

2011 Annual Report
Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
P.O. Box 55662, Birmingham, AL 35255
www.gbrpcv.org

Membership in 2011: 11 NPCA memberships, 6 local members, 3 recently-returned RPCVs (free membership for one year post COS date), and at least 7 honorary members (trainees and volunteers in the field).

Planning Meetings/Social Events: Planning meetings were held at February 6th and October 30th brunches at the home of Heather White. All members were invited to attend and give input.

December 8, 15 members plus spouses and friends met for dinner at a local Mexican restaurant.

Recruitment Events:

Members assisted the Atlanta office with Birmingham and Tuscaloosa recruitment visits in both spring and fall at area colleges.

The annual “*Bon Voyage*” party was also a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps. At the party held at Smolian International House at UAB, Alabama Senator Arthur Orr (RPCV-Nepal) presented a state senate resolution recognizing the Peace Corps for its 50 years of service. Three newly nominated or assigned volunteers and several prospective volunteers attended in addition to 17 rpcvs. RPCVs representing each of the 5 decades presented a panel discussion about the changes since its founding and the continued relevance of Peace Corps. Artifacts collected by the volunteers from their countries of service decorated the room. Everyone enjoyed international music and Indian food donated by the Sparkman Center for Global Health.

A Fall Reception was held at UAB’s Ryals School of Public Health on September 23. The Sparkman Center for Global Health hosted the event and provided food.

GBRPCVs and a recruiter from Atlanta provided information about the PeaceCorps. Travis Porter gave a presentation about his service in Vanuatu. More than 70 people attended including 12 RPCVs.)

On December 6, GBRPCV members assisted the Atlanta office in presenting Family and Friends, a panel discussion at UAB with and for parents and family of Peace Corps Volunteers or those interested in PC service.

Volunteer Events:

Bringing the world back home

Katie Rozofsky and Erin Gockel presented their experiences in PC on February 15th and April 13th at UAB. And Katie did a presentation for the kids in the after school program at Urban Ministries.

Heather White spoke to the School of Public Health about her service in Burkina Faso and about the Masters International program at UAB.

In March and April, GBRPCVS worked with the art teacher and about 20 3rd-5th grade students to complete a world map in the lunchroom at Central Park Elementary School. On the Saturday when the students painted the countries, volunteers also assisted with geography related games and crafts and discussed their experiences in the countries being painted.

Thursday, April 21 the Sparkman Center showed the documentary *Nobility* about the world's most pressing problems as seen through the eyes of Nobel laureates such as Desmond Tutu, Sir Joseph Rosblat, Amartya Sen, and others. Following the movie, Heather White and Shorty Williams discussed their impressions of the film as it related to their work and experiences during their time in PC (and beyond).

June 15, Jonathan Drewry gave a talk about Peace Corps at Trussville Library for a summer reading program called "novel destinations" put on by Jason Baker. Jason, an RPCV who served in Sri Lanka and then the Philippines also presented a program. In addition, Karmie Johnson (RPCV-Samoa) spoke there on June 29th and Shorty Williams (RPCV-Swaziland) on July 20th.

Charitable Giving:

One hundred of the International Calendars produced by RPCVs of Wisconsin/Madison were sold by GBRPCV members. Proceeds are used for donations to international relief or charitable organizations and the work of current Peace Corps volunteers.

GBRPCVs donated \$100 to Richard Marino's Peace Corps Partnership project to start a reforestation education program in schools in Cameroon and \$100 to Red Cross for tornado relief efforts in Alabama. These donations were matched by GlaxoSmithKline. A donation of \$75 was sent to Britany Ferrell for science lab supplies at her school in Ghana. The art classes at Central Park Elementary School also received \$100 of art supplies in conjunction with the world map project in their lunch room. GBRPCV members were also invited to help with Richard's PCP project.

A "Care package" was sent to Karen Smaha in the Philippines by her friend, Karmie Johnson (RPCV-Samoa).

