



CAPCA Newsletter

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CAPCA funds PCV projects in Armenia and Guatemala!

CAPCA classroom repairs in Vardenis, Armenia

Susan Suhling (Malawi, 89-90)

In January, the CAPCA Board approved a grant of \$2500 to provide 50% of the funding for the purchase and repair of school furniture and equipment at a secondary school in Vardenis, Armenia, where PCV Robert is posted.

The Vardenis Secondary School # 2 was built in 1976; however, the classroom furniture is in poor condition. Classroom tables and chairs are old, broken, extremely unsafe to use, and are in desperate need of immediate upgrading, and/or replacement. The school also needs a public address (PA) system and a new sound system. The request for funding includes the cost of 55 new tables and 110 new chairs to replace the broken furniture, as well as, paint supplies, a new public address (PA) system and a new sound system. The community will offer in-kind contributions for materials and labor to repair and paint 216 tables and 426 chairs, determined to be repairable.

This project will provide students and staff the ability to increase their learning and teaching potential, help students obtain craftsmanship skills by assisting with repair of furniture, as well as, build pride within the school and community.

Upon receiving word of the CAPCA Grant award, Robert wrote: "I wanted to take a moment to say "Thank-you" for considering our

project proposal for a grant award, as well as, the decision to fund our project for \$2500.00. This money will allow our school to get over 115 new chairs, their badly needed PA system, as well as, a new sound system in order to conduct the secondary school's numerous annual school performances."

CAPCA helps furnish an Interactive Classroom in Guatemala

Susan Suhling (Malawi, 89-90)



Eric Schroeder is a native Chicagoan currently serving in Nahuala, Guatemala. Eric has teamed up with a local NGO, "seeking to curtail the technological gap between First and Third World communities by creating a center where people can learn and grow".

A new classroom is currently being completed and funded by the Swan Tinamit NGO and its parent organization Maya Tech LC (Visit: www.mayatechlc.org to read more about this not-for-profit, co-founded by RPCV Karen Wilk Macario and her husband Camilo, who is from the Nahuala area).

CAPCA is working with Eric to provide funding for the classroom set-up materials, furniture and media needed to meet the goal of having this new classroom “student ready” for the upcoming school year. More information to come in our next newsletter!

Camp VISTA Ski Trip success!
Brian DeFilippo (Mali, 89-91)



We had another successful trip to Camp Vista this year with 53 adults and kids. The snow conditions were good for cross-country and even better for downhill skiing for those who went! It was not too cold, as those who went midnight tobogganing can attest.

The Middle Eastern food that Ralph and the gang made was awesome! There were 11 acts in the talent show that included Irish tin whistle-dance-drum music, juggling, a comedic game show, kids telling jokes, Lee on the guitar and a puppet show!



Mark your calendars:
Summer trip to Camp Vista - July 27-29, 2007!

Snow and blackouts can't keep CAPCA from co-hosting a fantastic Diversity Dinner with keynote speaker Henry McKoy

Marnie Sanborn (Cameroon, 03-05)

Chicago's Regional Peace Corps Office and CAPCA co-hosted a delicious soul-food Diversity Dinner to commemorate Black History Month on February 6th. Despite the biggest blizzard to hit Chicago all winter, over 100 RPCVs, applicants, family members and regional office staff welcomed keynote speaker Henry McKoy, Peace Corps Regional Director for Africa, to the annual Diversity Dinner at Pearl's Place in the historic Bronzeville neighborhood on the south side.

Just getting to the restaurant was an adventure as diners trudged through snow drifts and muddy streets. Upon arrival, the adventure did not end. A power outage brought back all too familiar Peace Corps memories of candles and hurricane lamps. Applicants got an unexpected taste of village life, but were warmed by the friendly efforts of the restaurant staff and RPCVs to quickly light candles and continue mingling.

After about 45 minutes in the dark, the lights came back on and the guests enjoyed an excellent soul food dinner. Virginia Koch, Chicago Regional Manager, introduced Henry McKoy, the keynote speaker for the evening. Henry shared memorable stories from his frequent visits to Africa and honored the work of PCVs as 'ambassadors of the heart'.



This Diversity Dinner is one of Chicago's biggest recruiting events of the year, so if you couldn't make it this year, be sure to remember next year that: not even a monstrous snowstorm or blackout keeps us from having our fun!

Culture Shocks Volleyball Team Having a Blast and (almost) Winning

Shayne Bell (Macedonia, 03-05)

The Culture Shocks volleyball team has been playing since mid-January at St. Andrew's gym in Lakeview. With a team representative of most Peace Corps regions and a range of volleyball experience, we make a colorful group. We've got Kevin's powerful spike and enthusiasm, Margie's volleyball smarts, Brian's fearless leadership and constant cheering, and support from everyone. While we've had a few very close games, we still haven't won a game. But really, what does that matter? What matters is that every week we get together and have a great time socializing and playing a fun sport!



And let's not forget our favorite Peace Corps Goal, #3 – to teach Americans about other cultures. In our friendly camaraderie, both on the court and in our post-game bar trips, we meet players from the other teams and let them know what Peace Corps is all about.

