other skill-building sessions during pre- and in-service training; the second part is to ensure that Peace Corps staff responds effectively and compassionately when incidents do occur, through staff training, the new Office of Victim Advocacy, and the appointment of

trained sexual assault response liaisons at each post.

This new strategy incorporates more than 30 policy changes, extensive training for Volunteers and staff, and new clearly defined procedures for reducing the risk of sexual assault and responding to Volunteers who are victims of sexual assault. The program exceeds the requirements of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act, signed by President Obama in Nov. 2011, reflecting our ironclad commitment to the physical and emotional well-being of every single Volunteer.

Since Congress passed the Kate Puzey Act, the Peace Corps has worked diligently toward full implementation of the law. The agency has collaborated with internal and external stakeholders over the past few years to design and implement a comprehensive, Volunteer-centered sexual assault policy, supported primarily by the Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response program, along with a number of other reforms. Many components of this program have already been in effect for some time, including the Office of Victim Advocacy, new training for staff and Volunteers, and an immunity policy that encourages Volunteers to report sexual assault to the agency.

As of Sept. 1, there are several new resources and support services available to Peace Corps Volunteers. For example, Volunteers have a new option to report incidents, called restricted reporting, which strictly limits access to information about an assault to only those providing support services

requested by the Volunteer. Under restricted reporting, Volunteers who might not have come forward due to confidentiality concerns can now access services. Volunteers also now have access to sexual assault response liaisons at each post to accompany them through the in-country response process, should they request their services. With these final pieces in place, the Peace Corps' comprehensive Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response program is now in effect, and the Peace Corps nears full implementation of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act.

Our Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response program is critical to the health and safety of our Volunteers and the continued vitality of the Peace Corps. It reflects our commitment to evidence-based best practices in the delivery of services to safeguard Volunteer health, safety and security, and to helping Volunteers who have been sexually assaulted heal and recover with dignity.

We are working hard to make sure each and every Volunteer is familiar with these program changes. As with any new policy, there will be some adjustments, but I strongly believe the steps we have taken will result in better outcomes for our Volunteers. We will continue to evaluate the impact of this program as it is fully implemented and make adjustments as necessary.

*With warmest regards,
Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Acting Peace Corps Director
RPCV Western Samoa, 1981–83*

Options and Support Available for Peace Corps Volunteers who are Victims of Sexual Assault:

- The option for standard or restricted reporting
- Direct support from a sexual assault response liaison and/or victim advocate
- The provision of emergency health care
- A forensic exam, in accordance with host country laws
- Counseling and psychiatric medication, when requested
- A safety and medical treatment plan
- Evacuation for medical and mental health treatment
- Explanation of law enforcement and prosecutorial options
- Legal representation

Peace Corps' Commitment to Volunteers who are Victims of Sexual Assault:

- Compassion
- Safety
- Support
- Respect of Privacy
- Open Communication
- Legal Guidance
- Collaborative Discussions on Continuation of Service

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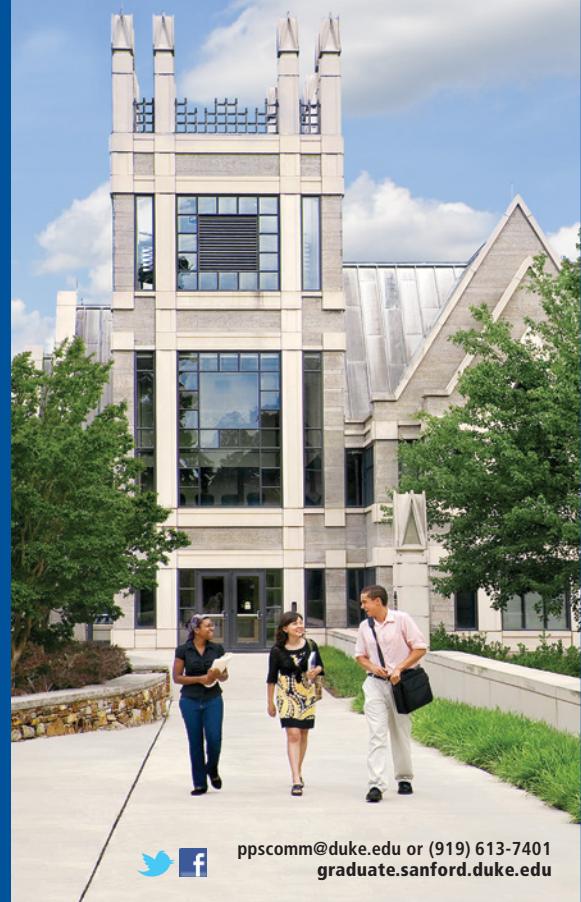
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Community Mapping Just Got A Whole Lot Easier

OpenStreetMap Launches New Map Editor at Peace Corps Headquarters

By Brooke Marchewka

Open-source mapping is here, and now it is easier than ever to do. Imagine yourself in your host community with your counterpart: viewing your community from satellite imagery, outlining the local clinic, primary school, homes, rivers, roads, and more with the click of a mouse. Imagine labeling your community's features and saving the changes you made to a global map- one that anyone can see, edit, and use. Imagine how this kind of mapping will revolutionize accessibility to rural geographic information, facilitate the transfer of computer skills to counterparts, and inform project planning for any organization that wants to make a difference in that community.

Recently, The Peace Corps Office of Innovation invited developers from OpenStreetMap, the forefront collaborative project to create an open-source free map of the world, to Headquarters to launch their new mapping editor. This user-friendly tool, called iD editor, makes it easier than ever before for anyone to contribute their knowledge to open-source mapping. According to Josh Campbell, GIS Architect at the U.S. Department of State, "this combination of widespread technology access and ease-of-use is an incredible achievement in the history of mapping."

