Proud to make a difference

Peace Corps at 25

25th Anniversary Issue

December 1985
The Three Peace Corps Goals

To help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained personpower.

To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.

To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

TODAY'S PEACE CORPS

Over 6,000 Peace Corps Volunteers are working on grassroots, self-help development projects in 63 nations around the world.

Peace Corps' overseas operations are administered through the three regions: the 23 nations of sub-Saharan Africa; the 19 Central and South American and Caribbean nations comprising Inter-America, and the 18 nations in North Africa, the Near East, Asia and the Pacific, or NANEAP.

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From the Director

It has been a privilege for me to serve as your Director for the past 4½ years; it has been, and continues to be, a time rich with opportunity for American goodwill and humanitarianism. Now, as we celebrate 25 years of this agency's existence, we are also celebrating a joyful renaissance of the powerful spirit of American voluntarism that, as President Reagan has said, "runs through this nation like a mighty river."

Peace Corps, started by a Democrat in the 1960s, and revitalized by a Republican in the 1980s—is still critically needed, now more than ever. You Volunteers, and your host country friends and colleagues, know best of the unparalleled impact of Peace Corps abroad. During our 25th anniversary year, I will be taking the story of Peace Corps to your countrymen as well, traveling to more than 30 American cities in a series of symposiums designed to involve the average American with the needs and concerns of the developing world.

Like many anniversaries, our 25th year is an optimal focal point to discuss the future of Peace Corps. I see a future where we actively pursue collaborative opportunities with other U.S. and foreign donors; where USAID, PVOs, and other international volunteer agencies will play an even greater role in our training and programming. I see new grassroots technologies, and breakthroughs in research and development that will be carried into the field by Peace Corps Volunteers. I see pathways cleared toward establishing "sister" relationships between universities throughout the world with American institutions to share new ideas in the realm of development.

It will take more than our 25 years of experience, however, to mold the future. It will take a certain amount of what has always been necessary for lasting change—creative spirit. Creativity met the challenge of Kennedy's generation by providing the Peace Corps in 1961; let us, in the 1980s, answer the challenge to free the world from poverty, illiteracy, hunger and disease by bringing not only our experience, but our fullest creative efforts, to bear on these enemies of peace. And let us have a truly memorable silver anniversary throughout our country and around the world.

Loret Miller Ruppe

Proud to make a difference at 25
On October 14, 1960, just 24 days before he was elected President, John F. Kennedy issued a challenge to the students gathered to greet him at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. At the end of a long day of traveling and campaign appearances, he asked how many of them would be willing to forego their accustomed lifestyle and spend two years in a developing country working to “help people help themselves.” Twenty-five years later, nearly 120,000 Americans have done just that in 92 developing nations throughout the world.

First established by executive order on March 1, 1961, and subsequently approved by Congress by passage of the Peace Corps Act in September of that same year, the Peace Corps’ first Volunteers left for Ghana to teach in secondary schools on August 30, 1961. Soon after, Volunteers arrived in Colombia and Tanganyika (now Tanzania), and by year’s end, programs had been established in Chile, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and St. Lucia bringing the total number of Volunteers placed in the Peace Corps’ first year to 864.

Volunteers working in the areas of agriculture, health and nutrition, forestry and fisheries were soon joining the ranks of their fellows in education and by 1966, the agency reached a peak of over 15,000 Volunteers in its ranks. By the end of the 1960s, Volunteers had been
Today And Tomorrow

placed in 63 countries.

In 1971, the agency was placed under the umbrella of ACTION until 1981 when President Reagan signed legislation to re-establish its independence. During the 70s, there was continued diversification in the programs being established and, in 1974, Peace Corps entered its 69th country.

Now in the 1980s, new environmental and economic conditions have prompted the development of programs to address special needs. The Africa Food Systems Initiative (planned for Lesotho, Mali, Niger, and Lesotho) is a systems approach to increasing food production. Addressing the need for teacher training, literacy, small business development, housing and health in the countries of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, is the plan for the Initiative for Central America. And the Caribbean Basin Initiative (Dominican Republic, Eastern Caribbean, Haiti and Jamaica) is a major attempt to stimulate job-creating small enterprises.

Peace Corps and its Volunteers has changed during this quarter century. In its “formative” years, well over half of the agency’s Volunteers were considered to be “generalists” while that statistic in 1984 has fallen to 45 percent. In addition, the average age of Volunteers has risen from 25 to 28 due to the demographic change in the U.S. and a desire to include more “over 50” Americans among the Peace Corps’ ranks. Especially in developing countries, these older Volunteers are revered for their wealth of experience.

What does the future bring? In addition to the initiatives previously mentioned, plans are being formulated to enter several additional countries. During the agency’s 25th year, the Africa region will place Volunteers in its 25th country. Programs in agriculture extension, forestry and English as a foreign language were established this past fall in the Republic of Guinea. Entrance early in 1986 is anticipated for Equatorial Guinea (the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa) with programs being discussed in agriculture extension and agriculture cooperative education. The Inter-American region is considering two countries for re-entry, Brazil (1962-1981) and Panama (1963-1971), while NANEAP is discussing a possible program being established in the Maldives, an island chain off the southwest coast of India. Concerned about the affect outsiders would have on the people of their outlying islands, the Maldives’ government prohibits travel off the main island by tourists and volunteers. However, due to its solid reputation for being sympathetic to other cultures and working with the residents in their own environments, the Peace Corps is being seriously considered for placement on these outlying islands.

