

Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

50 YEARS OF PEACE CORPS SERVICE: BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



2011
Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

Juli Powers, President

In 2011 AARPCV joined returned volunteers across the country and currently serving volunteers around the world to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps. This report highlights activities in 2011 that demonstrate the organization's commitment to fifty years of service at home and abroad.



The AARPCV Board kicked off the year on January 8, 2011 with a planning retreat and set strategic priorities and goals for 2011 that included: 1) an annual theme that reflected Peace Corps ideals and focused on the Atlanta community; 2) an emphasis on increased fundraising; 3) maintaining strong partnerships with the Peace Corps Regional Office, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University; 4) enhanced member and Board engagement; and 5) use of social media and the AARPCV website to market group activities.

- **Annual theme focused on the Atlanta community:** AARPCV upheld its commitment to hold regular educational potlucks and organize service projects in which AARPCV members, families, and friends could participate. These quarterly activities were inspired by AARPCV's annual theme for 2011: 50 Years of Peace Corps Service: Building Healthy Communities. Quarterly events were planned around a broad definition of what it means to build healthy communities and included community gardens, tree planting, home construction, safe water, and food security.



- **Emphasis on Fundraising:** AARPCV conducts fundraising activities to support local Atlanta organizations and Peace Corps Volunteers from the state of Georgia through the Peace Corps Partnership Program. In 2011, AARPCV increased its local donations by co-sponsoring an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity home renovation with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. To do so, AARPCV held two wine tasting events, our second annual outdoor silent auction at the summer social, and focused on increased calendar sales. Details about the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity renovation are found in the "Volunteer Service Committee" section of this report and additional information about the wine tasting and silent auction are found in the "Special Events" section.

As in years past, AARPCV also participated in the Ten Thousand Villages Non-Profit Benefit Shopping Night on 12/6/11. Members shopped on behalf of AARPCV and a portion of the proceeds benefited the organization.

- **Partnerships – a Key to Success:**

- In collaboration with the Peace Corps Southeast Regional Office, AARPCV participated in the 2011 Lillian Carter Award Ceremony. Details are highlighted later in this report in the “Special Events” section. In addition, until his departure from Peace Corps in late August David Leavitt, Public Affairs Specialist in the Peace Corps Southeast Regional Office, participated in the monthly AARPCV Board meetings to provide updates on Peace Corps activities and policies. Regional Office staff participated in AARPCV events throughout the year.
- AARPCV continued to build upon its relationship with staff at the Rollins School of Public Health in 2011. In addition to the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity renovation project, AARPCV worked with RSPH and the Peace Corps Southeast Regional Office to plan and host a special 50th anniversary event to honor the legacy of Peace Corps and public health. The event is detailed in the “Special Events” section as well.
- AARPCV has continued to maintain strong ties to the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and participated in the annual meeting and 50th anniversary activities in Washington D.C. in September 2011.

- **Enhanced Membership and Board Engagement:** As in any organization, leadership by example is critical. At the annual retreat, AARPCV Board members renewed their commitment to support other committees, attend AARPCV events whenever possible, and actively promote fundraising activities. Throughout the year, the AARPCV Board was very active and visible at AARPCV events. In addition, a variety of group activities and special events throughout the year appealed to the diverse AARPCV membership.

- **Use of Social Media and the AARPCV Website:** In addition to the AARPCV listserv and website, AARPCV focused on increased use of Facebook to attract members and enhance communications in 2011. AARPCV also began using Twitter and maintains a page on LinkedIn and the NPCA social networking site.

The Vice President and Program Committee Co-chair positions became vacant in 2011 when the Board members holding those positions relocated. Maricarmen Smith-Martinez and Adannaa O. Alexander, who had been active throughout the year on the 50th Anniversary Committee, stepped in to assume additional responsibilities.