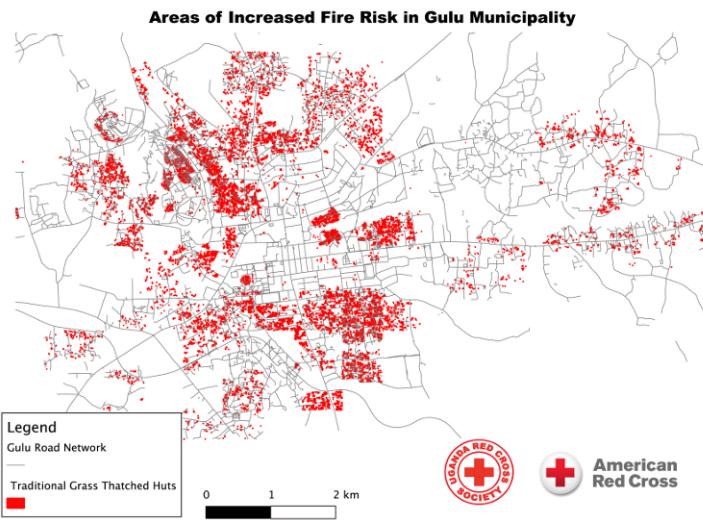
Since OpenStreetMap was created in 2004, thousands of contributors have collectively enriched the world map by mapping their own communities. Using low-cost GPS data and satellite imagery, "a base level map of a town, a village, a neighborhood etc. can be established

A map created by the Uganda and American Red Cross using geo-locations of straw-roofed houses on OpenStreetMap.

surprisingly fast among single individuals or a small group of volunteers," explains Alex Barth, data lead at MapBox. Perhaps OpenStreetMap's most appealing feature is also what sets it apart from any other mapping platform- its data is free and open-source, meaning that anyone can use data from the map to create web and mobile applications, customized maps, data visualizations for things like disaster risk simulations, and more. With OpenStreetMap, "all possibilities are open, the data is as good as yours," says Barth. Thanks to contributions from people around the world and a free, open-source platform, OpenStreetMap has become a rich source of vital geographic data for both private and governmental organizations such as Foursquare, Craigslist, Wikipedia, Apple, The U.S. Department of State, The Red Cross, and the World Bank.

But why should Peace Corps Volunteers care about using OpenStreetMap? Put simply, it magnifies the impact of what they are already doing. Community mapping has long been considered a valuable exercise for Volunteers in the sense that it encourages them to explore their host community and provokes critical project planning discussions. Traditionally, maps have been sketched on paper or murals. These maps are useful, but they are limited in terms of who sees them, who can update them, and who has access to the valuable cultural and geographic data they provide. Imagine if the community maps created by Peace Corps Volunteers were online and open-source.

That's right. We are talking about Volunteers contributing to a digital map that anyone around the world can access, edit, and use. Not only would open-source mapping liberate the valuable



Uganda and American Red Cross

geo-cultural knowledge that Peace Corps Volunteers accumulate during their service, but it would also quite literally-put rural communities on the map. According to Barth, maps depicting the most remote areas of the world are “often not available, inaccurate or just plain out of date.” Thus, Peace Corps Volunteers are in a unique position to provide detailed maps and to empower their communities to upkeep the map long after they have completed their service.

“Peace Corps Volunteers build deep relationships in the communities they serve, and that is in fact the key to see change through technology. It takes more than exposure and capacity, but time for a community to absorb, discuss and discover the right applications and approaches.”

Mikel Maron, former Board Member at the OpenStreetMap Foundation and Director of GroundTruth Initiative, emphasizes how the adoption of open-source mapping reverberates far beyond the individual Peace Corps Volunteer’s service and how it can benefit the community itself. When a community takes ownership of their map, there is great potential for increasing community solidarity and making information available to everyone that can stimulate community economic development, support efforts to improve resource allocation, and support disaster relief efforts, among other things.

GroundTruth Initiative, a new media and technology consulting company specializing in community-based participatory technologies, has demonstrated the profound community impact of OpenStreetMap through their project Map Kibera. The project started with the goal of making Kibera, Kenya- one of the largest slums in the world- more than just a “blank spot” on the map. Three years later, it has produced a number of positive outcomes for the community. Residents of Kibera gained confidence in their new computer skills, increased familiarity with GPS technology, group solidarity, and pride.

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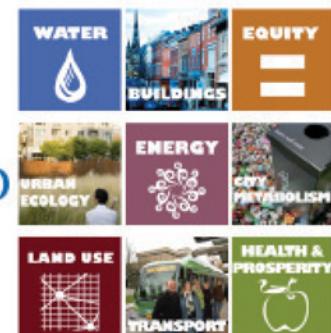


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Buzz from the Field



Uganda and American Red Cross

The proximity of straw-roofed houses in Uganda poses an increased fire risk.

On the community level, Kibera gained more legitimacy as a neighborhood and residents felt less marginalized. Furthermore, groups focused on issues in health, gender-based violence, sanitation, mobile phone services, farm-to-market supply chain, large-scale conflict mapping, peace promotion, and others expressed interest in using the data from Map Kibera for their own projects. Maron attributes the success of Map Kibera to the sense ownership that community members felt in mapping their community, but especially the “perseverance and growing trust over 3 years (and counting).” He says, “that potential in communities around the world is what so excites me about interest in OpenStreetMap at the Peace Corps.”

The Red Cross’ mapping initiative in Uganda is another example of how organizations are utilizing OpenStreetMap data in creative ways for their own projects. In 2012, the Uganda and American Red Cross partnered with the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team to create comprehensive maps of the cities of Gulu and Lira in northern Uganda. Using satellite images, volunteers and members of the Uganda Red Cross society traced the locations of straw-roofed houses in the Gulu and Lira municipalities on OpenStreetMap. Then, using the geographic density of these houses as an indicator of increased fire risk, the Red Cross gained a more comprehensive understanding of where to focus their efforts in fire risk reduction.

The U.S. Department of State’s

Humanitarian Information Unit supplied the satellite imagery for this project and continues to empower the OpenStreetMap community through their Imagery to the Crowd initiative, which shares commercial high resolution satellite imagery with the volunteer mapping community. Josh Campbell emphasizes how crucial maps are to implementing quick, effective emergency response programs. If a baseline map of an area already exists before a disaster occurs, the OpenStreetMap community “can focus on updating the map with areas affected by the disaster, and not on building the foundation of the map,” says Campbell.

Applications of OpenStreetMap such as this would not be possible without the mapping done by people on the local level. This is where Peace Corps Volunteers can make a big difference. Campbell explains, “Peace Corps Volunteers can provide the descriptive, cultural details about the places where they live and work that only comes from being in the community. No satellite image can tell you the name of a road, a business, or a school. It is these details that transform a collection of geographic data about roads and buildings into a real ‘place.’”

