

Idaho Returned  
Peace Corps  
Volunteers

COMMON  
GROUND



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

Winter 2014



### Message from IRPCV President Chloe Ross

I am extremely honored and excited to be serving as the 2014-2016 President of the Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. As the president, I look forward to fostering relationships and partnerships that will allow our group to grow and strengthen. Our past president, Jennifer Rogers, has already been a guiding light in my preparation for leadership, and I will continue to welcome input and suggestions throughout the next two years.

*Chloe Ross*  
Malawi 2010-2012  
208.789.7547  
[rosschloe@hotmail.com](mailto:rosschloe@hotmail.com)

## Upcoming Events\*

### February 22

**ETHNIC DINNER** featuring Middle Eastern, Indian and Turkish cuisine at the Kabob House. [boisekabob.com](http://boisekabob.com)  
6 pm, 9140 W Emerald, Suite 600  
(near N Maple Grove Road)  
RSVP: Diana Gardner, 208.602.1586  
[dianalea024@yahoo.com](mailto:dianalea024@yahoo.com)

### February 26

**SPRING CAREER FAIR** at Boise State University. Sign up to volunteer at our recruiting table!  
9 am-3 pm, BSU SUB Jordan Ballroom  
Contact: Connie Collins,  
208.412.2153  
[connie1940@gmail.com](mailto:connie1940@gmail.com)

### February 23-March 1

**PEACE CORPS WEEK** Would you like to share your Peace Corps experience with others? Visit with the Lions Club!  
Contact: Diana Gardner, 208.602.1586  
[dianalea024@yahoo.com](mailto:dianalea024@yahoo.com)

### February 27

**SPRING CAREER FAIR** at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa.  
9 am-2 pm  
Contact: Connie Collins,  
208.412.2153  
[connie1940@gmail.com](mailto:connie1940@gmail.com)

### February 25

**ATTENTION  
ALL RPCVs!**

**RPCV TRAINING/UPDATE SESSION** with Erin Erikson. Learn about the latest Peace Corps happenings. Find out about how the recruiting process has changed. Do you have questions? Erin has the answers! 5:30 pm, Papa Joe's Pizza, 1301 S Capitol Blvd  
Contact: Chloe Ross, 208.789.7547  
[rosschloe@hotmail.com](mailto:rosschloe@hotmail.com)

### March 3-4

**2014 SERVE IDAHO CONFERENCE**  
Recruiting table coverage needed for each day of the conference.  
11:30 am-1:30 pm  
Boise Red Lion Downtown Hotel  
Contact: Chloe Ross, 208.789.7547  
[rosschloe@hotmail.com](mailto:rosschloe@hotmail.com)

\* All events take place in Boise, unless otherwise noted.

We are on Facebook! Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers



Peace Corps National Day of Action  
[www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/)

# IRPCV NEWS

## IRPCV Donation Project for Boys & Girls Club

In the spring of 2013, IRPCV donated \$333 to the Boys and Girls (B&G) Club of Ada County Library. The book donation project was spearheaded by IRPCV Kristi Haman (Bulgaria 98-00) to encourage the use of nonfiction books in the library.



In addition, the Eagle-Garden City Rotary Club, Centennial Rotary Club and Southern Idaho Rotary District increased this donation with an additional donation of \$2,086



for over 150 books, framed posters, signs, and labels. The books were discounted and purchased through Rediscovered Books in Boise.

In January, a grand re-opening of the library was held with 30 B&G Club children. Also in attendance were B&G Club Program Director Ashlea Jackson, Former Rotary Club President Mike Sieler, six Rotary Club members, Kristi Haman, IRPCV President Chloe Ross, past IRPCV President Jennifer Rogers, IRPCV member Walter Kaiser, and members of the Boise community.



## BSU Volunteer Expo on January 23

Volunteers Dave Wallas, John Schubin, Mike Krause and Tony Boatman manned the IRPCV table for this two-hour event. Thirty-five contacts were made and 14 potential candidates were noted.

