

Friends of Kyrgyzstan

JUNE 2008

Get ready for Peace Corps at 50!

In 2011 Peace Corps will turn 50 and we are already starting to plan! First there will be a “staging” in Washington DC for a long weekend. Then those that can, will travel to Kyrgyzstan for a

reunion there. If you are interested in being a part of planning this reunion and what it will entail (service projects, visits to current volunteers, etc.), please let the board know so you can be on the 50th anniversary celebration committee!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Plans for PC at 50 celebration
- ◆ Adopt a volunteer program
- ◆ Peace Corps writers
- ◆ Peace Corps Calendars Available

Adopt a volunteer program



Recently Mid-states representative Alice Lee took on a new project. She decided to establish an adopt a volunteer program. The simple idea of the program is to match returned volunteers that want to stay connected with Kyrgyzstan with currently serving volunteers who can benefit from their experience and emergency shipments of Mac and Cheese and good markers.

I asked Alice to find me a volunteer to adopt. I wanted to reconnect with my Peace Corps service and help a currently serving volunteer. I remember how happy my days were when I received a care package and how on those days the village seemed a little less cold and bleak and far from home.

Alice paired me up with Erin McFee who is serving as a health volunteer in Kochkor, Naryn Oblast. Erin is quite accomplished. She is originally from Connecticut but graduated from Elon University in North Carolina.

During her studies, she studied abroad in China, London and Ghana. In Ghana, she interned with an Aids research NGO.

Her interest in health issues led her to become a health volunteer. Health volunteers are new in Kyrgyzstan and experiencing some of the same frustrations that were common with the sustainable economic development (SED) volunteers during my service.

Erin has struggled with not having much to do in her official ‘job’ and with the language barrier. Erin, like many SED volunteers before her, has had to strike out on her own to find ways to bring value to her community. She is teaching English, working with a tourism group, and planning a basketball summer camp for summer 2009.

Some things stay the same and some things change. Erin seems to have much more reliable and frequent access to the internet and even has a blog, but Peace Corps has established strict guidelines on content so she has to limit access to it.

It strikes me how technology is changing Kyrgyzstan, but so many of the basic services we in the west rely upon — plumbing, reliable electricity, decent phone lines are still not there. Cell towers are going up in areas that have never had reliable high quality phone lines, leap frogging the progression of technology.

I am enjoying learning from Erin what things are the same and what has changed. I hope this program grows and more RPCVs can enjoy helping a current volunteer and more current volunteers take advantage of those of us who want to support them.

[illegible]

Congratulations Amy Redwine!

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Friends of Kyrgyzstan

Support Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan and provide information about Kyrgyzstan.

New: Support "Friends of Kyrgyzstan" on MySpace Close

[Join Cause on MySpace](#)

<p>Beneficiary:</p> <p>Donations to the cause benefit: FRIENDS OF KYRGYZSTAN A 501(c)(3) nonprofit</p>	<p>Positions:</p> <p>Support Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan Disseminate information about Kyrgyzstan Promote the third goal of Peace Corps</p>
<p>Category:</p> <p>International - International Development and Relief Services</p>	<p>Description:</p> <p>We are group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Kyrgyzstan and others who interested and or concerned about Kyrgyzstan.</p>

139 MEMBERS

[Invite](#)

\$275 DONATED

How big is this cause?



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How You Are Helping

- 2 members recruited
- \$25 donated
- \$0 raised

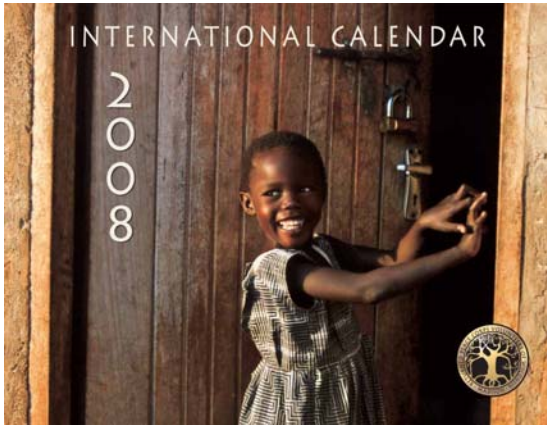
Did you know that you can now join Friends of Kryrgyzstan without joining the National Peace Corps Association? If you want to help Friends of Kryrgyzstan but can't afford the NPCA dues (or simply don't want to join the NPCA) you can now join Friends of Kryrgyzstan for \$15 a year.

Friends of Kyrgyzstan

Order your Peace Corps International 2009
Calendar Now!

Why join NPCA?

We have just received a shipment of 50 copies of the beautiful calendars that the RPCVs of Wisconsin



put together each year. The calendars are \$12, which includes domestic shipping. Help us make this fundraiser a success by ordering one for yourself and a few to give away as gifts! 2009 will be here sooner than you realize! To order your calendar contact Julie Rotherham at julielusher@yahoo.com.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to fund another grant to a Peace Corps Partnership Project in Kyrgyzstan.

