



## 2012 Group Building Grant Application to RPCVs of WI-Madison: Enhancement and Expansion of Mentoring Program

**Overview:** NPCA established an RPCV Mentoring Program in 2007 to engage more established RPCVs in assisting newly returning PCVs through the transition from Peace Corps service to “life after Peace Corps.” When it works well, both RPCV Mentors and RPCV Mentees report on how helpful the process is and how they now feel more engaged than before with the Peace Corps community. Member groups, who have been doing the bulk of the mentor matching and coordination of the program since inception, are thrilled to be able to support RPCVs and welcome new members to their group because of the program and are creatively expanding the program to support applicants and serving volunteers, as well as others in transition at any time, even long after their service ends. At the same time, however, they are frustrated – as are we at NPCA – with the outdated technology platform on which the program now sits.

**Request:** Through a challenge grant provided by the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison and additional funds, NPCA will update, modify and transfer the mentoring program to a more user-friendly, versatile technology platform. This will firmly establish mentoring as a permanent NPCA program and allow NPCA to grow and adapt the program to better serve the community and NPCA member group needs.

**Approach:** NPCA proposes to expand and enhance the mentoring program by transferring it from its temporary home on an outdated platform to run via the NPCA database. In addition to centralizing and consolidating NPCA program data, this approach will allow the participants in mentoring the following conveniences:

1. Ease and security of sign up: The mentors and mentees will be able to sign up to participate in the program the same way individuals sign up to renew their membership. In addition, this would allow a mentee to express their needs and it would allow a mentor to discuss their strengths in a secure password-protected environment. The common platform would also facilitate transition from mentor/mentee to member and would allow for updates to profile/contact information with a single login.
2. Ease of management for group leaders: Since the sign up process for the mentoring program would be facilitated through the same system that groups already use to manage their membership and group leadership, there would be no need for group leaders to use multiple systems and passwords to manage membership and the mentoring program for their group.
3. Increased capability to promote the member groups and NPCA to the mentoring participants: NPCA will be able to use the technology tools that the database provides to share information with member groups as well as more directly market NPCA and member group programs and membership to the mentoring participants.
4. Program expansion to meet more requested needs: A simple match of the funds provided by RPCVs of WI-Madison will allow NPCA to transfer the current program design (i.e., mentoring RPCVs within their first year after COS) to the new platform and manage the program over the next year. However, due to high demand from mentees and NPCA member groups already with active mentoring programs, a higher match of funds would allow NPCA to expand the program to involve applicants, serving volunteers and other subsets of the Peace Corps community requesting the service.

### Budget\*

Staff time for project management and marketing	\$13,000
Database Development	\$17,000
Total	\$30,000

\*Given the budget to complete this project successfully, should our proposal be accepted, we plan to use RPCVs of WI-Madison funds as a challenge grant to encourage other donors and member groups to financially support the program. See item #4 above for more on the application of funds depending on the final amount raised.