## 2014 International Calendar Sales

The Treasurer reported IRPCV has a net profit of \$876 from the sale of 200 calendars. Thank you for purchasing a calendar and making this fundraiser a success! 2015 calendars may be purchased again starting in September 2014. To learn more, visit [www.RPCVcalendar.org](http://www.RPCVcalendar.org)

## Holiday Parade

Thank you to everyone who walked in the parade with the Peace Corps taxi in November. The weather was cold but our spirits were high. Join us again on July 4th for the Liberty Day Parade. Potluck to follow.



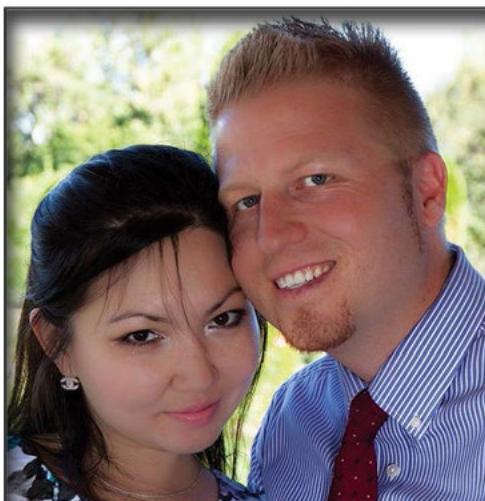
### Participate in Peace Corps' Speakers Match Program

Through the Speakers Match program, elementary and secondary school teachers can enhance their students' learning through classroom presentations by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. To enroll, visit: [peacecorps.gov/wws/speakersmatch/](http://peacecorps.gov/wws/speakersmatch/)

### Member News



Kristi Brumley (Bulgaria 1998-2000) married Charles Haman in Billings, MT, December 26, 2013



Aaron Hueth (Kazakhstan 2007-2009) married Dina Khassenova in Boise, ID, September 16, 2013. They met when Aaron was a PCV in Kazakhstan.

### Mailing List

If you are not on our mailing list or have recently moved please submit your current mailing address to:

Trish McKernan  
IRPCV Treasurer  
5349 N Glen Lane  
Boise, ID 83714

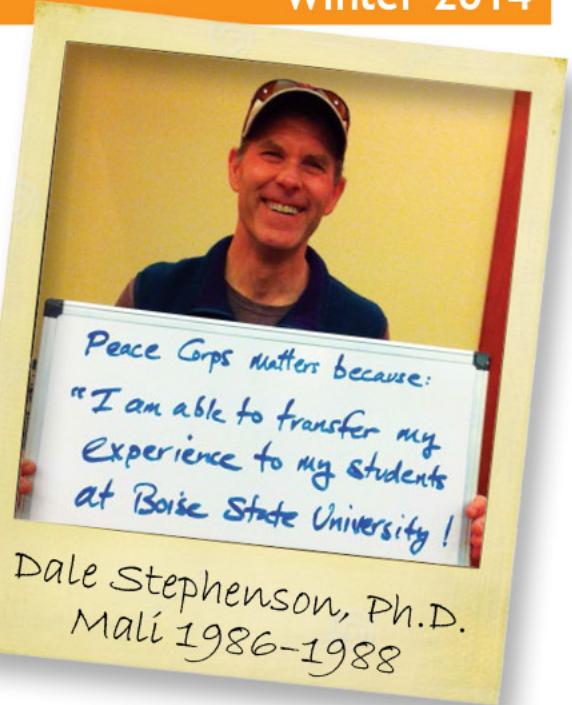
Don't forget to update your current address on the Peace Corps website: [peacecorps.gov/rpcv](http://peacecorps.gov/rpcv)

### Peace Corps Week 2014

You are invited to answer the Peace Corps Week 2014 challenge! Peace Corps Week celebrates the anniversary of President Kennedy's establishment of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. Peace Corps Week 2014 takes place from February 23 to March 1 but you're invited to take part in activities starting today and continuing through March 1.

You can participate in two ways:

The Classroom Challenge encourages RPCVs to connect



with U.S. classrooms to share their Peace Corps country's culture with American students.

