



# Common Ground

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Summer 2016

## Peace Corps Gets a New Look!

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 1, 2016 – Today the Peace Corps unveiled a refreshed brand platform that underscores the agency’s commitment to engaging the next generation of Americans who want to make positive, lasting change in the world. The new look embraces a digitally focused communications approach and aims to make the Peace Corps more accessible to audiences through the platforms they already use.



Built to fit Peace Corps’ unique mission, the refreshed platform includes an updated logo with a bright, modern look, and a bold new website, overhauled to be responsive and completely mobile-friendly. Together the elements tell a compelling story that is authentic, fresh and engaging while still honoring the agency’s historic roots.

“The Peace Corps has more than 50 years of experience to build on, and our core mission hasn’t changed. But the world around us has,” said Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet. “The people-to-people work our volunteers do is the heart of the Peace Corps, and our new look puts those stories front and center. I’m thrilled to be leading the agency through this historic brand refresh that honors our past, but also opens a window to our future.” Peace Corps’ in-house creative team collaborated with Ogilvy Washington on the visual elements of the refreshed identity, emphasizing a clean, forward-facing look. The updated logo includes key elements from the agency’s historic pre-existing logo—including the image of the dove, the American flag, and the U.S. colors—but modernized to be scalable in constrained digital spaces.

“We have great respect for the Peace Corps and the passion shared by the many volunteers and returned volunteers who care deeply about the mission,” said Robert Mathias, President, Ogilvy Washington. “The new brand identity is rooted in this vibrant legacy, connects with new audiences and positions the Peace Corps’ mission-driven brand for future generations. We are thrilled to have collaborated with the Peace Corps on this historic initiative.” Forum One, a returned Peace Corps volunteer-owned digital agency, worked with the Peace Corps to completely overhaul PeaceCorps.Gov. The new site features a fresh design that is bold, compelling, and inspirational, and puts the volunteer experience at the center, with an emphasis on authentic narratives, captivating imagery, and volunteer-generated media. Users can easily navigate content and are presented with the most current and useful information at every point of their digital journey. ...

*(Finish reading this story by accessing the News Library at [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov))*

### Highlights:

Bon Voyage 2

IRPCV Snapshot 3

New PCVs 4

Board 5

Food Bank 6

Events 7

ANA 8



**BON VOYAGE PARTY & PICNIC 2016**  
*The RPCV Bon Voyage Party was held on April 15, 2016, at Cassia Park.*

## IRPCV Snapshot: A Family Tradition

*Michele (Pare) Magera, the daughter of returned Peace Corps volunteers Joan and Maurice Pare, followed in their footsteps when she served in Konna, Mali, from 1988 to 1990. Like her father, she worked with forestation programs and community garden projects in the West African country. Magera, a 1983 graduate of Orofino High School and a 1988 graduate of the University of Idaho, now lives in Alice Springs, Northern Territories, Australia, where she is a nurse with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. She and her husband, Andy, have a son and a daughter. She answered a few questions via email:*

**What was the impact of having parents who'd served in the Peace Corps?** I grew up with my parents' Peace Corps stories. I think that, since they served together and were right at the start of the program, they had a lot of energy and enthusiasm about their experiences. A very fond childhood memory of mine is watching the slideshow my father put together about their time in Ecuador. It seemed that every time we had guests for dinner, the slideshow was the after-dinner entertainment. I never grew tired of hearing the stories - I could recite them to this day. I think what impressed me the most was not only the positive attitude they had, but the adventure of serving at that time, in the early '60s. Stories of their training sounded more like boot camp in those days - repelling, survival swimming in the ocean with a flight suit on, and having to spend three nights in the jungle with nothing but their wits. And even stories of headhunters! My parents were also married in Ecuador and my brother was born there. There were no telephones - if urgent communication was needed, it was done through telegraph. In the '60s the Peace Corps was truly off the map! I think I always knew then that joining the Peace Corps was always going to be in my future. An inevitable result of my parents' enthusiasm and love of their experience.


