



CAPCA Newsletter

Jan-Feb 2007

vol. xii

no. 1

A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

CAPCA helps provide safe water to village in the Kyrgyz Republic

Funding approved for water system extension project in Orgochor

Susan Suhling (Malawi 89-90)

The CAPCA Grants program recently awarded \$4,235 to fund a water system extension project in the Kyrgyz Republic. PCV Colleen Marshall of Lake Forest requested funds to assist her community in providing a potable water supply.

Orgochor is a village of 2,900 people on the south shore of Lake Issyk-Kul. The village economy relies mainly on mixed subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry. Owing to the success of a World Bank-funded water system restoration project completed in September 2005, the village center currently draws on a 150 meter-deep well in the village to provide families with a constant supply of fresh, clean accessible water. Unfortunately, the new water system does not extend to the 11-kilometer stretch of shepherds' compounds (kashars) in the hills outside of the village center. Forty-four shepherd families (216 people) and their total livestock live in the kashar district. The kashar district water system has not been in working order since 1988. As a result, the shepherd families suffer in a variety of ways.

To improve the health and economy of the kashar district, the village of Orgochor proposes an extension of the current water system to provide the kashars with a constant supply of potable water.

Eight hand pumps will be stationed at 800-meter intervals. The grant provides the capital for the materials needed to complete the extension project.



The project plan will connect the kashars water system to the existing village center system via 2 system termini at the northern end of the village center. One line will extend 5 km to the western side of the kashar district, and the other will extend 6 km to the eastern side. Each terminus will be outfitted with a grid and will be maintained by a government paid engineer. Each terminus will also be outfitted with a 5x10 water holding tank. Water will accumulate in the tanks at night when the demand for water is low and will be pumped to the kashars during the day.

Chicago H.O.M.E. service project big success!

Wallace Goode (Central African Republic 80-81 & Solomon Islands 84-86)

First and foremost thanks to all of you who got up and made it to Lee's. It was your spirit of volunteerism that made the day a success, not to mention the party Lee sponsored. You rock. You keep Peace Corps' third goal alive. You bring the spirit of volunteerism to Chicago. H.O.M.E. thanks you, CAPCA thanks you and the seniors we assisted thank you.

Nearly 40 volunteers met early Saturday morning January 6th at Lee Losey's South Shore abode. The beverages were warm, the pastries fresh and camaraderie high.

After a brief training on how to install the plastic winterization materials, we broke into teams and headed to our respective homes. Even though we never know what to expect, we are always assured a warm welcome and this time was no different.

From Englewood to Woodlawn to South Shore, teams meet seniors, filled homes with Peace Corps enthusiasm, energy and warmth. It was volunteering at its best.

The daughter of one of the elderly women whose home was winterized called Lee the next day to say thank you. She was overcome with emotion after the group left because strangers took their day off to help her mother

Way to go CAPCA. Nice way to start off the year!

CAPCA members at the H.O.M.E. Service Event on January 6! Thanks for all of your hard work everyone!

Yummy Potluck filled RPCV tummies and also helped community library in Peru

Shayne Bell (Macedonia 03-05)



Thanks for all who came out to the annual Holiday Potluck in December- we had a great spread of food laid out and lots of tasty treats to choose from!

We were also able to raise money to buy Spanish books for the Pampan Library Project, a Peace Corps Partnership Project managed by a current PCV from Wilmette working in Pampan, Peru.

The project calls for the construction of a small library, which the community has nearly completed, as well as stocking the library with 350 books. The project was fully funded, but CAPCA is supporting it by contributing funds and Spanish books for the library.

Good times were had by all, and it was a great way to end the year. Thanks to all who came and contributed!



Annual X-Country Ski Trip to CAMP VISTA 2007



Come join us for our annual trip to Camp Vista, Dundee, Wisconsin January 26-28, 2007 (about 2.5 hours from Chicago, near Kettle Moraine). RPCV's, family, and friends welcome! Snow or No Snow! We go!

X-country ski (or downhill nearby), gourmet food, fireside conversation, games, music, sledding, and much more! Communal eating, dormitory living very comfortable, clean showers... Bring sleeping bag or bedding and a towel.