At the December 2011 holiday party, elections for 2012 took place. Dan Williams will continue in his role as Treasurer in 2012 and will be joined by the following new officers:

- Maricarmen Smith-Martinez, President
- Jessica Otieno, Vice President
- Adannaa O. Alexander, Secretary

Special thanks goes to the many dedicated Board members who spent countless hours in 2011 organizing events, managing the organization, and representing AARPCV faithfully in the Atlanta community. AARPCV is an active, diverse, dynamic group whose members represent the best of Peace Corps. We support volunteer work globally, while simultaneously embracing the third goal and bringing the world back home.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Kelly Callahan and Christine Jolley, Committee Co-Chairs

Each year AARPCV raises funds to contribute to volunteer projects through the Peace Corps Partnership Program. In 2011, AARPCV supported three funding requests from Peace Corps Volunteers who listed Georgia as their home of residence.

AARPCV donated the final \$20.50 to a request from PCV Erin Mills for a school water project in Madagascar, satisfying the \$1030.50 needed to complete the project. In the project proposal, Erin described the primary school in this rural fishing village as having no independent long-lasting water source, meaning that it was constantly competing with local rice farmers for scarce water resources. This funding was used to dig a 15 meter well with a pulley system and a lockable well house to keep kids away from the hole, and to build 3 new pit latrines to accommodate the kids, teachers, and parents, who are frequent guests at the school.

AARPCV also fully funded an English textbook project in the Kyrgyz Republic, donating the \$524 requested by PCV Taylor Anvid. This was similar to a project that AARPCV funded in 2010 for another volunteer, attesting to the success and popularity of the original project. English is a required subject in grades 3-11 and current, correct English textbooks for the students greatly aid their understanding of the language. These materials are also helpful for teachers as they learn how to properly integrate the



use of textbooks into their curricula. Before close of service (COS), Taylor sent a final report to the Peace Corps Partnership Program, detailing the purchase of 40 textbooks, 2 teacher's books, 2 CDs, and 1 dictionary for the small village school of roughly 230 students. He writes that the community was very satisfied with the project and that teachers have learned how to create lesson plans using the textbooks as supplementary material, one of the indicators of success in the original project proposal.

AARPCV also contributed \$1035.71 to a school library project at the Professional School of Ocuá, a secondary school in Mozambique. With these funds, the request for \$1135.71 from PCV Lisa DiAndreth was fulfilled. Lisa later wrote:

One of the most striking differences between my new Mozambican school and American schools was the lack of resources. Never mind computers and science labs, my new school didn't even have books. Not one student, nor even the teachers, had any access to textbooks. There are few printed materials to begin with- no newspapers, magazines, or books – and so generally literacy is low. I realized after the first few months of teaching what a huge impact access to books can have on learning. The only information my students had to study off of

was what they'd copied by hand off the chalkboard into their notebook during class time. Besides being enormously time consuming, if they'd made any mistakes they had no way to check a reference and would simply learn it wrong, not due to a lack of motivations but a lack of necessary resources. I decided right away one of the biggest impacts I could have on my students, school, and community would be to get books to Ocuá.

With your support and donations, I was able to purchase over 300 brand new updated books for the school. Escola Profissional de Ocuá now has textbooks for every discipline as well as simple reading books in both Portuguese and English. I cannot begin to describe how excited the students and teachers are to have access to this resource. You have helped to give opportunities to kids who simply wouldn't have them any other way.



In 2011, AARPCV also supplemented its international donations by supporting a local Atlanta Habitat for Humanity project. In March, the membership voted to co-sponsor in conjunction with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity II renovation project in South Atlanta. Summer fundraising helped AARPCV reach its sponsorship goal. AARPCV and RSPH each contributed \$2,500 for a total of \$5,000, which was matched by an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Board member, bringing the

grand total to \$10,000 to cover the costs of this home renovation.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Owens and Kristin Unzicker, Committee Co-Chairs

The Volunteer Service Committee provides a variety of opportunities for AARPCV members to volunteer in the community, to facilitate fellowship among the membership, to highlight various community needs within Atlanta, and to expose the Atlanta community to Peace Corps. Throughout the year volunteers provided time, talent, and financial support to the following service projects that reflected the 2011 theme of building healthy communities.