**What was your primary motivation for joining?** My motivation ... came from several places. First was the fact that I knew I wanted to join since I was a child, and that desire didn't fade as I grew up. I think it was also about timing: I was living in Seattle after college and really felt I had no clear direction in which I was headed; I was floating a bit. I ended up working with someone who had just returned from Niger - we had a lot of time during work to talk - so we talked about the Peace Corps, and that just tipped the decision to go. He had had a tough but positive experience. The whole idea of the Peace Corps always appealed to me, not only the idea of service to improve people's lives but to the "adventure" involved.

**Any funny and/or profound stories to share?** During 2 & 1/2 years in a Third World country, every day had a story, and profound things happened frequently. So much of it runs together. A story that I still remember fondly and that brings a chuckle is, one day I was sitting with another volunteer - we both had been in country for quite some time. A camel came trotting by with two white tourists riding on top. We sat and stared at them for a while, until they went out of sight, then looked at each other and laughed hysterically. We couldn't get over how funny "white people" looked. We had grown accustomed to seeing only black Africans, and seeing other white people seemed very bizarre. I think that's what the Peace Corps does - it changes your vision. We were actually looking at the tourists through different eyes! Before I went to Africa I was worried about being among all "black" people. Having grown up in Idaho and having spent most of my life in the Northwest, I didn't have many chances to get to know many folks of different skin color. What was interesting though, after I had been in Mali, West Africa, for a while, was yes, they were all black but I was white ... I was the different one. I was the one they all had preconceived ideas about. It was sometimes a hard position to be in, but one that taught me not to judge others.



**How has your PC experience affected your life since?** I think that, as a volunteer, going to a Third World country and living as a "local" - learning the language, culture, living without running water, telephones, toilets, computers, electricity - you learn much more about yourself than anything else. You also learn from the people of your host country: They teach you more than you can ever teach them. The Peace Corps does change your life and has different meaning for each volunteer. For me, not only was it the fulfillment of a dream but also the start of another: It gave me a tremendous sense of self-confidence and the ability to pursue a career in nursing. I was guided by my experiences in Africa, and knew it was the direction I wanted to go. Since completing my nursing degree, I have worked with under-served populations - I worked 10 years with migrant farm workers in the Yakima Valley, and am currently working with Aboriginals in Australia. Everyone on the planet deserves access to health care. Everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect regardless of background. I learned this from my parents and the Peace Corps.

*Article taken from: The Lewiston Tribune Online*



**Congratulations to the following future Peace Corps Volunteers. They will be leaving Idaho soon to begin their service!**

*Jalisa Robinson - **Benin***  
*Nicholas Warnecke - **Tonga***  
*Jennifer Gedert - **Senegal***  
*Cody Andrus - **Namibia***  
*Laura Harris - **Macedonia***  
*Brady Fuller - **Cambodia***  
*Amanda Stone - **Guatemala***  
*Shanda Wheat - **Zambia***

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE BOISE PRIDE FESTIVAL!**

***When:** Saturday, June 18th*

***Location:** Capitol Park, 601 W. Jefferson St., Boise*

*Join fellow IRPCVs in celebration at the 2016 Boise Pride Festival. Help set up the taxi, join in the rally, march in the parade, visit the booth in the afternoon or all of the above. The taxi takes a minimum of four people to assemble and disassemble, so help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Pat or Trish at [\(208\) 794-3319](tel:2087943319) with questions or an offer of assistance.*



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# Food Bank 2016

IRPCVs continue to volunteer at the Food Bank in 2016. In May, Justin Ross (Senegal) and Jennifer Rogers rocked it and packaged over 500 pounds of pasta. Those interested can go to the Web site in the electronic volunteer sign-up system. New volunteers will not have to enter a Join Code and will be automatically enrolled in the IRPCV group by going to <http://boisepeace-corps.idahofoodbank.volunteerhub.com>. Once you enter the Web site, you will need to scroll down, even if you are not logged in, to see the shift dates. You will only see the shifts your group has reserved for the upcoming 3 months. Thank you for giving your time again this year! If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Rogers by phone at 208-484-7511 or by e-mail at [Jen30rog@gmail.com](mailto:Jen30rog@gmail.com).