The Video Challenge invites RPCVs to compete to win best video that showcases "What I wish Americans knew about my Peace Corps Country." Visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) to get all the details (including prizes!) and to begin planning how you'll answer the Peace Corps Week 2014 challenge!

### Donate to Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)3, corporation registered in the State of Idaho. We are an all-volunteer organization and no wages or salaries are paid to any of our members or board. Our tax ID number is 20-3065582. Each year our organization makes at least one charitable donation. Our members make suggestions of organizations they would like to see receive the donation(s) and they are then voted on by the general membership. We try to choose organizations that exemplify Peace Corps idealism and its spirit of volunteerism.

### Some of our past recipients include:

- Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity
- The Good Samaritan Home
- Interfaith Sanctuary Housing
- Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Corpus Christi House
- Global Gardens
- Semilla Nueva
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County

## IDAHO RANKS AMONG PEACE CORPS' TOP VOLUNTEER-PRODUCING STATES in 2013

The Peace Corps today released the 2013 rankings of the top volunteer-producing states and metropolitan areas across the country. Idaho ranked #7 among states with the highest number of Peace Corps volunteers per capita, with 4.4 volunteers currently serving worldwide for every 100,000 residents.

"Americans from all across our great country and all walks of life are drawn to the Peace Corps by a spirit of service and a passion for helping others," Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. "No matter where they start their journey, through their experience Peace Corps volunteers show the world the compassion, tolerance and dedication to service that has always characterized the American people."

Since the Peace Corps was established in 1961, 1,302 Peace Corps volunteers from Idaho have traveled abroad to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries.

Idaho produced 70 volunteers this year and jumped up three spots on the per capita list from #10 in 2012.

"We congratulate Idaho for a second year among the top ten per capita producers of Peace Corps volunteers," said Janet Allen, manager of the Peace Corps West Coast Region. "Idaho continues to prove fertile ground for the skills, experience, and global-mindedness Peace Corps values in its volunteers."

Debra Bonkoski of Idaho Falls, Idaho, served as a math Teacher in Ghana. She says that the small town feel she found in Idaho was also prevalent in her community in Ghana.

"Growing up in a small city, I almost always ran into someone I knew at the grocery store or coffee shop," said Bonkoski. "In my village, everyone knew my name and I got to know my neighbors, my students' parents, and the village shop keepers extremely well. It made me feel like I belonged."

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Volunteers live and work at the community level to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world and promote a better understanding between Americans and the people they serve. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences - and a global outlook - that give them a competitive edge for job opportunities in today's global economy and enrich the lives of those around them.

The Peace Corps has eight regional recruitment offices across the United States that work closely with prospective Peace Corps volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to ensure that all Americans who want to serve have the opportunity to do so.



Jennifer Rogers  
IRPCV President 2012-13

“

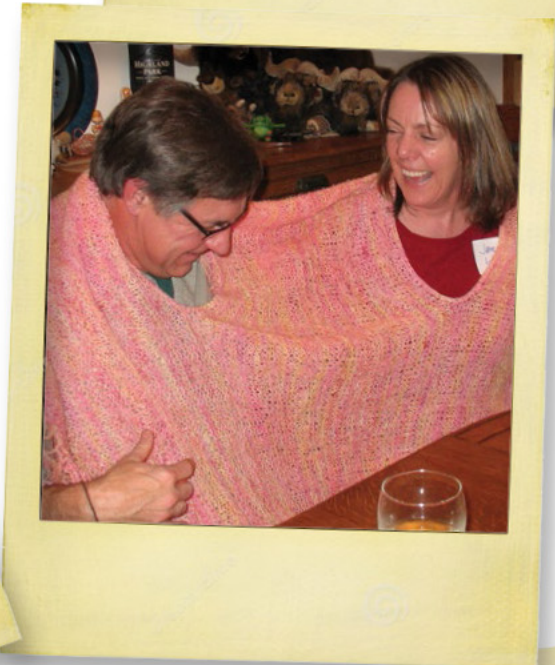
As I pass the torch to our new President, Chloe Ross, I would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance over the past two years. Special thanks go to Kevin for his leadership and mentoring, Trish and Pat for little nudges and reminders and Connie for all the outreach work. Thank you to all who contributed words of encouragement from time to time. This truly is a wonderful group and it was an honor to serve as President. Salud!