The Peace Corps has gone far in helping the people of the developing countries to better their personal and community lives, but there is still much to be done. An even more productive second 25 years is being anxiously awaited and anticipated by the staff, Volunteers, and people of both the United States and the nations in which help is needed.
Proud To Make A Difference,

On Oct. 7, on the steps of the Union at the University of Michigan where it all started, Peace Corps began a year-long celebration of its 25th Anniversary. Before a spirited crowd, Vice President George Bush gave the major address for the official anniversary ceremony.

Volunteers by saying, "They've helped eliminate malaria in Thailand, smallpox in Ethiopia, tuberculosis in Bolivia and Malawi; they've taught more than 5 million children and they've won the hearts of the world."

"The Peace Corps is 25 today, but I believe its most exciting days are yet to come. And everyone who knows the Peace Corps can feel it."

Bush, who toured several Peace Corps sites in Africa this spring spoke about the Africa Foods Systems Initiative. The challenge to Peace Corps may be even greater today because of the drought causing a severe decline in food production in Africa.

"But for the next 10 years, Peace Corps will be working with African farmers on the nitty-gritty of turning that around. Soil erosion, water control, better seeds, as well as better ways to store crops and get them to market—the Peace Corps will tackle all these things."

During the ceremony Peace Corps Director Loret Kuppe called for a moment of silence in tribute to the 198 Volunteers who died in Peace Corps service. She said, "They work on the real enemies of the people—illiteracy, disease, poverty and hunger. These are the real villains of peace."
Peace Corps At 25

The anniversary ceremonies were part of a two-day event featuring a symposium, “America’s Role in Africa’s Development: Past and Future,” sponsored jointly with the University of Michigan. A host of experts on Africa’s economic and political development from the international community presented papers and served on panels.

The conference was chaired by Michigan’s Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Niara Sudarkasa. Major addresses were given by Harold Shapiro, President of the University of Michigan; OAU Ambassador to the United Nations, Oumarou Garba Youssoufou; H.M.A. Onitiri, Special Advisor to the United Nations Development Program; Peace Corps Director Loret Ruppe and the first Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver.

The first topic of the symposium was, “Understanding U.S. Interests in Africa,” presented by Robin Barlow, Elliot Berg, Herschelle Challenor and Elliott Skinner.

The luncheon speaker was the first Peace Corps Director and brother-in-law of President John F. Kennedy, Sargent Shriver.

Shriver said, “We are gathered to commemorate a unique occasion in American history, that occasion when, for the first time an American President proposed to put the full strength of our government behind a voluntary movement of free men and women dedicated to the pursuit of peace. Many nations in human history have undertaken many tasks, many have boasted about their economic power and military victories. But none has ever put its prestige and money into so sustained an effort to seek peace through education work and service to others performed by its own citizens volunteering for that service.

“The success of the Peace Corps is proof that moral vision coupled with perseverance and courage can overcome great obstacles. The present state of the Peace Corps is good. Its chances for future growth and progress are better than they have been for many years.

“The Peace Corps was specifically designed to answer Kennedy’s challenge. Its nature was peaceful. Its nature was to call upon all Americans to serve overseas for at least two years and to serve at home for the rest of their lives. Service at home, according to the Peace Corps Act, involved teaching and telling our fellow Americans about the realities of the Third World ... and about its hopes for the future.”

Shriver then spoke about the Third Goal and service at home and called upon RPCVs to continue to work for peace.

He closed by saying, “We are Peace Corps Volunteers forever and we will never be the same again. In that spirit, let us resolve to continue and complete our real tours of duty which are not for two years, but for all the years of our lives, until the peace we dreamed of when we signed up for the corps is finally won.”

After the luncheon, the anniversary ceremonies were held at the Michigan Union followed by a special reception with RPCVs.

“Famine and Drought: There Are No Easy Solutions,” was the topic for Peace Corps Director’s speech at the dinner. In her speech, she recounted Peace Corps’ efforts in Africa and elaborated on the Africa Food Systems Initiative.

Director Ruppe emphasized what seems to be the key to easing Africa’s food and economic problems, coordination and cooperation.
For lasting change on the African continent and the eradication of drought and famine, we must look beyond our own expertise, culture and national pride to put the future of Africa into the hands of the Africans themselves. Successful strategies and reforms must be initiated and supported by the African governments, just as the involvement of Asian governments paved the way for the “green revolution.” Africans can and will direct the solutions to their own problems. Their courage and persistence in the face of such severe circumstances demand our respect as well as our help.

“Long-term planning is originating with the African governments in the form of national five-year plans and the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by African chiefs of state at a meeting of the Organization of African Unity in 1980. The Lagos Plan endorses objectives for the African states to achieve a more self-reliant, more economically integrated Africa by the year 2000.”

The Director offered challenges to our government, to private citizens, to the international community, to the private sector. She closed by saying, “Most of all, I challenge each of us to continue seeking the solutions, to keep on going until Africa is no longer the hostage of drought and famine. The solutions are not easy, but they deserve our very best efforts. The seeds of peace and prosperity we plant together will yield a rich harvest not only for Africa, but for America and the rest of the world.”