## Shift Dates

*June 28th  
July 26th  
August 23rd  
September 27th  
October 25th*

*\*Shifts are scheduled on Tuesdays from 7 pm-9 pm.*



# IRPCV Memberships

Peace Corps service continues long after Volunteers leave their posts. President Kennedy stated that the third goal of the Peace Corps is to "strengthen Americans' understanding about the world and its peoples." This is a life-long commitment you made when you joined the Peace Corps. The easiest way for you to meet this goal is to join Idaho RPCVs. Together we can strengthen the understanding of other cultures in the State of Idaho. The annual dues are a pittance - just \$15 per year (less than a single dinner at a restaurant)! So there is no acceptable excuse for not joining us. If you live in Idaho and you served in the Peace Corps join IRPCV!

Thanks to all who have renewed your IRPCV membership. We hope that all of you do so in the next week or so. Renew or join online at [www.idahopeacecorps.com](http://www.idahopeacecorps.com). You can also mail your annual payment to Connie Collins (512 Eagleson Rd., Boise, ID, 83705). First time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!

# Bocce Thursdays

There's a new weekly tradition coming soon to IRPCV. Join IRPCV for "Drop In" Bocce Ball at Julia Davis Park every Thursday at 7 pm. Bocce Ball Thursdays will begin on Thursday, June 9th. The playing courts are located behind the Boise Zoo near Shelter #1. Bring food, drinks and your bocce balls, and be prepared to have some fun!



## Upcoming Events 2016:

**JUNE**

10th –11th: World Village Festival  
17th: Deli Days Food Night  
18th: Pride Festival March  
24th: PC Bar Night  
28th: Idaho Food Bank

**JULY**

4th: 4th of July Parade  
20th: Learning Lab  
21st: Quarterly Board Meeting  
26th: Idaho Food Bank  
28th: Ethnic Food Night

**AUGUST**

6th: Int'l Food & Cultural Festival  
11th-14th: Regional Campout  
13th: Regional Campout Pot Luck  
23rd: Idaho Food Bank  
26th: PC Bar Night  
31st: Learning Lab

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[peacecorpsconnect.org](http://peacecorpsconnect.org)

We are on Facebook!  
Idaho Returned  
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## Regional Campout

**Attention:** Calling all IRPCVs who love camping out! Idaho will host RPCVs from Oregon, Washington and Idaho for this year's Regional Campout. [Go to http://www.idahopeacecorps.com/news/Campout/campout2016.html](http://www.idahopeacecorps.com/news/Campout/campout2016.html) for more details. The campout will take place at Grayback Campground from August 11th to August 14, 2016. Grayback Campground can be found just 36 miles northeast of Boise, Idaho, right off of scenic Highway 21. Idaho City is located only two miles north of the campground. Campers can enjoy fishing in Mores Creek and exploring the Grayback Gulch Trail. Questions? Contact Chloe Ross at [lrpcvpresident@gmail.com](mailto:lrpcvpresident@gmail.com).



## Intercultural Dinners

**Hungry?** IRPCVs held the most recent intercultural dinner on Saturday, May 7 at Kibrom's Ethiopian and Eritrean Restaurant. There is usually a great turnout at these events, as they give newly returned and veteran members an opportunity to get acquainted and enjoy not only each other's company but the wonderful variety of foods and dishes in the Boise area. These intercultural dinners are scheduled to take place once every other month. The next dinner is coming soon on June 17th. This dinner will be held during Deli Days, where there will be kosher deli cuisine and local music until 8:00 pm. **Boise Location: 11 N Latah Street.**



