



**rpcv/w**

**Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
of Washington, DC**

## **2009 – 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**(August 2009 – July 2010)**

## **RPCV/w Board – August 2009-July 2010**

**President:** Tamar Schiffman (Uzbekistan/Ukraine 2001-2005)

**Vice President:** Bea Tijerina (Ghana 1997-1999; Zambia 2006)

**Secretary:** Joe Ford (Zambia 1994–1996)

**Treasurer:** Kristina Owens (Bolivia 2000-2002 )

**Membership Director:** Doug Trapp (Madagascar 2003-2005)

**New Members Director:** Nick Brown (Ukraine 2006-2008)

**Communications Director:** RaeJean Stokes (Ukraine 2003-2005)

**Web Director:** Robert Proudfoot (Bulgaria 2006-2008)

**Programs Director:** Liza Cushion (El Salvador 2001-2003)

**Special Events Director:** Allison Francis

**Social Activities Director:** Arvis Layton (Honduras 2003-2005)

**Community Service Director:** Corey Quinlan Taylor (Benin 1997-1999)

**Develoment Director:** Trish Calamari (Uzbekistan 2004-2005)

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear RPCV/w Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC (RPCV/w) I am pleased to present our annual report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

We have much to be proud of as an organization this year. The 2009-2010 year was filled with new partnerships, new initiatives, a dynamic and engaged membership, and innovative programs that allowed us to live out Peace Corps' third goal of community engagement, right here in our own back yard.

As you can see in this report, RPCVw had a busy and fulfilling year. I am especially proud this year of our Partnership for Peace program, where our members identified and voted for one local nonprofit, The Latin America Youth Center (LAYC), to be RPCVw's partner, allowing for community service and fundraising opportunities, as well as offering a way to directly connect our members with successful and meaningful local initiatives. Our mini golf tournament at the H Street Country Club was a fun and effective way to raise funds for LAYC.

Our holiday party this year had the highest attendance in record, and our ticket sales and silent auction were able to bring in sizable financial support for RPCVw. 10% of our silent auction earnings went to the Latin America Youth Center. At the holiday party we named Congressman Sam Farr our "Peace Corps Champion" to honor his hard work and commitment to building a stronger and more effective Peace Corps.

Other events of note were the Cherry Blossom potluck, summer picnic, bi-weekly happy hours, on-going community service activities, the partnership for peace reception, and the wreath laying ceremony honoring John F Kennedy at Arlington Cemetery. Some new events added flavor to the year, including a very successful camping trip, name-that-tune fundraisers, film screenings, self defense trainings and a Greek cooking class.

Wrapping up my first year as President of RPCV/w, I am most impressed by the commitment and support of our volunteer board and the participation of our active membership base that continues to show up, eager to meet new RPCVw friends and give back to the community.

Thank you all for your support, membership, and commitment to our mission.

Best,

Tamar Schiffman  
President - RPCV/W

TEFL, Uzbekistan  
Environmental Education, Ukraine

## **PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE PROGRAM**

In the 2009-2010 calendar year, the Partnership for Peace committee made a recommendation to the board to redesign the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP) and select a local organization to partner with on fundraising, community service and gear programming efforts toward. The committee consisted of the vice president, president, community services director and social director. A Request for Proposal was designed and distributed (see Appendix A). The program was very successful and received 16 applications. The committee reviewed the applications and selected three organizations to present to the general membership at the PfP reception held on November 10 2009.

Our members had the opportunity to vote online and at the reception. The Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) was selected as our partner/charity of the year (see Appendix B). Throughout the year we raised \$696.63 that was donated directly to LAYC; we highlighted their work in our newsletters and provided marketing opportunities for their events through our listserv. We are very pleased with the success of the program and intend to expand the number of organizations we assist during the next year leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

## **TREASURER**

Our treasurer, Kristina Owens did an excellent job in keeping RPCV/W's finances balanced during the fiscal year 2009-2010. For the fiscal year August, 2009 – July, 2010 RPCV/W had total expenses of \$21,362. total PNC income of \$18,169.82 and Paypal income (minus transfers) of \$14,623.50. She also kept our payments up to date with the RPCV/W Post Office Box, and kept other payments, such as insurance, non-profit DC fees, and taxes up to date.

