



## The District 5450 Rotary-Peace Corps Alliance Committee

On May 5, 2014, Rotary International and the United States Peace Corps signed an historic Letter of Collaboration, which recognizes the shared vision of the two organizations, both of which work toward peace through service to many of the world's neediest people. While Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Rotarians (many of whom are both!) have historically and frequently collaborated on humanitarian projects, the purpose of the LOC is to strengthen and formalize this collaborative relationship.

Following are three articles in the Nov. 2014 *Rotarian* about the Collaboration, including an interview with Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet and a description of a Rotary-Peace Corps joint project in Togo, West Africa.



[www.partneringforpeace.org](http://www.partneringforpeace.org)

The District 5450 Rotary-Peace Corps Alliance Committee, made up of Rotarians who are also Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as others with a deep interest in the work of both organizations, has worked toward the execution of such a document since its establishment in 2009. It is important to recognize, however, that the collaboration will only be implemented "on the ground", with local Rotary Clubs here and abroad, currently-serving PCVs and RPCVs rolling up their sleeves to plan and work together.

Rotarians, PCVs and RPCVs have much to offer one another:

- PCVs and RPCVs can assist Rotarians in planning and implementing humanitarian projects.
- Rotarians can offer technical expertise and financial assistance to PCVs who identify needs that they wish to address in their countries of service.
- PCVs can connect Rotarians and youth in their countries of service by establishing Interact Clubs where the age groups can meet and work together.
- Rotary Clubs can be welcoming places for PCVs returning home from service abroad.
- RPCVs are a pool of excellent candidates for RI programs such as World Peace Fellowships, Vocational Training Teams and Global Grant Scholarships (fka Ambassadorial Scholarships).
- RPCVs can be great program speakers about their countries of service
- RPCVs make great Rotarians, and Rotarians make great PCVs!



PCV who worked on a Rotary-funded pump project in Burkina Faso



A Rotary Interact Club started by PCVs in South Africa

Members of the committee are eager to serve as a resource to Rotarians in District 5450 and elsewhere. Some of the things we can do for you:

- Speak to your club to educate your members about today's Peace Corps.
- Help to connect you with PCVs and RPCVs who have served in countries where you may be planning a project.
- Speak to your membership chair about how to attract RPCVs to your club.



Committee members speaking to outbound PCVs at the Peace Corps' annual brunch for outbound PCVs and their families in Denver

For help and more ideas, contact the chair of the District 5450 Rotary-Peace Corps Alliance Committee, Sue Fox, at [vodkatonic@comcast.net](mailto:vodkatonic@comcast.net).