Trees Atlanta: On Saturday, March 19, 2011 AARPCV participated in their first quarterly community service activity in support of Trees Atlanta, a nationally recognized citizens group that protects and improves Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving, and educating.



Sixteen AARPCV members volunteered alongside six other volunteer groups to assist in beautifying and planting over 600 saplings at the newly renovated Mason Mill Park, a local neighborhood park, in preparation for its community grand opening on Sunday, March 20, 2011. Mason Mill Park is located at 1340 McConnell Drive, Decatur GA 30033 where residents can now enjoy two new playgrounds, a large pavilion with BBQ area, community garden plots, tennis courts, and a new dog park.

AARPCV's Volunteer Committee would like to thank Susan Pierce, NeighborWoods Coordinator at Trees Atlanta for partnering on this wonderful community service opportunity. Thank you also to all the hardworking AARPCV members who volunteered their time and energy to improving Atlanta's green space.



Atlanta Community Food Bank Community Gardens: On Saturday, May 21, 2011 AARPCV participated in their second quarterly community service activity in support of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, a nonprofit organization that distributes more than twenty million pounds of food each year in Metro Atlanta and North Georgia.

Approximately 17 AARPCV members volunteered in planting and maintenance of the Tapestry WIC (Women with Infants and Children) Community Garden located on seven acres of land in historic Ormewood Park in East Atlanta at

800 E Confederate Ave SE, Atlanta GA 30316. The garden is used to grow fresh produce for women with children ages five and under who are participating in the WIC federal nutrition program. All the vegetables grown at the Tapestry WIC Garden are given to the WIC recipients at special WIC Farmers Markets in Marietta and Douglasville throughout the growing season.

AARPCV's Volunteer Committee would like to thank Fred Conrad, Community Garden Coordinator at the Atlanta Community Food Bank for partnering on this wonderful community service opportunity. Thank you also to all the hardworking AARPCV members who volunteered their sweat and tears pulling out very large tree stumps and helping to maintain a great local community garden for a fantastic cause.



Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Home Renovation- August 20, August 27, and September 10, 2011:

In honor of Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary, AARPCV co-sponsored in partnership with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity II renovation.

Atlanta Habitat for Humanity strives to assist those families who continue to struggle and live in cost-burdened and substandard housing. Habitat II's are Atlanta Habitat for Humanity homes that are returned to the organization and renovated to

prepare them for purchase by new families.

Approximately, 20 volunteers worked side-by-side with the homeowner, a 32-year old single mother of three who works for a local non-profit organization, each day for three Saturdays in August and September 2011. Volunteers diligently painted the exterior and interior of the house, hung cabinets, shelves, and doors, made countless repairs, and completed the landscape.

The final work day on September 10, 2011 included a dedication with the new owner and partners and was held in conjunction with the National Day of Service and Remembrance to honor the sacrifice of those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001. A special thank you goes to Geneva Hall-Shelton, Sponsorship Manager for Atlanta Habitat for Humanity for working with AARPCV and RSPH to coordinate the project, as well as to the onsite staff who kept all the volunteers safe while performing their tasks. The AARPCV Volunteer Committee also wants to thank the Georgia Aquarium for generously donating lunch for all the volunteers on the dedication day.

Latin American Association Lend a Hand Food Drive: As has become an annual event, AARPCV members collected non-perishable food items for the Latin American Association and brought donations to the December holiday party. The Latin American Association helps Latino families achieve their aspirations for their academic, social and economic advancement through direct programs and community partnerships focused on youth academic achievement, education and prevention, and services to families with urgent needs.

