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## Message from the Country Director



Greg Viola, a student and Kathy at Thuso e Tla Tsoa Kae Handicapped Centre

Dear Volunteers,

I hope your Thanksgiving was enjoyable. I had my first vegan Thanksgiving, which thanks to my talented husband Michael, was quite delicious. Cashew gravy is amazing!

In November, we finally conducted training for most of the DSRs. A big thanks to PC Safety and Security Officer John Allen and acting SSC Deepak for helping to organize them. I am confident that the DSRs and alternates are now equipped to help us handle any emergency that should arise. We thank them in advance for their assistance. A follow-up training will be held for the Maseru DSRs and those who couldn't make the one for their district. I've been promising an EAP test before the end of the year and am still hopeful. Be ready!

Last month in addition to spending time with the DSRs, I visited the recently multiplied Qachas Nek Volunteers – Brett Burk (ED 09), Wes and Brandi Helm (CHED 10), Benja Davies (CHED 10) and the newly reassigned Kelsey Marsh (CHED 10). Brett on his way out and Wes, Brandi and Benja just getting started are doing great. Kelsey reports that she is settling in nicely in Ha Mavuka. With its new roads and oddly interesting snake farm, I have to say that Qachas Nek is a pretty nice camp town. Oh, and you can buy Coke Light there.

Michael and I had a chance to visit Greg Viola (CHED 09) at Thuso e Tla Tsoa Kae Handicapped Centre in BB. The 60 or so students there ranging in age from 6 to about 30 are adorable, and the school is doing great work. Greg is providing much needed management assistance to the school administration. He's also a caring adult who loves the kids...and they love him!

I am pleased to announce the arrival soon of several

new staff members: AO Jim McCormick will arrive on December 2. P&T Secretary Lestatsi Mohale, Medical Secretary Itumeleng Nots'i and SSC Masiphole Nthoalo are slated to start on December 6. Many of you may know that M'e Mamokola became our new full-time Language, Cross Culture and Homestay Coordinator in late October. We are very excited to be filling long vacant positions and getting staff capacity back to where it should be.

We await the arrival of our new PCMO, who coincidentally hails from Nigeria like the PC/Lesotho legend Dr. J, who by the way called the other day and wished us all well. Dr. Nobutu will be here until December 17.

We have not yet received the final report from the Post Operations Support Team that visited in October. When we do we will share their recommendations and plans to implement them. In the meantime, we are taking steps to address the main concern of the assessment – Volunteer safety in Maseru. As such we have reiterated the policy that Volunteers may not walk in Maseru at night (i.e., after 6:30pm). To minimize Volunteers' time in Maseru, we are also restricting the use of the training center and have agreed with Maseru-based Volunteers that they will limit Volunteer guests at their homes. We know some of these changes may be difficult for some but are necessary to maintain our program in Lesotho. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

On a final note, although (believe it or not) I dislike harping on rules, I want to remind all Volunteers that you have agreed to abide by Peace Corps policies and you know that administrative separation can be the result of non-adherence. Please don't try to get away with skirting the rules. They are designed for your safety and security as well as to help you integrate into your community and be an effective Volunteer. Think about your host organization, school and community before breaking a rule. If you get sent home for not adhering to policies, you're really not hurting Peace Corps, you're hurting them.

Thanks for your hard work in Lesotho,  
Khotso Pula Nala  
Kathy

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## Editorial Staff

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*Training* – Masechaba Mapena

Safety & Security – Deepak Pullanikkatil

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All other staff and PCVs who contribute

## From the Editor's Desk

Articles must be received by the 4th Monday of the month to be included in the following month's edition of the Khotso. **When submitting articles, please provide the name of the person making the submission and a contact person for follow-up questions.** The Newsletter will be emailed and a hardcopy made available in the office on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Please make sure that your email address is on file with Peace Corps.

