

# KHOTSO

November 2010



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## Message from the Country Director

Dear Volunteers,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to warmer weather, successful completion of the school year and the holiday season just around the corner.

I know that many of you are still struggling with feelings of grief and sadness. We all suffered a traumatic shock and sense of loss with Tom's death, and we must all make sure that we are taking healthy steps to deal with this tragedy. As we try to regain a sense of normalcy, please don't suffer in silence! Remember that if you need to talk to someone, you should contact Nobutu, our temporary PCMO. She is here to help or find help. Your PSN has been working overtime and is also committed to doing what it can to support Volunteers.

Two weeks ago the staff took a day and a half to hold an offsite retreat during which we processed a lot of what we have been feeling and talked about ways to support not only the Volunteers but one another as well. It was an extremely beneficial exercise and I think everyone came back refreshed and feeling "more whole."

The retreat was also about having fun and a little friendly competition. For example, we had a major volleyball tournament, which highlighted a few superstars, namely 'me Makhauta, who apparently almost turned pro back in the day!

As you know, we received a 4-member Post Operations Support Team visit last week. They met with staff, about 35 Volunteers, the Embassy, NGO partners, the police and others to gather information about the safety and security situation and Peace Corps/Lesotho operations in this context. Thanks to everyone who made time to meet with them. We expect their final report with findings and recommendations soon. In the meantime, we will communicate some immediate steps

that we have been asked to take, which we will do over the coming days.

October was a pretty hectic month for me – the CD conference in Ghana, the team from Washington, the staff retreat, and a mini-vacation to lovely Cape Town, among all of the day-to-day tasks. I did, however, manage to see Tarsha, Ryan and Khotso in action briefly at the PEPFAR-funded (VAST grant) HIV camp/workshop that they organized. They gathered a diverse group of people from their sites and treated them to presentations from local experts, HIV testing, fun walks and other activities to promote HIV prevention and life skills. Great job!

October also saw a lot of comings and goings of Volunteers. We said good bye to Mike Dissen, Vic Cuevas, Kelly Kremnitzer, Emily McKeen, and Kate Rogers. We wish them all well. We welcomed back Erica, Haley, Rocio, Leeza, Parker, Jonathon and Sonny. We also welcomed Nobutu Shakankale, our temporary PCMO, and Laura Perrone, our temporary AO. Both have barely come up for air since they arrived. Thanks to them both for diving right in!

Take care of yourselves and thank you for your service.

Khotso!  
Kathy Jacquart Dill

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## 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.

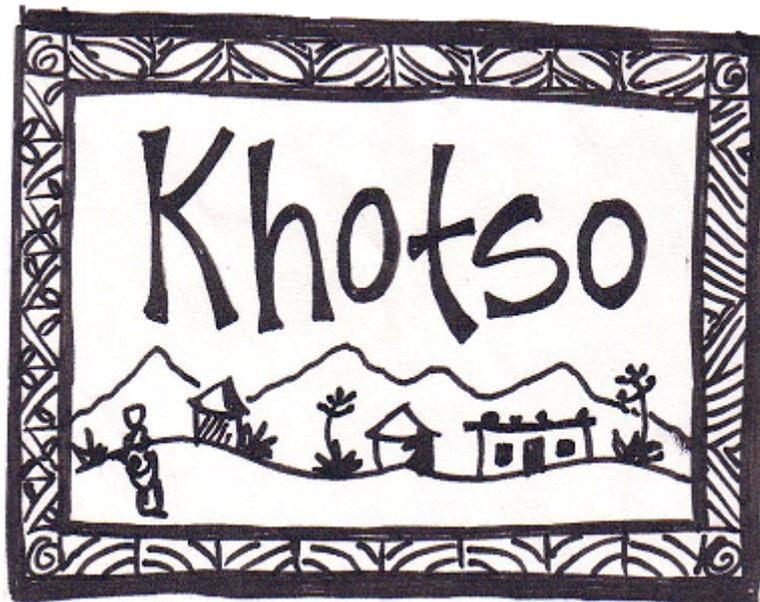
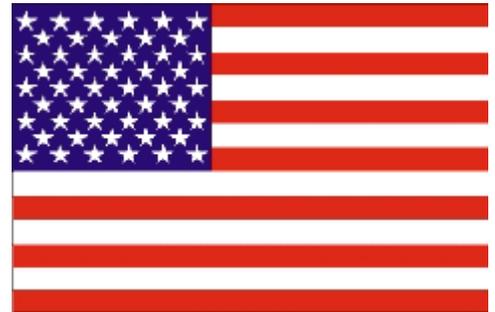
The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you as to whether the information contained in this newsletter met your needs.