So why isn’t this happening on a grand scale already? Since the dawn of open-source mapping, perceived barriers such as lack of coding skills, computer and Internet access have stood in the way of Peace Corps Volunteers using and teaching open-source mapping. But these barriers are breaking down. With OpenStreetMap’s iD editor, Volunteers

do not need to know how to code or even have any experience with open-source mapping; in fact, the tool was designed with first-time users in mind. In regards to computer availability, the 2012 Annual Volunteer Survey reports that 80 percent of Volunteers have or regularly use a laptop or desktop computer in their community. While 51 percent of Volunteers report that they usually or always have Internet access at their residence, those for whom access is particularly limited can edit the map offline and upload their changes when they do have access. They can also take advantage of projects such as Walking Papers, which integrate paper maps into the data-collection process for OpenStreetMap. Furthermore, lack of awareness of open-source mapping has been a barrier to Volunteer adoption. If you recall Oliver Cunningham’s piece *Map It!* in *WorldView*’s winter edition, he says “the reason it’s not happening already is because people don’t know—getting the word out is the first step.”

Peace Corps Volunteers can truly contribute to tangible humanitarian applications of open-source mapping by making local knowledge universally accessible. More importantly, Peace Corps Volunteers can empower community members to maintain the map, thereby enriching a global reservoir of data that humanitarian organizations tap into to improve their understanding of local conditions, utilize their resources more efficiently, and ultimately magnify their impact.

If you are interested in OpenStreetMap, visit www.learnOSM.org and get started. To learn more about this initiative, the Peace Corps Office of Innovation at innovation@peacecorps.gov.

Brooke Marchewka is a member of the Peace Corps Office of Innovation and an International Development student at The George Washington University. Learn more about The Office of Innovation’s work at <http://innovationchallenge.peacecorps.gov/>

The Swoop

A Botswana bus ride in five acts

by Mignon Senuta

Invite you to picture a woman in a sweltering bus, with an infant on one knee, a toddler on the other, and perhaps even a 5-year-old standing between. She's disturbed by people squeezing down the aisle, vendors "yelling and selling," and a driver that periodically slams on the breaks to swerve away from a stubborn cow or donkey.

My favorite aspect of this scene is the readiness with which another adult will "swoop up" one of these children and allow them to sit on their lap for the duration of the trip. After more than a year in Botswana, I have perfected "the swoop."

It's become clear to me that my willingness "to swoop" comes from a more selfish place. The moment I place that child on my lap, I feel like I am a temporary ally to this mother. On this day, on this particular bus, I can help her with this daunting burden. There is often very little dialogue; sometimes there is no verbal communication at all. It's wonderfully simplistic.

Act I

Over the next several hours, the small child on my lap will grow more comfortable. Perhaps they will spend the first hour sitting straight up and turning around only periodically, to steal glances at me.

Act II

By hour two, he or she will be sleeping, cradled in my lap, their knees pulled to their chest, drooling on my neck. I cannot stress enough the restorative effect these children can have in these moments. The mother and I will sometimes become a seamless entity, allowing the children to sprawl out more comfortably on our combined lap—an extra leg here, another shoulder there.



Hollis Carter, PCV

Spending time in the village with friends; September 2012, Mathathane, Botswana.

Act III

At the next stop the mother may hand me some pula notes. It's understood I will buy some snacks through the window while she focuses on breastfeeding. At this stage we make our first co-parenting decision: finding a balance between affordability and nutrition. I'll suggest a banana; a bag of chips or biscuits are often preferred. I'll usually ask if water or juice is an acceptable substitute for the sugary soda. In the end, the unhealthy options are too plentiful and tempting for most to avoid. I can't count the number of times I've seen infants, less than a year old, sipping from a can of Fanta.

Act IV

If the trip is longer than a few hours, the mother will at some point take the child off the bus to pee. I will, in turn, take custody of the infant. I've never had a woman ask me to take their child outside to pee, but I feel confident it will happen one day.

Act V

When we arrive at our destination, we will begin the process of packing up all the family's belongings. I will be covered in crumbs and start digging for the garbage and wrappers we've tucked in various crevices during the journey. The child will peel his or her face from my chest or shoulder and I'll wipe away the drool.

I almost always feel as though we should have a huddle to cheer and congratulate one another on a successful

mission; instead, the mother will utter a humble "thank you very much." The small child and I exchange one last smile, and they are gone. The mother with an infant tied to her back and a small child tottering behind disappear into the bustling bus rank.

At the end of one of my more recent journeys, a man said to me, squeezing his hands together, "Thank you. You are a very nice English." He caught me by surprise so I laughed a little before noticing the earnestness in his voice. I thanked him and reminded him that he was surrounded by amazing mothers today and perhaps it is *these women* he should be thanking for performing their awesome responsibilities so well, without complaint. I then added, "After all, in Botswana, her children are *our* children, isn't it?" He smiled.

Epilogue

For me, the experience concludes when we vacate the bus. It's these interludes, oftentimes unnoticed, that make up one's Peace Corps experience. I am a "swooping" tourist in the lives of these women for only a few consecutive hours,, and I have no doubt I will miss these sweaty and exhausting bus rides with these mothers and their children. Meanwhile they will bear the burden of parenting alone the next day... and the next day ... and the next day

Mignon Senuta is a Peace Corps Volunteer currently serving in Botswana.

Niger and the Red Island

A Volunteer can leave his heart in two places

by Eric H. Campbell

Mazava? Do you understand?" my host mother asked me in Malagasy.

"Oh'o. Yes," I replied, in a completely different language, from a country thousands of miles away.

It was a cloudy, chilly evening in the highlands of Madagascar. My stage had landed in the country five days earlier. On this night we had met our host families, and moved in with them for the first half of pre-service training (PST).

My host parents were a farming couple, Joseph and Bakoly. Their children were already grown and living in Tana, the capital. Their two-story house, which wouldn't have been out of place in 19th century Appalachia, perched on the side of a steep hill overlooking their rice paddies. On some mornings, thick mist would obscure the ground below, giving the house the feeling of being impossibly high up in some forbidding mountain range.