The donations were gratefully received at the Latin American Association Norcross Outreach Center where 300-400 Latino families are served every month. The LAA Norcross Outreach

Center provides both clothing and food assistance to all their families receiving rental assistance.

AARPCV's total food donation included:	
211 cans of vegetables and beans	8 bags (40 lbs) of flour
22 bags (54 lbs) of rice	8 bottles (6 liters) of cooking oil
18 bags (32 lbs) of dried beans	9 canisters of salt
10 bags (40 lbs) of sugar	4 cans of coffee
4 bags of cereal	3 boxes of milk
4 boxes of spaghetti	4 boxes of corn muffin mix
Peanut butter, tomato sauce, juice, tea, and baby food	

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Adanna O. Alexander, Allison Jennings, and Emily Martin

In compliance with AARPCV 501(c)(3) status, the Program Committee presented various educational events and activities for the membership in 2011:

February: AARPCV kicked off the year with an annual general meeting on February 12, 2011 at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Approximately 40 members attended the potluck lunch, discussed new business, and voted on key membership issues. The members present voted to approve the updated and revised AARPCV Bylaws, as well as the \$1,580.21 needed to fund the three Peace Corps Partnership projects previously detailed in the “International Service Committee” section of this report.

April: AARPCV members shared good food and conversation at the second quarter membership potluck hosted by AARPCV Board Member, Monica Trigg on Saturday, April 9, 2011. The potluck agenda included an informational presentation by Fred Conrad, Community Garden Coordinator at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Fred shared important information on the history of community gardens in Atlanta and existing food deserts affecting local communities. This presentation corresponded with AARPCV's second quarter community service activity in support of the Atlanta Community Food Bank and their efforts to improving food justice issues.

August: Secretary Jon Fredericks hosted AARPCV's third quarter potluck where Mari Smith-Martinez, AARPCV member and Atlanta Habitat for Humanity staff member, presented to the approximately 35 AARPCV members and friends in attendance.

As a kick-off to AARPCV's participation in the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity II renovation project, Mari provided an overview of Atlanta Habitat for Humanity and discussed the process by which homeowners are selected for a Habitat home and



the requirements they must fulfill, including sweat equity hours and educational classes among others. Mari provided information about the homeowner we will be working with, the impact of the sponsorship funds, and how our members can become involved in the renovation.

October: AARPCV's fourth quarter potluck was held on October 15, 2011 at the home of Stephen and Linda Dorage. Approximately 20 attendees listened to AARPCV member Rodney McDonald share information about programs that his organization ERSLA (Emergency Response Services for Latin America) is currently implementing in Nicaragua including:

- Firefighter equipment and training
- Water filter distribution and education
- Smoke free stoves
- Burn prevention education
- Women's health



Members also had the opportunity to support the organization with the purchase of “Bombero Blend” coffee from local Atlanta business JavaVino.

December: On December 10, 2011, AARPCV held its annual Holiday Party at the home of Rene Esler and Erik Nankervis in Grant Park. Over 60 attendees including members, friends, and children joined together for food, fun, fellowship, and generously provided donations to help stock the Latin American Association's food pantry. Members voted to approve the slate for the 2012 Board of Directors.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Amalia Stephens, Committee Chair

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Susanne Cooper, Maricarmen Smith-Martinez, and Adanna O. Alexander

AARPCV commemorated Peace Corps' 50th anniversary with a variety of special events throughout the year. The following highlights these special activities.



Peace Vigil – March 4, 2011: AARPCV and the Peace Corps Southeast Regional Office sponsored a Peace Vigil on March 4, 2011 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Site and the National Park Service Visitor Center. The Peace Vigil at this revered site helped friends and family of the Peace Corps community to honor a legacy of peaceful service; to recognize and remember the sacrifices made by fallen volunteers; to demonstrate the effectiveness and the impact of the third goal; and to inspire the next generation of Peace Corps Volunteers.

