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Tropical Currents

The RPCVSF Newsletter

Nov-Dec 2022

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!

**'TIS THE
SEASON TO
CELEBRATE**



[Articles in this issue:](#)

Historic Hampton House Tour

36th Annual General Meeting
Changemaking Education Award
Feeding South Florida
2023 International Calendar

Upcoming Events:

05 Nov Fall picnic at Greynolds Park
12 Nov Feeding South Florida
17 Nov Give Miami Day
17 Dec Holiday Party

RPCVSF FALL PICNIC at GREYNOLDS PARK

Join RPCVSF at Greynolds Park in NE Miami-Dade on **November 5th** to enjoy a picnic, walking the trails, exploring the castle and other activities at the park, or just relax and chat with old and new friends. Bring your family!

For more information and to register for this event, go to,

[Fall Picnic](#)

FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA

The next volunteer opportunity is on November 12th running from 8:30 to 11:30. After the inspecting, sorting and building, the groups generally go to lunch at a nearby Flanagan's. Volunteering at Feeding South Florida can satisfy community service requirements for High School and college students. If you plan to join the group or have questions, please email Larry Geiter at lgeiter@gmail.com so he can give a headcount to Feeding South Florida.

RPCVSF is PARTICIPATING in GIVE MIAMI DAY!!!!

Our specific fundraising goal is to support our Changemaking Education Award. This program is dedicated to recognizing and honoring teachers who, in addition to covering the curriculum, find ways to weave this book learning into community experiences. The curriculum comes alive and the students get a taste of community involvement. They grow beyond academic learning only. We have engaged citizens in the making!!!! For additional information on this program please visit <https://www.rpcvsf.org/page-1727773> .

Financial support will be dedicated to the monetary awards for the teachers plus expenses associated with the Changemaking Education Award Recognition Event. This year we have a \$500 matching grant. Please help us to maximize (and perhaps exceed) this match!

On Nov 17, Donate to Give Miami Day and Thanks for your consideration!

Donate to Give Miami Day



2021 Party

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 17 - 3 pm

**AND CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR
DETAILS!**

FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA

On Saturday, August 22, our group and several other groups and individuals, inspected, sorted and packed 17,000 pounds (8.5 tons) of food during our 2.5 hour shift. This translates to 13,500 meals. It's a lot of food, but there are 800,000 food insecure people in the quad county area: Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

An article in the January 2022 issue of "Prevention" attributed a statistic that 18% of US families with children are food insecure, to Feeding America, parent organization of Feeding South Florida. Food insecurity means not knowing where your next meal is coming from.





TOUR OF THE HISTORIC HAMPTON HOUSE

On September 11 th , 18 RPCVs were treated to a tour of the Historic Hampton House, the only remaining Green Book hotel in Miami. Our guide, Edwin, shared his knowledge about the hotel as we walked through it, seeing the restored room where Cassius Clay – a.k.a. Muhammad Ali – stayed after defeating Sonny Liston, as well as the one where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stayed when he visited Miami. They were only two of the many famous people who were guests at the hotel, earlier known as the Booker T. Motel.

Two other areas that were of special interest were the “porch” beside the swimming pool where Dr.King practiced his well-known “I have a dream” speech, and the café where Ali, Malcolm X and others celebrated Ali’s win.

Here are a few pictures taken in that very café!







2022 CHANGEMAKING EDUCATION AWARDS

On Oct 1, RPCVSF, along with members from the Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year Coalition and the Armando Alejandro Jr. Memorial Foundation, honored twelve K-12 and Higher Ed educators. It was an inspiring evening meeting the educators and learning how they were able to weave community experiences into the academic learning for their students ... planting seeds for a lifetime of community involvement.

Some of the classes in which this happened were a mandatory freshman English class at U of M, a biology class at Robert Morgan Educational Center and a 16-month Respiratory Care Program at MDC-Medical Campus. Details on each educator can be found at [Changemaking Education Awards](#)

This event usually takes place early in October. We hope to see you next year!!!

And here are the happy recipients of the 2022 Changemaking Education Awards!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2022 AGM was held on October 15 at 94TH AERO SQUADRON. Members enjoyed meeting new and old friends over a tasty lunch. Our president, Dave Garcia gave an update on what we've done throughout the past year, Taylor Majher, our Regional Peace Corps Recruiter, brought us up-to-date on what's happening in the Peace Corps, and we held elections for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors. Finally, we heard a thoughtful and inspiring talk from our guest speaker, Kristen Guskovict.

As a surprise addition to the agenda, we honored director Linda Whitmyre for her nearly 18-year run with the Fair-Trade Market which officially closed that day. Since its inception, the market has had total sales of \$82,000 and profits of \$39,00, donated mainly as follows:

\$17,000 - HELP

\$4,000 - Global Mamas

\$3,800 - TCP Global

\$2,800 - RCMA

\$2,100 - Changemaker Educator Awards

Many thanks again to Linda!



Kristen Guskovict recounted how her Peace Corps service in Burkina Faso and later experiences led her to where she is today. She mentioned that three lessons she learned in Peace Corps – re-define success, the importance of community, and slow down – although slightly modified, have guided her since then.

If anyone would like a copy of her speech, please email dorisvincent@bellsouth.net.





INTERNATIONAL PEACE CORPS CALENDAR