In fact, it was surprising how alpine the highlands turned out to be. We had arrived in July 2011, in the dead of Madagascar's winter. Temperatures rarely rose above 60, and could get near freezing at night. Eucalyptus forests dotted with tall pines blanketed the ridgelines. It was not at all the tropical idyll some of us had been expecting.

It was even farther removed from my first Peace Corps assignment. Seven months earlier I had been finishing up PST in Niger. The country was flat and sandy, with days around 110 degrees. Trees were sparse, except for mango groves tended by villagers.

Nine days after swearing-in, Peace Corps officials made the decision to evacuate Niger due to security risks from al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).



Rice paddies cover almost any flat, low patch of ground in the highlands (Lohomby, Madagascar).

We said heart-wrenching goodbyes to friends we had just made at our sites, and left that stark country, with its wonderfully hospitable people, behind.

But some traces of Niger were not easily erased. In PST there I had learned Zarma, the country's third-most widespread language after French and Hausa. And it was Zarma that rushed back into my brain at the very time I needed to impress my host parents with Malagasy.

Bakoly lit an oil lamp and led me into the house. Joseph followed behind, grinning unabashedly at the pleasure of having a guest. He spoke to me rapidly.

"Ay man fah—..." I paused, wrestling with the two competing tongues in my head. "Ay... tsy mazava. I don't understand."

Bakoly clarified for him, slowly. "You should get up early for your Peace Corps classes," she said, beaming. "Soon you will be very good at speaking Malagasy."

"Oh'o, mazava," I replied. *Or at least a hybrid of these two languages*, I thought.

The next morning, Bakoly was



Ellen Miller

Author's portrait with host parents Joseph and Bakoly (Lohomby, Madagascar).

sweeping as I emerged from my room.

"Ah, Éric, natory tsara? Did you sleep well?"

"Oh'o, ay jiirbi a boori. I slept well."

Stop speaking Zarma! You're not in Zarmaland anymore! I cursed myself.

"Ény, natory tsara," I corrected myself.

Over the next few weeks it seemed like there were uncountable differences between Niger and the Red Island.

Casual Gasy Christianity stood in

contrast to stern Nigerien Islam. Raucously bleating herds of sheep were replaced by clusters of docile zebu. Arrow-straight highways through the desert gave way to crazily twisting mountain roads. Highland trees offered scores of tangy orange *pibasy* fruit for anyone who cared to pick them, while even a single banana had seemed precious in the Sahel.

PST in Madagascar ended all too soon, and my stage dispersed to the far, varied corners of the island: jungle, beach, highlands, and even the burning Androy Desert. My site, Manambaro, was a lush farming community in the far south. Over the months I settled in among the

rice paddies and tomato fields and lychee groves, and I didn't reminisce very often about Niger.

Yet it always stayed with me. Niger may have been a physically harsher place, but it became our home, however briefly.

Most RPCVs only had the chance to serve in one country. I am incredibly lucky to have gotten to know two, almost polar opposites. Long live them both.

Eric Campbell (Niger 2010-11, Madagascar 2011-12) is a photojournalist and blogger living in Boyce, Virginia. He received a Bachelor's in French from Guilford College, and is an avid student of languages the world over.

Running Through

continued from page 27

usually barefoot, followed me, and our jogging became more of moving dancing as we giggled and waved our arms. Sometimes one of my students carried along beside me. Boys commented how slow my pace was and the girls wondered why I wasn't tired yet. We'd talk about school and their family life before they turned off toward the direction of their home, allowing me to know them just a bit better.

The Peace Corps "fishbowl effect" is much greater when you are running six or seven hours at a time. Often the most exhausting part wasn't steep hills or the high altitude, rather the constant staring, demanding of sweets or darting away from speeding taxis.

However, I eventually stopped running to escape and found a home here. Running allowed me to absorb Lesotho's beauty and generosity—the sun rising above the mountains during early morning runs, strangers welcoming me into their homes and offering me cold water and my host family's concern when I was gone too long. It was in those moments that my foreigner mask was removed and I felt like I belonged.

As I was nearing the top of the last hill during the ultra race, I realized how much Lesotho had given me during all those training hours together. I may have raced in South Africa, but it was Lesotho's long inclines that strengthened my legs and allowed me to handle the hills without excessive exhaustion while its high altitude kept my breath steady. Above all, it was the nation's companionship during those long, multiple-hour runs that reassured me in my ability to accomplish this, and really any feat.

Another Volunteer, who ran the race a year before I did, reminded me that not many Volunteers run ultra marathons and not many ultra marathoners are in the Peace Corps.

Yet, I am not sure I could have done one without the other. My service enabled me to become an ultramarathoner, and my race showed me the true gifts of being in rural Africa. I've been able to experience Lesotho and my time here in a deeper way because I ran through it.

Heather Mangan is an education volunteer in Lesotho (2011-13). She also served as a community and youth education volunteer in Niger (2010-11).

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How They Spend Their Sundays

Excerpt from the new short story collection

by Courtney McDermott

The dead car didn't have a steering wheel. Someone had sawed it off, so Seabata had rigged one out of chicken wire. Slight beneath his branchy fingers, it gave him the illusion that he could drive. Always driving at an angle, for one tire remained on the car, sunken and muddy. The others stripped by thieves.

Shorty lay on the floor of the car—the seats taken to sit in a hut—his feet bare and resting on the dash. He smoked a joint. It nestled in his wide white piano key teeth. He rubbed his fingers up and down his chest bone, playing his ribs.

"We could play football today."

"Nah." Seabata arched up and over the wheel, pretending that the road was getting steep. He wanted to be a driver, so he practiced in the hollows of dead cars.

The roads of Mafeteng were junkyards for abandoned objects and animals and body parts (for Ntate Fanthu's arm was found in a dried gulch, after a knife fight).

"I want to make break things. Like dinner plates. Make them out of clay and let them bake in the sun. Then break them over Lefu's head."

"He's a dumb fuck."

"Eh."

"But that sounds stupid. You say some stupid things Seabata."

"Shut up."

"You shut up."

"We could play football, you know. If you want."

Shorty kept smoking. The air in the car smelled of sheep and sweet dagga because all the windows were gone too.

