



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2012

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison

GLOBAL HOUSE PARTY

What: The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison, with the support of the UW-Madison Peace Corps Recruiting office, are hosting a Global House Party.

Where: University Club, 803 State St., Madison

When: Monday, September 24, 2012, 4pm – 7pm

Contact: Kate Schachter, kateschachter@yahoo.com, 608-271-2822

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) of Madison, in conjunction with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) headquartered in Washington, DC, is trying to “Find the 250K” volunteers and staff who have served throughout the world during the past 51 years, including over 5,600 from Wisconsin.

On September 22, 1961, Congress approved legislation for the Peace Corps Act, with a mandate to “promote world peace and friendship” through a mission statement that continues today. The Act had been signed almost seven months earlier by President Kennedy on March 1 of that year, and the first groups of volunteers had departed the U.S. for Ghana and Tanganyika (now Tanzania) a month earlier.

Over the past 51 years, Peace Corps volunteers have returned to the U.S. Most say their service was one of their life’s most formative experiences. In our communities, they are educators, social workers, activists, government employees, entrepreneurs, authors/artists, dedicated workers in hundreds of industries. Who are they? Where are they? What are they doing today?

For the sake of stronger advocacy, more global projects at the community level, and networking to advance Peace Corps’ values and experiences, the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison and the UW-Madison Peace Corps Recruiting office will host a Global House Party on Monday, September 24, 2012, 4-7 pm at the University Club, 803 State Street, Madison. The event is open to the public, including past Volunteers, and community persons with strong international interests.

The UW-Madison has been one of the nation’s top recruiters for Peace Corps Volunteers: in 2011, it was ranked third among large universities, and currently is the #2 all-time contributor.

Notable Wisconsin RPCVs include former Chancellor Donna Shalala (Iran 1962-65); former Governor Jim and First Lady Jessica Doyle (Tunisia 1967-69); Congressman Tom Petri (Somalia 1966-67); and Judge Joanne and Professor Jack Kloppenburg (Botswana 1976-79). Peace Corps is a multigenerational endeavor – the Kloppenburg’s son, Micah, also served (Nicaragua 2010-11).

In addition to providing a gathering space for RPCVs to meet and share experiences, the Global House Party will be an opportunity for people interested in Peace Corps to learn more about the organization. Peace Corps representatives from Madison and Chicago will be on hand to answer questions and help anyone who would like to apply for Peace Corps service. RPCVs will present their stories in a short

program. University area studies programs also will be present to provide unique insight into areas of the world served by Peace Corps.

Pre-registration is requested for planning purposes, and an entry fee of \$10 (free for UW students) includes hor d'oeuvres, and a non-alcoholic beverage ticket. A cash bar will also be available. To pre-register, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/223724417753823/>, or contact Kate Schachter, kateschachter@yahoo.com, 608-271-2822.

###

Background Information:



The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison is a 501(c)3 organization, first formed in the 1980's as a social organization. The group's mission is to promote Peace Corps ideals by supporting a social network for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers; promote cultural understanding and awareness of international issues; support the Peace Corps' mission and active volunteers; and collaborate and volunteer with non-profit organizations aligned with its goals. Visit www.rpcvmadison.org for more information.

About the Peace Corps: Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 210,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 9,095 volunteers are working with local communities in 75 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age, but there is no upper age limit. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the agency's mission is to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries. Visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov> for more information.



Founded in 1979 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is the nation's leading 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization supporting Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the Peace Corps community through networking and mentoring to help guide former volunteers through their continued service back home. It is also the longest-standing advocate on behalf of the Peace Corps and its values. Visit www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org for more information.