

2020 ANNUAL REPORT **SERVING THE PEACE** **CORPS COMMUNITY** **IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES**



UNPRECEDENTED TIMES CALL FOR AN UNPARALLELED RESPONSE

DEAR PEACE CORPS FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

For the Peace Corps community, as with so many across the United States and around the world, the year 2020 was unprecedented. A global pandemic began to take a terrible toll. And in March 2020, as COVID-19 burned its way across the globe, all Peace Corps Volunteers were evacuated. They were yanked from communities in which they were serving—sometimes with just a few hours' notice. More than 7,000 came home to a country being hit by COVID-19 and suffering economic meltdown.

This unprecedented time called for an unparalleled response from the Peace Corps community.

Within days of Volunteers being evacuated, NPCA launched the Global Reentry Program to support thousands of Volunteers who needed immediate help. Our advocacy efforts in Congress quickly helped secure \$88 million in additional funds to support for evacuated Volunteers, and ensured that the evacuees had extended health insurance. Our efforts also led the Department of Labor to issue guidance that evacuated Volunteers could receive benefits through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

We advocated for large-scale deployment of evacuated Volunteers to battle the pandemic. With communities across the U.S. needing people committed to service, many evacuated Volunteers—and members of the Peace Corps community more broadly—went to work in any way they could: as contact tracers, making masks, working with food banks, and more.

Then came the killing of George Floyd in May. Protests against racial injustice filled streets in communities across this nation and across the globe. Many members of the Peace Corps community were out there—raising their voices and helping lead actions to bring lasting and meaningful change.

For our country—including the Peace Corps community—this began a time of reckoning. We understood that if the Peace Corps was to continue to carry forward the mission of building world peace and friendship, this moment needed to become an inflection point. We convened a series of town halls and a global ideas summit to ask an overarching question: How does the Peace Corps need to be reimagined, reshaped, and retooled for a changed world? We heard from the community big ideas for Peace Corps going forward, and these shaped the report “Peace Corps Connect to the Future.” The report provides a road map for the agency and the Executive Branch, Congress, and the wider Peace Corps community—including NPCA. Then began the work of putting these ideas into action. The report has helped already shaped legislation and is

guiding the agency. But there is still a long way to go.

In 2020, we here at NPCA also undertook an effort to connect, inform, and engage the 240,000-strong Peace Corps community like never before. In September, we launched Peace Corps Community Connect, because when we raise our voices for change—and seek to shoulder the common load—together we are stronger.

To help fight COVID-19, we launched the NPCA Emergency Response Network. We recruited a cohort of returned Volunteers to work as contact tracers with the Department of Health in Seattle and King County; they were welcomed with words of encouragement from Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

Our plans for 2020 included inaugurating a year of celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps. It was in October 1960, at an impromptu 2 a.m. speech on the steps of the Union at the University of Michigan, that presidential candidate John F. Kennedy asked assembled students, “How many of you who are going to be doctors are willing to spend your days in Ghana? Technicians or engineers, how many of you are willing to work in the Foreign Service and spend your lives traveling around the world?” That speech launched the Peace Corps. We came together in a virtual gathering to commemorate the anniversary of the speech in October 2020.

Honoring the past and a legacy of service is important. Even more crucial is understanding that we are living in historic times—and that the work of building peace and friendship is far from over. That’s the sense of purpose that carried us through 2020—and that will carry us forward as we seek to reengage with the world.

And it is that sense of purpose that has compelled the Peace Corps community to respond with unprecedented levels of engagement to advance NPCA’s mission. Your service, leadership, and generous philanthropy have driven our work in these challenging times. We are grateful for all that you do for the Peace Corps community.

In service,



MARICARMEN SMITH-MARTINEZ
NPCA Board Chair



GLENN BLUMHORST
NPCA President and CEO



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ABOUT OUR COVER Nepal farewell, March 2020. Some who were training to begin service as Peace Corps Volunteers had to leave before they even began work in communities. Photo by Eddie De La Fuente, who was one of them.

2020 AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

7 Ten former Peace Corps directors—who served under Republicans and Democrats alike—issue a letter opposing proposed Senate legislation that would make the agency part of the State Department.

China identifies a new coronavirus as cause of an outbreak in Wuhan.

14 NPCA begins a survey, asking the Peace Corps community what global issues are most pressing to them—and where, as a community, they feel we can make the greatest impact. The result: Tackling climate change is the top priority.

16 Peace Corps declares that its program in China will “graduate” and end later in 2020. Current Volunteers can finish their term.

29 Coronavirus leads Peace Corps to evacuate Volunteers from China. The following day, travel from China to the U.S. is restricted.

FEBRUARY

1 White House budget proposal for 2021 would cut \$9.3 million from Peace Corps funding.



5 Peace Corps announces that China Volunteers have been safely evacuated. Their service will close.

7 Peace Corps issues press release that it is monitoring the coronavirus outbreak.

26 Peace Corps begins evacuating Volunteers from Mongolia.

MARCH



1 **PEACE CORPS DAY:** 59th anniversary of founding. The Peace

Corps community begins a week of celebrations across the United States and around the world.

4 Peace Corps update: COVID-19 cases reported in 11 countries where Peace Corps serves.

National Peace Corps Association publishes the inaugural cohort of “40 Under 40”—the next generation of Peace Corps leaders.



5 NPCA Capitol Hill Advocacy Day: 200 members of the Peace Corps community conduct more than 220 meetings on Capitol Hill. Among them: 30 Volunteers evacuated from China, speaking to the importance of their work.

13 President Trump declares COVID-19 a national emergency.

House Peace Corps funding: Bipartisan group of 167 lawmakers have signed a letter requesting \$450 million for Peace

Corps in fiscal year 2021.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Breonna Taylor is killed in her home by police executing a no-knock warrant.



15 Peace Corps announces evacuation of all Volunteers. The agency is suspending operations globally.

17 NPCA introduces the Global Reentry Program to support evacuated Volunteers.

18 Peace Corps Volunteers are evacuating from around the world. They undergo 14-day quarantine after arriving in U.S.

23 NPCA President and CEO Glenn Blumhorst publishes commentary in the *Chicago Tribune*: “Peace Corps evacuated all 7,300 of its Volunteers due to coronavirus. They need immediate help.”

