

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF WISCONSIN – MADISON
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PRESS RELEASE

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International Education Week Event Highlights Peace Corps Volunteers

One of over 50 events across the country to highlight student and cultural exchange

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) of Wisconsin-Madison announced today that there will be a reception in honor of International Education Week. The event will be held at the University Club, 803 State St., Madison on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, from 4:30pm – 6:30pm.

The U.S. Department of State and Department of Education jointly sponsor [International Education Week](#) to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange and to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States. The Peace Corps functions within the State Department, and two of the three goals of Peace Corps are specific to cultural exchange: to promote an understanding of Americans when abroad, and to “bring the world home” by promoting an understanding of others upon return. The RPCVs of Madison provide a local framework to reach out and continue volunteer activities.

Under the theme of "Serving the World in Your Community," Lori DiPrete Brown of the UW Global Health Institute will facilitate a panel discussion on the needs of refugees and immigrants and efforts to ease their transitions into our society. Panel members include: Mohammed Ezzat, an Iraqi refugee who now works for Lutheran Social Services as a case worker to assist refugee resettlement in this area; Kim Johnson, former Peace Corps recruiter who has worked with refugees in Thailand, Liberia and Philadelphia; and Leila Pine, immigration reform advocate. There will also be ample time to talk with participants to learn how Peace Corps provides the foundation for cultural exchange and global understanding, and find out what can be done at a personal and local or global level.

Said Judy Stadler of the RPCVs of Madison’s Living Without Borders committee: “As US citizens who have been welcomed as volunteers in other countries around the world, we are keenly aware that human kindness can help to reduce the challenges of adjusting to life far from home. While serving as Peace Corps Volunteers, we were treated fairly, appreciated for our differences, and respected for the contributions we made. Similarly, we stand in support of just, compassionate, and respectful treatment of immigrants and refugees who come to the United States.”

This event is free and open to the public, sponsored by the [Peace Corps@UW-Madison](#) and Division of International Studies, in collaboration with the [Returned Peace Corps Volunteers \(RPCVs\) of Wisconsin-Madison](#), and the [Global Health Institute](#). For more information, contact Kate Schachter at kateschachter@yahoo.com, 608-234-1795.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION



International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. For more information, visit: eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/international-education-week/



The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison 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.



The UW Division of International Studies plays a central role in promoting and facilitating global engagement and the development of global citizens at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Visit international.wisc.edu for more information.

Peace Corps logo?

Statement about Peace Corps? For more information, visit peacecorps.gov.



The UW-Madison Global Health Institute advances equitable and sustainable health across Wisconsin and throughout the world. For more information, visit <http://ghi.wisc.edu/>.