Nearly 60 people braved the cold weather to participate in this very special event. Gathering outside the National Park Service's MLK museum, attendees were

invited to write brief statements that answered the question: What does the "peace" in Peace Corps mean to you? Additional statements had been submitted earlier by those unable to attend. These personal affirmations of peace were displayed for all to read.

On the fringe of the World Peace Rose Garden, AARPCV President Juli Powers welcomed the assembly and made introductory remarks, including quotes from President John F. Kennedy and Sargent Shriver. Several members of AARPCV read quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in which he spoke of the Peace Corps, peace, and the impact that one person can have. David Leavitt spoke on behalf of the Atlanta Regional Office and shared a statement from Martin Luther King III on what the Peace Corps means to him.

Jason Carter, RPCV (South Africa, 1998-2001), grandson of President Carter and current Georgia State Senator, spoke about the meaning of his Peace Corps service and its impact on his life.

The family of PCV Kate Puzey, who died tragically in service, was present for the event. Mrs. Lois Puzey spoke poignantly about her daughter's love of the Peace Corps and her sacrifice. She then discussed her efforts to work for the safety of all Volunteers and to honor the sacrifices of fallen Volunteers.

The event then moved to the adjacent MLK burial site, with attendees gathering around the eternal flame. A candle was lit and the flame passed throughout the group, so all were holding

lighted candles as AARPCV President Juli Powers and AARPCV Vice President Gerry Sachs read the names of all 280 Peace Corps Volunteers who had died in service. A moment of silence was observed in honor of all fallen Volunteers.

Upon departing, guests walked back along the same route, reading the assembled peace affirmations written earlier.



Wine Tasting Fundraiser: At our first wine tasting of the year on March 11, 2011, Sommelier Ryan Mullins continued his tradition of supporting AARPCV with his abundance of wine knowledge, captivating stories, and intriguing wines. Member Peter Kilmarx hosted one last wine tasting before heading back overseas and the approximately 50 attendees enjoyed the wine selection and delicious appetizers. With his unique ability to both entertain and educate, Ryan introduced the attendees to six South American wines, including a new experience for many – a delightful sparkling wine from Brazil.

As he has generously done over the last five years, Ryan donated both his time and his commission to AARPCV. The event raised approximately \$1000.00 to support AARPCV donations to the Peace Corps Partnership Program and Atlanta area organizations.

Lillian Carter Award Ceremony: On May 18, 2011, AARPCV participated in the Lillian Carter Award Ceremony, a biennial event organized by the Peace Corps Southeast Regional Office in honor of Former President Jimmy Carter's mother, Lillian, who served as a health volunteer in India in 1966 at age 68. The award is presented at the Carter Center and recognizes an exceptional Peace Corps volunteer who served at age 50 plus and has continued to advance Peace Corps' third goal to promote a better understanding of people from other nations on part of Americans.

President Carter and Peace Corps Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet presented the 2011 Lillian Carter Award to returned Peace Corps volunteer (RPCV) Diane Gallagher, age 74, of Brookline, MA. for her commitment to public service. Diane Gallagher served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cape Verde from 1990 to 1992 at the age of 53.

AARPCV President Juli Powers spoke on behalf of RPCVs and AARPCV. She shared the stage with Deputy Director Hessler-Radelet, President Carter, and Georgia State Senator and RPCV Jason Carter. AARPCV members made up a significant part of the audience, contributing to the overall success of the event. RPCVs in attendance were given a special 50th anniversary Peace Corps pin and attendees received a copy of the commemorative 50th Anniversary print by prominent artist Shepard Fairey. The print is based on a 2009 photograph of a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, and is symbolic of the work of more than 200,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have served in 139 countries since 1961.



Fireside Chat with Peace Corps Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet: In the evening following the Lillian Carter Award Ceremony on May 18, 2011, AARPCV members were privileged to host Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet at the home of Amalia and Scott Stephens for an informal gathering over desserts.