Program Participants

Philip C. Asiodu, M.A. (Oxon.), former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Power, and former Chief Economic Advisor, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Robyn Barlow, Ph.D., Director, Center for Research on Economic Development; Professor of Economics and Research Scientist, CRED. The University of Michigan

Elliot Berg, Ph.D., President, Elliot Berg Associates; Consultant to the World Bank; former Professor of Economics and Director, Center for Research on Economic Development, The University of Michigan

Goler Butcher, LL.M., Professor of Law, Howard University; former Assistant Administrator in charge of the Africa Division, U.S. Agency for International Development

Herschelle S. Challener, Ph.D., Director, UNESCO Liaison Office, Washington, D.C.; former Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College

Billy E. Frye, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Professor of Zoology, The University of Michigan

James Hamilton, Ph.D., Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education and Professor of Chemistry, Michigan State University

Clinton Jones, Ph.D., Chancellor, The University of Michigan-Flint, and Professor of Political Science.

Symposium Schedule

During the anniversary year, Peace Corps is sponsoring several symposiums throughout the United States in conjunction with its 25th Anniversary. The symposiums, under the local sponsorship of Returned Peace Corps Volunteer organizations, the World Affairs Council and similar groups, will consider the topic “The U.S. Partnership in the Developing World.”

City Date

Chicago, Ill. Mon., Nov. 4
Columbus, Ohio Fri., Nov. 8
Miami, Fla. Mon., Dec. 9
Stanford Univ./Palo Alto, Calif. Fri., Jan. 17
San Francisco, Calif. Sat., Jan. 18
Tucson, Ariz. Tues., Jan. 21
Honolulu, Hawaii Fri., Jan. 24
Memphis, Tenn. Fri., Feb. 10
Louisville, Ky. Fri., Feb. 21
Boston, Mass. Sat., Mar. 1-8
Los Angeles, Calif. Thurs., Mar. 6
Seattle, Wash. Fri., Mar. 7
Portland, Ore. Sat., Mar. 8
Dayton, Ohio Fri., Mar. 14
Hartford, Conn. Fri., Mar. 24
Oklahoma City, Okla. Mon., Mar. 31
Albuquerque, N.M. Tues., Apr. 8
Columbia, S.C. Fri., Apr. 11-15
Hanover, N.H. Fri., Apr. 25-Sat., Apr. 26
Cleveland, Ohio Mon., Apr. 28
San Antonio, Tex. Thurs., May 8
Indianapolis, Ind. Fri., May 9
Kansas City, Kan. Fri., May 16
Denver, Colo. Fri., May 23
Anchorage, Alaska Mon., June 13
Palm Beach, Fla. Mon., June 27

Roger Landrum, Ed.D., Educational Consultant; President, Association of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Washington, D.C.

Wilbert LeMelle, Ph.D., President, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, New York; former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya and the Seychelles

Roseda E. Marshall, M.D., M.P.H., Instructor in Pediatrics, Department of Ambulatory Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Johns Hopkins University; former Head of Pediatrics, John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Monrovia, Liberia

Ali Mazrui, D. Phil. (Oxon.), Professor, Department of Political Science and Center for Afro-American and African Studies, The University of Michigan; research professor, University of Jos, Nigeria; Consultant to the British Broadcasting Company, the United Nations, and UNESCO

Mutombo Mpanya, Ph.D., Faculty Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame


Maxwell Owusu, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Research Scientist, Center for Research on Economic Development, The University of Michigan

Michael Samuels, Ph.D., Vice President, International Division, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; former U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone

Elliot P. Skinner, Ph.D., Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University; former Ambassador from the United States to the Republic of Upper Volta

Cheikh Tidiane Sy, Doctoral Cycle, Sorbonne; Director, Ecole Nationale d'Économie Appliquée, Dakar, Senegal; former head of Division of African Higher Education, UNESCO, Paris

Ernest Wilson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Department of Political Science and Institute of Public Policy Studies, The University of Michigan

Davis S. Wiley, Ph.D., Director, African Studies Center; Associate Professor of Sociology, Michigan State University
September Celebration

The year-long celebration will culminate with a round of activities in Washington from Sept. 19th through the 22nd.

In addition to a symposium, plans are being made which include a reception for the "first" 864 Volunteers (see story), Rose Garden ceremony at the White House and a gala at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As soon as details for these and other events are finalized we will inform you.

As we have no list of addresses for most former Peace Corps Volunteers, we ask that you pass all information about the 25th Anniversary along through your RPCV network.


NCRPV Plans 1986 Meeting

The River City Volunteers, the San Antonio (Texas) chapter of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, has been chosen to host the 1986 annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for July 25-27 on the Trinity University campus in San Antonio. In addition to the general meeting, the council will hold a special 25th Anniversary celebration.

Carol Ann Sahm (RPCV/ Honduras and one of the Volunteers of the year in 1984) is the conference coordinator.

For more information about the conference, write to:
NCRPCV Meeting
River City Volunteers
Box 15126
San Antonio, TX 78212

This will be an important meeting so make plans now to attend.

For more information about the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers write to:
NCRPCV
Box 1404
Omaha, NE 68010

Grad Opportunity For Agriculture PCVs

Agriculture PCVs are often at a loss about what to do once returning state-side. It is difficult to combine international interests with the need to find new jobs while dealing with the shock of being home again. A number of RPCVs have found an answer in graduate school: in this case California Polytechnic's International Agricultural Development Program (IAD).

RPCV's comprise 90% of the IAD program's enrollment. One reason is the recommended 2 years of overseas experience before starting the program. Dr. Allen Rosenfeld, the director of the program, supports Peace Corps candidates: "RPCVs have experienced many of the frustrations involved in international development as well as the excitement of cross-cultural communication. They also have a commitment to third world areas and a real desire to return overseas. This program provides them with the extra skills needed to help them be more effective."