They spent Sundays like this. After foot-stomping church when the village crept like ants into the schoolhouse and sang through lunchtime. Lunchtime was just a thought, fleeting, because Seabata hadn't eaten. If his older sister was less tired today, there might be the scrapings of dinner.

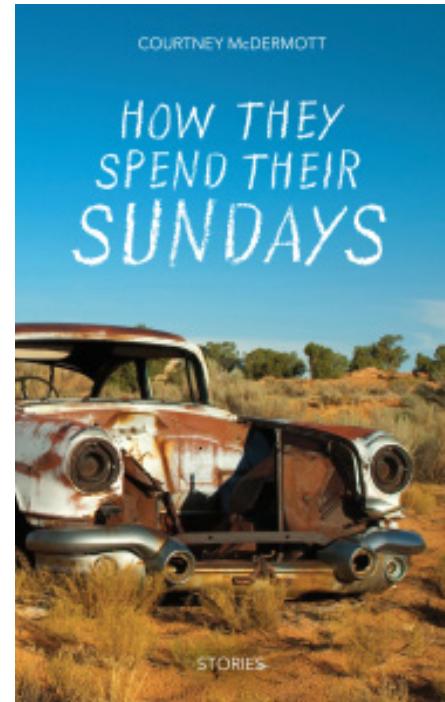
He had breakfast.

Shorty lived with his uncle a good hour away—his parents buried in a ditch in South Africa. He could see South Africa across the Lesotho border, but when he looked he didn't think about his parents. Their faces were two blurs and all he could remember were their noses. His mother's was like three squashed grapes of the same ruddy purple color, his father's flat and wide, the nostrils high and black.

And that wasn't much to go on.

Though Seabata looked at his world through the emptiness where the windshield would have once been, he didn't really see the yellow rocks or the blue haze of South Africa. His eyes would still blink, but only in anticipation for the evening when he'd no longer have to see (and could just sleep).

Seabata was an orphan. He had a mother somewhere, and his father was dead from a time when billboards didn't tattoo their faces with warnings about AIDS. So he was only an orphan. But Shorty had neither parent, so the government liked to call him a double-orphan. But "double" made Shorty think of a lot of something, and he had nothing, and this just didn't seem right. His uncle liked to tell him, "You're a double-orphan Shorty, and you've got



Designed by Monique Carabajal, Whitepoint Press.

nothing, so you've got to listen to me."

The boys had conversations of single thoughts.

"It's hot."

"I saw a white family the other day."

"I'm hungry."

"That bird is flying crazy."

They made an interesting pair: Shorty with his narrow waist and tiny-boned body, his skin inky and oily, his eyes big and wide like he was spooked. Seabata was tall and sort of leaned forward when he walked, his neck bent like the spout of a pitcher, his long, crooked jaw spilling towards the ground. His broad shoulders spread like wings and his facial features were delicate and small, embedded in a sandy-colored face.

If they had the term best friends, this is what they would be.

Courtney McDermott (*Lesotho 2006-07*) earned her MFA in creative writing from the University of Notre Dame. *How They Spend Their Sundays* is her first collection of short stories and will be published by Whitepoint Press in September 2013. She teaches English in Massachusetts. All of the stories are placed in the countries of Lesotho and South Africa.

Say Yes To Transformation

2013 Shriver Award winner powerfully blends passion for Africa, summer camp

by Erica Burman and Kelly Reid

When in doubt, say ‘Yes.’ Phillip Lilienthal (Ethiopia 1967-69) brought that message to Peace Corps Connect - Boston in June, where he accepted the National Peace Corps Association’s 2013 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service. The award is given annually “to a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who continues to make a sustained and distinguished contribution, whether that be to humanitarian causes at home, abroad, or through innovative social entrepreneurial efforts to bring about significant, long term-change.” Phil was honored for his efforts as founder and president of Global Camps Africa (GCA), a nonprofit that “changes the lives of South Africa’s vulnerable children and youth by providing HIV/AIDS prevention education and training through high-

impact residential and day camp experiences and continuing education.”

Forty-five years ago, Phil was a young lawyer serving with his wife Lynn in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia. Emperor Haile Selassie’s granddaughter was interested in creating a permanent summer camp to foster understanding among children of different tribal ethnicities, and she mentioned it to the Peace Corps staff. A staff member then mentioned it to Phil. Would he be interested in taking on the project? Mind you Phil had never actually *administered* a camp, but his family owned a camp in Maine.

He loved the camp experience. He said “yes.”

Together with Lynn, a social work Volunteer, they successfully staged four two-week sessions over two summers. Physically disabled children, children of

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Phil Lilienthal, founder and president of Global Camps Africa.

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Why I Give

“Millennial” generation RPCV
Kristina Owens

by Natalie Hall

As part of our on-going series of interviews with National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) supporters, special projects volunteer Natalie Hall (Thailand 1967-69) reached out to NPCA Board and Director's Circle member Kristina Owens (Bolivia 2000-02) to find out why this member of the “Gen X”/“Millennial” age cohort supports the NPCA.

Natalie: Kristina, you were just elected to the NPCA Board in 2012. Why did you decide to increase your time and financial commitment to NPCA?

Kristina: It just seemed the logical thing to do. I became a NPCA member within six months of completing my Peace Corps Service in Bolivia. When I moved to Washington, DC, I became active in the RPCVs of Washington, D.C. member group. Chairing the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary committee for RPCV/W put me in close contact with NPCA.

NPCA: That was a huge undertaking. How did you organize it?

Kristina: We had five committees to handle the Arlington Cemetery program, the walk of flags, development, communication, and year-long events honoring the 13 original Peace Corps countries. We worked closely with NPCA during those two years.

NPCA: How did working with NPCA change your perspective?

Kristina: I could really see the value of having RPCVs represented on the national level by NPCA. Local and Country of Service groups can accomplish a lot, but together we can do so much more! NPCA is that go-to organization



NPCA

Kristina Owens (left) enjoys the harbor cruise with fellow RPCVs at Peace Corps Connect – Boston.

for the whole Peace Corps community. I felt it was very important that I contribute my time and financial support and bring the local perspective to NPCA and vice versa. I love the work I do.

NPCA: The 50th Anniversary in 2011 was such a highlight for many of us. How did you feel at the end?