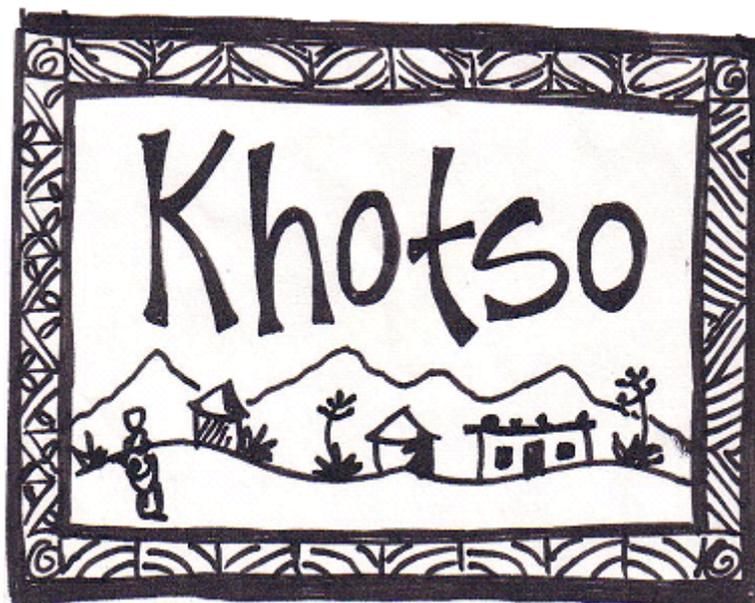
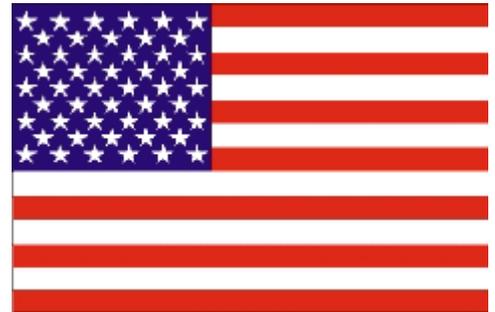
The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you as to whether the information contained in this newsletter met your needs.

By submitting articles, you are providing Peace Corps Lesotho with the right to reprint your article in full or part in any publication.

Deepak Pullanikkatil  
Editor



Editorial





## PCV Birthdays

*Birthday greetings go out to the following PCVs. The Peace Corps Lesotho staff sends you greeting and hope that you have a very prosperous year.*



### **December**

Comstock, Grant	December 4
Helie, Delia	December 8
Bechtold, Kali	December 19
Lehnhard, Noelle	December 23
Tamsen, Dustin	December 25
Sanni, Danielle	December 28
Kehr, Genevievre	December 31

### **January**

Bryant, Parker	January 7
Burk, Brett	January 9
Weiss, Tam	January 10
Glanville, Kate	January 11
Kaufman, Elissa	January 11
Rosen, Zach	January 13
Kalaw, Michelle	January 29
Marsh, Kelsey	January 30

### **February**

Holmen, Andrea	February 1
Birhanu, Nathan	February 9
Niang, Lee	February 9
Pulvino, Rory	February 11
Tip sword, Jackie	February 11
Casimer, Kevin	February 12
Kerr, Mike	February 12
Helm, James	February 13
Movalli, Kristine	February 13
Landrum, Nathan	February 21

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Full name:** Mamokola Matlanyane

**Job title:** Language and Cross Cultural Homestay Coordinator

**How long with PC:** Two months

**Job prior to PC:**

Teacher at Maseru Prep International School

**Family status (married? kids?):**

Married with two kids.

**Where you grew up:**

Born and raised in Butha Buthe.

**Favorite part of your job:**

Hey, I am still new and I am learning my job and in pursuit of my favorite part.



**Least favorite part of your job:**

Same as above.

**Hobbies:**

Sports in general, dancing, singing and listening to music.

**If you could meet anyone, who would that be?**

President Obama.

**Advice for PCVs in Lesotho:**

Check with me in a few months and believe me, I may have some advice.

**Staff Birthdays**



**December**

No staff birthdays.

**January**

Deepak Pullanikkatil January 22  
Margaret Putosa January 23

**February**

No staff birthdays.

**Peace Corps Lesotho Holidays**

**December**

December 24— Christmas Day (US Holiday)\*  
December 26— Boxing Day (LS Holiday)\*

**January**

January 1— New Year’s Day (US/LS Holiday)\*  
January 17— Martin Luther King Day (US Holiday)\*

**February**

February 21— President’s Day (LS Holiday)\*

\*PC Lesotho remains closed on this day.

