

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

COMMON GROUND



www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com

Winter 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22

2014 Holiday Parade

When: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Near 11th & Bannock, Boise

Contact: Pat & Trish, 208.853.1051

email: twopats@mac.com

Join in on November 22, 2014 for the annual Boise Holiday Parade. March along with the Peace Corps Taxi (always a big hit) for a fun time. The theme this year is "The Sounds of Christmas" so bring along some jingle bells and wear country or holiday attire. Feel free to bring candy to hand out.

Meet at the staging area near 11th & Bannock at 8:30 a.m. to help us put the taxi together; parade begins at 9:45 AM.

After the parade, meet at Elmer's on Capitol for brunch/lunch and some nice warm hot chocolate.

www.boiseholidayparade.org

November 29

Serve a Meal at the River of Life

When: 4:20 p.m.

Location: 575 S. 13th St., Boise

Contact: Chloe Ross, 208.789.7547

email: rosschloe@hotmail.com

December 8

Serve a Meal at the River of Life

When: 7 p.m.

Location: 575 S. 13th St., Boise

Contact: Chloe Ross, 208.789.7547

email: rosschloe@hotmail.com

December 13

2014 Holiday Party

When: 6 p.m.

Location: 2422 N. Highwood Ave.

Aaron Hueth's Clubhouse

Contact: Aaron Hueth, 208.340.9391

email: cincygriffey@aol.com

Our 29th Annual IRPCV Holiday Party is set for December 13 at Aaron Hueth's neighborhood clubhouse. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 and a new take on the traditional gift exchange after dinner. Please bring a favorite holiday International dish and beverage to share and a "white elephant" for the gift exchange. We will also do a quick membership vote to add Andy and Meg to the board, and change Connie's position. Last year we had one of the largest turnouts ever and we plan on having just as many this year. It is guaranteed to be very merry!

We are on Facebook!
Idaho Returned
Peace Corps Volunteers



January 11

Board Meeting

When: 5 p.m.

Location: 4303 Hoover St., Chloe's House

Contact: Chloe Ross, 208.789.7547

email: rosschloe@hotmail.com

January 30

Beer Night at Boise Brewing

When: 5 p.m. (or anytime after work)

Location: 521 W. Broad St., Boise

Contact: Diana Gardner, 208.602.1586

email: Dianalea024yahoo.com

Do you enjoy beer? Do you enjoy swapping old Peace Corps stories? Come join us at our first beer night on Friday, January 30 at Boise Brewing! Bring your craziest transport experiences while serving in the Peace Corps. We will host Beer and Wine Nights throughout 2015 located at various venues in Boise. Be sure and help us kick off the first event! No RSVP needed.

www.boisebrewing.com

March 28

International Cuisine Night at Noodle Korean

When: 5 p.m.

Where: 2325 S. Apple St.

RSVP: dianalea024@yahoo.com

Always a favorite event with IRPCV's, we look forward to seeing you there! This is a new ethnic restaurant in Boise. Let's give them our support!
www.noodlekorea.us

IRPCV NEWS

Past Education and Recruitment Events

September 3-4

BSU Career Fair.
Western Region Rep, Jack Hawley set up table. Kevin Laughlin and Mike Krause assisted.

September 16

BSU Study Abroad Fair.
Diana Gardner and Meg Stephenson set up and manned the table. Sixteen people signed up for PC email list. Meg stated that there was a lot of interest and most of contacts were freshmen or sophomores.

September 23

CWI Career Fair (Ada Campus).
Connie Collins set up and manned the table for this fair. Nineteen contacts were made and two people signed up for email list.

October 2

NNU Career Fair.
Kevin Laughlin met with 29 individuals about being a Peace Corps Volunteer and had 11 sign the info sheet that is in the mail to SRO today. Two NNU Faculty, three staff members, and three University of Idaho Faculty visiting on a NIH grant stopped to pick up materials.



We want to start a regular happy hour “Beer Night” in 2015. The plan is to have a get-together every other month or so, where we can meet new people, mingle, and talk about our Peace Corps experiences. The first one will take place at Boise Brewing at 5 p.m. on January 30.

2015 International Calendar On Sale

For the last 25 years, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in Madison, Wisconsin have been producing the International Calendar. It features countries where Volunteers have served. Net proceeds from International Calendar sales - more than \$1 million since 1988 - have been donated to community projects around the world.