The program provides its graduates with the skills needed to manage the complex technical, economic, social and political problems encountered in designing and implementing development projects. The School of Agriculture and the IAD Program emphasize a multidisciplinary hands-on approach, ideal for students searching for pragmatic solutions to the difficult issues of agricultural and rural development in the Third World. Graduate courses in the Agricultural Sciences, specially designed for IAD students, provide technical skills for solving problems in Third World coping and livestock systems. In addition, a select group of social science courses have been developed to provide IAD students with an understanding of the complex set of political, social, geographical, and cultural forces that influence the success of development assistance efforts.

Students are assisted in finding overseas internships to complement their academic work. This last summer, students worked in Asia, Africa and Latin America for such diverse international groups as A.I.D., American Friends Service Committee, A.L. Nellum, Holstein International and Agriculture Cooperative Development International. These experiences help the students assimilate and utilize much of the first year's training as well as establish contacts for future development.

For further information write: International Agricultural Development, Agricultural Management Department, California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, or call (805) 546-2201.

In Search Of The "First" 864 PCVs

Peace Corps is trying to locate the 864 Volunteers who were the "first" to serve overseas in 1961 and 1962, to take part in the 25th Anniversary celebration. Director Ruppe plans to honor these Volunteers in a special event in Sept. 1986.

These "first" Volunteers served in Ghana, Chile, Colombia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Malaysia, India, Tanzania, the Philippines, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone and Thailand.

If you were one of the "first", or if you know of anyone who was, please contact Peace Corps as soon as possible with these particulars: country and dates of service, current address and phone number.


The Missing Link

Was (or is) your mother, father, sister or brother a PCV? How about an aunt, uncle, cousin or grandparent?

Peace Corps is trying to locate volunteers and returned Volunteers who have or have had other family members serve as Volunteers.

If you fit into this category, please write with details to: Director of Public Affairs, Peace Corps, 806 Conn., NW, Washington, D.C. 20526.
## 25 Years of Peace Corps

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St. Kitts-Nevis Seek RPCVs

As part of their 25th Anniversary activities, Peace Corps/St. Kitts-Nevis is assembling a permanent photo exhibition which will include information on all Volunteers who have served there since Peace Corps' entry in 1967.

If you were a Volunteer on St. Kitts-Nevis, or know of someone who was, please contact:
Joan and David Robinson
Alexander Hamilton House
Charlestown, NEVIS
West Indies

The Robinsons would also like for RPCVs to submit any information they can about their careers and families. At your request, addresses will be kept in confidence.

"The continued growth of America is going to depend more and more upon the kinds of skills, perspectives and cross-cultural experiences brought back by returning Peace Corps Volunteers."

Lee Iacocca
Chrysler Corporation

Erdahl Named Associate Director

Arlen Erdahl, Country Director for Jamaica since June 1983, has been named Peace Corps Associate Director for Volunteer Recruitment and Selection. VRS was formerly the Office of Marketing, Recruitment, Placement and Staging.

Prior to his tenure in Jamaica, Erdahl served two terms in the United States Congress, from 1979 through 1981, as a Representative from Minnesota. He sat on the Foreign Affairs, Small Business and Education and Labor Committees. He was previously the Minnesota Secretary of State and a member of the Minnesota Public Service Commission.

Before embarking on a career in public service he operated a family farm and served in the U.S. Army.

Erdahl is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and earned a masters degree in public administration from Harvard University.

"The continued growth of America is going to depend more and more upon the kinds of skills, perspectives and cross-cultural experiences brought back by returning Peace Corps Volunteers."

Lee Iacocca
Chrysler Corporation
Peace Corps

A great many things have begun in 1961. We've put the computer age and now ordinary occurrence. A great place in Peace Corps the months the Times will be chronicling.
Memories

Since Peace Corps
man on the moon, entered
the space shuttle as an
many changes have taken
During the next nine
you a pictorial history
25 years.

Kneeling as they receive the blessing of Pope Paul VI, PCV Gary Gonya of Ohio and his bride, Diana Gaitan, were married on Aug. 24, 1968 in Bogota, Colombia. They were among 25 couples chosen for a special nuptial mass before 300,000 onlookers at the Eucharistic Congress.

Humphrey visits PCV Jane Williams of Colorado at a goat farm in India

The 10,000th Volunteer to complete Peace Corps service was Sally Poland of Kentucky in August of 1966. She, and her husband, Al, were community development workers in Turkey.
AID Administrator Remembers

I am pleased to join in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Peace Corps, an organization that has brought a sense of vitality into our relationships with the developing countries and exemplifies the finest in American spirit.

I joined the Peace Corps in the early days, over 20 years ago. I saw a piece of promotional literature with a photograph of a Peace Corps volunteer talking to a group of Indian children in the Andes. That photograph made quite an impression on me. It meant adventure and a chance to make an impact. I remember well the day I decided to apply.

By coincidence, as a volunteer, I ended up going to the Andes, to Peru. I'd never been abroad before and it was quite an adjustment: a different culture, a different language, etc. In short, the Peace Corps was a real challenge.

In Peru, I lived in a barriata (a poor area outside Lima). In the barriata, among other efforts, I helped a Catholic priest organize a parish credit union. I will not forget the credit union organization meeting held one night in the church. The community did not have electricity and I can still see the candles burning. We had about 20 people there, all men, dressed in rugged work clothes. I explained how credit unions functioned and the priest encouraged them to join. They said yes if he would be the treasurer. He said fine. Our effort was launched, but the hard work of keeping the records and making it go was just beginning. That priest was fabulous.