25 Peace Corps announces all Volunteers have been evacuated safely.

27 Congress passes and President Trump signs \$2.2 trillion stimulus package to respond to the pandemic. It includes \$88 million in supplemental Peace Corps funding for evacuation of 7,300 Volunteers and for initial readjustment support.

APRIL

2 Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Representative Dean Phillips (D-MN) lead joint Senate/House letters noting need for evacuated Volunteers to have jobless protections and opportunities to use their skills to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

3 Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) announce legislation to address unemployment and healthcare benefits for Peace Corps evacuees, to expand service opportunities, and to promote return of Peace Corps programs.



10 “Dear Colleague:” A record 42 senators have signed the annual Peace Corps funding letter, led by Susan Collins and Dianne Feinstein, requesting robust funding for Peace Corps.

13 Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Chris Van Hollen announce legislation to mobilize U.S. citizens—especially evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers—to combat COVID-19.

21 Representatives Ami Bera (D-CA), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Susan Brooks (R-IN), and Bill Foster (D-IL) propose creation of a National Health Corps to combat pandemic, referencing evacuated RPCVs as a resource.

22 Peace Corps announces additional \$1,500 wellness stipend for evacuated Volunteers.

50th anniversary of the first Earth Day

28 U.S. Department of Labor issues guidelines that state evacuated Volunteers are eligible for help under Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

30 Representatives Dean Phillips and Don Young (R-AK) announce the “Utilizing and Supporting Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers Act,” addressing several issues to support needs of evacuated RPCVs.

MAY

With the pandemic hitting the U.S. hard, the Peace Corps Connect conference, scheduled for July in Seattle, is canceled.

4 Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) introduces WUHAN Rescissions Act, which would take back \$88 million used to help evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers.

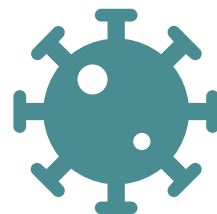
24 *The New York Times* prints the names of 1,000 people who have died from COVID-19 on its front page—a fraction of the deaths as the U.S. toll nears 100,000.



25 In Minneapolis, George Floyd is killed by a police officer who kneels on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. This leads to nationwide and international protests against racial injustice.

JUNE

Peace Corps announces that Viet Nam will begin hosting Volunteers in 2022.



8 Global number of COVID-19 cases surpasses 8 million. Death toll has surpassed 400,000.

15 NPCA hosts a town hall on social action and climate change.

JULY



8–16 PEACE CORPS CONNECT TO THE FUTURE:

NPCA convenes a series of eight town halls to bring together members of the Peace Corps community to help shape our agenda for the future and ask: What are the big ideas for the Peace Corps going forward?

8 TOWN HALL **Helping Peace Corps Be Its Best—Peace Corps Policies:**

Key policies that guide the Peace Corps experience, including health, safety and security, diversity, benefits, and post-service support.

9 TOWN HALL **Funding the Future of the Peace Corps:** Conversations with long-standing leaders, RPCV leaders on Capitol Hill, and recently evacuated Volunteers.

11 TOWN HALL **Recruiting the Next Generation of Volunteers/Peace Corps as National Service:** Priority one is building a diverse pipeline of strong and committed applicants. So what is the central

message the Peace Corps needs to convey to attract Volunteers? Where and how does outreach need to happen?

11 TOWN HALL **Communications In and About Our Peace Corps Community:**

Where Peace Corps and NPCA are doing well—and where we and the agency alike can do better. From communications to Volunteers in the field to RPCVs to telling the Peace Corps story. Perspectives, platforms, questions.



11 TOWN HALL **Supporting RPCVs During Readjustment at Home:**

What's most helpful—and least helpful—in terms of the support Peace Corps and NPCA provide to Volunteers coming home? What else should be provided?

14 TOWN HALL **Recalibrating Peace Corps' Programs for the Future:**

What shifts should Peace Corps make to its technical programs in a changed world? Are programmatic changes needed to meet

potential threats like another pandemic or global climate change? What new tools and technologies could be deployed?



15 TOWN HALL **Reexamining the Second and Third Goals of the Peace Corps:**

Building relationships and bringing the world back home: It's said these goals are what put the "Peace" into Peace Corps. After 60 years, how are we doing when it comes to promoting better understanding? Can these goals be reinterpreted to more explicitly focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion?

16 TOWN HALL **Fostering Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging:**

Addressing systemic racism in staffing, recruitment, and in the field. How has the Peace Corps handled racial injustice concerns? How do NPCA and the Peace Corps community ensure better equity and justice? How can we build a more diverse and inclusive community?

18 NPCA hosts a **Global Ideas Summit: Peace Corps Connect to the Future.**

The agenda: big questions in unprecedented times. We bring together findings from the town halls, with perspectives and insights from host country partners, evacuated Volunteers, and Director of the Peace Corps Jody Olsen. Former Deputy Director of UNICEF Kul Chandra Gautam observes, "More than any other group of Americans, I believe that Returned Peace Corps Volunteers can instill a sense of a more enlightened America as *part of*, not *apart from*, a more just, peaceful, and prosperous world."

AUGUST

28 Marking the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, NPCA members join new affiliate group Black RPCV in the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia) as part of the "Get Your Knee off Our Necks!" march on Washington.

SEPTEMBER



17 U.S. Commission of Fine Arts votes unanimously to approve the revised design concept for the National Peace Corps Commemorative. It will be built just steps from the U.S. Capitol and the National Mall.

26 NPCA hosts its Annual General Membership Meeting. The Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service is presented to Matthew Paneitz, founder of Long Way Home in Guatemala. The Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service is presented to NPCA affiliate groups Friends of Korea and Friends of Tonga.

Also at the annual meeting, NPCA formally launches Peace Corps Community Connect—an effort to connect, inform, and engage the 240,000-strong Peace Corps community like never before.