Kristina also participated in several activities not related to her position:  
She helped coordinate with PCHQ two speed networking events.  
She helped coordinate an event for Uncorner Market at Recessions.  
She assisted the Development Director – Trish Calamari, and the Special Events Director – Allison Francis, in organizing the Annual Holiday Party.  
She assisted our Vice-President – Bea Tijerina – in planning the Midyear retreat

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As the 2009-10 RPCV/w membership director, Doug Trapp worked with the web director – Robert Proudfoot, in switching the web site and membership directory to a new, more reliable and flexible system. He also conducted the first membership survey in recent memory, which should guide the 2010-11 board.

RPCV/w paid membership climbed slightly between 2009 and 2010, from an average of 400 to an average of 450. The new system may have simplified the renewal process and improved the accuracy of the membership list.

In April 2010, RPCV/w sent a membership survey to more than 2,000 RPCVs on the listserv. Their responses revealed that many RPCV/w members join not long after they finish their service, remain members for a short period, then let their membership lapse for a number of reasons. Some move, but many simply remain on the free listserv to stay in touch because they don't understand the value of membership nor do they know what their \$15 a year is used for. Many of those surveyed also said that RPCV/s is a very social organization. The survey also

revealed that African American RPCVs are the single largest bloc of listserv and RPCV/s members.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Our Communications Director, ReaJean Stokes did an outstanding job in keeping the RPCV/W community informed of all activities and events organized by RPCV/w throughout the year. She compiled (almost weekly) listservs that included information on upcoming events and opportunities. Information for these listservs was solicited from Board members and RPCV/w members. In addition, she wrote and published two newsletters for e-distribution. The newsletters included information updates on programmatic issues, board updates, minutes from meetings, upcoming activities, and “fun” information from the greater RPCV/w community.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Our Special Events Director, Allison Francis coordinated and the following Special Events with amazing success:

#### **Holiday Party:**

The 2009 Annual Holiday Party was held at the Washington Post Building and was a huge success. Not only did RPCV/W have a record breaking attendance, there was also a very successful silent auction that included a week long stay in the Caribbean, airline tickets, and several items from local establishments and sports teams. Not only was the event a financial success, but it also included Congressman Sam Farr, who was awarded the Peace Corps Champion award and spoke at the event. In the coming year the Board should build on the success of the holiday party to raise more money and to get RPCVs in the area involved in Peace Corps' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

#### **Cherry Blossom Picnic:**

The Cherry Blossom Picnic was also a large success this year and attracted many people who normally do not show up at events. Although the day was very hot, the turnout of people, both RPCV/w and non-members, was outstanding.

#### **Annual Picnic (Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010):**

Held at the Capital yacht Club, this event had many people turn out even though the day was not “picnic” weather. The annual election to choose the new board members of RPCV/W also took place. A good number of people voted, however not many seats were contested, which was noted by the membership as they were passing out the ballots.

### **PROGRAMS**

Our Programs Director, Liza Cushion had an incredibly busy year. She organized several events with great success:

#### **Film Screening and Director's Panel of Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love (October 10, 2009)**

Number of attendees: Around 20

Issue or Topic: The award-winning film takes you behind the scenes and into the world of Africa's famous musician Youssou N'Dour. One of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world, Youssou N'Dour defied expectations and released his most controversial album, Egypt, in the hope of presenting his Islamic faith as a peaceful and tolerant religion.

While the record received international acclaim and a Grammy, it was denounced as blasphemy in his native Senegal. Director Chai Vasarhelyi follows Youssou N'Dour for over two years – filming in Africa, Europe, and America – to tell the story of how he faces these challenges and eventually wins over audiences both at home and abroad.

Communication with members: RPCV/w Listservs and Facebook invite.

### **Halloween Hayride (November 1, 2009)**

Number of attendees: 20

Cancelled due to inclement weather and unable to reschedule since it was the last weekend of the season.