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.*

## Happy Birthday PCVs

**November**

Pierce, Eric	November 6
Rossi, Erica	November 9
Philips, Shanthi	November 19
Simons, Ariel	November 20

**December**

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

**January**

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

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Full name:** Makhauta Mokone

**Job title:** Executive Secretary

You have visas correct? It is because of me. That is just one thing I do for you.

**How long with PC:**

4 years.

**Job prior to PC:**

Working with the Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs.

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

Married with one kid.

**Where you grew up:**

I was born and raised in mokhotlong.

**Favorite part of your job:**

The favorite part of my job is meeting high profile people.

**Least favorite part of your job:**

Waiting in queues at offices to get work done for Peace Corps.



**Hobbies:**

Playing volleyball whenever I can.

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

President Obama.

**Advice for PCVs in Lesotho:**

Abide by Peace Corps policies and the laws of Lesotho.

PCV News Corner



**Staff Birthdays**



**November**

Eunicia Nkoro	November 3
Lebohlang Ranooe	November 20
Clement Lephoto	November 22
Charles Miller	November 24

**December**

No staff birthdays.

**January**

Deepak Pullanikkatil	January 22
Margaret Putosa	January 23

**Peace Corps Lesotho Holidays**

**November**

November 11— Veteran’s Day (LS Holiday)\*  
 November 25—Thanksgiving (US Holiday)\*

**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)\*

\*PC Lesotho remains closed on this day.

**Education Corner**

By Malitaba Hlabana

ED 09 group is completing their work and some of them have taken early COS. We are saying to them Congratulations! Go back home and share your experiences you got from Lesotho with your friends, families and others. We hope you have enjoyed your stay in Lesotho. Tsamaeang hantle ka khotso.

Since our ED PST 2010/2011 has been cancelled, our schedule will also change. So we have new schedule of our events and even site visit.

We have planned to have ED10 reconnect early December so that you will have enough time for your vacation if you are planning to take one. Dates for Ed 10 reconnect are as follows:

- Dec 1, 2010: Arrival to training location not Maseru (to be decided).
- December 2nd & 3rd: Workshop
- December 4th: Return to sites

We appeal to you all to send us some agenda items that you want to be discussed in this workshop.

We know that this is a busy time for you all administering and marking exams. So get

strength finish your exams so that we can relax during this workshop.

We hope you all have submitted your Trimester reports and we are about to send you the first trimester for February 2011.

**Spotlight on service learning**

Every day, Peace Corps Volunteers are making a difference through service in communities around the world. Their stories can inspire us to consider our own capacities to make a difference both locally and globally. This month, Coverdell World Wise Schools brings the Peace Corps spirit of service to your classroom with service learning resources that foster students' development as caring, service-minded global citizens.

How does the service of Peace Corps Volunteers relate to the service learning in which we seek to engage our students? Like Peace Corps Volunteers, many U.S. students and their families are involved in community service or volunteerism, from organizing food drives, to participating in community greening projects, to raising money for causes they care about. Service learning takes these types of activities

a step further. As the National Youth Leadership Council describes, "Picking up trash on a riverbank is service. Studying water samples under a microscope is learning. When science students collect and analyze water samples, document their results, and present findings to a local pollution control agency—that is service-learning."

Service learning embeds service within the academic curriculum, allowing students to build essential skills through engagement in and reflection on service. Coverdell World Wise Schools' service learning resources guide teachers through the process of envisioning and enacting service learning with students, while making key connections to standards-based curricula. By drawing from the global service experiences of Peace Corps Volunteers, Coverdell World Wise Schools' resources encourage service learning that connects students with the world and builds global and cross-cultural awareness.

Do you have a service learning success story to share? Send us an email at [wwsinfo@peacecorps.gov](mailto:wwsinfo@peacecorps.gov).

**CHED Corner**

By M'e Selloane

Likhomo!

The season looks promising with the past rain showers! This is a call for the CHED PCVs to dust off the tools and make it to the farm!

