RSVP to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program has come a long way since it began in 1971 with 1,000 volunteers in 11 projects. Today, nearly 300,000 volunteers serve through 707 projects nationwide. During its decade of service, RSVP has effectively demonstrated that given the opportunity, older people can make valuable contributions to their communities.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary year, July 1981 through June 1982, RSVP headquarters has undertaken some special projects:

A recently-made 18-minute color film, entitled "A Natural Resource," which describes RSVP services, has been distributed to state ACTION offices; an eight-minute version of the film has been mailed to each RSVP project, one 10-second and two 30-second RSVP television spots were mailed to TV stations nationwide in May; a special anniversary brochure, poster, pin and logo have been distributed to each project through state offices, and an anniversary plaque will be given to each RSVP volunteer who has served ten years.

The main events in RSVP's 10th anniversary celebration will occur through local and statewide efforts.

The state of Georgia will personally salute RSVP with 30- and 60-second radio and TV spots which feature Georgia's First Lady Mary Beth Busbee. Filmed this spring, the spots will run until the end of the year.

In Kansas, the ACTION state director will issue certificates with the state seal to the 4,400 RSVP volunteers who serve there.

RSVP project directors in Iowa have designed a map which illustrates the three million service hours that RSVP volunteers have given to their fellow citizens. The map will be on display in Des Moines, the state capital.

In an attempt to further publicize the RSVP anniversary, the ACTION state director in Missouri has written letters to editors of the local papers and asked them to given special considera-
We're all looking forward to the celebratory events now being planned to herald RSVP's 10th Anniversary.

At a time when each of us is being asked to chip in and to address the economic conditions we as a nation are now facing, RSVP volunteers are not just valuable - they are priceless.

RSVP volunteers fill the gaps created by financial limitations being felt in organizations and institutions across the country. As I meet volunteer supervisors in the 700 communities where our 274,000 RSVP volunteers serve, they tell me, "I don't know what I'd do without my RSVP volunteers."

Last year alone, RSVP volunteers contributed 57,137,000 hours of their time to their assignments. At the minimum wage, $3.35 an hour, this amounts to nearly $200 million dollars worth of service. This means that for every federal dollar spent in support of RSVP, the country receives seven dollars worth of service. This means that for every federal dollar spent in support of RSVP, the country receives $7 worth of service. Not a bad record!

I am proud to be part of the continuing effort of this agency to promote and to administer such a wonderful effort. The RSVP Volunteers and those of you in ACTION who work so hard to support their work are one of our nation's finest sources of what President Reagan refers to as a deep and flowing river of voluntarism.

Let's all help to make this fall's celebration of RSVP's 10th Anniversary a very special affair. RSVP deserves the happiest of happy birthdays.

With warmest regards,

Mount Rainier Climber to Assist Vietnam Veterans Program

"It's an exciting, worthwhile program, and one which I think is long overdue," says Vietnam veteran Chuck O'Brien, of ACTION's new Vietnam Volunteer Leadership Program to help Vietnam veterans make a successful transition into civilian life. (See story in next issue)

O'Brien, 34, is one of the growing number of Vietnam veterans who have voiced support for and volunteered to be a part of this program.

Having lost part of a leg in Vietnam eleven years ago, O'Brien, now a practicing attorney in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pa., occasionally uses a cane to walk, "especially in bad weather." He was one of eight disabled people to reach the summit of Mt. Rainier in Washington on July 3rd, and to come down from the mountain the following day - Independence Day.

Recently in Washington, D.C. to receive an honor for his achievement from President Reagan, O'Brien stopped by ACTION Headquarters to discuss the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program with ACTION Director Tom Pauken and to offer "to help in any way I can. Vietnam veterans are a very valuable, untapped natural resource," he says. "I told Tom that I look forward to working in the forefront of a program which helps the veterans re-enter society."

O'Brien has been a mountain climber for years, and last January he was asked to participate in the Mt. Rainier expedition. He notes: "Each other climber was an extraordinary individual in his or her own right."

According to O'Brien, the Mt. Rainier trip received "overwhelming support from the beginning. Some $80,000 to $100,000 was raised, entirely from private support sources - the Eddie Bauer Company contributed all clothing and equipment, Western Airlines furnished flights for the climbers to the site, Motorola provided communication systems, and numerous other companies made smaller donations."
As I write to you now, I am planning to embark upon a major promotion of our year-long Peace Corps 20th anniversary observance. Visits to returned Peace Corps volunteers, (RPCVs) key speeches and media events in San Francisco, Denver and Los Angeles will highlight the longest domestic trip I’ve been privileged to make on behalf of Peace Corps.