Deputy Director Hessler-Radelet spoke with members about her career in international development, Peace Corps successes and challenges today, as well as organizational goals and new directions for the future. After a spirited question and answer session, Deputy Director Hessler-Radelet cut a special cake celebrating Peace Corps' 50th anniversary.



Summer Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser: Approximately 60 RPCVs, friends, and family



members came together to enjoy a hot and sunny Atlanta summer day on June 25, 2011 at Sara and Ed Andrist's beautiful Olmsted community park. AARPCV grilled hamburgers and hot dogs while attendees brought an array of side items and desserts. Both kids and adults joined in to play a variety of games including a water balloon toss and relays to fill up buckets of water one shovel-full at a time!

In addition, a silent auction fundraiser was held to raise sponsorship fees for the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity renovation project. Attendees contributed a total of 44 international items for the silent auction including: photographs, wall hangings, jewelry, decorative items, clothing, and even a piece of Kenyan Dhow boat wood that was over 200 years old. A total of \$500 was raised to support the renovation project.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser: AARPCV held a second wine tasting and internationally themed silent auction on August 6, 2011 to raise funds for the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity renovation sponsorship. 32 members and guests attended and over \$900 was raised for the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity project. Jake Slinker from Murphy's Wine Shop in Atlanta presented six delicious, cool and summery wines and everyone had the opportunity to purchase wines at case price. As in the past, Murphy's generously donated a percentage of the sales to AARPCV. Both wine tasting donations from Murphy's will be accounted for in the 2012 financial report as they will be submitted in February 2012.

Honoring Peace Corps' Public Health Legacy-Inspiring Future Generations: On September 8, 2011, AARPCV partnered with the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University (RSPH) to commemorate Peace Corps' legacy on public health over the last 50 years. Over 200 RPCVs, RSPH Masters International students, and Peace Corps supporters from RSPH and Atlanta area public health agencies welcomed Director Aaron S. Williams to the Emory campus.



AARPCV President Juli Powers opened the event and recognized the years of service by those in attendance. Senator Jason Carter reflected on his own service in South Africa and Director Williams spoke of the inextricable link between public health and Peace Corps. A panel of public health professionals and RPCVs representing each decade of service recounted stories of their own Peace Corps experience, lessons learned from the field, and the innumerable ways in which their Peace Corps service shaped their values, their career paths, and their lives. Panelists Kathy Parker, Deborah McFarland, Stephen Dorage, and Kelly Callahan participated in person and represented careers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, RSPH, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Carter Center. Danielle Morris, a Program Coordinator with the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), Columbia University joined via Skype from Lesotho. The panelists addressed the following themes throughout their discussion:

- 1960's - Laying the Foundation
- 1970's - Responding to the Call
- 1980's - The impact of Peace Corps on a Career in Public Health
- 1990's – Partnerships
- 2000's - Shaping One's Perspective

The event concluded with the signing of the official order to formalize the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program at RSPH.



Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Events in Washington D.C. – September: AARPCV President Juli Powers proudly represented Atlanta and our membership during the official 50th Anniversary events held in Washington D.C. September 22-25, 2011. Juli joined other RPCVs from across the country to sort and pack donated food items at the *Capital Area Food Bank*. Despite going against the home crowd, she cheered for the Atlanta Braves at *Peace Corps Night with the Washington Nationals*. Juli represented AARPCV as the voting member at the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Board Meeting, Group Leaders Forum Meeting, and General Meeting held at Peace Corps Headquarters.