Our grant to Kind Family Children Home

Friends of Kyrgyzstan recently received the final report on the grant we gave to the Kind Family Children Home for the purchase of farm equipment. The grant we sent was \$500 of the total of \$7,000 donated.

The project is expected to benefit over 5,000 individuals, most of them orphans. With this investment in farm Equipment, the orphanage will be much more sustainable and less dependent on donations for the basic necessity of food.

Thank you to all our members who made donations to this worthy cause.

We are over 1/2 way to making a new grant! Please consider making a donation to help another Peace Corps Volunteer make another dream a reality.

Donations can be made out to FOKGZ and mailed to Friends of Kyrgyzstan, 1104 Applebriar Lane, Marlborough, MA 01752.

Direct benefits:

- WorldView magazine's quarterly news and comment about the Peace Corps world
- NPCANews, a monthly e-newsletter about the people, projects and conferences of our national network
- Membership in any of our community-based, country-of-service, or nationwide member groups
- Opportunity to become part of the NPCA's Advocacy Network - a grassroots lobbying network supporting the Peace Corps and sustainable development
- Opportunity to join Global TeachNet and promote a global perspective in U.S. classrooms
- Eligibility to apply for the NPCA Platinum MasterCard
- Discount on auto insurance with GEICO
- Member rates for NPCA conferences, events, and activities
- Discount on Alamo Rental Cars and hotels in Washington, DC
- Discount on the Hospitality Network of RPCV Hosts
- \$50 discount on all Princeton Review Prep Courses

Indirect benefits:

- Support Friends of Kyrgyzstan
- Support NPCA Microenterprise program
- Support NPCA grants and awards
- Support Global TeachNet

Find out more at: www.rpcv.org

Have a story to tell? An announcement? Or just want to tell us what you are up to now?

Submit it to Linda Lee to be included in the next edition at

lindalee_b@yahoo.com



Friends of Kyrgyzstan

Peace Corps Writers at www.peacecorpswriters.org

Check out Peace Corps Writers for updates on what RPCV's in Kyrgyzstan and other Peace Corps Countries are writing and what you should pick up at the bookstore. The site features a wonderful resource section which includes a bibliography of Peace Corps authors where you can look up authors by name and find a list of their works. You can also find a list of books for kids written by PCVs, books about the Peace Corps Experience, short works and other resources including a list by country of service. The list isn't complete and they are always accepting new additions to the list.

Here are the books listed written by Kyrgyzstan RPCVs:

- Alexander Klaitis (Kyrgyz Republic 1995–97)
Love and War in Afghanistan, with Gulchin Gulmamadova-Klaitis, Seven Stories Press, 2005

- Megan Mentrek (Kyrgyz Republic 2002–04)
A Life Inspired: Tales of Peace Corps Service, contributor, DC: Peace Corps/USGPO, 2006
- Kurt S. Olsson (Kyrgyzstan 1996–98)
What Kills What Kills Us, Silverfish Review Press, 2007
- Craig Redmon (Kyrgyzstan 1995–96)
At Home in the World: The Peace Corps Story, contributor, Peace Corps/USGPO, 1996
- Robert Rosenberg (Kyrgyzstan 1994–96)
This Is Not Civilization: A Novel, Houghton Mifflin, 2004; Marine Books, 2005

** This is not a complete list of books written by Kyrgyz RPCVs — please submit any missing ones for inclusion on their site. **

Visit our Café Press Site!

Are you looking for the perfect gift for an RPCV? Or a way to show your support? Why not get a T-shirt or other Friends of Kyrgyzstan item? It is the gift that gives twice —when you purchase a Friends of Kyrgyzstan item at our CafePress store, Friends of Kyrgyzstan receives 15% of the purchase price.

<http://www.cafepress.com/fokgzshop>

Who doesn't need a Friends of Kyrgyzstan barf bag or bib? These items are great exposure for the group, make fantastic presents and help us make more grants to Kyrgyzstan! Don't see an item you would like? Request it and we will attempt to design it for you! (Please note we are not professional designers!) Send your suggestions to lindalee_b@yahoo.com



Shop On-line with www.igive.com and give back to Friends of Kyrgyzstan!

Select Friends of Kyrgyzstan as your charity at www.igive.com and a portion of each purchase goes to Friends of Kyrgyzstan without adding a dime to your total. Many of the biggest on-line retailers are members of [igive.com](http://www.igive.com) including Barnes and Noble, Land's end, Babies R Us, Expedia.com and hundreds more!

Don't Google, Good Search!



The next time you are searching the internet for a good Manti recipe, use Good Search and you will earn one cent per search for

Friends of Kyrgyzstan. You can even download a convenient search feature to your tool bar so you don't have to visit the site in order to search and raise money for Friends of Kyrgyzstan.

If all of our members started using Good Search, those pennies would quickly add up to more grants to support projects in Kyrgyzstan!