StandUpForPeace
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Jamaica 2003 – 2005
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Peace Corps:
Good for the World
Good for California

I walked into Peace Corps with my eyes and heart wide open...I see the world differently. I understand people better. I know abject poverty does not mean you don't feel joy and happiness. I know that having 'things' doesn't matter because when you have a community you learn the tools to survive and have the support to find your way.”

The Peace Corps Community in California

For more than a decade, California has led the nation in providing Peace Corps Volunteers. In 2019, California led the country in sending 851 volunteers overseas. The greater Los Angeles area ranked sixth among major metropolitan areas in sending volunteers, while the San Diego/Carlsbad region ranked ninth.

The University of California, Berkeley ranked 11th among large colleges and universities in sending Peace Corps Volunteers in 2019. UC Berkeley leads the nation, having sent nearly 3,700 Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961.

California is home to six National Peace Corps Association affiliate groups, at work in Los Angeles, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco (Bay region), and Santa Barbara.

In 2018, the Northern California Peace Corps Association disbursed more than $11,000 to support development projects in Belize, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda, and in the United States.

Academy Award winning director Taylor Hackford served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia from 1968-69.

*Based on Peace Corps data as of September 30, 2019.

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