Cost \$60 adults, \$30 kids (includes lodging, beer, and food for two nights). Please RSVP by January 22nd. For directions and info, contact Brian DeFilippo - bmd8991@aol.com or 847-650-1080.

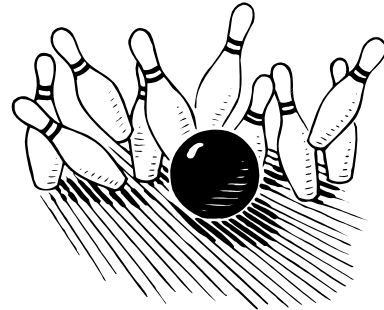
SPECIAL NOTE- This year's menu theme- Mediterranean Let us know if you have special dietary needs. Also, bring your talent!! Good at music, dancing, telling a joke? For those interested in participating or watching, we will hold the 3rd Annual Camp Vista Talent Show. Let's top the great show we had last year!

IMPORTANT- Let Brian know if you can take some passengers or if you need a ride! Sorry, no gum chewing and no dogs at the camp this year! See you there!

Bowling Anyone?

Do you like the noise of the rolling ball? Do you like to hear the pins crash? Do you want to shoot for that perfect game? Then come out bowling with fellow RPCV's! I am willing to plan a one-time event in February or March if there is interest.

Please contact me and we can begin the process- Brian DeFilippo - boo8991@aol.com or 847-650-1080.



Promote Peace Corps' Third Goal at a local school during Peace Corps Week

Tara Leitzell (Jordan 01-02)

Are you interested in what it truly means to bring the Third Goal home? Would you like to give a presentation at a local school or organization during Peace Corps Week (February 26 - March 4, 2007)? Do you have ideas for Third Goal activities? Are you connected with a school or organization that would like to host a presenter for 10 minutes or a day?

CAPCA is looking for RPCVs to share their Peace Corps experiences and volunteer some time and become actively involved in bringing the Third Goal home to Chicago schools and organizations. If you are interested or have questions, contact Tara Leitzell, Third Goal Chair at chicagorpcv-3rdgoal@yahoo.com.

NPCA Pilot Mentoring Program

Tara Leitzell (Jordan 01-02)

The Chicago Area Peace Corps Association (CAPCA) has volunteered to be one of three pilot regions for an NPCA sponsored mentoring program. The program aims to connect professionally established RPCVs with volunteers who have only recently completed Peace Corps service and are transitioning back to life in the U.S. Offering such support to newly returned RPCVs is the foundation behind the National Peace Corps Association's cooperative agreement with Peace Corps and this pilot program supported by CAPCA. Chicago, Miami and Portland, OR are the three pilot cities for this program.

We are proud to say that we received many interested mentors and mentees and filled all open slots. The mentoring program will kickoff on February 3 with an orientation meeting to provide mentors with valuable training and resources, including a Mentor Toolkit with tools and strategies for effective mentoring. Those selected will be receiving information from NPCA shortly.

This pilot program will provide a unique opportunity for newly returned volunteers to connect with others who have gone through the same experience of "reverse culture shock" following Peace Corps service. Mentors will assist mentees in making the transition to new jobs or educational programs, and introduce them to the local RPCV community. From January through June 2007 mentors and mentees will meet face-to-face and communicate regularly by phone and e-mail, and will offer feedback to NPCA about their experiences.

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to NPCA's attention at mentor@rpcv.org or to Tara Leitzell, CAPCA's Third Goal Chair at chicagorpcv-3rdgoal@yahoo.com.

Interested in working on a cook-stove project?

Robyn Michaels (Malawi 91-92)

The lack of access to fresh water is one of Africa's biggest problems. This leads to deforestation. One way to address deforestation is to provide women with energy-efficient, ceramic lined cook-stoves. In addition, provide women with fruit (& nut) bearing trees. The ceramic lined stoves can be produced in country by anyone producing pottery:

The plan would be to promote these projects to women in conjunction with local community based organizations.

Contact Robyn Michaels if you are interested in volunteering on this effort. (michaelsrobyn@sbcglobal.net or 773-764-7003).

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10 OCTOBER 2006

Open: The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. with Shayne Bell, Eileen Gallagher, Theresa Fernandez, Trina Janes, Tara Leitzell, Eva Lord, Ann Meehan, Gavin Morgan, Mike Prokopeak, Jeri Titus and Sue Suhling present.