She attended a panel discussion hosted by Journalist Bill Moyers at the National Theater with former President of Peru Alejandro Toledo,

former Afghan Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, and former Vice President of Nigeria Atiku Abubakar joining by satellite. Each spoke of the impact that Peace Corps has had on their own lives and their countries, their visions for Peace Corps in the future, and the hope for a global world while still respecting differences. The day concluded with the *NPCA Promise of Peace Corps Gala*. The weekend culminated with an amazing display of unity and commitment at a memorial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery followed by a Walk of Flags. The ceremony was organized by the RPCVs of Washington D.C. to honor 50 years of service and recognize volunteers who had lost their lives in service. It was followed by the parade across the Memorial Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial. Juli served in Ecuador from 1998 to 2002 and was honored to carry her host country's flag in the parade.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden Peace Crows: As part of AARPCV's year-long celebration and



ongoing efforts to bring the world back home, the group participated for the first time in the Atlanta Botanical Garden's annual scarecrow exhibition. Members constructed a pair of "Peace Crows" for the display. Each proudly displayed the Peace Corps logo on their hats. We presume the male volunteer was an agriculture PCV with his machete, garden tools, and birds on the shoulder. Our female volunteer was sure to carry her Nalgene bottle, medical kit, and copy of *Where There is No Doctor.* AARPCV members visited the Peace Crows during the Garden's "Fest of Ale" on October 6, 2011.



MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE

Bob Gerzoff, Membership Chair

For nearly 30 years, RPCVs in the Atlanta area have gathered in the spirit of fellowship and service to the community. In 2011, AARPCV maintained a roster of approximately 200 members, which included a great mix of newly returned volunteers, some who were part of the original organization in the early 1980s, and others who completed their service in the years since. Thanks to the collaboration with the Rollins School of Public Health and the growing Peace Corps programs at RSPH, many Masters International students attended AARPCV events and more students became active AARPCV members.

AARPCV worked to improve upon member communications and further increase use of the AARPCV website, www.aarpcv.org and social media sites. All activities were posted and updated online. Members are able to pay dues, make donations, and purchase calendars online. The AARPCV database is also linked to the website and active members are able to access member information online with a secure login and password.

With all of the universities and major employers in the city, Atlanta is filled with RPCVs. AARPCV continues to expand its efforts to reach newly returned volunteers and those who are not yet part of the group. The Mentoring Program is part of these efforts.

MENTORING REPORT

Jessica Gershick, Adrienne Gilbert, and Monica Trigg, Committee Co-Chairs

In 2011 AARPCV continued to participate in the RPCV Mentoring Program, which is supported by NPCA. The Mentoring Program is a support system for recent returnees to link up with RPCV mentors who can help adjust to life back home.

The RPCV Mentoring Program includes a database to facilitate a match between mentors and mentees. Participants complete a questionnaire to assess program expectations and identify important factors for their preferred match. Mentors write about their own readjustment experiences when they completed their service. Mentees describe the kinds of issues they are dealing with and what they need most from a mentor. To ensure a successful match, it is important for both parties to have things in common, such as similar interests, careers, education, volunteer work, hobbies, geography, readjustment experiences, or needs.

Mentoring Co-Chairs Jessica Gershick and Monica Trigg served as the program administrators and determined matches based on the needs of the mentee and what mentors were able to provide. Adrienne Gilbert assumed Co-Chair responsibilities when Monica relocated in late 2011. In the last year, 11 matches were made through the program and mentees are receiving emails from the Mentoring Committee and matched within one week. In 2012, AARPCV will continue to market and promote the RPCV Mentoring Program and sponsor events for newly returned volunteers.

New Member Brunch: On February 27, 2011, five individuals who were either recently returned or new to AARPCV joined six Board members for a friendly New Member Brunch at the home of Board member Kristin Unzicker. New members had the opportunity to connect with other RPCVs, learn about AARPCV activities, and obtain information about the mentoring program.

ARCHIVAL PROJECT REPORT

Wendy McLaughlin, Archival Project Coordinator

Project Overview

The Archival Project is carried out through an informal network of RPCVs who work directly with the John F. Kennedy Library to preserve the Peace Corps' legacy through oral history interviews and the collection of archival materials from those who served as volunteers in the field. The Project's basic resource is and will continue to be voluntary efforts of those RPCVs who've participated; operating mainly through NPCA affiliated groups. Each interview completed is one more voice added to the RPCV Collection for preservation for family, researchers and future generations.