OCTOBER

14 NPCA kicks off celebrations for the 60th anniversary of Peace Corps with a late-night event commemorating the 2 a.m. speech by JFK at the Union at the University of Michigan in October 1960.



Also on October 14, Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen announces that the agency hopes to return the first Volunteers to service in January 2021. That will turn out not to be possible.

28 The NPCA Emergency Response Network launches with contact tracers to help during the pandemic. They work with the Department of Health in Seattle and King County, Washington. Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Peter Kilmarx of the NIH welcome the cohort.

NOVEMBER



13 The report “Peace Corps Connect to the Future” is released. Drawing on conversations from the town halls and summit, it is a community-driven report on how to reimagine, reshape, and retool the Peace Corps for a changed world. It contains recommendations to Congress, the Peace Corps agency and executive branch, and the Peace Corps community.

DECEMBER

11 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issues emergency authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech SE.

17 House of Representatives passes legislation sponsored by RPCV Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) to

carry forward work on the Peace Corps Commemorative. Authorization for the project had been set to expire, and this allows it to continue and become what Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) says will serve as a “lasting tribute to the legacy of the Peace Corps.” Senate support is unanimous; the bill becomes law on January 5, 2021.

18 Peace Corps announces the completion of the first phase of the Virtual Service Pilot program, which connected host country communities with returned Volunteers who were evacuated due to the coronavirus pandemic. Forty-five Volunteers took part in the 11-week program. In 2021, the program opens to all returned Volunteers.

20 House of Representatives passes the National Defense Authorization Act, including \$410.5 million in level funding for Peace Corps. NPCA successfully lobbied against cuts in funding proposed by both the White House and the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is signed into law by President Trump in January 2021.

ADVOCACY HELPING PEACE CORPS BE ITS BEST

NATIONAL DAYS OF ACTION

On March 5, 2020, days before the U.S. Capitol shut its doors to visitors due to the spreading coronavirus pandemic, NPCA was able to hold its annual in-person lobby day as part of its National Days of Action. Two hundred citizen advocates took part; they conducted 230 meetings and, for the first time ever, distributed NPCA information packets to every congressional office in a single day. Along with many long-term advocates who have been with us for this annual event 10 times or more, our group was bolstered by several parents of Volunteers, a couple of Peace Corps applicants, and some 30 Volunteers who had just returned from service in China.

“DEAR COLLEAGUE” LETTER

The pandemic did not prevent work on another annual advocacy activity. We again mobilized our community to urge members of Congress to sign Peace Corps funding “Dear Colleague” letters. These letters are official correspondence sent by members of Congress to encourage their colleagues to support or oppose a proposed action. In the House of Representatives, a letter circulated by RPCV Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) and colleague Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) requesting \$450 million for the Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2021 garnered 167 signatures. A Senate letter urging robust funding for the Peace Corps and authored by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) secured 42 signatures, a new record.

COMBATING THREATS TO PEACE CORPS’ FUTURE

Advocacy at the outset of 2020 focused on staving off one of the greatest existential threats to the Peace Corps in its history: Proposed Senate legislation threatened Peace Corps’ independence by placing it under the authority of the U.S. State Department. We marshaled active opposition, and a powerful letter signed by 10 former Peace Corps directors opposing this recommendation was a key component in making sure the legislation did not gain any traction.

March brought the global evacuation of 7,300 Volunteers and the suspension of all programs. Our advocacy focus shifted to the immediate needs of evacuated

Volunteers. NPCA supported—and the Peace Corps received—an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$88 million to offset the cost of emergency evacuation logistics and, crucially, to provide additional support to evacuees. In the months to come, we successfully opposed subsequent House legislation that recommended rescinding the supplemental funding.

In February, the Trump administration proposed cutting Peace Corps funding by \$9.3 million. We successfully opposed that proposal. We also opposed a late 2020 Senate Appropriations Committee proposal to reduce funding by \$51 million. Instead we rallied support for the House Appropriations Committee proposal to retain level funding of \$410.5 million. Coupled with a timely December 2020 letter circulated by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) and signed by 34 House lawmakers, the Peace Corps community was able to hold the line on agency funding.

PEACE CORPS LEGISLATION

During our 2020 Days of Action, we mobilized support for the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3456) introduced by Representatives Garamendi and Graves; and the Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Act (H.R. 6118) introduced by Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY). By year’s end, H.R. 3456 had 48 co-sponsors, while H.R. 6118 had 23 co-sponsors.

After Volunteers were evacuated in March, our focus on legislation quickly shifted to addressing the challenges and needs of those evacuated Volunteers. Several bills were introduced that allowed evacuees to be included in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program; prioritized the eventual re-deployment of evacuated Volunteers wishing to return to service; and included RPCVs as priority hires for various efforts designed to galvanize a federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year 2020 closed with intense work to ensure a simple legislative need did not fall through the cracks: In December, NPCA and the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (PCCF) were successful in securing passage of legislation that extended the time provided to PCCF to complete work on a planned Peace Corps Commemorative near the National Mall. While PCCF’s authority to finish its work was set to expire in January 2021, passage of the legislation extended that deadline to 2028.

6,500

ADVOCATES INVOLVED IN 2020

270

MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

22,000

MESSAGES TO CONGRESS

209

CONGRESSIONAL SIGNATURES
ON ANNUAL PEACE CORPS LETTERS

COMMUNITY FUND SUPPORTING THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF EVACUATED VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers had projects and grants to fund them. When COVID-19 hit and Volunteers were evacuated, the money was frozen. But that's not the end of the story.

When Peace Corps Volunteers were evacuated from around the world, NPCA heard from thousands asking for advice and help. They were not only worried about their own well-being, but time and again they wanted to know: What about the communities they left? the work they were doing? the projects developed together—already approved for Peace Corps grants that would now be frozen?

Our answer: the Community Fund. We set up an application process for Volunteers and reached out to the Peace Corps community for crowdfunding support. Regulations for the Peace Corps grant programs require a Volunteer to be in a community to oversee a project. As a nonprofit organization, National Peace Corps Association was able to implement a more flexible solution—and one that makes sense since many Volunteers are in regular contact with their host communities.