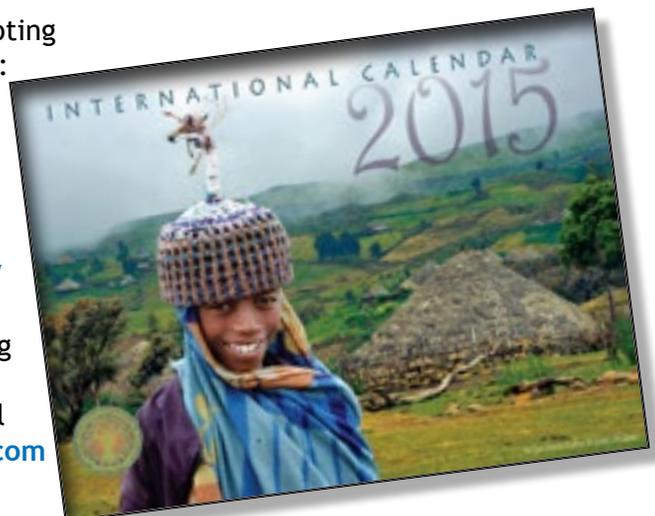
This year’s calendar pays a warm and deserving tribute to Nelson Mandela who, during his 27 years in prison, was sustained by his belief in the goodness of the human spirit. We hope our labor of love, the International Calendar,

will help your group spread peace and justice throughout the world. The International Calendar is prized for its quality and provides an excellent tool for promoting Peace Corps’ Third Goal: To bring aspects of our countries of service home to Americans. To learn more about the calendar visit:

www.rpcvcalendar.org/
To purchase a calendar, attend an IRPCV meeting or contact Chloe at 208.789.7547, or email irpcvpresident@gmail.com

Calendar Price:

\$12.00 each, 3 for \$33.00
or 6 for \$60.00 (sales tax included, mailed postage is extra)



IRPCV NEWS

You Shop and Amazon Gives: IRPCV Partners with AmazonSmile



AmazonSmile is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Just select Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Inc and shop! Visit: AmazonSmile at <http://smile.amazon.com>



Dear Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers,

On behalf of the Peace Corps, it is my pleasure to thank you for your contribution of \$190 to the Peace Corps Partnership Program. Your tax-deductible donation was directed to the Local Library Remodel project in Eastern Caribbean.

From its inception in 1964, the Partnership Program has helped thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers implement community-initiated projects which have benefited millions of individuals worldwide. In the 2013 fiscal year, 776 projects were funded in 59 countries and communities worldwide were positively impacted through direct project assistance from the Partnership Program.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals like you, volunteers and communities are able to address pressing needs that would otherwise go unmet.

Thank you again for your involvement with the Peace Corps Partnership Program. If you would like more information about this project or the Program as a whole, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chavez Rubio

Director, Office of Gifts and Grants Management
donate@peacecorps.gov

Donor Number: 27831

Project Number: 14-538-002



National Peace Corps Association Ebola Relief Fund

In collaboration with Returned Peace Corps Volunteer member groups representing three of the main affected countries – Friends of Guinea, Friends of Liberia and Friends of Sierra Leone – and in response to community interest to assist in the region, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is launching an Ebola Relief Fund. Contributions, which are tax deductible, will be accepted and acknowledged via the NPCA website and designated 100% towards Ebola-related relief efforts. Visit: www.peacecorpsconnect.org/ebola-fund/

Student Loan Information for Peace Corps Volunteers

I'm pleased to share with you that the Peace Corps recently took an important step to break down barriers to service and open doors of opportunity to new Volunteers by re-affirming its commitment to assisting Volunteers and employees in managing their student loan debt. In September, the Peace Corps joined the Department of Education, the Corporation for Community and National Service, and other employers in taking the public service pledge to better share student loan benefit information with Peace Corps applicants, Volunteers, and employees, as well as information on managing student loan debt.

Specifically, the Peace Corps has created tools to help borrowers understand their options and we are educating recruiters and other headquarters staff on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Under this program, started by the Department of Education in 2007, individuals who work in public-service jobs can have their federal student loan balance forgiven after they've made 120 qualifying payments.

Peace Corps Volunteer service (and employment!) counts toward the PSLF program, and enrolling in an income-driven repayment plan when you start service will maximize your loan forgiveness later. Because Volunteers don't have significant income during service, your monthly payments are likely to be \$0. However, if you don't sign up ahead of time, you can sign up for up to six months after your close of service.