**Education Corner**

By Malitaba Hlabana

During the month of December we are bidding farewell to a few more Education Volunteers from ED08 and 09 groups. Please join us as we say thank you to Cullen Wade, Kaitlin Leaf, Gwen Kehr, Ro Gluck, Phil Youngren, Jack Murphy, Karen Lindquist, Melody Murray and Tarsha Veiga. We wish you well as you turn the next page in your lives!

demic year, most of you will be taking a break and travel, please make sure that your leave records are up-to-date. We do encourage you to take this opportunity to explore this part of the world. For those who opt to remain behind, remember our discussions during the Mid-service, this could be the best time to begin to reestablish your connections with your community. Because you have been so

busy during the year and may not have had a great opportunity to ‘walk’ through you community, perhaps this is the best time to revisit the Phase II activities and expand your knowledge more.

VRF#1 submission deadline is coming up soon. Please ensure that we have these reports by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

With the end of 2010 aca-



*Staff Corner,  
Education Corner &  
Health Corner*

**Health Corner** By Dr. Nobutu

**Spotlight on disease prevention**

Peace Corps Volunteers are working to ensure that communities have access to health information about how diseases are spread, the importance of clean water, resources for staying healthy,

and quality health services with trained caregivers. By addressing issues like public health, hygiene, and sanitation, Peace Corps Volunteers support communities in improving health knowledge and practices. This month, take a look at World Wise Schools’

resources related to disease prevention and health promotion. Explore the ways that clean water and proper sanitation contribute to a community’s wellbeing. Think about what you can do to support health initiatives both locally and globally.

**STAFF SCHEDULE**

Nov. 30 – Dec. 4, 2011	‘Me Maggie on leave
Nov. 30 – Dec. 3, 2011	Charles in Qacha’s Nek, Quthing, Mohale’s Hoek and Mafeteng
Dec. 1-3, 2010	ED Mid-Service Reconnect
Dec. 1-3, 2010	‘Me Lebohang on leave
Dec. 5-11, 2010	CHED Phase III Training
Dec. 6-17, 2010	‘Me Jimi on leave
Dec. 20-23, 2010	Ntate Clement on leave
Dec. 20-27, 2010	‘Me Khubelu on leave
Dec. 27-31, 2010	‘Me Malisema on leave
Dec. 27-31, 2010	Kathy on leave
Dec. 27-Jan. 4, 2011	‘Me Malitaba on leave
Dec. 28, 2010	Deepak on leave

**Duty Officer Schedule**

Nov. 29 – Dec. 5, 2010	ITS	Jan. 17 – 23, 2011	CD
Dec. 6 – 12	AO	Jan. 24 – 30, 2011	ITS
Dec. 13 – 19, 2010	CD	Jan. 31 – Feb. 6, 2011	APCD-CHED
Dec. 20 – 26, 2010	APCD-CHED		
Dec. 27 – Jan. 2, 2011	APCD-ED		
Jan. 3 – 9, 2011	SSC		
Jan. 10 – 16, 2011	TM		

**“Using cloth, markers, and some shiny bling-dings to teach about HIV”**

By Gwen Kehr (ED 09)



Last year, when the '08 wave of teacher volunteers left country, I snagged a pink PEP bag in the VRC labeled, “USE ME.” An RPCV had used its contents for a prayer flag project at her school—an awesome idea, but I had something else in mind...

During my third year at university my school had the honor of being able to showcase a section of the U.S.'s National AIDS quilt, an amalgamation of pieces of decorated fabric from AIDS sufferers and their families and friends. When my aunt, a retired middle school teacher, sent me a presentation she had given at a Connecticut teacher's conference titled, “The Teaching of AIDS: A Compassionate Approach,” an idea germinated—I could have my students make our own version of the AIDS quilt—and the fabric and markers were right there in the pretty pink PEP bag! “USE ME,” indeed I will!

Inspired by my aunt's presentation, I did a poetry unit with my Form B English students focused completely on HIV education and destigmatization. Over the course of six 40 minute sessions the students brainstormed and wrote six poems. Then they chose their best one to write on squares of cloth and designed and decorated them to their hearts desires. (I had had relatives in the states send over beads, sequins, and jeweled stickers so that my students could add a little icing to the designs on their cloths.) Below is a more detailed account of how each session went:

- Introduced the day's topic (ex. “understanding”)
- Lead a discussion and brainstorming activity, asking the students provocative questions: What do you think “understanding” about HIV means? What is HIV? What does it look like? Smell like? Taste like? What lessons is it teaching the world? Imagine that you are the AIDS virus, who are you? What do you look like? What do you want?