In the wake of the 2020 suspension of Peace Corps programs worldwide, the NPCA Community Fund supported the secondary projects of 15 evacuated Volunteers, enabling them to complete unfinished business in the communities where they were serving. That was especially important after the Peace Corps agency cut off funding for some projects because Volunteers were no longer on the ground.

Projects supported by the Community Fund in 2020 include water, sanitation, and hygiene programs in Panama, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Guatemala; irrigation and community garden programs in The Gambia, Benin, and Guatemala; women's empowerment in Vanuatu, Colombia, and Moldova; and food security in Guatemala. None of these would qualify for outside funding were it not for their RPCV connections. They are too small and too remote, and they are disconnected from funding sources. Yet the people there have no shortage of solutions to their local challenges.

Through the Community Fund, NPCA distributes some \$100,000 in grants annually and empowers communities to improve their quality of life; for example, they contribute in a small but meaningful way to stemming the flow of forced migration, whether driven by poverty or climate change. Because programs developed

through the RPCV network and supported by the Community Fund are low-budget, cost-effective grassroots solutions, they are also sustainable.

TAKING A MODEL TO SCALE

During the Ebola crisis of 2014–15 in several countries in West Africa, NPCA established the Ebola Relief Fund. Through small grants to returned Volunteers, NPCA supported food security, infrastructure, and education projects in West Africa, addressing critical needs in small, remote communities underserved by larger international organizations.

It was by building on the highly successful model of the Ebola Relief Fund that in 2015 NPCA established the Community Fund to marshal private sector resources in support of RPCV projects more broadly.

2020 Community Fund Numbers

\$40,000+
IN GRANTS

15
PROJECTS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

What do these projects mean to returned Volunteers and their communities?

Tanzania | Katherine Patterson Home: Washington, D.C.

With the secondary school in my community of Bumbuta, I was working on a rainwater catchment system and hand-washing stations to increase access to clean water. Up until now, students must carry large buckets containing drinking and cleaning water to school every morning; the water that many bring comes from unsanitary sources. With a rainwater catchment system, the school community will gain access to clean water—and improve education on water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. The project was approved, but funding was halted as a result of the COVID-19 evacuation. I was over the moon when I found out there was another option for funding. My ward executive officer messaged: “We wanna thank you so much *tusaidie* ... we love you so much!”

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “To leave the world a bit better ... to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—that is to have succeeded.” I’ll be able to keep a promise to myself to leave my village in a better place than when I arrived. More important, this will enable students to live healthier lives!

Colombia | Joshua Concannon Home: Kansas City, Missouri

I was working on an effort to train dozens of women in clothing design and production by providing them with technical workshops and entrepreneurship classes from professionals. Their community is heavily reliant on agriculture for its source of jobs, so this project will diversify the economy and provide jobs and sources of income for women. We worked together on a grant application and were approved through the Peace Corps Partnership Program. The women were overjoyed—and justifiably proud.

One week later, all Volunteers were evacuated, and Peace Corps rescinded the funds. But the opportunity with NPCA has revived my hope. Edilsa Mascote, the leader behind the project, was very emotional when I told her that there is still a chance we can get the funding. She started tearing up because she thought all hope was lost. She told me it was the perfect light they needed in their lives during this very dark time.



LEFT: SAVE THE RAIN: Katherine Patterson and students of Bumbuta Secondary School in Tanzania. Patterson started a project to provide clean water for the community.

ABOVE: A PLACE TO STAY: Schoolgirls at Erukweni Community Day Secondary School in Malawi. A safe place means access to education. Volunteer Lydia Babcock was working with community members to obtain grant funds to renovate the hostel where students live during school terms. Then Babcock was evacuated. NPCA groups and members stepped up to fund this project and others.

SOCIAL IMPACT PARTNERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

TCP GLOBAL HITS \$1 MILLION

A Volunteer-led project now serves communities in the Americas, Asia, and Africa—and hit a milestone in 2020.

Two decades ago, when 25,000 families were displaced annually by violence in Colombia, a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers started The Colombia Project, a loan program to help families reestablish financial independence. The program quickly grew to include communities in Niger, Guatemala, and Peru. It now serves 14 countries in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

As fiscal agent, NPCA handles regulatory and reporting requirements—which has enabled TCP Global to increase its lending exponentially in recent years. And in October 2020, this volunteer effort reached a milestone: \$1 million in microloans. “The goal is to create opportunities so migration becomes a choice rather than a necessity,” says co-founder Helene Dudley, who served as a Volunteer in Colombia 1968–70. “We expect to reach the next million by 2025.”

In 2020, six Volunteers who were evacuated because of the pandemic joined the TCP Global team, bringing energy and creativity. The program added 30 new sites, including five introduced by evacuated Volunteers who worked with their counterparts virtually to introduce microloan programs.

WATER CHARITY

Guaranteeing clean water in Liberia. Providing hygiene help in The Gambia and Togo during the pandemic.

Water Charity launched the Water for Everyone initiative to bring an ample supply of safe water to every person in three West African countries by the end of 2023: Liberia, Togo, and The Gambia. In 2020, the organization fulfilled its mission in Liberia: They proceeded to drill new wells and rehabilitate broken wells in the remaining counties of the country. As of December, every person in Liberia has a water supply that meets United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6.

While Water Charity completed work in Liberia, they focused on a border-to-border strategy in Togo and in The Gambia. They use GIS technology while visiting every village in the two countries, some 8,000 in total. During 2020, they began training a labor force and bringing in partners. At the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, they



found a way to help by manufacturing and installing hundreds of hand-washing stations around the two countries and providing hygiene training.

In Togo, Water Charity worked with the government to train a team of hand-pump repair persons and sent them out to complete the most pressing projects. They partnered with an international group now funding efforts to fix all of the pumps, including in 58 villages that will serve as a model, before efforts expand to the whole country.