**UPDATES**

In the past month the sector received two ETs from Emily Mckeen and Kate Rogers; these were our enthusiastic CHED 09 and CHED 10 PCVs who were serving in Sekameng

in Mafeteng and Itjareng Vocational Center in Maseru respectively. Another change is the relocation of PCV Kelsey Marsh from Mokhotlong to Ha Mavuka in Qacha's Nek district.



Staff Corner,  
 Education Corner &  
 CHED Corner

PHASE III

We are still working on the venue but the dates as stated in last month's issue still remain so make sure that you mark them off your Calenders and make all the necessary preparations with your supervisors; Arrival December 5 2010. We will keep you posted on further logistical arrangements as times go on.

RECONNECT

Preparations are underway to finalize the dates and the venue. Tentatively we are looking at Mid November 2010 and we want to finalize the venue so that we could give you the updated version of the correspondence to enable to plan accordingly.

PHASE II ASSIGNMENTS

We hate to say this but the

rate of submission is pretty slow; we are therefore reaffirming that for those of you who have not submitted **mummy will be forced to send you to bed without your favorite dessert...**no assignment means no December vacation will be approved...lets send them in Baithaopi!

SITE VISITS

Some of the lucky CHED 10s have had an opportunity to host the CHED staff in their sites while some are still sitting with the **When will be my lucky day question.** For November, we will focus on the highlands and the most remote areas! I know this is music to the ears of PCVs in; Thaba Tseka, Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek, Liphiring, Tajane, Ketane. Yes! Just identify the most suitable dates and com-

municate with us thereon.

SITE IDENTIFICATION

The time has come again where we have to sit down and look at opportunities for increasing the Peace Corps Lesotho family. I know that most of you are really looking forward to welcoming the new ones. In as much as we want to place you in the most productive sites this task is not easy without your input. We are therefore appealing for the PCVs to engage in the fun ride and identify the sites and then notify us so that we could make sure that we put in the missing pieces of the puzzle to add more fun and love into it!

STAFF SCHEDULE

November 3, 2010	Kathy, Deepak and John Allen in Butha Buthe for DSR training
November 4, 2010	Kathy and John Allen in Quthing for DSR training
November 5-7, 2010	Kathy in Qacha's Nek
November 12, 2010	Deepak and Malitaba in Mohale's Hoek

Duty Officer Schedule

November 1-7, 2010	ITS
November 8-14, 2010	AO
November 15-21, 2010	TD
November 22-28, 2010	Training Director
Nov. 29 – Dec. 5, 2010	APCD-ED
December 6-12, 2010	AO
December 13-19, 2010	CD
December 20-26, 2010	APCD-CHED
Dec. 27 to Jan. 2, 2011	APCD-ED



### Meet the New United States Ambassador to Lesotho!



*From the Department  
of State*

Michele Thoren Bond was sworn in as the next Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho on September 14, 2010. She holds the rank of Minister-Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service. Previously she served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Overseas Citizens Services (CA/OCS) in the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

She previously served as Consul General in Amsterdam. Her other overseas assignments were in Guatemala, Belgrade, Prague and Moscow. In addition to her overseas tours, her Washington assignments have included Director of Consular Affairs Office of Public Outreach, Director of consular training at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center and a tour in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

An honors graduate of Wellesley College, Ambassador Bond has Masters Degrees from Georgetown University and the National War College. She speaks Spanish, French, Serbian and Swedish.

Ambassador Bond is married to Clifford G. Bond, a retired Foreign Service officer and former Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina. They have four adult children; Robert, Elisabeth, Lillian and Matthew. Robert is a Foreign Service officer currently serving in Moscow.

Ambassador Bond arrived in Lesotho on October 14<sup>th</sup> and visited the Peace Corps office on October 26<sup>th</sup> where she met staff and a few Volunteers. We look forward to showcasing our Volunteers' work to Ambassador Bond as soon as she is able to schedule site visits.

## On Lesotho and Smell

By Karolina Lobrow, CHED 09



MAY 2009

"You know, when I was living abroad, I bought a certain kind of perfume, and wore it while I lived there. Now, every time I smell it it brings back my memories of living in France. I think it'd be great if you did the same thing!"

I nod eagerly at my worldly and wise Fragrance Friend. That is exactly what I need for my upcoming crazy, life-changing adventure to Lesotho (oh, great small land of mystery!).