Read an poem about the topic such as:

**“The Deadly Disease” By Catherine Nettey**

I am scary, people are not aware  
 And some people don't even care  
 Some people are careless and don't  
 Really think about what I am capable of  
 There are some people who are innocent  
 But I kill them by accident  
 I know no face, no race, no gender.  
 I am a deadly disease that keeps on  
 Spreading from one person to the next  
 I am just around the corner so everyone  
 Needs to be careful and aware. You need  
 To educate yourself and your children  
 Or I will keep on spreading and will not cease  
 I AM AIDS THE DEADLY DIEASE

- Hung the poem up in the classroom so the students would read it for themselves and think about it  
 Gave them time to work on their brainstorms and to being writing their poems (in class or assigned it for homework)

We repeated this outline for six topics: Understanding, Communication, Compassion, Grieving, Anger, and Acceptance/Hope. The students submitted a poem after each topic (so six poems total).

Here are some ideas for how to adapt the project:

- In science classes, focus on the “understanding” topic (how it cripples the immune system, the four fluids, etc.); have your students write poems as a challenge or contest, give a prize, showcase the poems at assemble, or make it a mandatory assignment and make a quilt  
 For English classes, if six periods is too much time for you to allocate, cut it down to three and pick the most apropos topics

As I'm preparing to COS, I have been reflecting on some of my favorite aspects of my Peace Corps service. One of the things I have loved doing here was getting together with members of my group and sharing ideas for our classrooms. The Khotso could also serve as a medium for such exchange. Go well!

PCV Life





PCV Life

## Success with ECCD Teachers

By Kathy Jacquart

In November, Tam Weiss and Sara Green conducted an ECCD workshop. Here was Tam wrote about it: "Although a small turnout, we were pleased and I am excited to visit the likonyane schools of the teachers who attended. The teachers are extraordinarily receptive and flexible, very interested in constructivism. They agree that within a few workshops we will gather a few other ECCD sites so we can host them for a maths workshop that they will lead to showcase the new materials and activities we are designing together."



## Tales of Christmas Past By Karolina Lobrow (CHED 10)



It's that time of year again. Heat waves are surging through the country, field of legal and illegal green crops are springing to life, flies and mosquitoes are provoking temporary madness and angry Afrikaners are protesting the black Santa at the Pioneer mall. Yes, my Peace Corps family, it's starting to feel a lot like Christmas. Except it's not.

Orange county and swampy retirement communities aside, as Americans we have clear expectations of the holiday season. Snow, for starters, fat Santa's and elves, decorated trees, itchy ugly sweaters, overly played ultra commercialized Christmas songs, the happy act of blowing ones budget on countless shopping sprees, and a vague notion of some Jewish guy named Jesus, whose barnyard themed birthday party has morphed into the colossal event that is Christmas.

Christmas in Lesotho can be tough, in that, besides the abundance of manger livestock, it feels and looks so wrong as to almost not exist. Last year in a desperate attempt to inject some holiday cheer into my life, I decorated an entire corner of my rondaval (just deal with it) with snowflakes, a plastic tree, Christmas cards and a Christmas themed pillowcase. It dawned on me one afternoon, as I lay sweating and staring at the paper and plastic display that it all looked like one of those curios shops that sells Christmas trinkets all year round; cheap and inauthentic.

I've never had a soft spot for the holidays before, but living a self-imposed exile life in a mountain desert prison can alter ones perspective and needs. And I needed Christmas. So I reached for something that was neither American (since I had no chance of drowning myself in retail therapy) nor Basotho (feasting on samp, boiled chicken and black label could be saved for another day) and picked something better. A Polish Christmas.

A Polish Christmas contains all the necessary ingredients for a jolly good time. Gourmet cuisine (think borscht and potato pierogis), fine spirits (bulk-purchased vodka), the entertainingly intoxicated relative (probably all of them) and of course Santa arriving on Christmas eve to deliver presents while everyone partakes in eating the holy Jesus wafer (more on that later). Yet, I digress, the main point is that this mind-numbing cultural awesomeness was such a success last year in bringing Christmas cheer to a blistering hot Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, that I've decided to share some key pointers to brighten your Christmas in Lesotho.

**TIP #1:** A burgundy colored beet soup must be present at the Christmas Eve dinner table, and each and every guest is obliged to savor it while proclaiming its deliciousness. Refer yourself to the Peace Corps cookbook for the excellent 5 spice beetroot soup recipe.