Communication with Members: Listservs and Facebook Invite

### **Cooking Demonstration at Verandah Restaurant with Chef and owner Aleks.**

Number of attendees: 8

Communication with Members: Listservs and Facebook Invite

### **Photo Contest with theme of “Local Customs”**

Number of submissions: 71

Overall winner: “Donkey Polo” by Saira Amir

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Winner: “Modern Inca foot Plows” by Maholn Barash

East Asia and Pacific Regional Winner: “Ghost Mask Festival – Thailand”, by Paulo Couto

Africa Regional Winner: “Argan Oil” by Leslie Andrus

Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Winner: “Picnic Song” by Chris De Bruyn

Communication with Members: Listservs and Facebook Invite

### **Camping Trip at Elizabeth Furnace Group site in George Washington, National Forest**

Number of attendees: 24

Communication with Members: Listservs and Facebook Invite

Peace Corps Kickball team (WAKA DC Monument Division)

Number of players: 34

Communication with Members: Listservs and Facebook Invite

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

During fiscal year 2009-2010, our Community Service Director, Corey Taylor did an outstanding job in organizing the following events:

- Gave a June 2009 speech at a Washington DC Peace Corps rally advocating that Congress approve increased funding for Peace Corps.
- Organized two volunteer work sessions preparing food at the kitchen of Food & Friends,
- Led a walkathon with Latin American Youth Center around the National Mall for about 2 or 3 miles,
- Collected toys during the RPCVW Holiday Party,
- Designed two self-defense workshops at the Washington DC YWCA with the group "Defend Yourself,"
- Led grocery delivery to the elderly through Emmaus Services for the Aging,
- Managed a Wreath-Laying Ceremony Honoring President John F. Kennedy with participation from the Ambassadors of Ghana and Tanzania, who I invited through

written letters, as well as attendance from Kevin Quigley with NPCA and representation from Peace Corps from C.D. Glin, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

#### **DEVELOPMENT:**

Our Development Director, Trish Calamari, did a fantastic job in organizing the following events: She raised about \$1,375 in cash from a wide variety of sponsors, for our annual Holiday Party. At the holiday party she organized the Silent Auction, and was able to raise about \$4,000 (in-kind value).

She organized two "Name That Tune" events, one in November 2009, and the other on in March, 2010. During these events she sold over 250 RPCV 2010 Calendars.

#### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:**

Our Social Activities Director, Arvis Layton, kept himself quite busy in fiscal year 2009-2010. He organized several Happy Hours, and other events:

##### **RPCV/W Speed Networking Event**

Where: Recessions

When: Tuesday, June 15 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Turn out about 50 people

##### **May Alexandria Happy Hour**

Where: Rock It Grill

When: Thursday, May 20 from 6:00 to 7:00

Turn out about 15 people

##### **A real-life amazing race: 3 years around the world**

Where: Recessions

When: Tuesday, May 18 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm

Turnout about 25 people

##### **May DC Rooftop Happy Hour**

Where: The Reef – Adams Morgan

When: Wednesday, May 12 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Turnout about 60 people

##### **Bethesda Happy Hour**

Where: Ri-Ra Irish Pub

When: Thursday, April 22 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Turnout about 15 people

##### **April DC Happy Hour**

Where: Ghana Café (new location)

When: Wednesday, April 7 from 5:30 TO 8:00 pm

##### **NOVA March Happy Hour**

Where: Whitlow's on Wilson

When: Wednesday, March 24 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Turnout about 20 people

**March DC Happy Hour**

Where: Marx Café

When: Wednesday, March 10 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Turnout about 15 people

**Peace Corps Mini Golf Tournament**

2010 Partnership for Peace Charity Fundraiser

Where: H Street Country Club

When: Sunday, March 7 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm

Turnout about 50 people

**February DC Happy Hour**

Where: Chi-Cha Lounge

When: Thursday, February 18 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Turnout about 50 people

**Peace Corps Journals and Wiki Happy Hour**

Where: Recessions

When: January 27 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Turnout about 10 people

**NOVA January Happy Hour**

Where: Murphy's Grand Irish Pub

When: Thursday, January 21 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Turnout about 15 people

**January 2010 DC Happy Hour**

This event became a fundraiser for the Haiti earthquake. We raised about \$1,000

Where: Hawk and Dove

When: Thursday, January 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Turnout about 60 people



## Appendix A

### 2010 RPCV/w Partnership for Peace Program Call for Submissions

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington DC (RPCV/w) issues this request for submissions for the 2010 Partnership for Peace Program. RPCV/w will select an individual organization to be the focus of our fundraising, community service, and programming efforts for the 2010 calendar year. This program is a new initiative that furthers our commitment to the Peace Corps and to serving the needs of our local community.

