

**From:** Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida [Rpcvssf@wildapricot.org](mailto:Rpcvssf@wildapricot.org)  
**Subject:** The RPCVSF December 2017 Newsletter  
**Date:** December 1, 2017 at 9:27 PM  
**To:** Marvin Hancock [tmhr@me.com](mailto:tmhr@me.com)

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Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida is *your* group—please join us for fun get-togethers, community service activities, job/life networking, great events, stimulating conversation, and much more. Read on and get involved!



# Newsletter

**December 2017**

**Happy Holidays!**



**We wish you and your families all the best this holiday season! Thanks for being a part of our community.**

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Global Field Academy

The [Global Field Academy](#) is [Educate Tomorrow](#)'s new initiative, which seeks to pair professionals, artists, and the like with students to create a non-traditional learning space. They are looking for **volunteers** and **tutors** to **work with youth** from PreK to 12th grade. We do two field days per week, and three workshop days per week and are always **looking for great guides and educators**. If you have time and energy to share as an academic or extracurricular tutor/guide, Virginia would love to hear from you.



Email Virginia

## Help with Disaster Relief Assistance



**Branches**  
Grow Deeper, Climb Higher

[Branches](#) is a local organization dedicated to helping poor families and their children **break the cycle** of generational poverty. In the wake of Irma, they are looking for **volunteers** to provide help to our neighbors completing

applications for **disaster relief assistance** and **public benefits**. Help people help themselves with federal and state programs available to them. Call [305-442-8306](tel:305-442-8306) or visit their website for more information.

More Information

## Got Calendars?





With fewer than 35 days left in 2017, it's that time again. Calendar time! What, were you thinking of the holidays? Our fellow RPCVs out in Madison, WI made this **gorgeous calendar**. Purchase online for \$16.75 (includes shipping) or pick one up at an event for \$14. You can buy one or a dozen. They make great gifts. Order yours today!

Order

## Upcoming Events

### Annual Holiday Party Tomorrow

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>



While it might not feel like fall is in the air, the holidays are almost here. RPCVSF wants to **celebrate** with you tomorrow. From 6 to 9 pm at Ana Ciereszko's home at [7550 SW 61st Street, Miami](#). BYOB, a dish to share, an unwrapped toy for a needy child, and a wrapped gift for our traditional white elephant **gift exchange**. This is also a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping at our **Fair Trade Market**. In addition to all the wonderful fair trade

items, the 2018 RPCV-Madison calendar will be available. Happy holidays!

RSVP

More Information

### Happy Hour

Friday, January 5th

Prove you survived the holidays by joining us for a **happy hour** at our favorite place for a cold one, [The Grove Spot](#), at 7pm. The Grove Spot is located at [3324 Virginia Street, Coconut Grove, FL 33133](#). We hope to see you there!

— ...



Email Us

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Everglades Event

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>



**Gators and kids** are not usually two things you want to put together, but our Everglades Event is different...and special. Mark your calendars for our flagship event. **Over 100 local children** from local shelters, group homes, and other community-based programs will have the opportunity to learn about the amazing and **unique ecosystem** right in our backyard! The event starts at 8:30am and we need volunteers for different jobs throughout the day. Register today.

RSVP

More Information

## Deering Point Cleanup

February 24, 2018

RPCVSF will be joining [We Are Nature](#) for a **Coastal Cleanup** at Deering Point. This beautiful location is right on **Biscayne Bay** and is a great kayak launch point as well as a popular fishing destination. However, where there are people, there's garbage. Join us in **beautifying this location** from 9am–12pm. Deering Point is located at [17350 Old Cutler Road Miami, FL 33157](#) and free parking is available. Email [Jen Wos](#) for more information. See you there!

Email Jen

## Market Corner

Our **Fair Trade Market** is excited to be working with a new vendor, [Global Crafts](#), begun by RPCV (Kenya) Renice Jones and her husband, Kevin. They also operate a Fair Trade retail store, [Gifts with Humanity](#), in New Smyrna Beach. As a result, we have some wonderful new items: craft jewelry from **recycled bomb shells** and

**bullets** from **Cambodia**; handmade jewelry made from fused glass called **tili glass** from a family-owned business in **Chile**; **painted metal art** from independent artisans in Haiti; and jewelry incorporating **alpaca silver**, stones, and resins from a women-owned cooperative in **Mexico**.



Supporting fair trade provides opportunity, education, training, and stability for many families. Contact [Linda Whitmyre](#) for more about the incredible pieces available and the stories behind them.

Email Linda

## More Opportunities

### Grant Funding Available

The [Citi Foundation](#) has just announced an expansion of our [Community Progress Makers Fund](#), a core operating support grant to **visionary organizations** that are driving **economic progress** for low- and moderate- income individuals/communities in NYC, Chicago, DC, LA, Miami, and the SF Bay Area. Grant **funding up to \$500,000** is available. Applications are due on **December 18th**. If you know an organization that would be interested, or work for one, you can find more information or apply below.

Citi Foundation



More Information

Apply

### Grad School Fellowship

Thinking about getting a Master's Degree? The Stevenson Center for Community & Economic Development at **Illinois State University** offers a **100% graduate tuition waiver plus stipend** to all admitted [Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows](#). Fellows complete one year of intensive coursework followed by an 11-month paid, professional internship with an organization across the U.S. [Start your application today](#) to earn an interdisciplinary master's degree in **anthropology, applied economics, kinesiology and recreation, political science, or sociology**. Applications close February 1 or March 1 depending on program. Email Program Coordinator Katie Raynor at [stevensoncenter@ilstu.edu](mailto:stevensoncenter@ilstu.edu) for more information.



Email Katie

## Travel Corner

### Safari

Travel is planning a trip to Botswana and Zimbabwe from March 11 2018 through March 25, 2018. The trip includes a visit to the famous Victoria Falls. Please RSVP for the trip by Tuesday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>** to reserve your spot.

[More Information](#)

### Your Country of Service

Want to go back? Bring a care package to your host family? See the sites you missed? We can help organize a group visit to your country of service.

### Travel Tip

Looking for a bargain? **Overseas Adventure Travel** (O.A.T. Travel) has your back. Their **Last Minute Deals** will plant that travel bug even more firmly in your mind. New deals are posted two or three times a week. They have many satisfied RPCVs customers. Why not see for yourself?

For more information on any of these travel opportunities, please contact us.

[Email Travel](#)

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Thank you for selecting us as your charity on Amazon Smile. We've received **\$442.38** to date because of you!



National  
Peace Corps  
Association

***Thank you for your membership. We hope to see you soon.***

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