



# Central MO Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2015 Annual Report

## 2015 In Words and Pictures



Columbia recruitment: #4 per capita nationwide!

✂ **12 PCVs from Columbia** serving around the world in 2015

Bob Walker Grants: Supporting Missourians in Peace Corps

- ✂ 2 Awarded
- ✂ \$300 Nicaragua Youth Development / Peace Corps Partnership Program
- ✂ \$400 Thailand Shelter for Adult Basic Ed program / Jim Damico from Kansas City
- ✂ Since 2006 **we've given \$10,620.00** to 23 PCVs from Missouri

Social: RPCVs love to eat, drink, and make merry!

- ✂ 50 RPCVs, Guests and Nominees ate 10 lbs of BBQ at the BBQ
- ✂ 35 RPCVs, including **20 members of the India 37 Reunion** (RPCVs from 1960s) at the Fall Social
- ✂ 100 people drank 300 beers at the Thirsty Thursday Happy Hours
- ✂ 80 people, 100 trivia questions, and 16 pizzas at World Trivia



Third Goal Film Festival:

- ✂ 5 Films
- ✂ **858 Festival Attendees (a record!)**
- ✂ 50 Volunteers
- ✂ \$550 in donations

Community Service: Making a difference in CoMO

2015 Loaves and Fishes numbers:

- ✂ 360 meals served (Jan 31st, May 29th, July 31st and Oct 30th)
- ✂ **\$1600 In-kind food donations**
- ✂ 75 Volunteer Serving Hours

2015 Adopt-A-Spot Clean Ups (Elm Street, downtown Columbia)

- ✂ 4 (April, May, August, October)
- ✂ 25 Volunteers participated
- ✂ 140 minutes of picking up trash



**Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers [501c3 Non-Profit serving the Mid-Missouri Region]**

P.O. Box 405 Columbia, MO 65205

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Visit us on the web at [www.morpcv.org](http://www.morpcv.org) or find us on Facebook!



## Meet Our Members – Judy Stallman

Judy Stallmann, RPCV Honduras 1973-1975, is an MU professor of agricultural and applied economics, rural sociology and community development extension in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (CAFNR), and public affairs at the Truman School of Public Affairs. She's also an active Central MO member and donor who regularly volunteers with service and outreach activities.

### Q: What's one memory from your Peace Corps experience?

Just one? Spending Christmas in a very small village with my best friend and her family. We made tamales and put out some handmade clay figurines for the crèche. Friends and family stopped by for short visits with small presents—often a bottle of soda, which was a luxury for people with very little money. As darkness fell the young people in the village gathered at the church and started La Posada. They go door to door in town and sing, “At your door have arrived Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay”. The people inside sing back that there is no room. This is repeated and on the third time the door is opened and the carolers are invited in to admire the crèche and eat a tamale. I found the sharing with friends and neighbors very meaningful and to this day prefer a very simple Christmas.

### Q: How has Peace Corps influenced your post-service life?

I work on policy issues. Peace Corps taught me to think comparatively about policy: 1) The influence of philosophy, culture and history on policy in a country or even in different states of the US; 2) There is no one way to do something because there may be different objectives, there may be similar objectives, but different ways of achieving them, or there may be using similar ways, but to achieve different objectives; 3) Hard work is not a guarantee if policy is not well designed or is not fair.

### Q: What is the most distinctive food/tradition/sound/smell (choose one) from your host country?

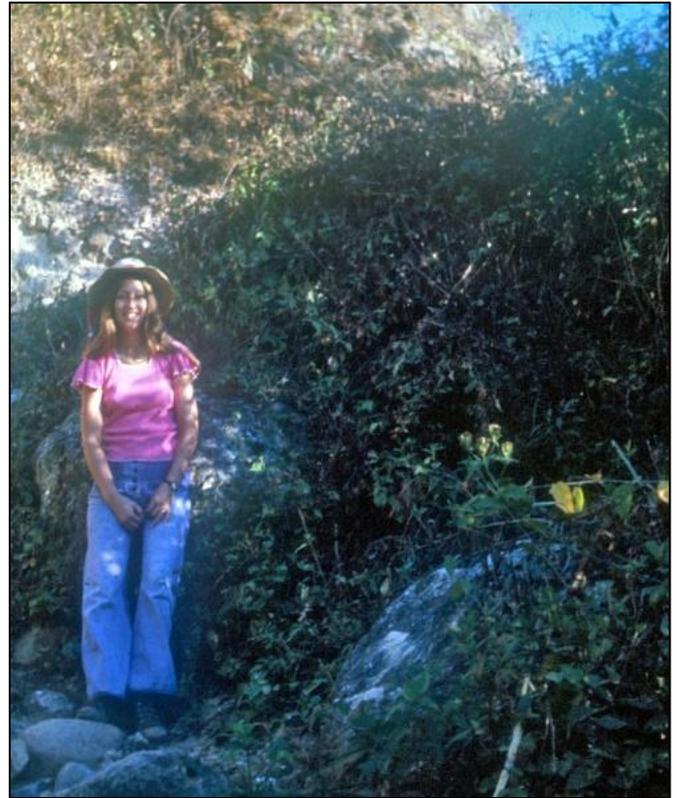
Handmade tortillas being cooked on a clay comal (large plate for cooking tortillas) over a smoky wood fire. These are so much tastier than any other tortilla (and a whole lot more work).

### Q: How did you get involved in the RPCV community in Columbia?

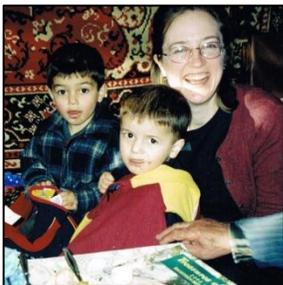
A student of mine, who is an RPCV, told me about it. Somehow it had not registered in my brain. I went to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Goal film festival and decided I would get involved in ways that I could.

