



Central MO Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

2016 Annual Report

2016 In Words and Pictures

Bob Walker Grants: *RPCVs supporting Missourians in the Peace Corps!*

- We funded 2 grants for Missouri Peace Corps Volunteers.
- \$350.00 - Turning the Page / Books for Madagascar: A project designed to provide English library books, text books, and reference books to Malagasy communities to support literacy and English education.
- \$250.00 - Let Girls Learn Jamaica: A project to expand access to education for girls.



Social: *Central MO RPCVs eat, drink, and make merry!*

- May Send-Off Party: 25 RPCVs shared wisdom and wit with 3 Missourians headed overseas.
- Fall Welcome at Logboat Brewery: 13 RPCVs new and old shared beer and conversation.
- Happy Hours: Every Third Thursday at Lucky's = 48 + RPCVs socializing this year
- World Trivia Night in October: 7 teams competed; funds were raised for Third Goal Film Event 2018.



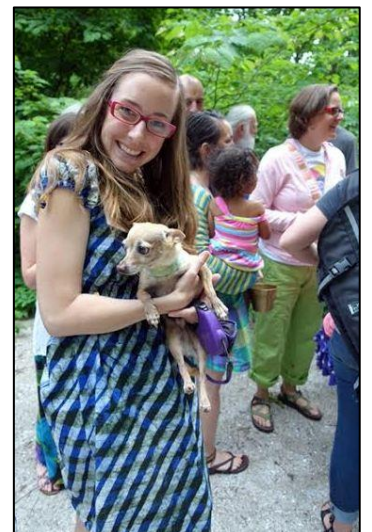
Community Service: *Making a difference in central Missouri!*

Loaves and Fishes

- 5 Service Opportunities
- 560 Meals served
- 56 Volunteers contributed food and work
- Huge Thanks to Shannon Hensley for her coordination of this meaningful service project over the last several years!

Adopt-a-Spot Litter Cleanup

- 4 clean ups, 24 volunteers, 2.5 hours, 100s of cigarette butts recycled! (And lots of trash and recycling collected as well)



Meet Our Members – Katrina Boogerd

During my Peace Corps experience in Guyana, I stumbled across a job placement perfect for my burgeoning interests in art therapy and special education. Due to a series of somewhat unfortunate events that became an opportunity, I was able to work in a special needs school, focusing on using art to promote inclusive teaching methodologies. Guyana has started to embrace the idea of special needs schools, but still struggles with teacher education and implementation. The children, however, are more than ready to interact and learn. While at work at

Ptolemy Reid, I happened to draw a few overly simplified birds in my notebook. The next day, a student saw these and wanted me to fill the page with birds. Later, another student, who happens to be profoundly deaf, gave each bird feet. She then added squiggled lines emanating from the mouths of all of the



“ducks”, as she signed, to enable them to sing. Through her artwork, I was able to recognize her desire to feel normal and her struggle to fit into the Guyanese culture with her disability. Difficulty with integration was something I could relate to in a country where, due to gender and sexual orientation, I became part of a very small, often silenced minority. As I personally use art to express my feelings, I thrive on sharing this ability with others. I want to use art to give a voice to the voiceless, something I now do every day in my job as an art therapist.

It is so difficult to choose just one distinctive food or tradition or sound or smell from my host country, but when I think of something unique to Guyana, what comes to mind are the Easter traditions. On the coast, people fly kites. On the Brazilian border, in Lethem, there is a rodeo, and in Bartica, inland from the coast, there is a regatta. These yearly traditions seem to be uniquely Guyanese.

I got involved in the CMRPCV group through Megan Gore, a fellow Guyanese RPCV. Such a small world! I especially love to help out with Loaves and Fishes when possible, and to commune for Third Thursday Happy Hours.