Later I worked as a backstop person for other volunteers around Peru involved in the PL 480 school feeding program. Also I spent several months in what was then the Office of Private Enterprise at the AID Mission in Lima.

My experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer changed the direction of my life. Like most volunteers, I received far more than I gave, and it was a great experience. As a result of my years in Peru, I became deeply interested in development, convinced that I would like to work for AID someday.

In Lima, I spent many hours discussing the philosophies of development with my fellow volunteers. We were groping for answers to the problems around us.

I saw that self help, not charity had to be the foundation of our development effort. I came to appreciate the fact that the poor are rational economic decision makers, given what they know and have to use. They want a better life for themselves and their children. They will work hard to achieve their goals. When they have a real opportunity, they will reach for it. They want and need the chance for a better life by the power of their own work and thought.

Also I reflected on the fact that science and technology have been a major factor in the U.S.'s economic prosperity. I came to see that science and technology had an important role to play in developing countries and that the U.S. could be very important in aiding that effort. For example, at the time the Green Revolution was beginning in Asia and the U.S. had a major part in creating the technology involved. New crops were produced that yielded three or four times more than traditional varieties. These new crops helped the many poor farmers, who responded to an opportunity to improve their lives.

My experiences as a PCV changed the direction of my life.

AID has provided me a chance to translate these ideas and others into an action agenda. At AID we have developed four pillars that guide and shape the U.S. foreign aid program. Those pillars are as follows: first, we see the policies, budgets and programs of poor countries as more important than the money we provide, and therefore, urge countries to adopt sound approaches. For example, we urge countries not to spend all their health budgets on downtown big hospitals but to support health outreach efforts. It's those kind of outreach efforts that the U.S. foreign aid program can support. Second, we encourage the use of market forces and the private sector. Third, we are stressing science and technology, such as new high-yielding crops for Africa, work on a malaria vaccine, etc. Fourth, we are building institutions and training people. These pillars have focussed and I think augmented our program.
Life As A PCV In Peru

As Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development, McPherson visits his site 20 years later.

Peace Corps Light

Everyone has read or heard many stories of Peace Corps successes. There are many more stories which rarely get told. Here's a look at the lighter side of the past 25 years of the Peace Corps. Believe it, or not!

- A Peace Corps Volunteer was winding up her service in Togo at a final meeting with her village counterparts. She had bobbed hair, and frequently wore boots and jeans since she was often motorbiking. It was a long meeting, and when the agenda was finally exhausted, the elderly chief walked her to her motorbike. He paused there, and said there was one last question, which he had to put as there would never be another chance. "Of course," said the Volunteer, somewhat bewildered. "Well," said the chief, "it's that we've been wondering for two years: are you a he or a she?"

- To promote cleanliness, a Volunteer in Malawi wrote the song, "Brush away the flies from your children's eyes."

- The old Volunteer Magazine contributed directly to progress in Nepal. One shopkeeper in Kathmandu switched from using flimsy Nepali newsprint for wrapping goods, to using pages from the Volunteer magazine. He also used bags which had been constructed from glue and Volunteers. A headline on one bag boldly stated "Volunteers as agents for development."

- A Volunteer in the Central African Republic lost the seats in his jeep to several hungry hyenas.

- An APCD in Ethiopia sent her three lion cubs on a plane bound for a London estate. They were very friendly, tame animals, but the pilot of the small plane did not know this. Consequently, he panicked at 14,000 feet above sea level when he found one cub licking his boots, and the other two peering at him through the curtain between the cockpit and fuselage of his plane. Suddenly, the control tower at Brussels airport heard the cry, "Brussels, can I make an emergency landing? I have 3 lions in my cockpit!" The operator, thinking it was a joke, replied, "Just stick them in your gas tank." When a lion roared, it convinced them he wasn't joking. The pilot made a top priority landing, and heavy nets were thrown over the cockpit. Police armed with submachine guns and firemen with axes and hoses watched as a zoologist placed the lonesome cubs back in their crates!

- A Volunteer in Costa Rica helped raise money for a community center by organizing a snake rodeo. The events included snake handling, venom extraction demonstrations, and a dance where the Queen of the Snake Rodeo was crowned. A seven foot Sabanera snake named Arthur Seldin was the hit of the rodeo.

- In Liberia, a Volunteer was teaching a villager how to make popcorn over an open fire. The instruction about always keeping a lid on the pot was not understood, so popcorn shot out of the pot everywhere. The children added to the commotion by running around, catching the popcorn in their mouths.

- A Volunteer in Nigeria received the following instructions from a Peace Corps staff member, attached to a snakebite anti-venom kit: "The doctor says it is not necessary to refrigerate it, but it keeps its potency better that way. One is for vipers, I think; the other for all other types. One must be administered intravenously to have any effect; the other is fatal when shot through a vein. I've forgotten which is which."

Last year, AID and the Peace Corps established a joint coordinating committee. This is a natural partnership. AID has resources and excellent program skills. The Peace Corps has an abundance of dedicated people. Today, there are 1,000 volunteers in forty countries working with AID projects. The Peace Corps has kept its autonomy, AID has gained an ally and poor countries are benefiting. Incidentally, the Peace Corps has long been an important influence at AID. Over five hundred former volunteers are AID employees, about 15% of our U.S. national personnel.

In closing, the Peace Corps was a shaping experience for me and one that benefits me day after day.

M. Peter McPherson

Peace Corps Times 15
"I was at my best with you people."

