

## Learn more about the Peace Corps

[Adapted from [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) ]

Established in 1961 under President John F. Kennedy and its first director, Sargent Shriver, the United States Peace Corps continues its mission today. The agency sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps Volunteers work at the grassroots level toward sustainable change that lives on long after their service—at the same time becoming global citizens and serving their country. When they return home, Volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences—and a global outlook—that enriches the lives of those around them.

### **From the beginning, the Peace Corps' Mission has remained the same:**

To promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans

Approximately 220,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds have served in the Peace Corps, in one or more of the 140 countries to which Peace Corps has sent volunteers over the years (many of the same countries where Rotary exists). When they return home, in whatever professional path they choose, they seek to continue to serve the Third Goal, the goal of helping Americans to have a better understanding of the world's other peoples.

Many Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (“RPCVs”) join the National Peace Corps Association ([www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org)), which is the association of RPCVs and Peace Corps staff alumni, and/or one of its state or local affiliates. The NPCA publishes Worldview magazine ([www.worldviewmagazine.org](http://www.worldviewmagazine.org)). RPCVs of Colorado ([www.rpcvcolorado.org](http://www.rpcvcolorado.org)) is one of the most active state NPCA affiliates. Many RPCVs have also formed “Friends of \_\_\_\_” organizations, specifically to assist their countries of service (e.g., “Friends of Liberia, whose website is [www.fol.org](http://www.fol.org)).

Today, the ways to serve humanity through the Peace Corps have expanded to include not only traditional two-year assignments, but also shorter-term assignments available to both returned PCVs and others, through the “**Peace Corps Response**” program. And Rotarians seeking relatively small projects to support can find projects posted by currently-serving PCVs on the Peace Corps website under “**Peace Corps Partnership**” program.

The Rotary-Peace Corps Alliance Committee urges you to spend a bit of time on our website, [www.partneringforpeace.org](http://www.partneringforpeace.org), and the Peace Corps’ website, [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov), to learn about many ways that you can serve the shared goals of both Rotary and Peace Corps.