I thought you might be interested in the itinerary. San Francisco is the first stop, where we will visit the San Francisco Service Center for a staff meeting, the San Francisco Examiner for an interview, an all-news radio station for a taped program, and finally, a reception to be hosted by RPCVs and former country directors from Botswana, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Frankel.

The San Francisco agenda also calls for a meeting with the editorial board of the San Francisco Chronicle, and a speech I will give before the prestigious Commonwealth Club of California. My message will be that the Peace Corps is needed more now in the 1980’s than it was in 1961 when it began. It is expected that my luncheon address at the Sheraton Place will be televised, and at least 60 RPCVs will be in attendance.

After California, we have scheduled a three-day stop-over in Denver, where we plan to have dinner with the ACTION recruitment staff and the Board of the Independent Foundation. I will take the Platform to discuss “World Peace and Harmony” at the First Unitarian Church, at the University of Denver. I will also deliver a speech on “The Challenge of the 80’s” and “Bringing the Message of the Third World Home to RPCV Communities” at the University of Denver. The RPCVs attending the fair will have dinner with us after my speech. A telephone call-in radio show and a TV appearance will wrap up the Denver docket.

In Los Angeles, I will meet with local ACTION personnel and attend a reception hosted by two RPCV groups. Also planned: A talk to the Community Volunteers of Southern California, two radio interviews, an appearance on a TV talk show, and a press conference at the Biltmore Hotel. I will also participate in a luncheon Town Hall meeting with 300 people, and then plan to attend an informal reception sponsored by UCLA and hosted by the Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs.

Hopefully, when you read this, everything will have gone according to plan and I will be able to report to you about the RPCV activities out West and my efforts to increase public awareness of the Peace Corps. I’m looking forward to other 20th Anniversary Year (wind-up) activities in Illinois and Michigan over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Loret

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Interns Honored, New Staff Sworn in at Peace Corps Luncheon

Peace Corps Director Loret Ruppe addresses luncheon held to honor the Peace Corps’ summer interns. Shown with Ruppe are, from left, Zaire Country Director Dr. William Pruitt, Jr. and Inter-American Regional Director Luis del Rio.

A luncheon at Peace Corps headquarters on July 14 gave Peace Corps and ACTION staffers the opportunity to express their appreciation to all PC summer interns—minority and college interns, CETA workers and PC Fellows. PC Director Loret Ruppe also swore in two staffers — Dr. William Pruitt, Jr., Zaire country director; and Luis del Rio, Inter-America regional director.

Nearly 80 guests heard messages from several speakers, including Ruppe; NANEAP Director Rosalind Wheeler; Nancy Graham, Peace Corps Talent Search director; Pruitt; del Rio; Peola Spurlock, special assistant to the Peace Corps director for development education and representatives from each intern group.

Ruppe praised Pruitt and del Rio for “their fine management and their ability to work with volunt-
ORC Steps up Scarce Skills Recruitment

For almost a year, ORC recruitment specialists have managed an intense campaign to recruit "scarce skills volunteers" to fill host country job requests which, in the past, have often had to remain vacant.

The scarce skills recruitment drive is aimed at attracting volunteers with experience in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and math/science education.

According to agriculture recruitment specialist Ken French, an RPCV/Malaysia who was raised on a New Hampshire farm and now directs a broad awareness campaign aimed at America's farming families, "anyone who has lived on a farm has expertise that can be extremely valuable in developing countries. "We're trying," French says, "to inform farmers, especially older, retired farmers, that they are badly needed as volunteers.

"As in other scarce skills areas," adds French, "the potential volunteers frequently are not even aware that the Peace Corps is a viable option or that they are wanted as volunteers."

A key part of the agriculture effort occurred last spring when Leslie N. Firth, president of the 5,600 member National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA) visited agriculture volunteers at their often remote sites in Malaysia, Fiji and the Philippines. Firth's account of the trip, a dramatic report on Third World agricultural problems and the efforts of PCVs, appeared with poignant photos in NACAA's newsletter, The County Agent. "In turn," says French, "Firth's story reached thousands of farmers who had never before been likely to think of the Peace Corps and farming as having anything to do with each other."

Firth's trip has provided a bonanza of information for communications officers who are developing various issue-specific news releases and advisories for farm media; Farm Journal, for example, which reaches 90 percent of the nation's farmers, has expressed interest in what Firth learned about Peace Corps work with agriculture marketing cooperatives.

