

WEEK 20 FOUNDATION MINUTE – PEACE CORPS CONNECTIONS

With the CoVid Pandemic raging around the world last spring, thousands of Peace Corps volunteers were stranded in their assigned countries. According to WorldView, published by the National Peace Corps Association, “The Unprecedented news came on March 15, 2020: Every Peace Corps Volunteer on the planet was being evacuated. Ripped from their communities, they came home to a country being hit by a global pandemic and a collapsing economy.”

148 of these (mainly) young adults returned to their homes in Illinois, the rest of the 7,000 volunteers back to homes in all US states and territories. For some, their Peace Corps experience was cut short, thrusting these young adults into a world of uncertainty and facing choices of finding employment or furthering their education. Each one of these Returning Peace Corps Volunteers (RCPV’s) left unfinished opportunities to help their villages through small international grants. Each RCPV has a story to tell about their experience – whether short or long.

Collaboration with RCPV’s whether they came home in March or have been back for decades provides opportunities to develop small international grants to help hosting villages overseas. This might be a good time to find these courageous young adults and give them a hand through connections or job referrals – or help them help the people they left behind through small International grants.