In The Gambia, Water Charity ramped up the implementation of projects according to plans developed during a countrywide survey of water needs in 2019. They deepened relationships with implementing partners and brought in consistent and reliable funding partners that support their work. With that additional funding, they repaired pumps in dozens of villages in three districts.

In 2020 Water Charity worked with NPCA to plan, manage, and fund projects implemented by RPCVs. This partnership became increasingly important with the worldwide evacuation of Volunteers from their posts. Many were left with projects in various stages of planning and implementation. They were looking to see those projects through to completion. Water Charity has been able to step in and help.

IN THE GAMBIA, Water Charity ramped up the implementation of projects according to plans developed during its country-wide survey of water needs in 2019.



GLOBAL REENTRY A BRIDGE BETWEEN PEACE CORPS SERVICE AND A LIFETIME OF PEACE CORPS IDEALS

Just days after Peace Corps Volunteers began a global evacuation in March 2020, National Peace Corps Association officially launched an initiative that had long been in the works, but was suddenly urgent: the Global Reentry Program to support the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer community, especially those whose service ended so abruptly.

Global Reentry aims to connect returned Volunteers with the resources they need for personal and professional success, while also furthering the ideals of the Peace Corps. It's geared to help recently evacuated Volunteers and those who closed their service in the last few years—as well as those who finished service decades ago. The purpose is to welcome Volunteers home with this assurance: We're here for you.

We've long understood that too few RPCVs are aware of—or able to access—either our network or the benefits available to them after they return. The truth is, our community has long supported fellow returned Volunteers. And beginning in March 2020, we were flooded with offers of support from within our community: sharing advice through Facebook groups, signing up as career mentors, making donations, engaging in advocacy actions, and asking again and again, “How can I help?” This demonstration of solidarity is truly awe-inspiring.



FOUR PILLARS So what does Global Reentry do? Open doors to career counseling services, educational opportunities for those pursuing a degree and for lifelong learners, avenues for seeking and advocating for health services, and opportunities for continued social impact. Global Reentry marks our commitment to helping, individually and collectively, to translate the Peace Corps experience and ideals into successful careers, and to exponentially increasing our social impact.



CAREER SERVICES

Links RPCV career seekers to resources for conducting an effective job search: a series of webinars facilitated by experienced career counselors, podcasts, access to career mentorship programs, and job postings targeting RPCV candidates. We're fortunate to have Jodi Hammer on our team, with years of experience helping RPCVs with career transitions. Her "Jobs with Jodi" podcast has covered a broad range of topics, drawing on tremendous expertise within and without the Peace Corps community.



EDUCATIONAL AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

A clearinghouse for opportunities promoted by our many partner universities throughout the United States and abroad. Many RPCVs are also interested in staying up to speed on international development efforts—particularly in their countries of service—as well as learning new ways to further the Peace Corps' mission, or simply staying abreast of new and noteworthy service-related professional topics. Global Reentry provides weekly professional development webinars and periodic access to other unique learning opportunities geared to RPCVs.



WELL-BEING

Transitioning from Peace Corps service is difficult, even in the best of times. It often takes years or even decades for RPCVs to rediscover the sense of community and belonging that they experienced as Volunteers. Many returning Volunteers have found great value in peer support from our community, and many have reached out with particular needs around navigating or advocating for post-service health benefits. NPCA has long supported and championed efforts to meet these needs, and worked with groups of RPCVs in their efforts to improve access to such benefits—which they can continue to do through Global Reentry.



CONTINUATION OF SERVICE

Our community is committed to furthering the ideals of the Peace Corps through promotion of the Third Goal via continued service in our communities. Global Reentry has begun furthering individuals' efforts by providing links to groups, organizations, and advocacy efforts that increase our immediate social impact. That's critical now, as we rally for causes that are of immediate concern to our community: as we stand up for racial justice for all, respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, combat climate change, and ensure that Peace Corps is the best that it can be.



Weekly Podcast:
JOBS WITH JODI

PEACE CORPS COMMUNITY CONNECT BECAUSE TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

Introducing Peace Corps Community Connect—an effort to connect, inform, and engage the Peace Corps community like never before.

The year 2020 underscored just how crucial the experience of Peace Corps service is, as are the values that it instills. With all Volunteers brought home amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognized that we need to connect, inform, and engage our community like never before. Which is why National Peace Corps Association launched Peace Corps Community Connect.

It's often said that Peace Corps Volunteers represent what's best about this country. So we're continuing to build a diverse and welcoming Peace Corps network to reach across generations—with an eye on the future and the work that's in front of us.

We want to help others understand what it means to live out Peace Corps values of peace and friendship across a lifetime. And at a time when people say, “We need a Peace Corps for healthcare ... for literacy ... for legal help ... for the environment”—we're mobilizing our community for positive social impact.

We're a community 240,000 strong, including Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, families, and former staff. We want to amplify all of our voices and show how the Peace Corps can and does shape lives and communities—here and around the globe. And we'll tackle the new challenges facing us as part of—not apart from—a changed world.

The Peace Corps Community Connect team has been partnering with groups of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and individual community members to find fellow RPCVs and former staff from around the world, helping them broaden and deepen their connections. One goal is to connect our robust and active community and, in this time of social distancing, host virtual events, and hear and better understand the impact of service on us and our communities—whether that service took place decades ago or was brought to an abrupt end in 2020.

At a time when it's important to amplify our voices, Peace Corps Community Connect is also intended to link the entire Peace Corps community and bring change-makers together to engage on key issues like accessible healthcare, racial justice, and climate change.



**PEACE CORPS
COMMUNITY
CONNECT**

Lessons in the value of community are something learned by Volunteers who have served around the globe.

As we began marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps in fall 2020, we understood that this is a time for celebration. And it's a time to commit to shaping a better future together. This is a crucial moment to advocate for the reimagining and retooling of the Peace Corps for a changed world, and to ensure more meaningful, positive, and sustainable impact here at home.

The program began working with groups connected to countries including Guyana and Pakistan, Kenya and Nepal, Vanuatu and Liberia and Ukraine. It has expanded from there, with plans to work with groups connected to every country where Peace Corps has served. As we do that, it's with a clear awareness of this fact: Together we are stronger.