I am quick to take her advice, yet my tight budget and even tighter schedule before departure in June force me through the open doors of a RiteAid. Choices here range between Whiff of Brittney and Musk of Old Lady. After an agonizing hour of countless spray 'n sniffs I'm starting to panic. My sense of smell has been completely obliterated and I've chosen nothing. Finally, my mother, tired of my indecisiveness picks out something along the lines of "Cool Woman" a fresh mature scent for the professionally minded. "Prepare yourself Lesotho", I think as we drive away, "Cool Woman is coming!"

SEPT 2009

Three months in country, one month at site, and only TWO misty sprays of "Cool Woman" utilized to date. I hate the mature, fresh alcoholic perfume that leaves me smelling more like a cheap magazine than anything its label promises. This can only be described as a disaster. How am I supposed to remember my experience here in Lesotho without a personalized scent?! I've been agonizing over it for weeks now. Every time I look at my calendar, another day is lost to the unrelenting haziness of unscented memories. I test run "Cool Woman" one last time. The following week I give up on my RiteAid purchase and hand the hateful blue bottle over to my inquisitive ausi. Now I'm left with nothing, and a deep melancholy depression sets in. I bake bohobe-ba-metsi to appease my soul, and my new found carb-addiction.

MANY EVENTFUL MONTHS LATER, 2010

I embark on a journey back to the homeland. Great land of evergreens, Starbucks, the Pacific Ocean and some \*expletive deleted\* good food. Between stuffing my face full of spicy Thai food, drowning myself in micro-brews and eating a local pastry shop back into business, I find time to visit my Fragrance friend.

As I walk through her door, I am met by a lightly floral and citrusy aroma that is sweet, feminine yet delicate. Before I even see her a huge grin starts to spread across my face, as the happy memories of the time we lived together are triggered. Fragrance Friend is one of my besties and this new home of hers smells exactly like our old one.

Later on that day, over an expansive meal of sushi and wine, my mind wanders back to the conversation I had with my friend about perfumes and secured memories. Something I'd deliberately put out of my mind in the preceding months. I quickly realize that I've let an entire year slide by, and maybe now is my chance to save the second one. Once again, I'm semi-obsessed over giving my time in Lesotho a tangible scent connection. This time, however, I have a solid plan. I ask my Fragrance friend what kind of perfume she uses, because it really is quite exquisite. Turns out, it's Dior, and comes with its own exquisite price tag. While I come with a rustic Peace Corps living allowance. I feel defeated once again.

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I enjoyed the rest of my visit with Dior Fragrance friend and drove my barely functioning (yet still totally awesome) Suzuki Sidekick back to my parents' house. On the way there, I decide to stop by an Albertsons, to purchase some candy, and was browsing the isles when I came to a dead stop in isle 7 (lotions/shampoos/feminine hygiene needs). A huge grin plasters itself across my face while realization dawns on me. I never needed a "special fragrance" for Lesotho, it already comes with a host of its own, one of which was wafting towards me in isle 7; cocoa butter lotion.

For those PCVs unfamiliar with the cocoa butter craze of Berea district (and perhaps others as well, I wouldn't really know I don't leave mine), I plead with you to direct yourself to the nearest Machaena/Indian/local Shopping and purchase a container of "Clere" brand (with a picture of PCV's Irena's face on it) cocoa butter. You and your changed life can thank me later.

From that isle 7 moment on, I've catalogued many different scents of Lesotho that are deeply intertwined into my (and hopefully your own) psyche. Of those, one of the most prominent is the musky, cool scent of the dining/classroom building in the T-center. Not much in life compares to the inten-

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siveness of pre-service training and the rich smell of that building always brings me back to those first few weeks. There are some smells that will remind me of Lesotho, no matter where I am. The strong, sharp odor of a paraffin lamp, or the distinct reek of a gas stove will bring back images of reading and or/eating late at night, tucked cozily inside a rondaval.

The pungent, offensive and highly toxic smell of plastic set ablaze will never fail to pull at my heart-strings. As memories of gleeful trash burnings on a cool summer night are recycled to the surface of my awareness. I believe that if papa had a more discernable “food” smell, then I have no doubt that henceforth, anytime I’d come into contact with it, Lesotho would be on my mind.