Take a break sometime and try to imagine what you'll think of your Peace Corps experience, your fellow volunteers and your host country in the year 2001. Will you have gone back to visit? Will you have ever left? What will you be doing and where will you be living? How many volunteers will you still be in contact with 16 years from now?

There is life after Peace Corps

If you were in the Peace Corps from 1967 through 1969, you'd have answers to those questions, especially if you'd just had a reunion, as our group did in August. In 1967, 18 of us entered the Caribbean island of St. Lucia as teacher trainers, part of the larger Eastern Caribbean 11 group.

We were a pretty homogeneous group of recent college and graduate school grads. Twenty-four months later we completed our assignments and took back to the states both a highly personal experience and a communal one which included an appreciation for the uniqueness of what we'd been through together.

That bond must have been strong because it certainly wasn't difficult to get everyone back for a reunion.

When the group gathered there was no surprise that 17 out of 18 came, only regret that a new job and new baby kept one away. Happily, Hank Scheinost, Peace Corps rep for this group and former St. Lucia volunteer from an earlier group, was able to attend.

Most members of the group had seen others in the years since '69, attending weddings or becoming godparents to each other's children or at least keeping abreast of each other through Christmas letters, etc. A few prodigals had to be chased down; and they were, and they came.

Story telling, now as then, was the art most appreciated.

RPCVs, spouses, and children—43 in all—gathered outside of Boston at the home of Charlie and Sandy Robinson, the two volunteers who met and married in the Peace Corps. People came from California, Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Virgin Islands, up and down the east coast and from St. Lucia. Jim Mogal, the St. Lucian arrival, never really left the island.

The reunion itself was a celebration of good fellowship. Activities were a pleasant blend of reminiscing about the old days with experiencing new times together: sightseeing, fun runs, baseball and the beach. Story telling, now as then, was the art most appreciated, and a slight embellishment was overlooked, if not encouraged.

There is life after the Peace Corps. We've created 33 new lives and obviously changed a good bit since 1969. The changes do not seem startling to us. It's not surprising who got the degrees, who became the entrepreneurs, and who
St. Lucia Volunteers 18 Years Later

On the occasion of their 17th wedding anniversary, Charles and Sandra Robinson re-enact the cake ceremony.

Will the last Peace Corps Volunteer to leave the island, please turn off the lights?

Caribbean Peace Corps legend has it that while volunteers for Ghana and Tanzania were being feted in the Rose Garden, the first volunteers actually got to work in St. Lucia. Apocryphal as that story may be, St. Lucia is one of only three places in the world that the Peace Corps has been working continuously since 1961. Approximately 325 volunteers have served on this island of 100,000 in the past 24 years.

On the occasion of their 17th wedding anniversary, Charles and Sandra Robinson re-enact the cake ceremony.

Scholarship

We retain the commitment to each other that was formed on the island. Furthermore, we retain a commitment to the island. During the weekend we started a scholarship fund for needy island youth to attend secondary school. Administered by the Ministry of Education, this money represents a small return on the investment St. Lucia made in our lives. (Any other volunteers or former volunteers interested in learning about this or in contributing should contact Bob Neymeyer, 801 4th Ave., Parkersburg, Iowa 50665 (319) 346-2048.)

Why was it so great, that one weekend? It did harken back to a simpler time. Writer Mary McGory asked Daniel Patrick Moynihan if they would ever laugh again after JFK was killed. He answered that, “Yes, they’d laugh again, they’d just never be young again.”

Maybe for a weekend we both laughed and were young again. But that’s not quite all of it. I think the weekend validated our experience. Yes, it was a good time when we were together. Yes, those tall tales we’ve been telling all these years did have a basis in fact. Yes, our extended family still recognizes us with less hair and more stomach, and accepts us.

Bernard Malamud said, “When you’re on the wrong train, every station is the wrong station.” I believe we all agree that, while we’ve seen a few wrong stations in the intervening 16 years, the Peace Corps certainly got us all on the right train.

Peter Tierney

St. Lucia RPCVs and their families attending the reunion were: Berch Carpenter, Mike Davis, Jeff Dreyfuss, Gene Godin, Joe Kelly, Guy Kilburn, Jim Mogal, Bob and Nancy Neymeyer, Russ and Nancy Perlman, Charlie and Sandy Robinson, Mary Robinson-Slabey, Chuck Smid, Jim Verhoff and Peter Tierney.

Editor’s note: Anyone wishing to start a dialogue about the aforementioned Caribbean legend should write to Peter Tierney in care of the Times.

St. Lucia RPCVs, their spouses and children pose between the flags of America and St. Lucia.
Twenty five years. It doesn't feel like it. On second thought it does when a young APCD looks you up and down a little incredulously as he asks, "Were you really in the Peace Corps, in Ghana I?" Yes Virginia, I was really in the Peace Corps... then. There were 50 of us, average age 25, all going to be teachers in secondary schools. We even had the honor of boarding a Pan Am constellation (shows how long ago that was) called the Peace Corps Clipper, after a JFK sendoff in the Rose Garden.

Yes, Virginia. I was really in the Peace Corps... then.

If one can recall those days accurately, we met the Kennedy requirement that we teach and learn, probably doing more of the latter. For many of us, it was the first time in an airplane and the first time overseas as well. To be honest, neither we nor the Peace Corps knew what we were getting ourselves into. There were no rules and the precedents were limited. Many of the rules PCVs live by now are a result of things the Peace Corps learned with the first groups of guinea pigs in the field.