Keep in mind that only certain loans qualify for the PSLF program—and that the program might not be the best option for everyone—so visit peacecorps.gov/loans for more information. You can also visit StudentAid.gov/publicservice or contact FedLoan Servicing at 855.265.4038.

National Peace Corps Association

New Peace Corps Application Process

Applying to the Peace Corps is simpler, faster and more personalized than ever before. You can browse job openings that are currently available and complete your application online in about an hour. Just visit: www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/howvol/stepstoapply/

Peace Corps Response Expands Program

The Peace Corps has expanded Peace Corps Response, a program that offers short-term specialized overseas assignments, to include Americans with at least 10 years of work experience and medical professionals. Peace Corps Response historically was only available to eligible returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Peace Corps Response offers seasoned professionals the opportunity to undertake short-term, high-impact assignments in various programs around the world. Positions average six months in length and are designed to address development needs as identified by the host country. Training for Peace Corps Response Volunteers can be as short as a few days or as long as 14 days. Training covers topics such as medical care, safety and security, and project-specific information. Peace Corps Response Volunteers may also participate in cultural orientation sessions and limited language training, in addition to a short homestay in some countries. Peace Corps Response applicants may apply to specific positions in a country of their choice. The online application generally takes 15-30 minutes to complete. Available positions may be viewed at www.peacecorps.gov/response/apply

Thanks to New and Renewing Members

Jane Duncan
Kenya, 12-14

Sam Greer
Ethiopia, 66-68

John Hawley
Zambia, 10-14

Bruce Kelsey
Cambodia, 11-13

Christian Lemus
Panama, 13-15

Andy Long
Tanzania, 03-05

Hadiel Mohamed
Senegal

Meg & Dale Stephenson
Mali, 86-88

Kathryn Wolff
Nicaragua 04-06



Your membership dues are vital to the success of Idaho RPCVs. In addition to our many social and service activities this past year, IRPCV made three \$333 donations to support local nonprofit/charitable groups in Idaho.

The three 2013 grant recipients are: Corpus Christie House, providing day shelter and other services to our homeless community; Boys and Girls Club of Ada County Book Donation Project, serving approximately 900 children through a reading program; Semilla Nueva, a 501(c)3 organization to help farmers in Guatemala.

Join IRPCV Today!

Become a Member and Renew Now!

Your dues are essential to the continuing success of our organization. And what a bargain! For only \$15 a year, you get 12 months of Peace Corps advocacy, IRPCV activities, updates and information to help fulfill the 3rd goal of the Peace Corps - bring the world back home to Idaho.

IRPCV is run totally by volunteers. The regional Peace Corps Office in Seattle counts on IRPCV to help recruit new Volunteers throughout the state of Idaho. IRPCV expenses are very frugal: National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) annual membership dues, financial support for our NPCA Regional Representative, financial support for our leaders to attend regional meetings plus charitable donations.

Dues can be sent to our Treasurer, Trish McKernan (make your \$15 check payable to IRPCV and send to: 5349 N. North Glen Lane, Boise, ID 83714). If you have questions,

you may contact her at 208.853.1051. You can download a membership form from our website or pay your dues via Paypal on the site www.idahopeacecorps.com. Spouses and friends are welcome to join our organization as well. Any RPCV who has never been a member of IRPCV can join for one year free of charge!

We encourage you to consider joining the NPCA. NPCA makes it easy to maintain your Peace Corps connections and make new ones through their social networking, global events and affiliate member sites. Most importantly, NPCA is the #1 advocate for the Peace Corps on Capitol Hill. If you are currently serving or you have recently returned from service, you can join NPCA at no charge.

After one year, NPCA dues are \$35 per year and can be paid online. You can join IRPCV and/or other affiliate regional, country and special interest RPCV groups via the NPCA website www.peacecorpsconnect.org. NPCA will forward the \$15 IRPCV dues to us and send you a reminder when they are due again.

Join us today!

IRPCV 2014-2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Need a job?

Just visit: www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/careercen/
or www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/jobs/

We are sad to announce that Trish and Pat will be closing their service with the Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in January. Their knowledge, dedication, and commitment has remained steadfast for many years and we will miss them! However, we are pleased that Andy Long and Meg Stephenson will be joining the board as Education Chair and Secretary, respectively. Connie is taking over the responsibilities of Pat and Trish and we are looking forward to this new mixture of knowledge and energy. Please congratulate Pat, Trish, Andy, Meg, and Connie when you see them.



**IDAHO RETURNED
PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS**

www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com