These were some of the reassuring thoughts flooding my brain as I left the Albertsons that day. The matter felt finished, I had no more need to agonize over scents, memories and neural connections.

This story would’ve ended there had I not been an avid reader of free in-flight magazines. For better or worse, my stint in ‘Merica (oh great land of wonder and goodness) was over for the time being and I was on my way back to the land of my calling; Lesotho. Sitting in an expansive Boeing 7-something or other, I flipped through the pages of the duty free ‘Sky’ magazine. A carefully placed ad caught my eye, a set of the top-five best selling Dior fragrances for women, on sale now (special Atlantic routes only)! It took me only the better half of three minutes to fully scrutinize the ad. Did I qualify for this unbelievable offer? Woman? Yes. Atlantic route? (pause for map check) YES! That was the defining moment when I began to feel my new credit card burning a hole in my pocket.

Turns out these new planes come with a credit card machine built right into the entertainment system. I just wish that duty free purchases came with a complimentary phone call home, to alert ones significant financial other (in my case my parents, whose money I was now liberally spending) of ones high altitude impulse buys. For my part, I blamed it on the free beverage service, amongst other reasons (“but mom I’m going back to Lesotho!”).

So as these things go, Lesotho, you DO have an array of your own charming smells that will forever hold me close to you. However, just in case cow patties fail to wriggle themselves into my memory, I have a backup plan, five in fact. So far, this month has been colored by the smoky, yet deliciously sweet aroma of Dior’s Hypnotic Poison. Next month is looking pretty good for debuting Dior’s Adict.

Now that I have spent so much of my time (and yours too reader) obsessing over memories, I believe that I’ve compiled an impressive ‘sense memory’ package, in addition to smell that I’m inclined to gift to you.

I believe this mountain kingdom first and foremost tastes like papa, braii pork, Squadron and ginger beer, *sounds* like lil ‘Wayne, famu and electricity snapping through the air, *feels* like a crowded hot taxi speeding down a potholed road, or the lethargy that sets in after an especially long meditative stint staring at my wall, it most definitely *looks* like a khobo wrapped Mosotho, or a rewarding KFC sign, and it *smells* without a doubt, like duty free Dior.

### **INTERNATIONAL MEN’S DAY**

November 19 is International Men’s Day, which began in Trinidad and Tobago in 1999. The objectives are focusing on men’s and boy’s health, improving gender relations, promoting gender equality and highlighting positive male role models. If you think you might plan an activity focused on men or boys, please let ntate Clement (the WID/GAD staff liaison) know. For more information on International Men’s Day, please see [http://www.international-mens-day.com/Trinidad\\_and\\_Tobago.php](http://www.international-mens-day.com/Trinidad_and_Tobago.php)

News from around the  
Peace Corps World



### Statement from Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams on the passing of Ted Sorensen:

"The Peace Corps community is saddened by the loss of Ted Sorensen. Mr. Sorensen was a champion of public service opportunities and wrote several speeches for President Kennedy that inspired Americans to ask what they could do for our country. Since 1961, over 200,000 Americans have been inspired by Kennedy's legacy and have served as Peace Corps volunteers. We will honor Mr. Sorensen by continuing to advance President Kennedy's simple – but monumental – idea of promoting world peace and friendship overseas."

### Peace Corps Reaches 40-Year High in Number of Volunteers 8,655 Americans serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 77 host countries

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 28, 2010 – More Americans are serving as Peace Corps volunteers than there have been since 1970, when more than 9,000 volunteers were working in 59 countries. 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 to announce the creation of an additional 1,000 volunteer positions in 2010, complementing our goal to increase overseas leadership opportunities," Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams said. "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 brownprint 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.

#### 2010 Data:

All figures are based on fiscal year data as of September 30, 2010. Peace Corps captures this data by completing an annual data analysis of the agency's on-board strength as of the end of the fiscal year.

Peace Corps volunteers reflect the diversity of our country. The average age of a volunteer is 28; 7 percent of volunteers are over the age of 50; and the oldest volunteer currently serving is 86. Nineteen (19) percent of volunteers are minorities and 60 percent are women. Ninety (90) percent of volunteers hold at least a bachelor's degree.

Peace Corps received an increase in the operating budget. In 2010, \$400 million was



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allocated to Peace Corps programs. In 2009, Peace Corps' budget was \$340 million.