... neither we nor the Peace Corps knew what we were getting into.

In effect, it was a different era. We stepped off into the unknown buoyed by a simple faith that a reasonably educated American could teach something to anybody who wasn't American. While we were pretty sure of ourselves, the Peace Corps wasn't. Having asked for volunteers (I believe about 14,000 did volunteer), the Peace Corps wasn't sure we were right in the head for volunteering. We received every known preference test, talked to psychiatrists and psychologists, and were even the subjects of a study for the two years we were in Ghana. I never saw the results, so I'm pretty sure they finally decided we didn't have to be institutionalized.
...we believed we could do anything.

learn the official language of the other. Nobody else knew French either, so I got the job. Some Ghanaians are walking around today with some pretty weird French in their minds. Unlike the coast schools, we literally started from scratch. Students and teachers built and studied together, and we even started a farm. You guessed it, the asphalt jungle type from New Jersey tried to teach young Ghanaians how to farm. I told you, we believed we could do anything. What else is there to say? The two years passed all too quickly. Still, it had opened new vistas for me and many others. Walk through the halls of the State Department today, or any mission in the field, and you can barely avoid tripping over ex-volunteers. Jack Kennedy and Sarge Shriver early on suggested that the Peace Corps would bring back better educated, more globally oriented ex-volunteers to places like Paterson, NJ and Kansas City. It did that. They also felt it would eventually be a breeding ground for people who would serve the United States Government overseas. It did that too. Did we succeed in the main job? I don't really know. You'd have to ask the Ghanaians whose paths we crossed. For many volunteers that will remain an unresolved question. Was a decision made or an action taken later because of something that we said or did years before? Perhaps. At least I like to think that may be the case.

Barnett Chessin left the Peace Corps in June 1963, and joined AID after completing a year of graduate study at Georgetown University. Since then he has served as a rural development advisor, refugee affairs officer, general development officer, and management officer in such posts as Laos, Afghanistan, Mauritania, and Somalia. Currently, he is back on assignment in Mauritania as mission executive officer.

In our January issue, Peace Corps Times will feature Ghana—the first country.
The Good Old Days

In the beginning, Peace Corps training emphasized physical fitness and endurance. Above—Jeans become water wings in Survival Swimming. Right—Peace Corps' version of the "rope" trick. Bottom—Nothing like a four-day hike in a wilderness area under full pack. Memories are made of this.
ICE ALMANAC

For this special 25th Anniversary issue of the ALMANAC, Director Donna Frelick reflects on over five years of challenging work in ICE. As all Peace Corps staffers eventually must, Frelick will be leaving the agency in December. She takes this opportunity to offer a few personal comments on the history and role of ICE in Peace Corps. The ALMANAC will return to its usual format of programming, training and technical information in the next issue of PEACE CORPS TIMES.

"Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear ..."

When I returned to the States in 1980, fresh from my experiences as free-lance editor, advisor to a communications unit in the Ministry of Agriculture and community development PCV in The Gambia, I was determined not to work in Peace Corps/Washington. I had absorbed all the stereotypes of the bungling, unresponsive bureaucracy tangled in red tape that are common among those who do the "real work" of development in the field. And I had no desire to join what I believed to be a legion of paper-pushers in the nation's capital.

But that was before I learned about Information Collection and Exchange. What was to become Peace Corps' central source of technical information for program support had begun as a small project within the agency's Office of Multilateral and Special Programs in 1975. There, ICE had produced some of its first "how-to" manuals for PCVs and the PT Journal, a regular publication of technical information and thought-provoking commentary.

In 1978, ICE had become part of the newly-created Office of Program and Training Coordination, forerunner of today's Office of Training and Program Support (OTAPS). The move had given the ICE staff direct access to the technical expertise of that office's Sector Specialists and training unit to answer Volunteer requests and recommend publications for inclusion in ICE's inventory of titles for field distribution.

ICE had amassed a considerable amount of technical information from Volunteer projects in the field, the beginnings of a unique collection of practical documents to support development projects. The unit provided many of the same services it provides today—answering technical inquiries from Volunteers and staff, publishing manuals based on PC field experience and producing the publications. The ICE Resource Center was as yet undeveloped, consisting of a disorganized collection of materials in about ten program areas. And ICE's contacts with other development groups around the world were minimal, its potential as a link between Volunteers and the broader information network as yet unrealized.

Witnessing and having had the opportunity to play a role in the phenomenal growth of ICE in the last five years has been tremendously exciting for me, both as a member of the ICE staff and as Director. Today ICE answers over 6000 requests per year, drawing on an inventory of over 500 titles (120 of them PC-generated). The Resource Center covers some 20 program areas with materials organized according to a simple easily accessible system.

We maintain contacts with more than 250 groups working in development around the world, from

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USAID and UNICEF to the Voluntary Health Association of India. Fifteen of these organizations, including such familiar groups as the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) and the League for International Food Education (LIFE), provide free technical information services and/or publications for Volunteers as part of formal exchange agreements with ICE.

But most exciting of all, through ICE it has become widely recognized that the information produced by thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers working in grassroots development for 25 years constitutes a unique resource for development. No other organization has the depth and breadth of field experience to draw on that Peace Corps has. Technical information based on the results of past work involving the PC approach to development as participatory, small-scale, self-sustaining and technologically appropriate is not only the most relevant information available to support current Volunteer projects. It is also in great demand among those working in development outside the agency. Over 2000 of the requests ICE receives every year are from non-Peace Corps folks—private voluntary organizations, domestic development services, large donor agencies, even individual farmers, students and fieldworkers in developing countries.