#### Eligibility

Must be a registered 501(c)(3) organization

Must have representation in the Washington DC area

Must be able to attend the November 10, 2009 General Membership meeting to present your organization

#### Required Proposal Content

Organization Name

Organization Website

Primary Contact name, address, e-mail and telephone number

Summary of organization's mission/purpose (max 500 words)

Summary of organization's past involvement with RPCV/w if applicable (max 250 words)

In what capacity can RPCV/w best assist your organization? (max 500 words)

Is the applicant currently a member of RPCV/w or the greater Peace Corps community?

#### Selection Process

Based on the number of submissions received, the RPCV/w board of directors will select three or four candidate organizations to present their proposals at the General Membership meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

Candidate organizations will have 10 minutes to present their proposal

Members unable to attend the meeting will have the opportunity to vote online at [www.rpcvw.org](http://www.rpcvw.org)

The candidate organization receiving the most votes will be selected as the 2010 RPCV/w Partnership for Peace organization.

#### How to Apply

Interested organizations should submit a proposal to the Vice President of RPCV/w at [partnershipprogram@rpcvw.org](mailto:partnershipprogram@rpcvw.org) by Noon on Monday, October 26, 2009.

The winner will be announced on Monday, November 16, 2009.

#### About Us

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington D.C. was founded in 1979 and incorporated in 1990 in the District of Columbia. RPCV/w is one of the largest organizations of its kind in the world. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and represent more than 900 returned Peace Corps volunteers, Peace Corps staff, and Peace Corps families and supporters in the greater Washington D.C. area. RPCV/w is governed by an elected board of directors.

Our mission and vision is to foster opportunities to share our unique experiences and commitment to service through creating a community that celebrates the diversity of the greater Washington area and world cultures.

Our goals are as follows:

Undertake and sponsor educational and charitable activities in support of the Peace Corps 3rd Goal of "Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans;

Inform and educate members and the public on matters relating to economic development and developing countries, including but not limited to those countries which have been served by the Peace Corps;

Support policies to maintain a strong and healthy Peace Corps;

Encourage continuing volunteer involvement of its members in serving the needs of their local communities;

Affiliate and strengthen other organizations with similar vision and mission goals, such as the NPCA; and

Provide the foundation of a Community of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to support all of the above activities.

## Appendix B



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Release 09-1**

**CONTACT: Bea Tijerina**  
**202-518-8818**  
**Vicepresident@rpcvw.org**

Washington, DC, November 17, 2009—The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, DC (RPCV/w), has selected the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) as the winner of its 2010 Partnership for Peace Program. LAYC will be the focus of RPCV/w's fundraising, community service, and programming efforts for the 2010 calendar year. The partnership program is a new initiative that furthers our commitment to the goals of Peace Corps and to serving the needs of our local community.

This year the Partnership for Peace program received 16 applications. Applications were accepted from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with representation in the Washington, DC, area.

LAYC operates a network of youth centers, public charter schools, and social enterprises with a mission to support youth and families in their determination to live, work, and study with dignity, hope, and joy. LAYC achieves its mission by adhering to a youth development model, which offers low-income and minority youth a continuum of services, programs, and opportunities with the goal of ensuring a successful transition to young adulthood. Youth facing the most significant life challenges work with promotores ("guides" in Spanish) who form a long-term relationship to guide the young person through all necessary programs and services to complete an Individual Success Plan.

RPCV/w has more than 900 members and over 2,300 listserv subscribers. The Washington, DC, chapter has the largest number of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the country. RPCV/w sponsors educational and charitable activities and supports policies to maintain a strong and healthy Peace Corps.