Central MO RPCVS Board in Pictures



Lindsey Smith
President &
Grants Coordinator
Republic of Armenia
2001-2003



Frank Yates
Treasurer &
Membership Chair
Ghana
1973-1976

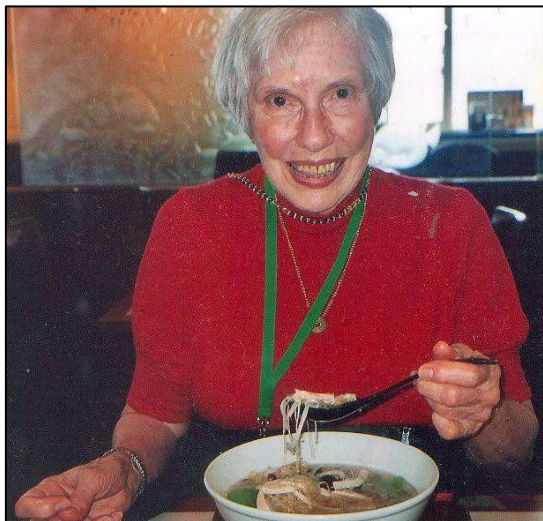


Maya Tartar
Social Chair
Kyrgyz Republic
2004-2006

Meet Our Members – Patt Behler

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

Since I worked in the second largest city, Arequipa, in Peru, in 1962-64, I met people who lived in the indigenous barriadas but also people in the city. One young woman, a newspaper reporter, invited me to stop by to meet her parents which I did one Sunday afternoon. The three were seated for dinner but invited me to stay; she brought out similar soup in a bowl with broth and three grains of rice. They were willing to include me and serve what they had. I was so touched by their generosity.



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

Dramatically, because I went to Peru after training at Cornell University and in a Puerto Rico outbound program, expecting to work as an art teacher in combination with faculty in a public school but instead did community development projects of all sorts, one, being the development of a neighborhood library for children. This in turn prompted me to change my profession to becoming, first, a children's librarian in Kansas City MO, and, later the statewide Youth Library Consultant at the Missouri State Library.

Q: What's a distinctive tradition from your host country?

At Christmas time, families would place a display of the manger scene in a corner of the main room, grow small cans of wheat to place at the sides, and arrange the scene with treasured pieces, some elaborate, others quite modest. I arranged one with the help of neighbor children and then during the season groups of children would come to "adorar el Nino" (adore the baby Jesus). They would sing, tell stories and one even danced the Cha Cha Cha in front of the "nacimiento" in order to receive small gifts at each stop.

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

Columbia and Jefferson City are approximately 30 miles apart and since its inception the group has included members of both areas as well as other outlying places. Although there have been some meetings in Jefferson City, where I live, I have attended special events in Columbia to keep in touch with other RPCVs.

Q: What is your favorite Central MO RPCV event or activity?

A major event sponsored by the Central MO RPCV has been a day long movie series of films depicting typical Peace Corps topics. Also included have been demonstrations of host country games, food, artisan items for donation, including photos and conversations with interested community attendees. This Third World purpose has been successful in telling our Peace Corps stories to people in our own country.



Shannon Hensley
Com. Service Chair
Ghana
1998-2000



Don Spiers
Advocacy Chair
Venezuela
1973-1975

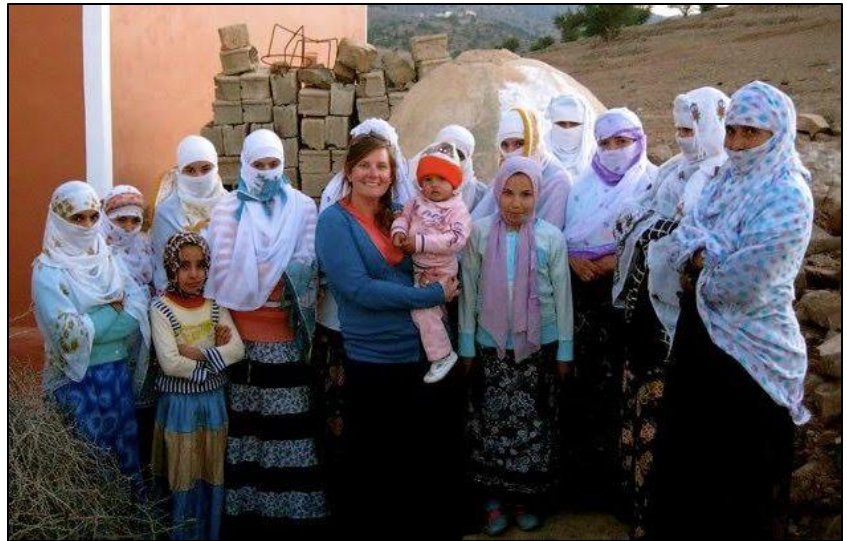


Pat Westhoff
Member-at-Large
Guatemala
1979-1981

Meet Our Members – Cara Stuckel

Q: What's one memory from your PC experience?