A total of 35 interviews have been conducted through the AARPCV Archival Project since 2005.

Conducting an Archival Interview (Oral History Interview)

AARPCV maintains a complete Project Guide to be used by future interviewers. This includes step-by-step instructions on how to promote and prepare for an interview; conduct an interview; sign the necessary forms; write an interview abstract; and submit interviews and personal papers to the Library.

2011 Interviews:

Name	Country of Service	Years	Date Conducted	Interviewer
Gerald Sachs	Honduras	1998-2000	7/17/11	Wendy McLaughlin
Sarah Locke	Lesotho	1987-1991	5/7/11	
Jon Fredericks	Malaysia	1980-1982	8/20/11	

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Williams, Treasurer

AARPCV depends on its fundraising efforts to support Peace Corps Partnership projects and to provide small donations to local organizations, including those represented at AARPCV potlucks and those organizations where AARPCV members volunteer as a group. In addition as previously described in this report, AARPCV supported Atlanta Habitat for Humanity in 2011 by co-sponsoring a home renovation with the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) at Emory University. This financial report reflects a total donation of \$5000.00 that AARPCV contributed to Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, as well as income (other fundraising) in the amount of \$2500.00 from RSPH to account for the co-sponsorship.

The other fundraising category listed below also includes donations from other activities (i.e., Ten Thousand Villages non-profit shopping night, member book sales, and silent auctions).

As of this report, in 2011 AARPCV had a total income of \$10,552.92 and expenses totaled \$12,266.32. AARPCV assets totaled \$7,733.90 as of December 31, 2011. Additional income will be reflected in the January 2012 financial report when additional funds from 2012 calendar sales are collected and deposited.

INCOME	
Fundraising	
Calendar Sales	3398.57
Wine Tasting	2764.43
Other Fundraising	3517.00
TOTAL Fundraising	9680.00
Interest Inc	0.92
Local Dues	735.00
NPCA Rebates	555.00
TOTAL Membership Dues	1290.00
NPCA Dues paid to AARPCV (refunded)	-435.00
Other Income	17.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$10552.92
EXPENSES	
PayPal Expense	12.21
Other Bank Charge	14.08
TOTAL Bank Charge	26.29
Donations - Domestic Programs	5600.00

Donations - International Programs	1579.21
Dues – NPCA annual membership dues	100.00
Fundraising Expense	2740.62
Licenses and Permits- Secretary of State	50.00
Meeting Supplies	216.23
Postage and Delivery – PO Box rental	56.00
Project Supplies	515.55
Travel, Business	903.02
Website	479.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12266.32

DOMESTIC DONATIONS	
MedShare	\$150
Atlanta Community Food Bank	\$100
Habitat For Humanity	\$5000
Trees Atlanta	\$150
ERSLA	\$100
Latin American Association	\$100
TOTAL	\$5600.00
INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS	
Peace Corps Partnership	\$1579.21
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$7179.21

ELECTIONS FOR 2012

AARPCV conducted elections at the 2011 holiday party where the following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

- President: Maricarmen Smith-Martinez
- Vice President: Jessica Otieno
- Treasurer: Dan Williams
- Secretary: Adannaa O. Alexander

The committee chairs are as follows:

- Jessica Gershick and Christine Jolley: International Service Committee
- Lorie Burnett and Heidi Koester: Program Committee
- Jennifer Owens and Wendy Worthington: Volunteer Service Committee
- Bob Gerzoff: Membership Committee
- Kelly Callahan and Adrienne Gilbert: Mentoring Committee
- Amalia Stephens and Kristin Unzicker: Special Events
- Wendy McLaughlin – Archival Project Coordinator
- Mary Novotny – Communications Committee
- Juli Powers – Advisory Committee
- Amanda MacGurn – RSPH Liaison