Firth appeared on three U.S. Department of Agriculture television programs which were aired over 93 rural stations, and French has, himself, made several TV appearances, most recently on a morning talk show for WGN-TV in Chicago, a cable network affiliate that is syndicated in 40 states.

"Our whole approach," says French, "is to hook into farmers' national communications networks. Another example is the help we've gotten from Agriculture Cooperative Development International (ACDI)," he adds. "ACDI's president, Donald Thomas, made a presentation to their board of directors, the upshot of which has been the distribution of 2,300 tear-card posters to farmer cooperatives across the country."

 Locating and targeting potential volunteers through established networks has been the strategy used in each scarce skill area. An informational letter was composed and sent to more than 5,000 college undergraduates majoring in forestry. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service assisted the Peace Corps in designing a forestry poster, and ads explaining the unique benefits of overseas forestry experience have been run in the nation's major forestry journals.

Mike Honegger, special assistant to the ORC director, reports that the world of biological science was "virtually blitzed" last spring with information about Peace Corps fisheries programs.

"As a result," says Honegger, "our summer requests for fisheries volunteers have been one-hundred percent filled."

In the realm of math/science education, ORC conducted a direct mailing to some 40,000 current math and science teachers which spurred an especially high receipt of inquiries about such teaching programs. National display advertising has also been aimed at national, professional education journals, and nearly 60,000 tear-card posters have gone out to math/science department chairs and faculty in U.S. colleges and universities.

The result of all this activity? "Too early yet to collect all the numbers," says French, "but indications are that with continued efforts, scarce skills requests are going to be filled at a much higher rate. It's only a matter," he says, "of reaching the right audiences."

Peace Corps volunteer Tom Gradziell works on a nursery with a family of the Mangyan tribe in an isolated village in the Philippines. Agriculture volunteers like Gradziell are among those highly sought in ORC's scarce skills recruiting drive.
MINI GRANTS:  
So Much for So Little

When Seward bought Alaska he must have had an ACTION Mini-Grant. How else could he have gotten so much for so little? If that's a bad analogy, the good news is that in Fiscal Year 1980, the Mini-Grant Program in ACTION's Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation (OVCP) made the grand expenditure of $413,312 to 104 volunteer programs around the country. In return, those programs received work from volunteers valued at about $2.5 million, when figured at just the minimum wage of $3.10 an hour.

Headed by Wendy Wheat, a former public health administrator, the Mini-Grant program is a classic contradiction to the description of Federal programs as big and expensive. Mini-grants are small, creative and quick. Average turnaround time is between two and four weeks, from submission of an application to receipt of the money by the applicant.

"Reasons for such efficiency," says Wheat, "include forms that are uniquely simple and short, grant-making authority at the Regional Office level, and the fact that the grants are small, not to exceed $5,000 each for local communities or $10,000 for a statewide project."

But the Mini-Grant Program, although a standout, is one of many programs designed to get taxpayers more "bang for their buck" in ACTION's Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation.

Headed by Tom Lias, a former assistant secretary for legislation at Health and Human Services, (DHHS) who is assisted by Deputy Assistant Director Jackie Harker, active in voluntarism in California until moving to Washington early this year to join the Reagan Administration, OVCP oversees a host of regular programs (11) and interagency efforts, such as participation in the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, Refugee Resettlement, Energy Conservation and Youth Employment Service.

Don Smith, director of Development Assistance Programs, (of which Mini-Grant is a part) says there is no pre-determined focus on grants. "We're not involved in demonstration activities," says Smith. "We're interested in development activities which build independence in volunteer projects instead of creating dependence on public support. We don't provide total project funding. Our dollars go primarily to promoting the general welfare of volunteers through training and skill building."

Smith stresses that grants from the development assistance program are "one time only" and for only one year.

It must be working. OVCP plays an increasingly important part of ACTION's Interagency Agreement activity, especially in energy and refugee resettlement work.

Although some restructuring is taking place in OVCP to accommodate new Administration initiatives on youth, drug problems and literacy, the established development programs will remain and become even more important funding mechanisms in an era of less government and more reliance on the private sector and the individual.

ACTION Update will cover studies in the Mini-Grant Program in a later issue. Next: a closer look at the Technical Assistance Program.