One of my favorite memories from PC was the party that I got to throw as a result of the \$200 Mid-Mo RPCV grant I received shortly before my COS. My community had worked tirelessly for months to fundraise and construct two water towers to provide running water to dozens of families in need. That \$200 allowed me to buy the best cookies in the community, name brand soda, and most importantly, small tokens of thanks for each of the people who made the project possible.



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

I can affirmatively say that I am a better attorney because of my time in Morocco. My time in PC taught me empathy, compassion, problem solving, and most importantly, the value in public service. I always knew I wanted to be an attorney but I think it was my time with PC that solidified my passion for public interest work.



Q: What's a distinctive food/tradition/sound/smell (you choose) from your host country?

There was this "man band" in my village that dressed up in traditional clothing and used to "perform" at weddings and other town events. Unfortunately for me, they practiced right outside my house. They were TERRIBLE - so much clanging of metal and off-beat clapping. Despite their lack of skill and how annoying my time with them was, I find myself missing that man band and their obnoxious clanging.

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

The first event I went to was the BBQ right after I got my nomination in May of my senior year. I was so impressed by the people I met and their commitment to Mid-Mo that as soon as I decided to come back for law school I knew I had to get involved.

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

I love the Loaves and Fishes nights. There is fellowship, friendship, and food. What more could you want?

2017 Events Calendar: Please Join Us!

- ☐ **Happy Hour** at Lucky's – 3rd Thursday of each month
- ☐ **Board Meetings:** March 7th, June 14th, August 9th, and November 8th
- ☐ **Peace Corps Week Dinner:** February 23rd at Centro Latino
- ☐ **Loaves & Fishes:** March 31st, June 30th, September 29th, and December 29th
- ☐ **Earth Day Booth:** April 23rd in Peace Park, Downtown Columbia
- ☐ **Send-Off Event:** April 29th at Don Spiers' house
- ☐ **Adopt-a-Spot:** April 8th & May 13th, meet at the corner of 6th and Elm
- ☐ **World Trivia Night:** October 19th at Shakespeare's South

2016 Financial Report

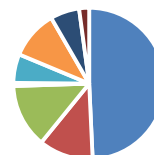
2016 Income	
Membership Dues	\$345.00
Interest Earned	\$0.12
Donations	\$1467.97
World Trivia Night	\$933.00
Product Sales	\$1,504.00
Transfer from Bob Walker Fund	\$350.00
2016 Expenses	
Third Goal Film Festival	\$2,549.20
MO PCV Projects	\$600.00
Cost of Sales	\$704.34
Social Events	\$35.00
World Trivia Night	\$317.12
Loaves & Fishes	\$536.64
Administration	\$110.73
Annual Report	\$320.71

2016 Income



■ Membership Dues ■ Interest Earned ■ Donations
 ■ World Trivia Night ■ Product Sales ■ Bob Walker Fund

2016 Expenses



■ Third Goal Film Festival ■ MO PCV Projects
 ■ Cost of Sales ■ Social Events
 ■ World Trivia Night ■ Loaves & Fishes
 ■ Annual Report ■ Administration

Advocacy: Making our voices heard in D.C.!

- February 2016 Letter-Writing Happy Hour = 12 letters to Missouri Congressional delegation about Peace Corps funding legislation
- March District Meeting at Claire McCaskill's office (3 RPCVs)
- Missouri Congressional Delegation –contact them here: Senator Claire McCaskill (573) 442-7130 / Senator Roy Blunt (573) 442-8151 / Vicky Hartzler (573) 442-9311
- To get involved in local Advocacy efforts, contact Don Spiers - Central MO Advocacy Chair
SpiersD@missouri.edu



Speakers Bureau: Telling our stories!

- In 2016: 6 General Info Meetings at MU, 5 classroom talks, 2 outreach events
- 120 Community members reached, 100s more at Earth Day 2016



Leadership & Membership: Behind the scenes

- Board met 5 times (Members always welcome!)
- Current membership numbers: 247 general members, 20 paid, 5 first year free

Third Goal Film Festival 2016: Fulfilling our 3rd Goal

- April 16th at the Missouri Theater in downtown Columbia
- People in attendance: 408
- Films shown: 5
- Donations from audience: \$723.00
- RPCV Volunteers: 18

The Board suspended plans for the 2017 Film Festival. Stay tuned for an event in 2018.

Recruitment News: From MU

- 44 applicants; 111 Missourians are serving in Peace Corps today
- More than 3,401 Missouri residents have served as Volunteers since the agency was created in 1961.