### Q: What is your favorite Central MO RPCVS event / activity?

I love the 3<sup>rd</sup> Goal film festival and I try to provide food for the festival. I also like the new trivia event. For a table I find people with a wide variety of national and cultural backgrounds to improve our chances of winning. We came in 2<sup>nd</sup> this year.



## Central MO RPCVS Board in Pictures



Lindsey Smith  
President & Grants Coordinator  
Armenia 2001-2003



Frank Yates  
Treasurer & Membership Chair  
Ghana 1973-1976



Mike Burden  
Third Goal Film Festival Coordinator  
Mongolia 2006-2008

## Meet Our Members – Emily Haghighi

Emily Haghighi, (Niger 2008-2010) lives in Columbia, MO and is a project manager for a state-wide grant on climate change research. Outside of work, Emily enjoys gardening, working on her new house, biking, knitting, and playing violin (ETA--and volunteering with Central MO RPCVS!)

### Q: What's one memory from your Peace Corps experience?

During the two years in my village, I was concerned that not one villager had ever had the opportunity to go to school. My villagers were very aware of the benefits of schooling, both for their boys and their girls.

The villagers organized a petition to the regional Ministry of Education, pledging that the parents would build a school shelter, provide housing for a teacher, and send their children to school every day. In turn, the government would provide the blackboards, textbooks, supplies, and the teacher's salary. If attendance remained above 90% for five years, the government would build a permanent school. Once we had news that our petition was approved, the parents were so excited that they founded a parent-teacher association the same day.

On the first day of school, the children were dressed in their best outfits, their shoes scattered around the door to the one-room structure, and they were intently drawing circles and dots as their first lesson in how to write. Usually, children would gather around my camera to take elaborately staged photographs, but that day they barely noticed me there as they listened to the teacher's lesson.



### Q: How has Peace Corps influenced your post-service life?

My experience in the Peace Corps has profoundly shaped who I am and helped me mature. I have always had a calm temperament but Peace Corps allowed me to become bolder while also developing patience and empathy. My approach to problem solving has become more creative and I am willing to admit to my mistakes and continue tackling problems from different angles until I find a solution.

### Q: What is the most distinctive food/tradition/sound/smell (choose one) from your host country?

The smell of a wood fire always brings me back to Niger.

### Q: How did you get involved in the RPCV community in Columbia?

I got involved in the RPCV community just days after coming home from Niger. I joined a dinner with the former MU Chancellor, Brady Deaton, and almost the entire Central Missouri RPCV group. During that event, I was invited to the first Third Goal Film Festival, held a few weeks later.

### Q: What is your favorite Central MO RPCVS event / activity?

There are so many! I like the Thursday Happy Hours that we have at Lucky's Market. The potlucks and barbeques are also a great way to see RPCV friends and meet people interested in applying to the Peace Corps. I have enjoyed doing presentations at the Columbia Independent School and for the Peace Corps prep program. Of course, the Third Goal Film Festival planning is a challenging and incredibly rewarding experience every year and I always try to contribute in some way.



Shannon Hensley  
Community Service Chair  
Ghana 1998-2000



Lindsay Oetker  
Secretary & Speakers Bureau Chair  
Mongolia 2009-2011



Matt Sakow  
Advocacy Chair  
Burkina Faso 2012-2014



Maya Tartar  
Social Chair  
Kyrgyz Republic 2004-2006



- Advocacy:** New this Year—Central MO RPCVs speaking up for Peace Corps Washington
- ✂ 410 – Millions of dollars in funding for FY 2016!!!! Huge Win for Peace Corps!
  - ✂ 450 – Number of additional volunteers able to be funded by budget increase
  - ✂ 39 - Regional Advocacy Coordinators for the NPCA
  - ✂ 845-541-2046 – Number you can call to find out more how you can help promote Peace Corps advocacy in Missouri

**Speakers Bureau:** Telling Our Stories

- ✂ 10 speaker panels for 70 people
- ✂ 10 RPCVs talked to 100s of people at Columbia Earth Day Festival



**Leadership and Membership:**

Missouri RPCV Leadership Summit

- ✂ 3 Missouri NPCA Affiliates
- ✂ 12 Group Leaders
- ✂ Many great ideas and inspiration!

5 Board Meetings (always open to our members)

Memberships

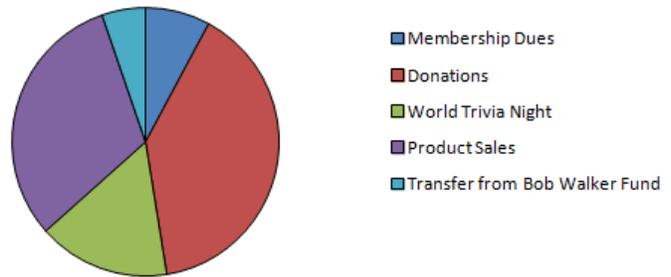
- ✂ 25 joined or renewed. Thank for supporting of Central MO RPCVS!



**Financial Report**

2015 Income	
Membership Dues	\$445.00
Donations	\$2,259.74
World Trivia Night	\$908.00
Product Sales	\$1,785.00
Transfer from Bob Walker Fund	\$300.00
2015 Expenses	
Third Goal Film Festival	\$2,063.98
Peace Corps Volunteers Support Funds	\$730.00
Cost of Sales	\$732.50
Social Events	\$468.30
World Trivia Night	\$329.36
Loaves & Fishes	\$620.03
Administration	\$819.00

**2015 Income**



**2015 Expenses**