![Family Stress Services of the District of Columbia and its hotline for Families And Children in Trouble (FACT) services an ACTION Mini-Grant for volunteer recruitment and training. Here, Executive Director Hoan Cox Danzansky (center-left) explains hotline operations to: (from top right to left) Jackie Harker, acting assistant director of ACTION's Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation (OVCP), Wendy Wheat, manager of the mini-grant program; Levon Buller, manager of the Technical Assistance Program and Don Smith, director of Development Assistance Programs.](image)

Viet Vet  (from page 2)

When asked if his injury has had any positive effect on his life, O'Brien, who has worked with the National Inconvenienced Sportsman's Association in Boston, teaching people to ski, said, "It's made me quite a bit more sensitive to the problems of handicapped people. Before that, I was just too busy with my own life to become involved."
Pauken Outlines New Directions at Awards Meeting

Questions ranging from new program directions to the VISTA phase-out were among many asked of ACTION Director Tom Pauken by ORC headquarters and field staff during a recent meeting. Field staff participated through a conference call hook-up.

Pauken explained that although plans for the new programs are still in the developmental stage, there would be a Vietnam veterans program and a runaway youth program. “And we are looking at ways to address problems of illiteracy and drug abuse, as well as the plight of refugees once they arrive in this country,” said Pauken.

Asked for the rationale behind the decision to phase out VISTA, he said it was based on the “increasing politicization of VISTA. This agency will not support organizations that have a political base.” However, he emphasized, “although VISTA will be phased out, we are, in a sense, replacing it with some of the new programs I’ve just mentioned.”

Pauken indicated that he felt confident of the administration’s support of ACTION, its mission to encourage voluntarism and its new initiatives. He also said, “Plans call for more non-stipended volunteers—such as in RSVP—and we’ll be looking to the private sector and the private voluntary sector to achieve this.”

ORC’s role in the coming months, according to Pauken, would include work on the new initiatives and recruitment of volunteers for these programs. “Of course, you’ll also be handling the VISTA phase-out as well as the on-going support for Peace Corps,” he said.

At the end of the Q. and A. session, Pauken presented awards to 15 ORC headquarters staffers, including a Special Achievement Award to Acting Deputy Director Steve Smith and to Vinettee Jones, deputy assistant director of ORC.

ORC Director Sam Schulhof joined Pauken at the microphone when the awards were announced. “Congratulations to all,” he said. “These are well-deserved... I’d particularly like to mention what a great job Vi and Steve are doing during this transition period. I rely on them daily.”

Intern Luncheon (from page 3)

...
Luis R. del Rio, 41, of Vienna, Va., has been named regional director for Inter-America programs by Peace Corps Director Loret M. Ruppe. The Inter-America Region was formerly called “Latin America Region.”

Since 1980, del Rio served as Executive Officer for the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. From 1977 to 1980, he was the administrative officer of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in the Republic of Panama. He served as assistant director for administration and operations for the National Medical Audiovisual Center in Atlanta, Ga., from 1976 to 1977, having been an administrative officer with that organization from 1974 to 1976.

A native of Santurce, P.R. and 1962 biology graduate of the University of Puerto Rico, del Rio served as a research biologist from 1965 to 1970 with the National Institute of Health’s Laboratory of Perinatal Physiology in San Juan, P.R.

After graduating from the National Institute of Health Management Intern Program in Bethesda, Md., he became the administrative officer for the Office of Computer and Communications Systems at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Md.

In 1979, del Rio was an "ad hoc" member of the Environmental Joint Subcommittee of the governments of the Republic of Panama and the U.S. At that time, he also served as "ad hoc" member of the Canal Zone Civilian Personnel Policy Coordinating Board in the Canal Zone, Republic of Panama, and as a member of the board of Panama Employment System Examiners of the Panama Canal Commission, Canal Zone. He has received several commendations and awards for outstanding performance during his career in the federal government.

Currently, del Rio resides in Vienna, Va., with his wife, Zoe, and their three children.

Richard B. Abell, 38, of Malvern, Pa., has been named director of the Peace Corps Office of Programming and Training Coordination (OPTC).

He will oversee the development of Peace Corps programs in 60 nations as well as the pre-service training that all volunteers undergo.

A 1974 graduate of George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., Abell served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia from 1967 to 1969. His wife, the former Lucia del Carmen Lombana-Cadavid, is a native of Colombia and served there as a host country national Peace Corps staff member.

A former chairman of the Young Republican National Federation (1979 to 1981) and Executive Committee member of the Republican National Committee in 1980 Abell served as assistant district attorney and police legal coordinator of Chester County, Pa., from 1974 to 1979.

From 1969 to 1971, Abell served with the U.S. Army Infantry. He was retired for wounds received in action with the First Air Calvary Division in Tay-Ninh Province, Republic of South Vietnam, and was awarded the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism and the Purple Heart.

Abell was a member of the adjunct faculties of Delaware Law School, Wilmington, Del., from 1975 to 1977, and of West Chester State College in West Chester, Pa., in 1975. He served as Pennsylvania field representative for then U.S. Senator Richard S. Schweiker.

