

Kennedy & Shriver to visit Miami Oct. 2.

# NEWSLETTER

[Renew your membership today](#)

## Last Chance to Join the Members Retreat in the Florida Keys!

Plan a family vacation or your last getaway before summer gets away from you and join us at this year's member's retreat. We will have two days of swimming, diving, grilling, and bonding at Amoray's Diving Resort, September 11-13th. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to organize water, kids, group or eating activities or have a special skill you want to share with us that would make this an amazing experience for all, then please contact me at [president@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org) This is an important weekend in planning for the years event and the forward trajectory of the group. If interested there will be an opportunity to provide input and give feedback. We look forward to seeing you!

## Letter to Secretary Kerry

560 Dominican Republic RPCVs and 3 Country Directors  
Sign a Powerful Letter to US Department of State Secretary  
Kerry about the crisis of statelessness among Dominicans of  
Haitian Decent. (As RPCVSF is a member organization, we  
share relevant information to our members. As such, this letter  
has not been officially endorsed by RPCVSF but is made  
available to you for your own benefit.)

To Read the Letter, Click [Here](#)

## Share Your Peace Corps Experience

Eric Feldman is looking to plan 3 "Conversations with a  
Returned Volunteer" sessions for the Fall 2015 semester at  
Florida International University. It is a flexible program and can  
scheduled completely around your needs! You can take  
ownership of the session, using 90 minutes to share whatever  
you would like about your experience as a volunteer. These  
events will can be held on either the Main Campus or the North/  
Biscayne Bay Campus. If you would like to find out more  
information, or are able to volunteer your time to do this  
presentation, please contact Eric at [efeldman@fiu.edu](mailto:efeldman@fiu.edu)

## Magic City Bicycle Collective & Cuban American Bar Association Partnership to Assist Immigrant Youth

Eight immigrant youth, their families, six bike mechanics and  
five returned Peace Corps Volunteers put on an incredible event  
that was hosted by Magic City Bicycle Collective, the Cuban  
American Bar Association (CABA) Pro Bono Project and the  
South Florida RPCV chapter. Magic City Bicycle Collective  
provided all of the bike parts, and taught the youth how to  
build their own bikes at the event!

Special thanks to Former President Emily Eisenhower and Matt  
"Mateo" Tanner (RPCV Costa Rica 2006-2008) for organizing.

**Kennedy & Shriver RPCVSF event Miami, Oct 2.**

John F. Kennedy and Sergeant Shriver founded Peace Corps, and a few generations later Senator Joe Kennedy and Teddy Shriver served their country in the Peace Corps. Save the date for the evening of Oct 2 to experience a never before event here in Miami, more details to come.

So long for now, and so long summer! But not long enough. As you settle into what feels like a new season, please reflect on your commitment to the 3rd Goal you made in Peace Corps, remake that commitment at this special event on Oct 2.

In service to you all,

Virginia Emmons McNaught

President, RPCVSF, Niger 2000-2002

### **RPCVSF Board Members**

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#### **President**

Virginia Emmons McNaught

Niger, 2000-2002

Co-Founder & President

Educate Tomorrow

#### **Vice President**

Sue Trone

Georgia, 2005

Area Director Asia & Oceania, Best Buddies

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Mary Lamberts

Thailand, 1970-1972

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Colombia, 1963-1966

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Attorney

Togo, 1985-1987

**Fair Trade Market Director**

Linda Whitmyre

Malaysia, 1967-1969

**Co-Founder &  
Governance Chair**

Greg Zell

Nigeria, 1962-1964

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Elizabeth Coomber

Mali, 2010-2012

Outreach Coordinator

Deliver the Dream

Grace Dessa

Nicaragua, 2003-2005

Educator, Florida Virtual

Emily Eisenhower, PhD

China, 2000-2002

Program Coordinator, U of Miami, Office of Civic  
Engagement

Byron Hauser

Ukraine, 2011-2013

Professor, Miami Dade College

Caryn Lavernia  
Vanuatu, 2005-2008  
Chief of Staff, City Year Miami

Corey Lewis  
Haiti, 2002-2004  
Manager of Corporate Relations, Center for Literature,  
Miami Dade College

Matt Lord  
China, 2009-2011

Lindsey Nieratka  
Honduras, 2004-2006  
Environmental Expert

Julie Scheidegger  
Lesotho, 1989-1991  
Educator, Pine Crest School

Mariyln Page  
Marshall Islands, 1966-1969

Patty Phares  
Samoa, 1972-1975

Bob Sogge  
El Salvador, 1967-1969

Austin Swift  
Burkina Faso, 2010-2012

eIntern US Dept of State & Graduate Assistant, U of Miami

Hannah Tarrien

Nicaragua, 2012-2014

Associate Development Director, Educate Tomorrow

Doris Vincent

Venezuela, 1964-1966

Retired International Credit Card Services Professional

### **Members at Large**

Even though we have a few hundred members we are always seeking assistance to lead events, groups, and small projects. If you have a desire to get involved at any level, please contact Virginia Emmons McNaught by email: [president@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org)

### **Fair Trade Market - Hibernation for the Summer!**

Contributed by Linda Whitmyre, Fair Trade Market Director, Malaysia 1967-69

Our Fair Trade Market is in hibernation for the Summer. HOWEVER, if you're low on coffee or would like to give a FTM item as a summer birthday gift, please feel free to contact <mailto:ftm@rpcvsf.org> and we'll make arrangements to deliver the fair trade item to you. Happy Summer!

### **Host an International High School Exchange Student!**

#### **Sponsored by the U.S Department of State**

Would you like to have a cross-cultural experience in your community while contributing to improved relations between the

United States and other countries?

