



Common Ground

IDAHO RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

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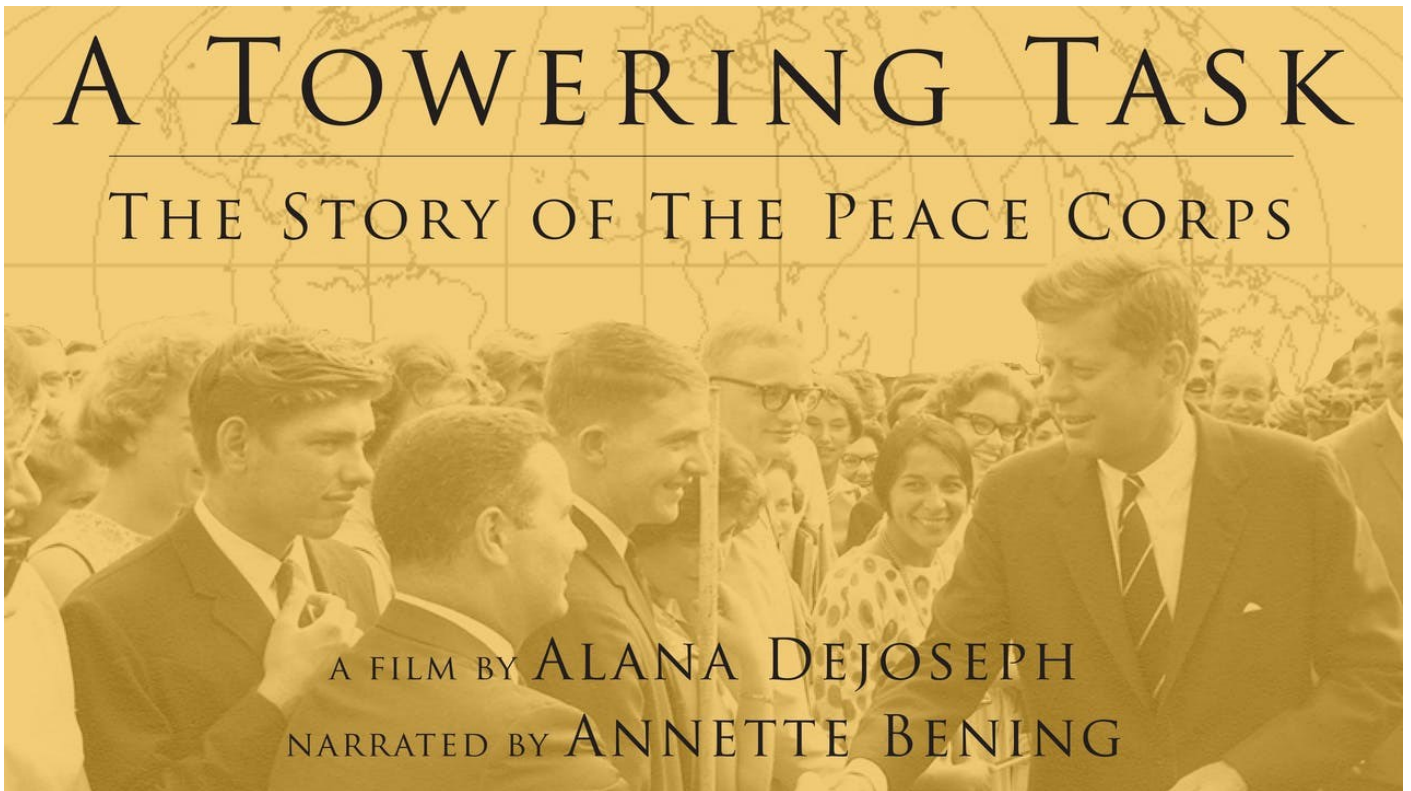
LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In September the Peace Corps celebrated 60 years of service to the world. My husband and I were serving in Peace Corps Botswana ten years ago during its 50th anniversary. Michelle Obama, her mother and her two daughters came to Botswana that year to learn about programs dedicated to the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS. All Peace Corps Botswana programs were focused on those areas as Botswana had the second highest incidence rate for HIV in the world. The group I worked with, Mothers for All, made jewelry to sell from recycled paper and the group made a beautiful long, multi strand necklace in shades of blue that we gave to the US Embassy for Michelle. Ten villages in Botswana had "Mothers for All" groups and all the women were in some way impacted by the AIDS epidemic. The profits were used to help with their needs in caring for orphans and vulnerable children. It hardly seems like ten years ago and I'm certain all of you have similar thoughts about milestone years served.

We IRPCVV continue to monitor service needs in our community and are happy to learn that Boise and Twin Falls will be welcoming refugees from the war in Afghanistan. Temporary housing will be needed, clothes donated, volunteers and of course cold hard cash for those agencies supporting refugees in Idaho. IRPCV has donated volunteer time and/or money in recent years to Agency for New Americans, Learning Lab, International Committee for Refugees as well as CSI (College of Southern Idaho) and Global Gardens, all agencies assisting with the resettlement of refugees.