Kristina: I loved doing it. It is definitely my kind of thing to work with others to be successful. I learned to really listen to everyone and then make decisions. It wasn't always easy, especially fundraising, but we were very proud of our part in the 50th.

NPCA: Did you continue with the RPCV/W Board after the 50th?

Kristina: Yes, I stayed on to wrap up after the 50th and share what we had learned. It then seemed logical to move on to the NPCA Board. The Mid-Atlantic/Nationwide position was open and I was elected in 2012. So I represent the groups and many members in the Mid-Atlantic area as well as national groups, such as the LGBT group, which are not Country of Service groups.

Natalie: You have a very interesting family story of your connection with Peace Corps. Tell me about it.

Kristina: My father was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru. There he married

my mother and they moved back to the United States. Years later my twin sister, Wendy, and I both joined the Peace Corps.

NPCA: That's quite unusual. Could you serve together?

Kristina: No, I served in Bolivia in 2000-2002 and she was in Paraguay. It was Peace Corps policy to separate siblings and that's what we wanted too. I had graduated from State University of New York at Geneseo with a major in Spanish and minor in Chemistry. Then Wendy and I were accepted into the Loret Miller Ruppe Peace Corps Master's International program in Forestry at Michigan Tech.

Natalie: What did you do in Bolivia?

Kristina: I taught environmental science and had a fruit tree project. The RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison sponsored my community library project so I knew about the importance of the RPCV groups in supporting Volunteers in the field.

NPCA: What did you do when you came back from Bolivia?

Kristina: I finished my Master's and started on my doctorate, but decided to find a job instead. I have been at the Department of Agriculture since 2004. I'm a biologist in the Animal, Plant, and Health Inspection Service located in the Washington, D.C. area.

NPCA: So what did you think you wanted to bring to the NPCA Board?

Kristina: I'm just at the end of Generation X and I identify with the Millennials who want to know "What's in it for me?" I believe I can help them see the bigger picture. For example, Peace Corps Connect-Boston really demonstrated what NPCA does and why it's important. There are things that local groups just can't do completely on their own, such as advocacy work. We need to have a national plan to be effective on the Hill and NPCA provides that plan. I can say that because I have seen things on a local level, and now on the national level too.

Natalie: Is advocacy a passion for you?

Kristina: Yes, I've been involved in advocacy since 2009 and am the new chair of the Advocacy Committee on the NPCA Board. One of our priorities is to get more state coordinators to connect RPCVs with their Representatives and Senators.

NPCA: Do Board members have to contribute a certain amount financially?

Kristina: Board members are encouraged to give on the Director's Level (\$1000 a year) financially and/or in-kind. At this point in my career I do a lot of the in-kind donations such as shared housing for Peace Corps Connect: Boston.

Natalie: You sound excited about your experiences with RPCV/W and now NPCA. Can you sum it up?

Kristina: Yes, as I said I love the work—to work across generations, listen to people and work together toward success. I have learned to be a leader and to move forward through my involvement with NPCA.

To learn more about the many ways you can support the National Peace Corps Association, visit our Contributing page. You can make a donation online at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/donate.

Natalie Hall (Thailand 1967–69) is NPCA special projects volunteer.



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Recent Achievements of Our Community

by Jonathan Pearson

BOTSWANA

Alice Fitzpatrick (1988-89) was honored as the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's 2013 Citizen of the Year. Following a Peace Corps experience in her mid-40s, Fitzpatrick returned to the United States with a newfound passion for nonprofits. She served as president and executive director of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, growing the company's assets from \$7 million to \$42 million during her 18 years of leadership. Fitzpatrick also started the first regional Women & Girls Fund, created a \$200,000 endowment for the area's libraries, and launched a "Let's Read" program in local schools.

COLOMBIA

After 34 years of service, **Ken Shirley** (1976-78) has retired from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC). A fisheries biologist, Shirley served a seven-county area in east-central Arkansas. In a news article published in the Baxter Bulletin, AGFC Director of Fisheries Mark Oliver praised Shirley for his work and dedication. "Ken always had the state's resources and the people at heart. We've had a good time of it. He's been a great asset." Nearly 200 people turned out for a celebration in late July to honor Shirley's service.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

With content inspired by his days as a Peace Corps Volunteer, **Andrew Ade**'s play *A Question of Taste* was recently brought to life in New York City. The one-act work, which details the ideological struggle between two generations of Congolese men trying

CHILE

Kay Muldoon-Ibrahim (1966-68) held a photography exhibit at Cecil College, where she taught photojournalism from 2005 to 2010. The exhibit's theme was "Our Shared Humanity" and featured photographs of the Chilean people Muldoon-Ibrahim served throughout her time as a Peace Corps Volunteer. During that period, she was also responsible for traveling around the countryside to document other Peace Corps projects in order to help develop promotional materials for the Santiago office. Her work was also on display at the Organization of American States in Washington during Peace Corps' 50th anniversary and was compiled into a book titled *Images of Chile from the 1960s*. Along with the Peace Corps, Muldoon-Ibrahim has worked as a freelance photographer for various United Nations organizations, the World Bank, Encyclopaedia Britannica Education Corporation, and Scholastic Magazine.



Jane Schaefer

to oust a cruel dictator, previously won numerous awards at Pittsburgh's "Theater Festival in Black & White," including Best Play. Andrew is also an associate professor of English at Westminster College.

President Barack Obama nominated **Stephanie Sanders Sullivan** (1980-83) to serve our nation as Ambassador to the Republic of Congo. Sullivan's nomination requires confirmation by the United States Senate. In addition to being a Peace Corps Volunteer, Sullivan also served as Peace Corps' Chief of Operations for the Africa Region from 1994-96. She is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, served overseas in Ghana and Cameroon and has held several key positions over the last two decades within the State Department.

ECUADOR

Folwell Dunbar (1989-92) is the new, first-time principal of Kate Middleton Elementary School, a new charter school in Gretna, Louisiana. Music, dance, theatre and other art forms will be a focal point at the school. Students will learn basic subjects with the arts incorporated throughout the curriculum. The school opened in August. Dunbar has been working in education since his Peace Corps service.