If so, consider hosting an exchange student sponsored by the U.S. Department of State in your home or school. Each year, almost 2,000 high school students representing over 50 countries are awarded highly competitive merit-based State Department scholarships to study in the United States for an academic year. These promising young leaders live with American host families across the country, attend high school, and participate in extracurricular and community service activities. When they return to their home countries, they engage in alumni activities to share what they learned, put their new skills in practice, and maintain their links to the United States as they become leaders in their communities.

The benefits of hosting Department of State-sponsored exchange student go beyond simply welcoming someone new into your family or school and sharing American culture, values, and traditions -- when you host an exchange student you welcome a new culture and language, and all the richness that comes with it into your community, help a young person learn and grow, and create long-lasting relationships and memories. Learn more and fill out an interest form at <http://hosting.state.gov> or email us at <mailto:youthprograms@state.gov>.

## Use your experience to advocate for the Peace Corps!

During the month of August most of our federal elected officials spend time in their local offices in South Florida, and we invite you to join us as we go to visit them to remind them about the great experience of serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer and how important it is to support Peace Corps with more funding. We all know that PCVs serve as excellent ambassadors for the US, make new friends in distant lands, and also gain practical skills and awareness of global issues to help advance our own lives and careers as RPCVs when we return to the US - a win-win for all! ***As an RPCV who served in the past several***

**years**, your voice is particularly important as an advocate and we hope that you will find time to attend one or more of these brief meetings. This will be a great opportunity to meet your elected representative and her/his staff, and to talk about the Peace Corps.

RPCVSF is very lucky to have an excellent advocate, Ana Ciereszko (St. Vincent & the Grenadines, '69-'71), willing to handle all of the scheduling for these visits. Ana is a great mentor and will attend these meetings and provide you with specific information and details about the Peace Corps budget, etc. Please just let her know if you are interested and she'll help connect you to your Congressional Representative: visits will probably be during the week of August 17th. For example, an appointment with U.S. Representative Mario Diaz-Balart is scheduled for Thurs., Aug. 20, at 10:00 am at his office in the Doral area, and another appointment soon will be scheduled with U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz at her office in Pembroke Pines. **Please write to Ana** at [aciereszko@yahoo.com](mailto:aciereszko@yahoo.com) and let her know if you would like to participate in these meetings. And please bring your camera and take photos for our website - we'll also share them with the National Peace Corps Association, and you might be featured in their national advocacy newsletter. More information about NPCA is at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org).

## Upcoming Member Events



### **Information Session in Palm Beach Gardens**

**08 September 2015 2:30 PM- 3:30 PM •** Please come join Steven Hunsicker, the South Florida Peace Corps Recruiter, in an information session highlighting the incredible work of Older Americans. This event is for people of all ages and all are welcome!

### **Take me out to the Ball Game!**

**08 September 2015 7:30 PM •** We've got great seats (wider and cushioned), between home plate and 1st base in the Legends Platinum Section, for \$21.00 each. Since the number of seats is limited (although we may be able to get more, not necessarily in the same location), we'll distribute them on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Happy Hour in Key Largo**

**11 September 2015 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM •** Come join us for Happy Hour to share your experiences as a Peace Corp member and help recruit the next generation of volunteers!

### **Key Largo 2015 RPCVSF Members Retreat**

**11 September 2015 at 5:00 PM- 13 September 2015 at 12:30 PM •** RPCVSF is hosting our members' retreat- a relaxing weekend in Key Largo for RPCV's and their families. Last year more than 50 RPCV's and their families enjoyed a great weekend together- We hope you'll be with us this year.

### **Trivia Night Tuesday at Taurus**

**22 September 2015 at 8:00 PM- 9:30 PM•** Come join us for a fun and laid back happy hour and compete against other teams at Trivia Night!

### **Disney on Ice!**

**25 September 2015 at 7:00 PM•** Please come join us at the Disney on Ice presentation! This will be great for kids and always fun for parents too. We have a 20 voucher limit so it's a first come first served basis, but if the events fills up quickly enough we can always try and get

more. This is a wonderful way to spend a Friday night with your family.

**[All Upcoming Events-click here](#)**

If you have an event or group you would like to organize for RPCVSF or need volunteers for a community project please email Virginia Emmons McNaught at [president@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org)

[RPCVSF Cooking & Conversation Club-click here](#)

[RPCVSF Dive Club - click here](#)

## Post It! From Our Members

### Job Announcements

**Director of Programs Opening,** Girl Power is a Miami based non-profit dedicated to servicing girls at risk. For more information please see the [Employment section](#) within the Members only menu choice on the left.

**Planned Parenthood- Latin American Regional Office Opening,** Planned Parenthood is looking for an Administrative Assistant. For more info, please see the [Employment section](#) within the Members Only menu choice on the left.

**AmeriCorps Vista Opening,** The University of Miami is currently accepting applications for the position of AmeriCorps VISTA, William R. Butler Center for Volunteer Service and Leadership Development within

the Division of Student Affairs. For more info, please see the [Employment section](#) within the Members Only menu choice on the left.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

[Educate Tomorrow](#), lead by two Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, seeks volunteer educational mentors for youth "aging out of the foster care system." Join us to learn more about the amazing opportunities to do great third goal work with other returned volunteers.

[Deliver the Dreams](#) Seeks volunteers to assist in family weekend retreats for families with serious medical issues. Contact Elizabeth Coomber RPCV for more details: [ecoomber@deliverthedream.org](mailto:ecoomber@deliverthedream.org)