NPCA EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HELPING FIGHT COVID-19

Dr. Anthony Fauci sent words of encouragement as NPCA launched the Emergency Response Network during the pandemic.

Renowned infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci offered words of encouragement and inspiration as the first cohort of the National Peace Corps Association Emergency Response Network began training as contact tracers in October 2020. This inaugural cohort went on to work with the Department of Health in Seattle and King County, Washington.

“I am a long-standing admirer of your passion and dedication to a purpose greater than yourselves,” Fauci told the returned Volunteers. “I am profoundly grateful for your resilience and your adaptability that has enabled you to transfer your skills and commitment to this urgent need in our country to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control.”

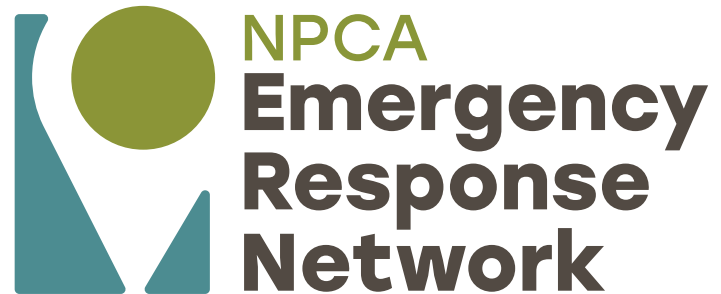
The idea of putting evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers to

“I am profoundly grateful for your resilience and your adaptability that has enabled you to transfer your skills and commitment to this urgent need in our country to get the COVID-19 pandemic under control.”

—Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIH

work as contact tracers during the pandemic was an idea NPCA had worked toward since March 2020, when Volunteers were evacuated. A number of returned Volunteers in this inaugural cohort of the Emergency Response Network were themselves evacuated as COVID-19 swept the globe.

From the beginning, one of the advocates for deploying Volunteers to battle the pandemic was Dr. Peter Kilmarx, deputy director of the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health. Kilmarx served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the 1980s in Democratic Republic of Congo, then known as Zaire.



“Today is an exciting milestone in the National Peace Corps Association’s efforts to engage RPCVs in the COVID-19 response,” Kilmarx told the returned Volunteers, “and an exciting day for those of you joining the historic global effort to control this pandemic ... Done right, contact tracing is very effective. In New Zealand, contact tracers brought the average time from onset of illness to isolation from 7.2 days in March to *negative* 2.7 days in April. That means that on average, cases were isolated 2.7 days *before* they fell ill, and local transmission in New Zealand dropped to zero.”

Kilmarx also noted the efforts, going back months, to involve more returned Volunteers in contact tracing. “If you ask me, ‘What makes a great contact tracer?’ I would say, ‘A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer,’ or anyone with that kind of resilience, cultural competence, and a spirit of service to the community.”

The NPCA Emergency Response Network’s initial efforts in Seattle were coordinated by John Berry, who served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger 1986–89 and has extensive experience in international development program design and management. Berry also played a part in the launch of the first NPCA Emergency Response Network more than 25 years ago, in the wake of the Rwanda genocide. That concept led the Peace Corps agency to launch Crisis Corps in 1996, which began recruiting for short-term, high-impact assignments around the world.

Forum One, a full-service digital agency with RPCVs on staff, provided NPCA with digital strategy and design for this new program.

NPCA Emergency Response Network team members continued to serve the Seattle area as contact tracers into 2021, when they began applying their problem-solving and outreach skills to assisting with vaccine information access and other aspects of the battle against COVID-19.

PEACE CORPS CONNECT TO THE FUTURE A VISION OF UNPARALLELED SCOPE FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME

After all Peace Corps Volunteers were evacuated from around the globe in March 2020, an unprecedented community-driven effort has charted a course for how to reimagine, reshape, and retool the Peace Corps for a changed world.

Amid a time of unprecedented crisis for the Peace Corps and our nation as a whole, the Peace Corps community came together in summer 2020 to chart a way forward: with specific, actionable steps that will help reimagine and retool the Peace Corps for a changed world. Those steps are outlined in “Peace Corps Connect to the Future,” a report months in the making and made public in November.

The report itself was prepared by a special NPCA advisory council drawn from the broad Peace Corps community inside and outside the United States. It provides recommendations for multiple stakeholders: policymakers in the Peace Corps agency and the federal executive branch’s leadership; the U.S. Congress; and the Peace Corps community, particularly National Peace Corps Association.

The report comes at an inflection point for the Peace Corps, which was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. Its mission of building world peace and friendship has motivated more than 240,000 Americans to volunteer in nearly every corner of the world. Peace Corps sets the gold standard for service, and its brand is a cultural icon with near-universal recognition. But in 2020 that service came to a halt.

In the spring of 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peace Corps evacuated all of its roughly 7,300 Volunteers from service around the globe. They came home to a country hit by pandemic and economic maelstrom, and one that would soon be convulsed by protests against racial injustice.

For the first time in the nearly 60-year history of the agency, no Peace Corps Volunteers were serving overseas. This abrupt interruption of Peace Corps service dramatically altered the Volunteers’ lives and profoundly disrupted the work and relationships in communities where they were serving. The global evacuation of Volunteers also brought to the fore some longstanding challenges for the agency, for Volunteers serving overseas,

“We heard loud and clear from the community that the Peace Corps needs to change and adapt if we want it to endure. That’s from Volunteers who have served across the decades and around the world, and from people who live in communities where the Peace Corps has worked.”

**—Glenn Blumhorst,
NPCA President and CEO**

and for the broader Peace Corps community. All this called for an unparalleled response.

Harnessing the experience, commitment, and innovative ideas of the Peace Corps community, in July 2020 National Peace Corps Association convened a series of national community discussions and a global ideas summit to ask some far-reaching questions about the future of the Peace Corps in a changed world. The conversations tackled two key questions. First, whether the Peace Corps as an agency should continue to exist; on that count, the response was a resounding “yes.” And second, when the Peace Corps returns to the field, what should it look like? The responses to this second question yielded the extensive report, “Peace Corps Connect to the Future.”