The White House honored **L. Mireya Reith** of Fayetteville, Ark. earlier this year as one of 11 Cesar Chavez "Champions of Change." The recognition honors those who embody the spirit of Cesar Chavez's legacy and commit themselves to working in their

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Say Yes To Transformation

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U.S. and British embassy staff, children from all over Addis Ababa came. Phil treasures a photo of an Ethiopian child on crutches and an embassy child, their arms wrapped around each other at the end of a fun-filled day. It turned out that the benefits of summer camp—experiential learning, tolerance, acceptance, and sportsmanship—were just as powerful outside of the American context, and this made a deep impression on Phil.

And then he and Lynn returned home.

Like for many RPCVs, “life happened.” Phil joined a law firm, did a few stints with the Peace Corps as staff, opened his own law practice, and ultimately took over management of his family’s summer camp when his father died. Yet always in the back of his mind was the idea that someday, when he “grew up,” he would return to Africa to run camps like all those years ago in Ethiopia. Says Phil, “Finally, 35 years later, at age 62, I realized that I had grown up and needed to act.”

Again, he said “yes.”

Phil retired and visited several African countries in search of a local partner organization that shared his vision. He found one in South Africa and in 2004 opened Camp Sizanani, which is the Zulu word for “helping one another.”

The 140 campers who attend each eight-day session receive very little in terms of tangible goods: a hat, a t-shirt and a teddy bear. And the curriculum is not that different from an American camp’s: arts and crafts, theater, swimming, sports, nutrition, adventure, and life skills. On the surface it is all about the process of learning fun new skills, but dig a little deeper and it becomes clear that higher order skills and messages are embedded into every activity. Learning to swim, for example, is not just about overcoming fear of the water. By confronting the myth that black South Africans can’t swim, campers are nudged to think about other assumptions they “know” to be true, such as how HIV/AIDS is transmitted, or the role of women.

“Arriving on the first day ... the campers look like children without a care in the world,” explains Phil. “As the life skills classes move through the various phases of the curriculum, the stories come out of abuse, beatings, rape, incest, and deprivation. Many have to be educated as to what abuse is. They don’t know it as anything but the norm, as the condition we describe as “abusive” is one that they have been living with all their lives, including physical, psychological and sexual abuse. Educating children that this is not the norm can change not only the children at camp, but those siblings and friends they interact with after camp.”

Nearly 10 years in, over 5,200 children have attended the camp, which is run by trained locals with help from volunteers. To extend the influence of the camp experience, GCA has created neighborhood youth clubs that offer a four-hour biweekly day program of

recreational activities, plus life skills and a snack. No one is turned away. Where before children faced violence, gangs, prostitution, and little else outside their doors, now they have alternatives.

“The strength we are giving the campers is in the form of transformation,” says Phil. “We are not changing the circumstances of their lives; we are, rather, giving them the tools to see their lives as possibilities for excellence despite their current circumstances.”

Learn more about Global Camps Africa at www.globalcampsafica.org. Learn more about the Shriver Award, and past awardees, at www.peacecorpsconnect.org/awards.

Erica Burman (The Gambia 1987-89) is director of communications for the National Peace Corps Association. Kelly Reid attends Colgate University and was a communications intern at the NPCA during summer 2013.

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Recent Achievements of Our Community

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communities to advocate and organize around immigration-related issues. Reith is Executive Director of Arkansas United Community Coalition (AUCC), Arkansas' first nonprofit working at the state level to empower immigrants. She founded AUCC in order to more broadly foster the integration of her state's newly emerged immigrant population. Reith currently serves her state as the first Latina and youngest person ever appointed by the governor to the Arkansas State Board of Education.

GAMBIA

Clinton Etheridge (1970-72) is playing a lead role with the Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies (SEED), which recently launched its first regional innovation center in West Africa. The innovation center is headquartered in Accra Ghana. Using a hands-on approach with continuous business coaching, the center hopes to stimulate economic opportunities and job creation by scaling high potential businesses at the local and regional level. Etheridge was selected as one of the first five volunteer coaches to participate in the program. A Stanford MBA graduate, Etheridge helped found the California Economic Development Lending Initiative, which advised small and medium-sized businesses across California in job creation and economic development.

GHANA/SOLOMON ISLANDS

Ghana RPCV **Dr. Luther Ward** has begun a yearlong Global Surgery Fellowship, working at a teaching hospital in Haiti where he will be coordinating visiting physicians and setting up a surgical residency program. The Fellowship program is offered through Harvard University. He had been working at Curry General Hospital in southwest Oregon. Ward's wife **Lisa Ward**, a Solomon Islands RPCV, holds a PhD in Public Health and Sanitation

GAMBIA

The White House honored **Craig Michael Lie Njie** (2005-08) as one of 14 individuals recognized as an "Open Government and Civic Hacking Champion of Change." The recognition honors "extraordinary Americans working to improve their communities through technology, innovation and civic participation. As CEO of Kismet World Wide Consulting, Lie consults worldwide on topics including privacy, security, technology design and development, education, entrepreneurship, mobile application development, management, and sales and marketing. During his Peace Corps service, Lie designed, deployed and taught the first Bachelor's in Computer Science program at the University of the Gambia.



from Tulane University. She worked in Haiti while earning her doctorate.

GHANA

Denny Daetz is one of six recipients of the 2013 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards. The annual awards "celebrate the teaching profession, the important role of teachers in society and seek to inspire others to pursue this noble profession." Recipients are nominated by former students whose stories demonstrate how one teacher can transform a life. Daetz was nominated by a former student who passionately recalled the three month trip his teacher organized back in 1976, in which 12 students traveled back with him to his country of service, allowing his students to experience living with Ghanaian people.

GUATEMALA

Crista Gardner was honored in May with the Leadership Legacy Scholarship awarded by WTS International, the professional association for the advancement of women in transportation. Gardner is a Senior Transportation Planner for the Portland, Oregon Metro System. Her roles with the transit system include station area and land use

planning, public involvement and program management. The scholarship will allow Gardner to complete her Executive Master's in Public Administration at Portland State University, with a focus on leadership, international affairs, urban planning and local government.

KYRGYZSTAN

Erin Luhmann (2008-10) won *The New York Times'* "Win-A-Trip" contest, in which she got to travel to Mali, Chad, and Niger with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Nick Kristof. While there, Erin wrote blog posts for *The New York Times* website and focused on issues surrounding global poverty. She currently studies journalism at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and runs a blog called "The Global Pulse."