Because ICE serves as a means of collecting the best results of Volunteer projects and sharing them with others in the development community, the work one Volunteer does in one community can have worldwide impact. Examples of this “multiplier effect” abound:

- A manual written by two PCVs in Jamaica was later adapted by other PCVs for use in Liberia. That manual is now used by the Ministry of Agriculture to train Liberian fieldworkers.
- A science teaching manual developed by Volunteers in India now serves as a resource for host country and Volunteer teachers in Africa.
- A beekeeping manual based on Volunteer experience with the African bee is being translated into Spanish by a local beekeeping group in Ecuador.
- An agricultural extension manual based on Volunteer experience in Latin America and West Africa is being translated into Chinese by an enthusiastic student in the People's Republic of China. The student had requested a copy of the manual from ICE after hearing about it on a special Voice of America broadcast.

The agency recently recognized the potential of this multiplier effect and its Forward Plan for 1985-87. The Plan calls for a more concerted effort to build and make better use of the technical information resource that resides in ICE. As a result, ICE is currently undertaking a number of new initiatives to expand and improve its services:

- Providing training materials to be used in pre-service, in-service and close of service programs so all Volunteers can learn about ICE services and their own role in information exchange.
- Providing training materials and backup information to assist PCVs and staff in establishing and maintaining in-country resource centers for technical information. A new in-country resource center manual will be field-tested in three regional workshops for PCVs and staff early next year.
- Expanding services to the members of ICE’s extensive network of contacts in organizations working in development (including PCV counterparts), allowing greater access to ICE publications and research/referral services.
- Translating key ICE manuals into French and Spanish for the benefit of Volunteer counterparts and host communities as well as other non-English-speakers working in development.

Of course, we plan to continue our efforts to collect information generated in Volunteer projects, to provide more and better publications to meet field needs and to provide fuller answers to all the many questions you can think to ask us from your casas, bungas, and nipa huts in the remote corners of the globe. After December, the letters you receive from ICE in response will no longer be signed “Donna”, but you can be sure the responses will arrive as they always have.

As for me, I’m finally escaping Washington—five terrific years later—to a small farm in Virginia. (Now I’ll have a chance to put all this wonderful appropriate technology to use!) Thanks to all of you who, by supporting ICE, made my Washington experience a great one.
The American people throughout our history have shown their commitment and concern for the welfare of their fellow men and women, both in their own communities and around the globe. Nowhere has the proud American tradition of voluntarism been better illustrated than through the Peace Corps, which has begun a year-long observance of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

For a quarter of a century, the Peace Corps has recruited and trained volunteers to serve in countries of the developing world, helping people help themselves in their quest for a better life. More than one hundred and twenty thousand Americans have served in the Peace Corps in more than ninety countries. Their projects and programs have built bridges of understanding between the people of the United States and the peoples of the countries they have been privileged to serve.

Peace Corps volunteers have returned to their communities enriched by the experience, knowing more of the world, its complexities, and its challenges. They continue to communicate with people in the countries where they served, thereby strengthening the ties of friendship and mutual understanding.

The Peace Corps' call for service has renewed importance today, as American volunteers help others overseas seek long-term solutions to the complex human problems of hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and disease. The generous response to this call continues to exceed the Peace Corps' recruitment requirements.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 305, has designated the period from October 1, 1985, through September 30, 1986, as the twenty-fifth anniversary year of the Peace Corps and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation on this occasion to honor Peace Corps volunteers past and present.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1, 1985, through September 30, 1986, the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Year of the Peace Corps. I call upon public and private international voluntary organizations, development experts, scholars, the business community, individuals and leaders in the United States of America and overseas, and past and present Peace Corps volunteers to reflect upon the achievements of the Peace Corps during its twenty-five years, as well as to consider ways that the talents and expertise of its volunteers may be used even more effectively in the future. During this time, I invite all Americans to honor the Peace Corps and its volunteers past and present, and reaffirm our Nation's commitment to helping people in the developing world help themselves.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and tenth.
"You must have artists to have art, you must have philosophers to have philosophy, you must have peacemakers to have peace. Peace Corps is the first secular peace force in the world since Christ."

Ubodoro Arriaga
Minister of the Presidency
Honduras

"I have always been impressed to note how even in the smallest of villages, PCVs have shared very closely in the lives of our people, worked side by side, spoken their language ..."

Diori Hamani
Former President
Niger

"I’d never done anything political, patriotic or unselfish, because nobody ever asked me to. Kennedy asked."

One of the first Volunteers

"If there is anything that we will have to learn from you in the first place, it is a sense of dedication."

Dr. Siaka Stevens
President
Sierra Leone

"Come back and educate us."

President John F. Kennedy
to first Volunteers

"The unblemished success of the Peace Corps can only mean that in the design a unique formula emerged, defying social law ... an international friendship perpetual motion machine."

Edward Seaga
Prime Minister
Jamaica

"Gradually, it will dawn on you that you’re doing something for your country, for their country and also for yourself."

PCV Senegal

"Hubert, I want to take that proposal (Peace Corps) of yours that we talked about a great deal ... we want to make it the law of the land."

President John F. Kennedy
to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey

"Volunteers have fought, and often conquered, illiteracy, hunger, poverty and illness in nearly 90 countries. Their efforts, dedicated to world peace through international good will, have done much to replace fear and mistrust with mutual understanding."

President Ronald Reagan