“We heard loud and clear from the community that the Peace Corps needs to change and adapt if we want it to endure,” says Glenn Blumhorst, President and CEO of National Peace Corps Association. “That’s from Volunteers who have served across the decades and around the world, and from people who live in communities where the Peace Corps has worked. They’ve offered big ideas in conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion as

well as recruitment and recalibrating programs, including critical health support. They've looked hard at the three goals of the Peace Corps agency, as well as policies, funding, and how Peace Corps communicates."

THREE CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Each of the eight chapters of the report can stand alone and presents its own unique set of recommendations. But during the community conversations, it was made clear that three primary themes cut across the entirety of the issues Peace Corps faces:

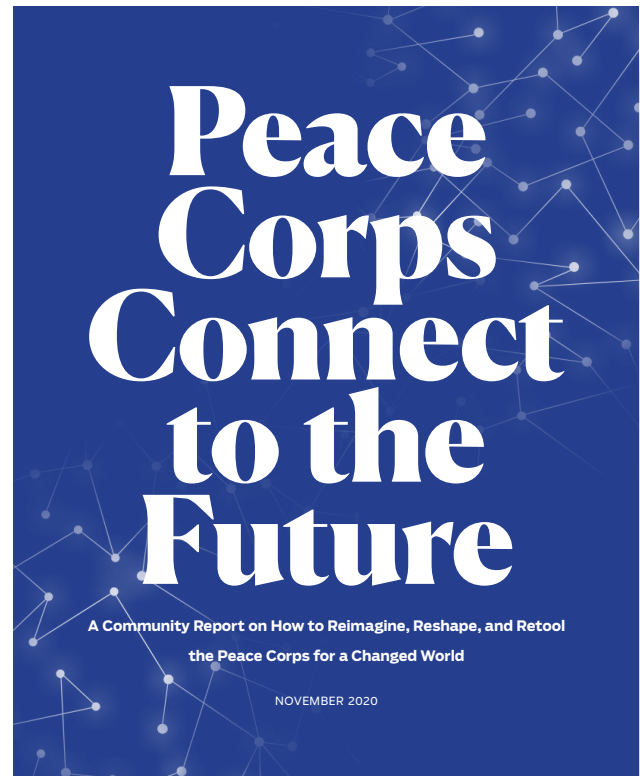
The Peace Corps community must be a leader in addressing systemic racism. The Peace Corps agency, like American society as a whole, is grappling with how to evolve so that its work fulfills the promise of our ideals. This means tackling agency hiring and recruitment, and providing greater support for Volunteers who are people of color, to ensure an equitable Peace Corps experience. It also means ensuring that perceptions of a "white savior complex" and neocolonialism are not reinforced. These are criticisms leveled at much work in international development, where not all actors are bound by the kinds of ideals that are meant to guide the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps agency needs to stand by its community—and leverage it for impact. The agency's work is only as good as the contributions of the people who make it run. This means not only staff, but includes, in particular, the broader community of Volunteers and returned Volunteers. In programs around the world, it absolutely includes the colleagues and communities that host Volunteers.

Now is the moment for the Peace Corps agency to make dramatic change. The opportunity for a reimagined and rebooted Peace Corps now exists and it should be taken. This report shows the way.

This moment of international crisis and domestic change has provided a period of critical reflection to restructure, retool, renew our commitment, and get things right. The Peace Corps must meet the challenge of this moment. And once more it can lead the way. "Peace Corps should reflect the fullness of America and provide the country's best and truest face to the world," the report notes. "It should return to the field better, bolder, more inclusive, and more effective."

The report takes as a touchstone some remarks made by diplomat Kul Chandra Gautam at NPCA's global ideas summit. Gautam was born and raised in Nepal, and as a student he was taught by Peace Corps teachers. His



READ THE REPORT online and download a PDF:
bit.ly/peace-corps-connect-report

career has included serving as deputy executive director of UNICEF. "Our increasingly interconnected world demands global solidarity, not charity, to solve global problems that transcend national borders like the specter of war, terrorism, racism, climate change, and pandemics like COVID-19," he said. "I sincerely believe that the Peace Corps can be a great organization dedicated to promote such global solidarity at the people-to-people level."

AWARD WINNERS HONORING HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES

SARGENT SHRIVER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN SERVICE



Matthew Paneitz | Founder, Long Way Home

For 18 years, Matthew Paneitz has devoted his life to the redress of ethnic violence and systemic oppression perpetrated against the Indigenous peoples of Guatemala. Peace Corps brought Paneitz to Guatemala in 2002. Home is now San Juan Comalapa, a town of 40,000, primarily Indigenous Kaqchikel Maya. Extreme environmental challenges, inequality, and high rates of unemployment and illiteracy stymie equitable and sustainable development. So Mateo, as colleagues know him, founded Long Way Home, a nonprofit organization that utilizes green building, employment, and education to mobilize people to actively participate in democracy and create innovative pathways to economic and environmental justice. In 2009, Long Way Home began the construction of Centro Educativo Técnico Chixot, a grade school and vocational school that uses green building as a pathway for teaching principles of environmental stewardship and active democratic participation. The school itself serves as a model for green building. The curriculum is project based; students are taught to assess and address local opportunities.

The Shriver Award is presented annually by NPCA to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who continue to make a sustained and distinguished contribution to humanitarian causes at home or abroad, or who are innovative social entrepreneurs who bring about significant long-term change. The award is named in honor of the first Peace Corps director, Sargent Shriver.