A 1966 international affairs graduate of George Washington University, Abell is listed in Who’s Who in American Politics and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the National District Attorneys’ Association. He received an Outstanding Young Men of America Award from the U.S. Jaycees in 1975 and was presented the GOP Youth Movement Award by College Republicans of Pennsylvania in 1978.


Currently, the Abells reside with their three children in Malvern.
FROM THE FIELD...

CHICAGO... Jim Carpenter, (RPCV-El Salvador) volunteer recruitment specialist/agriculture, Chicago Service Center, has, for the fifth consecutive year, obtained vegetable seeds from the Vaughn-Jackson Seed Co. of Downers Grove, Ill. for distribution to Peace Corps agricultural programs. Through the seed company's generosity, 1,138,400 packets will be distributed to about 40 Peace Corps countries that have requested them. According to Carpenter, the seeds are available to the Peace Corps since these seeds, packaged for sale in the 1981 spring market, were not sold. Under USDA regulations they would normally be destroyed as they cannot be sold in next year's domestic market.

Carpenter, in cooperation with World Vision, a missionary organization based in Monrovia, Calif., arranged for excess seeds to be shipped to 57 projects in El Salvador, and to be distributed among 8,000 families. The seeds include: carrots, cabbage, lettuce, radishes and tomatoes. World Vision is providing a truck to ship the seeds from Chicago to Miami. Then a Missionary Aviation Fellowship DC-8 will fly them down to El Salvador.

"Jim is to be highly commended for this tremendous effort," said Chicago Service Center Director Bruce Cohen.

PHILADELPHIA... June which was designated as Peace Corps month, a part of the 20th anniversary celebration, concluded on a high note when close to 200 persons attended the final lecture on "The Refugee Crisis in Somalia," on June 30, 1981. The speakers included: George Gordon Lennox, regional director for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees; Salimatu Diallo, press and information officer for the Organization of African Unity; and Abdulkarim Ali Omar, second secretary, Embassy of the Somali Democratic Republic. The master of ceremonies was Martin Ganzglass (RPCV-Somalia), founder of the U.S. Committee for Somali Refugee Relief. "PIO Lillian Pfaff did an outstanding job in helping set up and promote the Peace Corps celebration in Philadelphia," said Ruth Waddington, region communications director in New York.

LOS ANGELES... PIO Don Stewart reports that recent Los Angeles Times coverage of former Peace Corps volunteers, including TV star Richard Sanders (RPCV-Brazil), has resulted in more stories about Sanders, who stars in "WKRP in Cincinnati." PEOPLE magazine included Sanders in an article in its July 20 issue about PC's 20 years. In addition, Sanders was highlighted in the entertainment section in a recent Los Angeles Times issue.

CHICAGO... Albert Raby, native Chicagoan and Peace Corps director for Ghana, was a recent visitor to the local area recruiting office. He met with the recruiters, and evaluation and placement specialists, and discussed Peace Corps volunteers in Ghana. Topics included quality of volunteers, specific job duties in Ghana, and what ORC needs to know to do a better job. During his visit Raby was interviewed by WIND-AM radio host Dave Baum, WAIT-FM host Don Rose, WBEZ-FM host Bruce Dumont and WBBM-TV host Lee Phillips.

STAFF EXCHANGE

Loret Ruppe and Bill Reese (PC 20th Anniversary Office) clobbered John Chromy (Office of Volunteer Services) and Dave Scotton (Ruppe's executive assistant) in tennis recently while testing some new recruitment facilities at Project HOPE headquarters in Washington, D.C. Scotton was heard to remark, "You have to let the boss win sometimes."

Traffic between the Paramount and Maiatico Buildings is at an all-time high. Coincidentally, a new Hardee's Restaurant has opened at the corner of Connecticut and 1st St. (That's right next to the Barrister.)

And also ...

The latest theory as to why the Maiatico Building is so much warmer than the Paramount Building is that the coffee shop underneath the Maiatico Building has run out of ice.

Condolences to John Cox, (PC Placement) who broke his foot during a Peace Corps volleyball game, and to Ralph Blessing (of the Evaluation Office) who sprained his ankle executing a slam dunk during a PC basketball game.

Tom Novak just got back from a "great vacation" where he travelled to Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Trois Riviers, Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa.

Two staffers from PC Staging, and maybe a third are going to the Peace Corps country of Belize for vacation. They are Debbie Thomas, Helen Parsons, and Steve Taylor, (if he can work into his schedule)

ACTION UPDATE

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