**TIP #2:** Download the latest Christmas songs from the #1 Polish Hits iTunes store (such as

Rzeczkievicz the Abdominal Snowman Goes to Warsaw, and Natasha and Boris hunt Rudolph the Red Nosed Moose Deer) and proceed to play them as loudly as possible in order to drown out any and all naysayers. Conversation may not be possible at this point, since many if not most of your uncultured guests will be complainers.

TIP#3: Never, under any circumstances should you allow guests shot glasses to remain empty. The key here is pouring half shots every fifteen minutes, and feel free to bully the lightweights into drinking with friendly holiday taunts. The downing of the glasses should be done together with heartfelt shouts of "Na Zdrowie" (to your health) until everyone's cheeks are glowing as red as the neglected bowls of borscht.

TIP#4: You must obtain a Jesus Wafer (doesn't need to be holy) from an authentic source, preferably a Polish grandmother, and share it with all present. Bypassing the more complex and manipulative custom of hanging a mistletoe in order to seduce a potential love interest, the traditional Polish custom of sharing the wafer requires each person be approached, embraced and kissed. Thus allowing all interested parties to cop a feel, guilt free, and Jesus wafer sanctioned.

TIP#5: If you are feeling particularly authentic, feel free to throw in a few verbal jabs at any guest sporting either a German or Soviet heritage. However, make sure to keep a trusted multi-generational American nearby in case the calculative German or ill-trustworthy Comrade is tempted to overrun your fledgling Polish democracy, ehr, I mean dinner party.

TIP#6: Santa must deliver the presents on Christmas Eve. No exceptions. I'm sorry but I don't make the rules.

So this year PC Lesotho, when you're feeling down and aren't quite sure how to boost your holiday spirit, take my advice and choose the best Christmas traditions for a most memorable 2010. Here's wishing you all a very merry Polish Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

PCV Life



### From Friends of Lesotho (FoL)

#### **PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING**

FOL recently made an initial donation of \$4,000 to the Lesotho Country Fund to support your small-scale, grassroots projects previously funded through VAC and DAR. Additional donations will be made based on reports FOL will receive from PCPP in Washington, D.C. FOL is also prepared to help support your larger, individual PCPP grants by providing some matching funds.

In the Spring of 2011, FOL will make an additional donation specifically for support of scholarships previously funded through TAP. We look forward to working with PC-Lesotho staff and all of you to help make this new FOL funding arrangement a success.

#### **PLEASE SHARE YOUR BLOGS WITH FOL**

Many of our members will never have the opportunity to visit Lesotho again but would love the opportunity to relive their PC experiences through reading your stories. The FOL website would be a great place to provide this opportunity to them. If you are willing to share your BLOG addresses, please send an e-mail to Marty Smith, Website Administrator at [mwsmith13@gmail.com](mailto:mwsmith13@gmail.com). Peace Corps 50th and Friends of Lesotho 25th Celebration Plans are Underway for September 21-25, 2011 in Washington, D.C. and around the Country.

A Planning Committee had its second meeting on October 19 and is pleased to report that 75 Lesotho RPCVs and Peace Corps staff plan on attending anniversary celebration events in Washington, DC. Our goal is to have 225 volunteers/staff attend the DC events or participate in other activities like house parties and regional events. The Committee has identified tasks and subcommittees for a Reunion of Lesotho RPCVs, former country staff and other friends of Lesotho. The subcommittees will be tracking down volunteers, setting up a program, selecting a hotel and negotiating rates, determining food, setting up a Facebook page, and communicating updates to all participants.

If you will have completed your Peace Corps service prior to September 2011 and would like to attend or want more information, contact Bill Reed (1967-69) at [wc44reed@gmail.com](mailto:wc44reed@gmail.com). Or, go to the FOL website ([www.friendsoflesotho.org](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org)) and complete the Complimentary Membership Form so that your contact information can be added to the FOL database insuring that you will receive all FOL communications about the anniversary events as well as our quarterly newsletters.

## “Scenarios from Africa” Contest for Youth Under 25

Do you know a young person who has dreamed that one of their ideas or stories would be made into a movie, watched by millions of people across the world?