**Stay in touch with the Peace Corps by updating your contact information on the Peace Corps Web site. There are all kinds of RPCV resources available to you on the Web site at [www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv](http://www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv).**

## IRPCV Volunteers at the Learning Lab

**About Learning Lab:** The Learning Lab's mission is to teach and encourage adults who struggle with literacy, and to encourage families to discover the joy of learning. It is a computer-assisted learning center for adults and families with children ages 6 and under. Students in this program receive basic skills instruction including mathematics, reading, writing, spelling, GED preparation and workplace skills. IRPCV is lucky enough to have been invited to work with their student population through one of our co-president's classes!

**Where we come in:** The aim is to come volunteer at each of Lila's classes about once a month. We will start with resume help (though it may be more of a conversation about what they can include on a resume), and build from there. We may eventually do a how-to-use-google maps tutorial. All work at the Learning Lab is one-on-one.

**Where we will work:** The people we will be helping are refugees and those living in the US who are trying to better their lives. The first student group that we will work with are mostly refugees (class located at the Boise Library) and the second student group we will work with is mostly Latino (class located in a Garden City facility).

**Get in touch if you're interested:** We will cap the number of volunteers going at 14, so it'll be first come, first serve. Aviva will need to know who's interested by the week before each event, so she can let Lila plan for our arrival. Please RSVP to Aviva at [irpcvservice@gmail.com](mailto:irpcvservice@gmail.com) or call 301-802-0956 with any questions.

## IRPCV Volunteer for the Agency for New Americans

**About ANA:** ANA's mission is to help refugees achieve self-sufficiency in their new lives by providing the skills, education, and support necessary during their resettlement period.

**What we will do to help ANA:** We will help the supply coordinator organize and box donated items for distribution amongst refugee families. Then we will help deliver packages to 1-2 families each! Each individual can decide whether they want to stay and have a conversation with the family, or just drop off and run, based on their individual comfort level.

**When:** This activity is set to occur every 3 months. Proposed dates are yet to come, so stay tuned and look out for emails and Facebook posts!

**Get in touch if you're interested:** We aren't sure if there will be a limit to those able to volunteer, but if you are interested, please RSVP to Aviva at [irpcvservice@gmail.com](mailto:irpcvservice@gmail.com) or call 301-802-0956 with any questions.





## IRPCV Awards: Small Grants

On June 1, 2016, the Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Association awarded \$450 to the Agency for New Americans (ANA) and a \$450 grant to Togo's Scientifille. ANA works holistically with refugee families. Attending school here is one of the most important activities for refugee youth. The Agency is expecting many new families this summer. The IRPCV grant monies will be used to purchase school supplies and backpacks for each youth. The program will be administered by the ANA School Liaison Program.

This summer Dani Niswander, Idaho Peace Corps Volunteer, will work with other volunteers to run a camp called Scientifille, which is a camp that promotes girls' STEM (Science/Tech/Engineering/Math) education, women's empowerment and leadership, and gives girls a chance to travel outside their village and meet female leaders in Togo and just enjoy being a girl for a week.

Both of these groups met the IRPCV Grant Application criteria: an Idaho group or project working with youth, refugees or immigrants, homeless or women etc, or a service project of a currently serving Idaho Peace Corps Volunteer. The monies for these grants comes from membership dues and the sale of the Peace Corps Calendars.



## The Goodness Land Reopens!



Former Boise International Market restaurant vendor "The Goodness Land" reopened at its new Overland Road location in May. The restaurant's owner, Salam Bunyan, is excited about this new location, based on an article recently published by the *Idaho Statesman*. The restaurant was one of many that burned down in the Boise International Market fire last year. The Goodness Land serves Iraqi/Middle Eastern cuisine. The restaurant was supposed to re-open in February but needed a little longer to get everything ready. (Article & image taken from the *Idaho Statesman*).



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PEACE CORPS  
VOLUNTEERS**

[www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com](http://www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com)