”

*Jennifer Rogers*

The West Coast regional recruitment office serves Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Peace Corps recruiters are based locally throughout the region. Find the regional recruitment office near you by visiting the Peace Corps website here.

# IRPCV Holiday Party



At the home  
of Myrna and  
Bob Stahman  
(Liberia 68-70)

December 7, 2013



## In Memoriam

Cal Osburn 1929-2014

Idaho RPCVs have lost a beloved friend with the passing of Cal Osburn on January 10, 2014 at the age of 85. Cal's partner, Cory Thiebert (St. Kitts-Nevis 89-91) served in the Peace Corps and together, they supported IRPCV and participated in our activities over the years. Cal was our #1 cheerleader. He made it a habit to move along parade routes to lead the crowds in cheers of "Yay, Peace Corps!" just as our Peace Corps taxi passed by. We will miss Cal's indomitable spirit and witty humor. Because Cal was always the life of the party, his family plans to celebrate his life next September on his birthday. We send our sincere condolences to Cory and Cal's family. So, bon voyage, dear Cal. We will miss you. Thank you for touching our lives.

## IRPCV 2014-2015 Executive Board

*President/Coordinator*  
Chloe Ross

*Advocacy Chair/  
Vice President*  
Diana Gardner

*Secretary*  
Kathryn Wolff

*Treasurer*  
Trish McKernan

*Service Chair*  
Aaron Hueth

*Education Chair*  
Connie Collins

*Membership Chair*  
Pat Hughes

*Newsletter Editor*  
Kristi Haman

*Past President*  
Jennifer Rogers

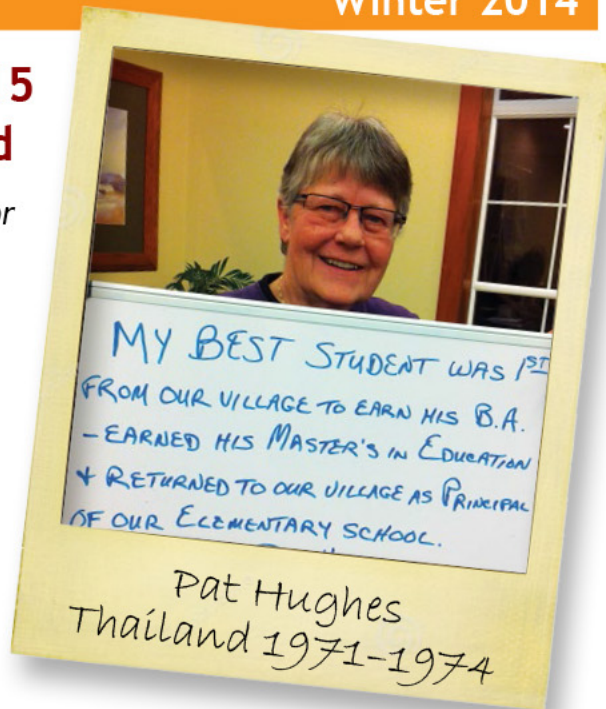
*Website Editor*  
Matt Anders

General inquiries can be sent to: [info.irpcv@gmail.com](mailto:info.irpcv@gmail.com)

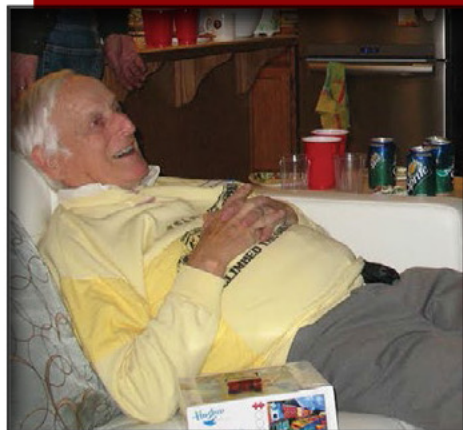
## IRPCV Website News

Photos from the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary in Idaho are now posted on the website!