MALAWI

South Dakota State University named **Nancy Fahrenwald** as the new Dean of the College of Nursing. Fahrenwald joined the university's staff in 1995, after serving as an AIDS coordinator in Malawi's Zomba district and as a nurse educator at the Lilongwe School for Health Sciences. She has been the Associate Dean for Research in the SDSU College of Nursing since 2009.

MEXICO

University of Buffalo graduate **Jajean Rose-Burney** has returned to western New York to assume the role of development coordinator for the Western New York Land Conservancy. The Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for the benefit of future generations. Rose-Burney and his wife, **Ana Hernandez Balzac**, both served as Volunteers in Puebla, Mexico.

MOROCCO

Effective December 2013, **Beth Dunford** (Morocco 1992-94) has been appointed to be USAID Mission Director to Nepal. Dunford was last the deputy assistant administrator in the Bureau for Food Security, where she also supervised the Office of Country Strategies and Implementation. A Foreign Service Officer, Dunford has been with USAID for over 11 years, serving both in Washington, D.C. and in two overseas posts. From 2009 to 2010 she served as the senior development advisor to the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. Prior to this assignment she was the team leader for Afghanistan on the U.S. Central Command Assessment established by U.S. Army General David Petraeus. She also served on the ground in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2007 as the USAID/Afghanistan Alternative Livelihoods program director.

NICARAGUA

In Iowa, the Clinton Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau hired **Carrie Donaire** as its new director. A native of Clinton, Donaire served as a food security and agriculture volunteer in Nicaragua. Her responsibilities with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau will include sales and marketing to attract overnight visitors to the area, welcoming tourist and convention groups and working with area businesses to create a welcoming environment for visitors.

SLOVAKIA/COLOMBIA

Helene Ballmann Dudley is the winner of the 2013 Lillian Carter Award. Every two years, the award is given to an exceptional Peace Corps Volunteer who served at age 50 or older and continues to advance Peace Corps' third goal of bringing the world home. Dudley served as a Volunteer in Colombia (1968-70) and returned to Peace Corps service in Slovakia (1997-99) at age 50. A longtime member of the RPCVs of South Florida, Helene served as president from 2004-07. She also was integral in the formation of the Colombia Project, a micro-finance program founded in 2000, which has provided more than \$160,000 in loans. Helene also served on the National Peace Corps Association Board of Directors from 2004-06.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Pediatrician and RPCV **David Bergman** has devoted his life to the care of children. Recently, he began to reach out to young people in a different way. Dr. Bergman has published two storybooks for children, featuring tales about animals that contain lessons for everyday life. Interviewed by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, he said the books "are written to a children's level of understanding but there's also a message about the fundamental ethics of life." Proceeds from Dr. Bergman's books are going to the National Audubon Society and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

ROMANIA

Dr. Sean Cotter, associate professor of literature and translation studies at the University of Texas at Dallas, won the 2013 Best Translated Book Award in poetry given by the University of Rochester's international literature magazine, *Three Percent*. Cotter's book, which translated the works of Romanian poet Nichita Stănescu, is called *Wheel with a Single Spoke and Other Poems*. In the past, Dr. Cotter has also received the PEN Southwest Book Award for Translation and a Literature Fellowship for Translation Projects from the National Endowment for the Arts, among many other awards.

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SIERRA LEONE

President Obama has nominated **Donald Lu** (1988-90) to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Albania. Mr. Lu is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. Currently, he serves as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India. Previously, he has been assigned to overseas posts in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan.

STAFF

In Olympia, Washington two individuals with Peace Corps connections were inducted into the Olympia High School Hall of Fame. **Christopher Hedrick** currently serves as a senior advisor to the Peace Corps director and has been spearheading the agency's participation in malaria prevention programs in Africa. Also honored was **Walter Howe**, who was appointed by President Richard Nixon in the 1970s to oversee Peace Corps' incorporation with other volunteer programs under the ACTION agency.

TANZANIA

A community celebration in May at Lincoln High School in Gahanna, Ohio included the induction of RPCV **Eileen Tatman** (2010-12) into the school's hall of fame. A 1961 graduate and former medical technologist, Tatman joined the Peace Corps following her retirement, where she served as a medical care volunteer. She was honored for her Peace Corps service and her work as Lead Medical Technologist with the critical-care lab at the Ohio State University Medical Center.

THAILAND

Arleta Little was hired as the arts program officer at the McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation devoted to improving "the quality of life for present and future generations." Prior to this, she was the Executive Director of the Givens Foundation for African-American

Literature, where she was responsible for arts residencies and other programs for authors. Little has worked in the non-profit sector for the past 15 years. She also serves on multiple boards, including Springboard for the Arts, Minnesota AIDS project, and Friends of Hennepin County Library.

TOGO

Juliette Enfield is now working as an agricultural extension educator with the Penn State Extension Office in Youngsville, Penn. Enfield is focusing on community development and agricultural entrepreneurship by helping people who want to get into the food market, whether it be retail marketing or starting a business. She worked with subsistence farmers during her Peace Corps service in Togo.

TUNISIA

Paul Bell (1983-85) was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Andy Roddick Foundation. The non-profit

foundation works to develop and inspire underserved youth through education and sports-based mentoring, preparing each youth to succeed in the game of life. Bell is the former President of Public and Large Enterprises for Dell Incorporated. He served on the Senior Executive Team from 1998 through 2012. Prior to joining Dell, Bell was a strategy consultant at Bain and Company, and an investment banker at Morgan Stanley.

In Memoriam

The National Peace Corps Association has begun to remember those in our community who passed away. Our **In Memoriam** webpage (www.peacecorpsconnect.org/in-memoriam/) provides links to obituaries of RPCVs and former Peace Corps staff who recently passed away. We also highlight some of these individuals in a monthly tribute, found in the Community section of our homepage.

For more Community News go to www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/community-news/

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“The itinerary was a nice blend of working, learning, and enjoying the Dominican Republic. While it was beneficial to meet PCVs (Peace Corps Volunteers) and learn about their projects, it was equally important to talk to NGOs working in the area and to independent scientists and ecologists. It gave us all a richer and broader perspective on the enormous challenges the DR faces and some of the emerging solutions.” – Rob C.

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