Young people all across Africa can submit a winning idea for SCENARIOS FROM AFRICA, a contest based on young people’s real thoughts and real and imagined experiences with HIV/AIDS. Contest entries must be submitted by **March 15, 2012**, and young people must be under the age of 25 on that date. The idea can be a short story, a comic strip, a song, a poem, a play, or even a recording on audio or video cassette or CD, complete with music. The text must be in English. Young people can submit their own idea (as many as they like) or can work with a group of friends or a youth group, or a person who can help them work their idea into English.

Entrants can choose any idea they like, or they can choose from a list of 8 topics to get started. The topic must relate to HIV/AIDS in some way. For a questionnaire, which must be submitted together with the entry, check out <[www.scenariosafric.org](http://www.scenariosafric.org)>. Send completed entries to Scenarios from Africa Contest; 06 B.P. 9342; Ouagagougou 06, BURKINA FASO, AFRICA, together with the completed questionnaire or submit both online to: [scenarios2010@gmail.com](mailto:scenarios2010@gmail.com).

FROM: Aaron S. Williams, Director  
SUBJECT: 2010 Volunteer On-Board Strength

I am pleased to share with the entire Peace Corps family our 2010 Volunteer on-board strength: **8,655 Volunteers serving in 77 host countries**. Thanks to your hard work, more volunteers are serving with the Peace Corps overseas than there have been in the last 40 years. As of September 30, 2010, 8,655 Peace Corps volunteers are serving in 77 host countries. This represents a 13 percent increase over 2009 when 7,671 Peace Corps volunteers were serving in 74 host countries.

I am honored, at the cusp of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, to announce the creation of an additional 1,000 volunteer positions in 2010, complementing our goal to increase overseas leadership opportunities. Every day, Peace Corps volunteers strive to make a difference and have improved the lives of millions of people – not just in communities around the world, but also in their local communities in the United States once they return home. This is the legacy of President Kennedy’s concept of international service, an idea that continues to capture the imagination of thousands of service minded Americans today.

In anticipation of strategic growth, Peace Corps has strengthened its capabilities to accommodate and support an increase in volunteers and volunteer support services. The agency continues to pay special attention to identifying and preparing volunteer work sites, infrastructure, security and health support, staffing at overseas posts, and training for volunteers and staff.

Several factors contributed to the agency’s growth: the expansion of current programs, the addition of new programs and an increase in volunteers extending the length of their service. The Peace Corps responded to an increase in host country requests for volunteers, principally because of an increase in resources. FY 2010 marked the largest operating budget in the agency’s history: \$400 million. The distribution of volunteers is roughly equal across three geographic regions. Volunteers work across six main sectors of service; education remains the largest program sector for volunteers.

The agency completed a [comprehensive agency assessment](#) in June 2010, creating a blueprint for Peace Corps to pursue quality improvement measures which will strengthen agency performance and ensure strategic growth. Strategic growth takes into account not only an increase in volunteer numbers, but also the myriad of factors and conditions that affect and enable Peace Corps volunteers to have a successful, safe and productive service experience.

Again, the strength of Peace Corps is our ability to work together across borders, languages, religions, age, race and gender. Together we make this experience possible for both the Americans serving overseas with our posts and the host communities that are very much our partners in this mission to promote world peace and friendship through our three goals. Thank you for everything you do.

### **2010 Peace Corps Data:**

*The annual fact sheet has been updated and is available on [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)*

The **FIRST** group of volunteers, **51** strong, arrived in Ghana on August 30, **1961**. Since 1961, more than **200,000** Americans have served in the **Peace Corps**. **7,671** volunteers now serve in the Corps. In 1966, there were more than **15,000** in the field.



*News from around the  
Peace Corps World*

The Peace Corps' operating budget this fiscal year is **\$400 MILLION**, about **1%** of the federal government's foreign-operations budget.

Peace Corps volunteers here been trained in more than **250** local languages. **60%** of ACTIVE Corps members are **women**. Today, the Corps works in **77** Countries Over its history, the organization has served in **139** nations. Netflix CEO Reed Hastings did a 2-year Corps stint teaching math in Swaziland. More than **60** universities including Cornell, Johns Hopkins, and Virginia, participate in the master's international program, which combines a tour in the Peace Corps with a master's-degree curriculum. **SIX** current members of congress-Senator Christopher Dodd as well as **FIVE** Representatives-are returned volunteers. **28%** of applicants to the Peace Corps are subsequently invited to serve. **7%** of Peace Corps volunteers serve with their spouse. The average age of a Peace Corps volunteer is **28**. **14%** are over the age of 30 while **7%** are over **50**. During their **27** months of service, Peace Corps volunteers are paid according to local standards in the country where they serve. They receive two vacation days per month of service, as well as a transition stipend of **\$7,425** at the end of a tour. The oldest volunteer in Peace Corps history was **87** when he completed his second tour in Hungary in 1994. The **Oldest** current volunteer is **85** and working in Morocco.