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 more volunteers decided to extend the length of their service in 2010, when compared with 2009. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment. However, many volunteers request to extend their service time to allow for the completion of a project or initiative. Many of these third-year extension volunteers also help train incoming groups of 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 reopened 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. For more information on Peace Corps Response, [click here](#).

In 2010, the agency received nearly 13,500 applications for volunteer positions. There are more Americans applying to serve with Peace Corps than there are positions available. Roughly one in three applicants will serve with a Peace Corps program overseas.

Successful 2010 applicants are generally matched to a program position with a departure in 2011. Peace Corps prioritizes the personal elements of the recruitment and placement process, which matches the skills and interests of applicants with the availability of positions and resources overseas. Applicants are encouraged to plan ahead and apply nine months to a year in advance of their target departure date.

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)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News**

**Peace Corps Director Visits Boston: Attends Events at Harvard and Tufts University**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 13, 2010 – Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams visited Tufts and Harvard University, participating in panel discussions at each of the

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institutions to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's speech, which led to the creation of the Peace Corps.

"Few people could have imagined 50 years ago, when then-Sen. Kennedy introduced the idea of the Peace Corps, that his idea for service would live on at college campuses around the country," said Director Aaron S. Williams (Dominican Republic, 1967-70). "The students from Tufts University and Harvard embody President Kennedy's call to service and both institutions are wonderful partners."

Director Williams visited the Fletcher School of International Affairs at Tufts University to host a roundtable discussion with returned Peace Corps volunteers from Tufts University. He later participated in a panel discussion at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government: "50 Years of the Peace Corps: Answering President Kennedy's Call to Service."

Thursday, October 14, 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of JFK's presidential campaign speech in Ann Arbor, Mich., that led to the creation of Peace Corps.

The Harvard panel also included former Peace Corps Directors Hon. Elaine Chao, Director 1991-92, Mark Gearan, Director 1995-99, and Gaddi Vasquez, Director 2002-06. The panel was moderated by Harvard's Kennedy School Academic Dean Mary Jo Bane, a returned Peace Corps volunteer, Liberia 1963-65.

Harvard's panel discussion is part of Harvard's John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum Series—a series that brings together academic scholars, government officials and other notable speakers. All participants in the Forum series must respond to questions posed by the moderator, and then participate in a question and answer session with members of the audience, comprised primarily of Harvard College students, Harvard Kennedy School students and members of the community.

Harvard and Tufts Universities have strong connections to the Peace Corps. Since 1961, there have been 1,205 Harvard graduates and 484 Tufts graduates to serve as Peace Corps volunteers. Currently there are 19 Harvard alumni serving in 16 countries and 16 Tufts alumni serving in 14 countries.

**Peace Corps Hosts NASA Administrator Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 29, 2010 – The Peace Corps welcomed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator and retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr. to Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C., today, as part of the Loret Miller Ruppe Speaker Series.

Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams introduced Maj. Gen. Bolden, who spoke of the importance of public service and leadership. After Maj. Gen. Bolden's remarks, he answered questions from Peace Corps employees about his work with NASA and his Marine Corps service. Peace Corps' nine regional recruiting offices were also tuned into the event via video conference.

"As Peace Corps commemorates its 50th Anniversary, we can reflect on the vision President Kennedy had for the Peace Corps," Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams said. "It was that same vision and idealism of President Kennedy that led him to announce before a special joint session of Congress in May of 1961 his goal of putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade. Kennedy's ambitions for the United States guided NASA's overall human spaceflight efforts, which culminated in putting the first man on the moon in 1969."

"NASA and the Peace Corps came out of the same era," Bolden said. "Both were created due to a call for social change and innovation. People are drawn to agencies such as ours because of their desire to contribute to national goals and to make the world a better place."

Peace Corps' Loret Miller Ruppe Speakers Series honors the agency's longest serv-

ing director and is a forum for distinguished individuals to speak about issues related to the Peace Corps' mission such as volunteering, public service, and international peace and development.

Bolden began his duties as the 12th administrator of NASA in July 2009. As administrator, he leads the NASA team and manages its resources to advance the agency's missions and goals. Bolden served 34 years with the Marine Corps and has traveled to orbit four times aboard the space shuttle between 1986 and 1994, commanding two missions. His many military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in May 2006.



*News from around the  
Peace Corps World*