IRPCV Website Contact:  
Matt Anders-[Smse.trout@gmail.com](mailto:Smse.trout@gmail.com)



**Peace Corps official merchandise!**  
**Visit the NPCA online store at**  
[peacecorpsconnect.org](http://peacecorpsconnect.org)



*"The logic of the Peace Corps is that someday we are going to bring it home to America."  
 President John F. Kennedy*

# PEACE CORPS AND NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION NEWS

## A Message from Erin Erickson

Go Idaho RPCVs/PCVs! All your recruitment support is paying off in a national way!

Idaho moved up 3 spots from last year (previously ranked #10 in 2012) for top producing states in the country.

This year (2013) Idaho is ranked #7 in the nation for top producing Peace Corps volunteers! Way to go IRPCV for your contribution in spreading the word and paving the path for future PCVs to contribute to world peace and friendship through Peace Corps service!

I also thought you might be interested in a link to recently published media celebrating Idaho's top producing status- we were on TV!

### SUPER COOL-TV video

"Peace Corps is a good and honorable thing to do."

[www.localnews8.com/news/idaho-a-top-state-for-producing-peace-corps-volunteers/-/308662/23536582/-/15t7xwcz/-/index.html](http://www.localnews8.com/news/idaho-a-top-state-for-producing-peace-corps-volunteers/-/308662/23536582/-/15t7xwcz/-/index.html)

Thank you for forwarding media inquiries to our office! Peace Corps West Coast Public Affairs staff, Jeremiah McDaniel [jmcdaniel@peacecorps.gov](mailto:jmcdaniel@peacecorps.gov) works directly with reporters and can always provide statistics or search for RPCVs in an area upon request.

**Go team! This has a lot to do with your promotion and connecting folks together. Bravo IRPCV!**



*Erin Erickson*  
Returned Volunteer, Moldova '07-'10

Master's Internationalist (PCMI)-M.A. in Intercultural Service, Leadership and Management

Peace Corps | West Coast Region  
Seattle Office (AK | ID | MT | OR | WA)  
Direct 206.239.6624  
Toll-free 1.855.855.1961  
[eerickson2@peacecorps.gov](mailto:eerickson2@peacecorps.gov)

## Commemorative Victory and a Positive Direction for Peace Corps Funding

A major victory was secured in January when the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved Peace Corps Commemorative legislation, an effort initiated by the National Peace Corps Association four years ago. President Obama signed the legislation into law on January 24. IRPCV endorsed this legislation by submitting a letter to the President.

In addition, the legislation authorizes the use of space near the National Mall for a modest commemorative to mark the lasting, historic significance of the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, and the ideals represented by Peace Corps service. Funds for the commemorative will need to be raised privately, as the bi-partisan legislation stipulates that no taxpayer dollars would be used for this project.

Congress is preparing to give final approval to a massive spending bill for the current fiscal year. Included in that bill is a 6.5 percent increase in current funding for the Peace Corps.



## IRPCV Members are Asked to Participate in Peace Corps Survey

### Dear Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers,

My name is Meghan Kallman, and I am a PhD candidate in the department of sociology at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island. I am writing a dissertation about the relationship between organizations and social change work. I am interested in civic participation, the third sector, and development; in other words, what happens when people try to make their worlds better, and what do formal organizations have to do with that process?

I have elected to write my dissertation on the Peace Corps because I am interested in the effects of volunteering on people's lives: how are volunteers' biographies, identities, and politics shaped by participation? How do individual volunteers carry their Peace Corps experience with them throughout their lives and careers? How does this sort of international service experience permanently affect people?

As a part of it, I have created a survey for RPCV's asking about their experiences abroad. I would be

extremely grateful if you would distribute it to your listserv, via Facebook, LinkedIn, or your social media outlets, and to any other RPCVs in your personal or professional networks.

You should find the survey intuitive and enjoyable, and it should take about twenty minutes to complete.