Due to an increase in requests for volunteers from host countries, more than half (51) of Peace Corps' posts increased their size over the previous year. The three Peace Corps posts that grew the most were: Rwanda by 210 percent (from 29 to 90 volunteers), Georgia by 125 percent (from 28 to 63 volunteers), and Ethiopia by 94 percent (from 52 to 101 volunteers). Nearly 200 volunteer positions were created at newly opened posts. In 2010, Peace Corps opened new programs in Colombia, Indonesia and Sierra Leone; and re-opened the suspended program in Madagascar.

More than 200 Peace Corps Response volunteers served overseas in 34 countries. Peace Corps Response provides opportunities for returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs) to undertake short-term, high impact assignments in various programs around the world. Total volunteers in this program increased by 171 percent over 2009. In 2010, the agency received nearly 13,500 applications for volunteer positions. Roughly one in three applicants will serve with a Peace Corps program overseas.

#### Volunteers by Region:

Africa Region: 3,168 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 28 countries (37 percent of all volunteers).  
Inter-America and the Pacific Region: 2,772 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 29 countries (32 percent of all volunteers).  
Europe, the Mediterranean and Asia Region: 2,715 Peace Corps volunteers serve in 20 countries (31 percent of all volunteers).

#### Volunteers by Program Sector:

Education: 3,183 volunteers (37 percent)  
Health & HIV/AIDS: 1,900 volunteers (22 percent)  
Business Development: 1,207 volunteers (14 percent)  
Environment: 1,146 volunteers (13 percent)  
Agriculture: 375 volunteers (4 percent)  
Youth Development: 450 volunteers (5 percent)  
Other: 394 volunteers (5 percent)

#### Volunteers in Action Recruiting Others

**Heading home for the holidays?** Do you want to get a head start on Peace Corps' third goal and talk about your Peace Corps experience to a captive and interested audience, while also helping in our recruitment efforts? Do you want more time for your vacation in the United States without getting charged annual leave days? If so, consider participating in the new program **Volunteers in Action Recruiting Others (VARO)**. Peace Corps recruiters welcome your participation at special **"Home for the Holidays"** panel discussions organized across the United States. If you happen to be visiting one of the cities listed below, or are staying in the general vicinity and want to participate, email the recruiter contact for one of the events below. You can also visit [www.peacecorps.gov/events](http://www.peacecorps.gov/events) to find additional Peace Corps information sessions near your hometown! For general questions related to VARO, please contact the Director of Recruitment, Shari Hubert, at [shubert@peacecorps.gov](mailto:shubert@peacecorps.gov)

**Boston** - Friday, Dec. 3, contact: [jflynn@peacecorps.gov](mailto:jflynn@peacecorps.gov)

**Denver** - Wednesday, Dec. 8, contact: [lstange@peacecorps.gov](mailto:lstange@peacecorps.gov)

**New York** - Wednesday, Dec. 8, contact: [lreitmeier@peacecorps.gov](mailto:lreitmeier@peacecorps.gov)

**Washington, DC** - Tuesday, Dec. 14, contact: [jampron@peacecorps.gov](mailto:jampron@peacecorps.gov)

**Portland** - Tuesday, Dec. 14, contact: [klavcevic@peacecorps.gov](mailto:klavcevic@peacecorps.gov)

**Chicago** - Thursday, Dec. 16, contact: [jwilt@peacecorps.gov](mailto:jwilt@peacecorps.gov)

**Seattle** - Thursday, Dec. 16, contact: [mforthun@peacecorps.gov](mailto:mforthun@peacecorps.gov)

**San Jose** - Thursday, Dec. 23, contact: [nsargent@peacecorps.gov](mailto:nsargent@peacecorps.gov)

**Walnut Creek, CA** - Monday, Dec. 27, contact: [nsargent@peacecorps.gov](mailto:nsargent@peacecorps.gov)

**Los Angeles** - Saturday, Jan. 8, contact: [kkuykendall@peacecorps.gov](mailto:kkuykendall@peacecorps.gov)

