

# Top Five Reasons to Affiliate or Start an RPCV Group

#### Advocacy and Access to Peace Corps

While NPCA is a non-governmental organization separate from the government agency, it retains close ties with Peace Corps, and because of this relationship it is able to recognize, champion, and amplify the mission and important work of the agency, its Volunteers, and specific countries of service. This includes collaborations with the Peace Corps Office of the Third Goal and other agency departments and groups. Perhaps most importantly, NPCA is able to advocate on behalf of Peace Corps. Federal regulations prevent the agency itself from mobilizing the community to advocate for Peace Corps-related legislation before Congress. However, those regulations do not apply to NPCA, making it the only organization in the country devoted to advocating for a stronger, better Peace Corps.

## **Communications and Marketing**

NPCA is proud to highlight our affiliate groups' many accomplishments on our website, in our e-newsletter, on our social media, and in *WorldView* magazine. Together these communications channels reach nearly 100,000 RPCVs. NPCA also celebrates our most accomplished groups with the Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service, presented at our annual conference, Peace Corps Connect. Through these and other outlets, NPCA promotes affiliate groups' achievements within the Peace Corps community and beyond.

# Financial Support

With NPCA small grants, your affiliate group can receive funding for activities within your community. NPCA is committed to helping groups share the Peace Corps experience and host-country cultures with those around you! Other forms of financial support include annual awards, assistance with fundraising campaigns, and crowdfunding project support.

## NPCA Resources for RPCV Groups

NPCA offers tool kits that provide basic information on starting, managing, and growing an RPCV group. NPCA also hosts webinars throughout the year as topics and/or opportunities arise. These resources are designed to help your group attract new members and be recognized as an official NPCA affiliate group. Affiliate groups automatically become part of the Affiliate Group Network, an online forum where group leaders can discuss best practices, learn from one another, and collaborate. NPCA's annual Peace Corps Connect conference provides another opportunity for group leaders to come together and share successes, challenges, and strategies to strengthen this network.

### Website, Database, and Membership Tools

NPCA promotes membership in the National Peace Corps Association and all of its affiliate groups to a broad base of potential members. NPCA can handle payment processing for member dues, update member contact information, track potential members, and offer communication tools to reach out and share your message with those potential members.