

- 1) **Organization Name:** Kid Power, Inc.
- 2) **Contact:** Andria Hollis, Executive Director, 755 8th St NW, Washington, DC 20001; andriana@kidpowerdc.org; 202-383-4543
- 3) **Mission and relation to RPCV/W:** Kid Power inspires youth leadership by promoting academic advancement, physical and emotional wellness, and positive civic engagement. Currently, Kid Power works with 350 public and charter school students (ages 7-18) at 11 program locations in Wards 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Kid Power students are drawn from low performing District of Columbia Public and Public Charter Schools. Students are 80% African-American, 16% Latino, 2% African, and 2% Asian and Other. Approximately 96% of the students qualify for the free and/ or reduced lunch program.

Current programs include: 1) ***Academic Power Hour:*** Students participate in homework help and engage in hands-on activities that align with the Common Core Standards; 2) ***The Citizenship Project:*** Using a literacy-building and civic engagement curriculum, students study US history and the building blocks of citizenship and implement community action projects; 3) ***CookieTime:*** Students operate a baking business in partnership with CakeLove bakery and use the profits to fund service projects; 4) ***VeggieTime:*** Students study nutrition and the environment, operate citywide gardens, participate in cooking classes, introduce fresh produce into their homes, sell produce at markets, and use the profits to support service projects focused on healthy eating; and 5) ***Summer Leadership Academy:*** Youth participate in advanced academic, enrichment, service, and recreational activities.

Kid Power aligns with the mission of RPCV/W by inspiring leadership, community building, and service. All of the aforementioned programs incorporate significant service-learning and advocacy elements. Youth organize activities for the national “Days of Service”; testify at DC Council; participate in policy-making working groups; and contribute to legislative initiatives, such as the 2010 Healthy Schools Act. For the Citizenship Project, program sites decide upon a “*Kid Power Cause,*” conduct research into chosen issues, and implement service activities (e.g., environmental awareness, cancer research, and youth homelessness advocacy). In CookieTime, students direct the proceeds from monthly bake sales towards community action projects. In VeggieTime, students implement nutritional classes, school health fairs, family-based cooking programs, environmental projects, and advocacy initiatives to combat childhood obesity and improve community food delivery systems. Research suggests that as little as 20% of young people believe that adults value their role in the community. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority of young people (93%) believe they are able to make a difference in their community but there are very few organizations that involved young people in their work.¹ Kid Power helps fill this need by providing youth with opportunities to contribute

¹ *Facts and Figures on Youth Volunteering*, <http://www.ysa.org/facts-and-figures-youth-and-volunteering>.

positively to their community through service-learning projects which extend the classroom to the community. By providing youth with opportunities to understand the democratic process and participate in meaningful service-learning opportunities, Kid Power helps youth not only acquire academic knowledge, but provides them with a platform to advocate for themselves and understand they can contribute positively to their communities. Lastly, building on its core civics philosophy, Kid Power inspires youth leadership by promoting youth voice in program design and implementation through peer mentoring, extensive surveying and reflection sessions, regular parent communication, joint parent/youth activities, and weekly youth leadership circles. Kid Power is training its students to understand the current political, health, and economic structures that influence their neighborhoods so that they can become agents of lasting positive social change.

4) **Summary of organization's past involvement with RPCV/W if applicable:** Kid Power has not worked formally with RPCV/W in the past but is excited to expand on its past successful partnerships working with returned Peace Corps volunteers and staff. Last semester, Kid Power partnered with the American University Peace Corps Fellowship Program to host a returned Peace Corps Fellow. This Fellow brought her personal experience of working with youth in Benin, West Africa as well as lessons and stories of the great need for girls' secondary education in West Africa to a Kid Power Elementary School site. Kid Power staff spent several weeks working with the Fellow to outline goals and lessons around community building, educational rights, and even Geography. Our vision was to allow the students to have a greater cultural understanding of the issue of girls' education, geography, and people/culture and to culminate with a service-learning project. After several successful educational lessons and video chats across the world, the students came up with a campaign to raise money for a fund that supports girl's education. They made their initial presentation and raised school awareness of the issue in a Peace Ceremony at the school, put posters throughout the school and provided each class with a nicely decorated coin container. The school-wide "Change for Change" campaign raised over \$600 for the fund. The project concluded with a visit to the Embassy of Benin where students had a Q & A time with the Ambassador of Benin to the US.

5) **Capacity to utilize RPCV/W as an asset:** At its core, Kid Power embraces community building and community partnerships. Kid Power's greatest strength has been its ability to forge and maintain program partnerships. Major partners include DCPS, DPR, Chavez and LAMB PCS, CakeLove (CookieTime), DC Farm-to-School Network (curriculum), Capital Area Food Bank (meals and nutritional materials), GWU Neighbors Project (volunteers), AU/UMD Student Clubs (volunteers), Fuel Pizza (VeggieTime), Hanover Research, Grant Thornton, and Booz Allen (financial

literacy). Drawing on its best practices, Kid Power is thrilled at the opportunity to launch a new partnership with RPCV. By sharing a similar mission, Kid Power believes that a partnership with RPCV would truly help Kid Power achieve its goal of increasing its public presence and increase its donor base, two goals currently identified in its strategic plan. Kid Power is currently working with a pro-bono consulting project on these two issues, and is currently increasing its social media presence and hosting increased special events. Having RPCV as an asset to build on our initial momentum would provide Kid Power much needed growth. Furthermore, Kid Power hopes to create a system for RPCV/W volunteers to share their experiences with Kid Power students, create educational peace building materials with Kid Power staff, and launch joint successful and meaningful community service-learning projects.

6) **Current Involvement with RPCV/W:** While Kid Power has worked with several Peace Corps Alumni (some who are part of RPCV/W), it currently has no members who are actively working for us at this time.