This research has been approved by the Brown University Institutional Review (ethics) Board and is supported by the National Science Foundation and the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy. Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns. I very much appreciate your consideration.

Regards,

*Meghan Kallman*

Online survey link is here:  
[https://brown.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_0v3sObMYOUf8N0N](https://brown.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0v3sObMYOUf8N0N)



March 2013—Peace Corps Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting



## Right the Wrong of Hunger by Supporting Oxfam America

We received this from **Jessica Ketchen**, an RPCV (Tonga 04-06) and organizer at Oxfam America. If anyone is interested in pursuing this, please contact Jessica.

My name is Jessica and I'm an organizer at Oxfam America, an international relief and development organization. I am also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. I thought Idaho RPCV's might be interested in hosting an event called Oxfam America Hunger Banquet® in your community since its objectives are aligned with the Peace Corps mission. This powerful event changes the way people think about poverty and hunger while providing them with the tools to make a difference. Hosting an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet would be a great way to advance Peace Corps'

third goal of furthering Americans' understanding of other people and cultures of the world.

Here's how an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet works: Each guest is randomly assigned to play the role of a person at either a high, medium, or low income level, and their meals are served accordingly. People at your event get a taste of what it's like to be well-fed, hungry or somewhere in between—some will receive a filling dinner, while others eat a simple meal or share sparse portions of rice and water. Participants will gain unique insight into what it feels like to struggle against a cycle of poverty and how sustainable solutions can help a village feed itself for years to come. Our website has everything

you need to plan an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet ([www.oxfamamerica.org/hungerbanquet](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/hungerbanquet)), including our planning toolkit and other free materials.

Part of my role here at Oxfam America is to provide advice and support on hosting and organizing Oxfam America Hunger Banquets. Please let me know what kind of information I can provide or if there are questions I can answer for you.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

*Jessica Ketchen*  
 Hunger Banquet Event Specialist  
 Oxfam America | Boston  
 Call 617.728.2546



## Thanks to New and Renewing Members

Debra Bonkoski.....Ghana 11-13  
 Dan Broockmann.....Haiti 01-03  
 Ryan Browning.....Dominican Republic 11-13  
 Arnold Burgemeister.....India 70-72  
 Jane Duncan.....Kenya 12-14  
 Dana Erickson.....Mexico 07-09  
 Bonnie Gentil.....Senegal 80-83  
 Sam Greer.....Ethiopia 66-68  
 Kristi Haman.....Bulgaria 98-00  
 Alicia Harvey.....Nicaragua 11-13  
 Aaron Hueth.....Kazakhstan 07-09  
 Pat Hughes.....Thailand 71-74  
 Walter Kaiser.....Bolivia 98-01  
 Christian Lemus.....Panama 13-15  
 Susan Mason.....Honduras 88-90  
 Trish McKernan.....IRPCV Treasurer  
 Sandy Mudge.....Gabon 03-05  
 Gerard Niday.....Sierra Leona 77-79  
 Molly Rivkin.....Ukraine 12-14  
 Jennifer Rogers.....Bolivia 98-01  
 Donna Statler.....Belize 89-91  
 Dale and Meg Stephenson...Mali 86-88  
 William Stratton.....Colombia 67-69  
 Caleb Sullivan.....Ukraine 11-13  
 Fern Van Maren.....Sri Lanka 94-96



March 2013—Peace Corps Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting

Your membership dues are vital to the success of Idaho RPCVs. In addition to our many social and service activities this past year, IRPCV made three \$333 donations to support local nonprofit/charitable groups in Idaho.

The 2013 grant recipients are: Corpus Christie House, providing day shelter and other services to our homeless community; Boys and Girls Club of Ada County Book Donation Project, serving approximately 900 children through a reading program; and Semilla Nueva, a 501(c)3 organization to help farmers in Guatemala.

## Join IRPCV Today! Become a Member and Renew Now!

Your dues are essential to the continuing success of our organization. And what a bargain! For only \$15 a year, you get 12 months of Peace Corps advocacy, IRPCV activities, updates and information to help fulfill the 3rd goal of the Peace Corps—bring the world back home to Idaho.