Secretary's Report: September minutes were accepted by a motion from Tara and a second by Gavin.

Treasurer's Report: We approved investing another \$1,000 in the NPCA sponsored Micro-enterprise Program managed through Calvert Funds.

2007 Board Roles: Trina will stay on as president, Eva as treasurer and Ann as secretary. Wallace will be the community events chair. Mike will be the new webmaster while Shayne takes the reins as CAPCA's Julie McCoy. Tara hands over the fundraising responsibilities to Micah and Eileen and takes on the third goal with gusto.

Committee Reports

- **NPCA Board:** Trina has been chosen as a Group Leader's Forum Coordinator and is on the executive committee of the NPCA board.
- **Grants Committee:** Sue will work with the recruiters at the Chicago office to pass on the information about grants. She is in touch with the Peace Corps Partnerships' Office to help us identify worthwhile projects.
- **Social Networking:** The October event is on the 25th at Mama Desta's. November will feature two events—the Oak Park Council fundraiser and a happy hour. The December Potluck will take place during the first two weeks of the month.
- **Membership Committee:** We have outlined a plan to recruit new members: follow up on expired memberships, strong arm people at social events, target recent RPCVs in Chicagoland and use the mailing list from NPCA.
- **Community Service Committee:** Twelve people have signed up for the October 14th event at Ginkgo Organic Gardens. We will work with H.O.M.E. for the winter event and Lee is doing the organizing.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Each board member needs to sell calendars. And it's time to start thinking about 2007 Founder's Day.
- **Third Goal Committee:** Tara will focus on getting speakers (armed with bookmarks, stickers and posters) into the schools.
- **Advocacy Committee:** Gavin suggested we work with Oxfam and create a page on the CAPCA website devoted to advocacy.

NEXT CAPCA BOARD MEETING IS FEBRUARY 6



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Chicago Area Peace Corps Association National Peace Corps Association

Please make check payable to CAPCA.
Mail to Chicago Area Peace Corps Association, PO Box 1149, Chicago, IL., 60690

New Member

Renewal

New Address

- One year FREE for newly returned PCV.
- Individual \$15 for CAPCA only.
- Individual \$50 for CAPCA *and* NPCA.
- Family \$22 for CAPCA only.
- Family \$65 for CAPCA *and* NPCA.
- \$500 Lifetime Membership to CAPCA only (does not include NPCA dues).

- \$ _____ Unrestricted Donation to CAPCA.
- \$ _____ Restricted Donation for _____

- I am interested in giving talks about Peace Corps.
- I would **not** like my name in the CAPCA directory.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home #: _____ **Work #:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Country/Years of Service: _____

Peace Corps Job Assignment(s): _____

Current Position and Employer: _____

How did you hear about CAPCA? _____

Enrolling in both CAPCA and NPCA will give you a subscription to our newsletter and to the award-winning national magazine *WorldView*, and all rights and privileges of membership pertaining to both organizations.

CAPCA Board of Directors

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Jeri Titus ('07)*

(Morocco 92-94)

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*One-year presidential appointment that expires in September.



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Upcoming CAPCA Events ----

Save the Dates!

January Dinner... INDIAN FOOD!

Date: Thursday, January 18

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Indian Garden, 247 E. Ontario (Ontario and State)

Cost: \$17 for members, \$22 for non-members

What that gets you: Our dinner will be served family style and will include ALL of the following: 2 veggie appetizers, 2 non-vegetarian entrees and 3 vegetarian entrees, rice, bread, soft drinks and gratuity.

RSVP: Shayne (Shayne11@yahoo.com) or call 847-212-2295) by January 12.

February Diversity Dinner in honor of Black History Month

Date: Tuesday, February 6th

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Pearl's Place Restaurant, 3901 S Michigan Ave. (near Green Line Indiana stop). Located in Chicago's historic Bronzeville neighborhood. Pearl's is located inside of the Amber Inn.

Cost: \$18 – includes dinner, dessert & drink

Parking: Free parking at The Amber Inn.

Special Keynote Speaker: Henry McCoy, Regional Director of Peace Corps Africa.

RSVP: Chicago Peace Corps Office at 312.353.4990 by Thursday, February 1.