LORET MILLER RUPPE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friends of Korea for a guide to understanding the transformation of a country. “We left Korea, but Korea never left us,” Gerry Krzic wrote recently. Krzic serves as president of Friends of Korea, a group founded by returned Volunteers who served in the Republic of Korea from 1966 to 1981, when the Peace Corps program there was closed. Friends of Korea was established in 2002 to foster connections between people in the U.S. and Korea—and between Korean American communities stateside and wider communities. In 2016, Friends of Korea began work on “Study Guide to Accompany the Korean Transformation,” a manual for educators and workshop facilitators who teach about the dramatic economic, social, and political development of Korea. The guide can be used independently or with the “Korean Transformation” DVD made by Friends of Korea. Korea is the first Peace Corps partner country to launch its own government-funded overseas volunteer service corps, World Friends Korea.



Friends of Tonga for helping kids tell their stories—and building connections across the world. In 2018 Cyclone Gita, with winds topping category 4 hurricane strength, slammed into the Pacific island nation of Tonga. It was the worst storm in over 60 years. In its wake, Tonga RPCVs Michael Hassett, Chiara Collette, and others mobilized to help. They formed Friends of Tonga not only to ameliorate the devastation, but also to help fill gaps in delivering education in Tonga. One project was a pen pal program between schools in the United States and Tonga. This program enhances literacy rates in Tonga, raises awareness of Tonga and its people, and has increased event participation and donations.



Named for the widely admired 10th director of the Peace Corps, the annual **Loret Miller Ruppe Award** is presented by NPCA to outstanding affiliate groups for projects that promote the Third Goal of Peace Corps—“strengthen Americans’ understanding about the world and its peoples”—or that continue to serve host countries, build group spirit and cooperation, and promote service.

WORLDVIEW MAGAZINE A DOCUMENT FOR OUR TIMES



For 20 of its 33 years, *WorldView* magazine benefited from the guidance of editor David Arnold. He and his wife, Courtney, served as Volunteers in Ethiopia beginning in 1964. David later edited *WorldView* for 15 years while serving as NPCA communications director. He took an eight-year hiatus, then returned in 2015 to lead *WorldView* as a driver in advancing NPCA's mission as a social impact organization. He guided the magazine with care, intelligence, and integrity for many years. Arnold handed over the editorial baton after the spring 2020 edition.

When Steven Boyd Saum then took on responsibilities for editing *WorldView*, he had already edited award-winning magazines for two decades, earning national recognition for writing, design, illustration, and overall excellence. He brought on board Pamela Fogg as art director, and visually the magazine entered a new era.

The year 2020 was slated to be focused on transforming the magazine digitally. The Spring 2020 edition addressed climate change in the Pacific, and it saw the launch of a *WorldView* app. The full contents of the magazine, as well as exclusive digital features, are now available on smartphones, tablets, and desktop computers anywhere. But the global evacuation of Volunteers in March 2020 made it clear that, during these unprecedented times, more than an app needed to reach all those evacuees—and as wide a national and international audience as possible. Print circulation was increased dramatically. In a matter of weeks, the communications team created and launched the first-ever digital version of the magazine on the web. This change broadens access to the magazine and enables NPCA to amplify stories through social media and newsletters. It also allows readers to share individual stories.

“Now is the time for big changes, for bold ideas, brought to bear with the kind of energy and audacity that launched the Peace Corps 60 years ago—but with a better and fuller and truer sense of community and who we are.”

**—*WorldView* Editor Steven Boyd Saum,
Winter 2020–21 edition**

The Summer 2020 edition tackled the global evacuation like no other publication in the world. It brought together dozens of stories from Volunteers, counterparts, country directors, and Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen. As protests swept the nation, the magazine captured voices from the Peace Corps community speaking out against racial injustice. With no Volunteers serving overseas, the Fall 2020 edition asked, “What’s the role of Peace Corps now?” and brought readers an in-depth discussion of African Americans and the future of the Peace Corps. The Winter 2020–21 edition looked at how the Peace Corps can and should play a leadership role as the U.S. reengages with the world—and as Peace Corps itself is reimagined, reshaped, and retooled to meet the needs of a world that has changed profoundly.

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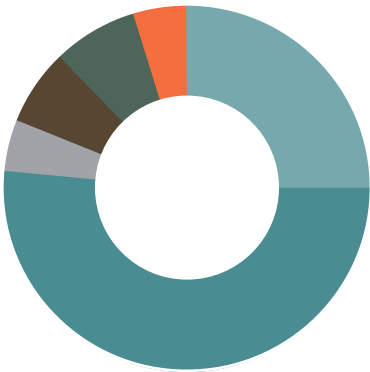
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	Grants and contributions with donor restrictions	\$2,791,843	59%
	Earned income	\$132,741	3%
	Donated services	\$266,584	6%
	Advertising	\$262,905	6%
	Investment income	\$150,525	3%
TOTAL		\$4,713,381	100%



OPERATING EXPENSES

	Education	\$1,029,533	44%
	Fundraising	\$254,341	11%
	Membership	\$222,165	10%
	Publications	\$306,499	13%
	Donated services	\$266,584	12%
	General and administrative	\$238,649	10%
TOTAL		\$2,317,771	100%

WHAT WE DO

We uphold Peace Corps
ideals and advance
Peace Corps–inspired
initiatives.

Nearly 240,000 strong,
we are a powerful
force for good.

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is a mission-driven social impact organization that encourages and celebrates lifelong commitment to Peace Corps ideals.

NPCA supports a united and vibrant Peace Corps community, including current and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current and former staff, host country nationals, family, and friends in our efforts to create a better world.

NPCA exists to fulfill three specific goals:

Help the Peace Corps
be the best
it can be.

Empower members
and affiliate groups
to thrive.

Amplify the Peace
Corps community's
global social impact.

Where we're going.



**We've got
some learning
and some
work to do.**

That's true for the Peace Corps community. For this nation. For this planet.

We're facing hard questions and grappling with systemic injustices that have been centuries in the making. We envision a vibrant and united community, here at home and around the world.

What we do know: Working together as partners is essential. Rok Locksley is the Volunteer who took this photo in the Philippines. He supported Nibarie Nicolas in work developing sustainable projects for communities and protecting marine areas. They quickly learned to paddle together, learned new ways of seeing.

**Our work is just starting.
Support Volunteers back in
the States and their ongoing
work around the globe.**

peacecorpsconnect.org/give



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