IRPCV is run totally by volunteers. The regional Peace Corps Office in Seattle counts on IRPCV to help recruit new Volunteers throughout the state of Idaho. IRPCV expenses are very frugal: National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) annual membership dues, financial support for our NPCA Regional Representative, financial support for our leaders to attend regional meetings plus charitable donations.

Dues can be sent to our Treasurer, Trish McKernan (make your \$15 check payable to IRPCV and send to: 5349 N. North Glen Lane, Boise, ID 83714). If you have questions,

you may contact her at 208.853.1051. You can download a membership form from our website or pay your dues via Paypal on the site [www.idahopeacecorps.com](http://www.idahopeacecorps.com). Spouses and friends are welcome to join our organization as well. RPCVs who have never been a member can join for one year free of charge!

We also encourage you to join the NPCA. NPCA makes it easy to maintain your Peace Corps connections and make new ones through their social networking, global events and affiliate member sites. Most importantly, NPCA is the #1 advocate for the Peace Corps on Capitol Hill. If you are currently serving or you have recently returned from service, you can join NPCA at no charge.

After one year, NPCA dues are \$35 per year and can be paid online. You can join IRPCV and/or other affiliate regional, country and special interest RPCV groups via the NPCA website [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org). NPCA will forward the \$15 IRPCV dues to us and send you a reminder when they are due again.

**Join us today!**

## Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

IRPCV is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 corporation registered in the State of Idaho. Our purpose is to promote educational, cultural and social activities for our members. We are one of 139 member groups that make up NPCA.

### Our goals are:

1. Provide a statewide communication network of RPCVs.
2. Increase the understanding in Idaho of the peoples and cultures of developing countries where PeaceCorps serves.
3. Support Peace Corps and contribute to its policy making process.
4. Extend Peace Corps idealism and the spirit of volunteerism into local community activities.
5. Inform RPCVs of opportunities in education, employment and social activities.
6. Assist Peace Corps in recruitment, the volunteer in the field and returnee in reconnection.
7. Help refugees, immigrants and visitors in the same generous spirit with which we were received abroad.

## Common Ground

Common Ground is the quarterly publication of the Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

All RPCVs are encouraged to send PC news, events, articles, recipes and e-mail to be published in Common Ground to the newsletter editor, Kristi Haman at [brumleybooks@me.com](mailto:brumleybooks@me.com)

## IRPCV Partnership with NPCA

With the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), our mission is to lead the Peace Corps community and others to foster peace by working together in advocacy, education, and service. RPCVs strive for a world in peace, shaped by understanding and tolerance.

Visit NPCA online today to update you contact information, and join or renew your membership. This shared data base gives us the means to print directories and address labels. Electronic renewal notices, newsletters, and other activities keep you in touch with the Peace Corps community while saving trees, time and money!



March 2013 - Peace Corps Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting

Be part of our online partnership Speakers Bureau. Share your Peace Corps experience with students and teachers in your community. The NPCA quarterly newsletter provides news about NPCA, RPCVs and how they are making a difference, opportunities to make better U.S. foreign policy, and connections to resources to educate the next generation of Peace Corps Volunteers.

Log on today at: [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org)

## IRPCV 2014 Calendar at a Glance

**February**-Ethnic Dinner at the Kabob House  
 -Career Fairs at BSU and Northwest Nazarene University  
 -RPCV Training/Update Session with Erin at Papa Joe's  
 -Peace Corps National Day of Action  
 -Peace Corps Week

**March**-Serve Idaho Conference  
 BSU International Festival

**April**-Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck

**May**-Annual Bon Voyage/Send Off and Potluck

**June**-National Peace Corps Association Annual Gathering in Nashville, TN

**July**-Holiday Parade with the Peace Corps Taxi

**August**-Regional Campout  
 -Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Potluck

**September**-IRPCV/Habitat for Humanity Build Day

**November**-Holiday Parade with Peace Corps Taxi

**December**-IRPCV Christmas Party



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