February 28th marks our last game before playoffs, but never fear- spring is right around the corner, and with it comes....softball!!



Pampan Library Books delivered

Susan Suhling (Malawi, 89-90)

At the annual Holiday Potluck, CAPCA members answered the call to help provide Spanish language books for a project in Pampan, Peru managed by a PCV from Wilmette. In response, any books donated, as well as 15 Spanish language resource books on topics ranging from People of the World to an Animal Atlas, were sent to Peru. All books purchased with the monetary donations received were hard cover, library bound editions.

Message PCV John:

"I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your donation to the Pampan library project. Michael (My CD) has just informed me that the box has arrived to Lima safely. It will make its way here within the next month. Thank you again for your tremendous support and generosity. Saludos from Pampan, Peru."

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 9 NOVEMBER 2006

Open: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Shayne Bell, Theresa Fernandez, Eileen Gallagher, Wallace Goode, Trina Janes Tara Leitzell, Eva Lord, Ann Meehan, Gavin Morgan, Mike Prokopeak Micah Strand, Sue Suhling & Jeri Titus.

Secretary's Report: We voted to approve the August 9 and October 10 minutes.

Committee Reports

Grants Committee: Susan Suhling presented a School Library in Peru project for funding (PCV is from Illinois. \$1275.00 left to be funded and a Community Contribution is \$1400). Money would be for shelves, upkeep. Board voted to fund this project, but requested more information.

Social Networking: Shayne Bell is organizing a Happy Hour on November 15. The potluck date is set for December 6. Everyone attending should plan to help either set up or clean up.

Membership Committee: Theresa and Chuck discussed doing a membership drive by sending postcards.

Community Service Committee: Wallace is working with Lee Losey to coordinate the Jan. 6 HOME Event. Team captains will solicit volunteers during the upcoming events.

Fundraising Committee: Calendars - Tara asked everyone who has calendars to let her know. We may need to order more if our supply is short. 2007 Founder's Day - Micah and Eileen will be meeting to discuss plans for Founder's Day.

Third Goal Committee: Mentoring Project - Tara Leitzell reported on the NPCA Mentoring Pilot Project. Within 24 hours of sending out a request for mentors, there were more than enough volunteers to fill the openings. The Peace Corps office is helping to find newly returned RPCVs to be mentees. There were several questions about the structure of the mentoring project that Tara will present to NPCA.

Website: Mike Prokopeak would like people to complete his survey by November 15.

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 30 NOVEMBER 2006

Open: The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Shayne Bell, Eileen Gallagher, Trina Janes, Eva Lord, Chuck Sheftel, Micah Strand and Jeri Titus.

Peace Corps Office Update: Jeri Titus reported that the Chicago Office will be hosting some events in the loop celebrating World AIDS Day. The date hasn't been set for the February Diversity Dinner since we're waiting for confirmation on the speaker from Peace Corps Headquarters.

Committee Reports

Grants Committee: Susan Suhling reported that we were scooped several times on projects we have voted to fund. The board voted to give \$1275 for the Pampan Library Project in Peru. In addition we will collect money for new Spanish language books (as well as new books) for the library at the Holiday Potluck.

Social Networking: Shayne updated the board on upcoming events.

- December 6 Potluck. Shayne will purchase and bring plates, cups, silverware and napkins. Eva will bring cleaning supplies. Mike will bring the banner and Jeri will bring newsletters and the calendars she has.
- January event. We have set the date, January 18. Shayne will look into an Indian restaurant downtown (India House or Indian Garden).

Membership Committee: Theresa Fernandez/Chuck Sheftel. Theresa and Chuck plan to meet to come up with a strategy. Theresa wants to focus on contacting expired members.

Fundraising Committee: Micah and Eileen are beginning to think about plans for Founder's Day. We need to select a date in September. We discussed good places to meet which are affordable.

Third Goal Committee: Tara Leitzell submitted an e-report on the NPCA Mentoring Project. As of 11/27, we had 31 mentors and 8 mentees signed up. NPCA will select the participants.

Community Service Committee: Trina discussed the Jan. 6 HOME volunteer event. The secret for success is having team leaders. Shayne and Jeri volunteered to be team leaders and Lee Losey and Wallace will promote the event at the potluck and get people to sign up. Team leaders will contact them after the holidays with a reminder.

Katrina Update: Chuck gave a report on the school in Bay St. Louis, MS which received CAPCA support at last year's potluck. Progress in the community has been very slow; the District office is still in a Quonset hut. Enrollment is at 65% of pre-storm levels and 96% of the students are eligible for free school lunches. Our money went to buy portable basketball goals (to go with the many basketballs donated by others).

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 10 JANUARY 2007

Open: The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. with Shayne Bell, Micah Strand, Eva Lord, Chuck Sheftel, Theresa Fernandez, Jeri Titus, Trina Janes, Eileen Gallagher, Mike Prokopeak, Gavin Morgan (GUESTS: Marnie Sanborn, Brian Peterson, BY PHONE: Tara Leitzell)

Treasurer's Report: Eva went over the report for the past two months.