The IRPCV Board met recently and decided to go ahead with the annual December holiday party. We have all missed the friendship and camaraderie of our Peace Corps friends. The board agreed that it would be a safe environment if we limited attendance to those who have been vaccinated and we will require masks to be worn inside. It will be a potluck with the opportunity to share all those fabulous meals I know everyone has been experimenting with. I hope you are all enjoying cooler weather and the beautiful colors of Fall. Stay safe and well.

Mary McGee, President IRPCV



In *A Towering Task*, director **Alana DeJoseph**, herself a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV), and writer Shana Kelly want to make sure we all know the history of the organization, what its mission has been for almost 60 years, and most importantly, that the Peace Corps still exists today. It was an honest look at the history of the Peace Corps up until the present time. It was produced prior to the evacuation of over 7,000 volunteers due to the Covid-19 virus. We are planning a virtual viewing in 2022 followed by a panel discussion. The discussion will in-

For whatever you choose to celebrate...

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*Blessings to one and ALL this
Holiday Season!*



IRPCV 2012 Holiday Party

A great time was had by all at our Holiday Party this month. We shared a pot luck meal, a little wine and great conversations. Mary McGee, our President kicked off the evening. Our gift exchange M.C. was James Watson who got the party going.. The gifts were creative, original and sometimes funny. A few photos are included here. It was great to be together in person and indoors. All were vaccinated and wore masks .



Peace Corps 2022 Calendars

The 2022 Peace Corps calendars are now available! As always, the calendars feature beautiful photos taken in host countries, past and present, and an amazing array of holidays and commemoration days from around the world.

Consider buying 2 or 3 for gift giving or just because. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and all proceeds go to the organization's grant program. Because this calendar features children, it would make a great gift for any teachers in your life.

The prices are:

1-3 = \$13 each

4 or more = \$11 each

If you need one mailed, postage for one is \$2.50



If you wish to pay using PayPal or your credit card, please calculate what your order total is and pay using the “Donation” page and then send an email to irpcvtreasurer@gmail.com to confirm the order and your address if you wish the calendar to be mailed.

Contact Steve Randolph with any questions at irpcvtreasurer@gmail.com

Any remaining calendars will be donated to a local school.

2022 Membership Dues are Due

As always, if you haven't already, please renew or join online NOW at www.idahopeacecorps.com. You can also mail your annual payment to Steve Randolph at 1011 N. 5th St, Boise, ID 83702. Dues are \$15.00 per year, You may renew for up to three years at one time.

Remember, first time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!

Peace Corps. Facts

Due to COVID-19, all Volunteers returned to the United States in March 2020. .

- Current number of countries served: 61
- Current number of Volunteers and trainees: 7,334
- Gender: 65% female, 35% male
- Marital status: 99% single, 1% married
- Minorities: 34% of Volunteers (excludes non-responders)
- Average age: 26

Volunteers over age 50: 3.2%

Visit www.smile.amazon.com and click "Pick a charity." Search for Idaho Charities and **IRPCV**. Like magic, an Amazon icon will appear on your home tool bar, making it easy for you to click on the icon every time you want to shop Amazon. When you make a purchase, click on the icon and a percentage will go to us, giving us a little more to help us continue our work!



The Amazon Smile logo, featuring the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange, with the Amazon arrow logo underneath.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting is schedule for 4:00 pm to 5:pm on Sunday February 13. Location to be determined.

There will be some time to get caught up with our colleagues prior to the beginning of the business meeting.

We will be electing officers and choosing the grant recieipient(s)



Mychal Castro Peace Corps Recruiter

Returned Volunteer

Costa Rica

Born and raised in Southern California, Mychal has a diverse background in hospitality and tourism, philanthropy and volunteerism, and international service. He is passionate about promoting community-centered projects and supporting others with their life goals. Mychal holds a dual degree in radio/TV/film and communications from California State University, Fullerton. During his free time, he enjoys running, hiking outdoors, and traveling. He is excited to empower others to make a difference in the world.

Regional Recruiter

Office of Recruitment and Diversity

(503) 560-1269 direct

mcastro3@peacecorps.gov





Stewarding resources for long-term impact

The IRPCV gives annual grants to nonprofit organizations in Idaho. The funds come from dues, calendar sales and contributions throughout the year. Distribution of the grants occurs following the annual meeting. In 2021 grants were given to agencies working with refugees and were awarded to the Agency for New Americans (Boise), Global Gardens (Boise) IRC (international Rescue Committee—Boise) and CSI (College of Southern Idaho) in Twin Falls. A total of \$2100 was given. In the past four years, grants have also been given to Artisans for Hope, Girls on the Run, African Ladies in Idaho and Style Her Empowerment.

We welcome your suggestions for 2022 grants. Please send the name of the nonprofit organization and a brief description of the need to Mary MCGee. mcgeemh@yahoo.com prior to the Annual Meeting on Feb. 13, 2022.