- Calvert investment – CAPCA invested another \$1,000 in the NPCA Micro Enterprise Program, and we have earned \$30 in interest
- Certificates of Deposit are now due every 3 months rather than all at once

Peace Corps Office Update: Annual co-operative/diversity dinner with Peace Corps Office and CAPCA will be on February 6, 2007. This represents an excellent opportunity to talk about the CAPCA grant program. Board approved CAPCA support for students' attending the annual Diversity Dinner at \$8 per student plate (normal = \$18) up to \$200.

Board Appointment: Trina introduces Marnie Sanborn, who has already begun to serve as editor of the newsletter. The Board congratulates Marnie on a first newsletter well-done.

Committee Reports:

Third Goal Committee: (Tara via telephone): Discussed February 3rd orientation for mentors/mentees. CAPCA's Role was defined as advisement and oversight. Peace Corps Week is approaching and Jeri is waiting on the shipment of speakers' kits. Tara will continue to recruit for this event and Jeri will make sure enough materials are provided.

Grants Committee: Funded water project in Kyrgyz Republic & will continue to follow-up with the volunteer in-country on the Board's questions.

Social Networking: 30 RSVPs for upcoming Indian Garden dinner event! There is interest in both a weekend event and bowling, so a weekend bowling event will be set up in March.

New Website Planning: Mike went over the implementation schedule and the Navigation Proposal and discussed using the website for bulletin boards and for announcing non-CAPCA events. CAPCA will consider using a My Space type area for profiles of members.

Membership Committee: The Board discussed the benefits of membership, and how we can encourage more non-members to join take advantage of member rates on dinner and calendars. We will try to keep an eye on this at dinners and consider increasing the differential - Shayne will email Theresa the RSVP list and bring it to the dinner, so that we will know the membership status of attendees.

Community Service Committee: The HOME Event was a great success with 36 people, including several Board members. The event was run efficiently; volunteers used new weatherization kits, and had a great time. The recipients of service expressed incredible gratitude. CAPCA will look into the idea of having a service event every quarter.

Fundraising Committee: Looks like Jerome McDonnell for the Founder's Day Dinner! The Board discussed options for venues (four if by land, three if by sea).

NEXT CAPCA BOARD MEETING IS 4 APRIL 2007



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.
- \$500 Lifetime Membership to CAPCA only (does not include NPCA dues).

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

- Do not include my name or contact information in a CAPCA or NPCA 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.

NPCA Pilot Mentoring Program kicks off in Chicago

Marnie Sanborn (Cameroon, 03-05)

The NPCA/Peace Corps Mentoring Program is officially underway! In late January and early February, RPCVs in Miami, Portland (OR) and Chicago gathered for orientations to kick off this new program which connects recently returned Peace Corps volunteers with RPCV mentors. The mentors provide transitional support and a connection to the larger RPCV community.

On February 3rd, RPCVs from the greater Chicagoland area gathered at the Garfield Park Conservatory for NPCA's Pilot Mentoring Program training seminar.



From now until the end of June, mentors and mentees will meet one-on-one as well as with local RPCV affiliate groups, which are collaborating closely with NPCA. RPCVs involved in the program represent 52 different countries of service and have served in years spanning 1966 to 2006. NPCA will work to develop materials based on this pilot program to support other groups interested in starting mentoring programs.

For more information on the mentoring program, please visit:

www.peacecorpsconnect.org/mentoring or e-mail mentor@rpcv.org.

SAVE THE DATE

2007 Founder's Day Gala

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Keynote Speaker: Jerome McDonnell,

Host of NPR's Worldview

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-----Upcoming CAPCA Events -----

Heading up north for April dinner!

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Lulu's in Evanston: 806 Davis St. Take the METRA or Purple El line north to Davis. Walk 1 block east on Davis.

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

What that gets you: Our dinner will be served family style and will consist of 2 appetizers (spring rolls and egg rolls), vegetable salad, Malay Chicken Satay, Vegetarian Korean Chop Chae and fried sesame balls for dessert.

RSVP: Shayne (Shayne111@yahoo.com) or call 847-212-2295 by April 2nd. Note: RSVP ASAP because seating is limited!

Advocacy Training:

Effective Communication on Global Issues

Just finished reading an opinion piece in the Tribune on international affairs that made you want to scream? Want to discuss global issue with a friend or relative who doesn't agree with you, but concerned they'll just tune you out?

From the televised debate to the family dinner table, there are a number of important skills and suggestions you can utilize to make sure your views are heard, especially among those who may not fully agree with you. Using the communications tool US in the World – Talking Global Issues with Americans (www.usintheworld.org), NPCA Advocacy Coordinator Jonathan Pearson will facilitate an interactive training aimed at assisting you to effectively communicate your views on key global issues – from writing a letter to your member of Congress to sharing your Peace Corps experience with family and friends.

Date & Time: Thursday, March 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: 54 W. Hubbard Street, Suite 200 (Office of The Haymarket Group)

Space is limited. RSVP to Trina Janes – tjanes@haymarket.net or 312-645-9400 ex. 35.