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A Bulletin of Career, Educational, & Reentry Information & Opportunities for RPCVs

HOT RESOURCES

Upcoming Career Fairs

March 25—Austin, Texas

April 22—Washington, DC

August 6—Chicago, Illinois

(See back page for details.)

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer FAQs

To answer your frequently asked questions such as

“How do I get a copy of my Description of Service (DOS)?”

“How do I update my Peace Corps records?” and

“How do I get assistance with medical issues?”

visit

www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.former.formervolfaq.

The Birth of Peace Match

by Kate Kuykendall (RPCV China)
and Dennis McMahon (RPCV Mali)

Long, long ago in a San Francisco conference room, the idea for Peace Match was born. Nameless at that point, it was just a twinkle in the eyes of some returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who mused about the possibility of how nice it would be to have a “Web-based system that matches RPCVs with classrooms, and vice-versa.”

Given the challenge of trying to coordinate not only Peace Corps Day presentations, but also year-round requests from educators in search of internationally savvy speakers, this sounded like a wonderful idea. But like many wonderful ideas, it seemed destined to fall by the wayside.

But it didn't. The topic resurfaced at an RPCV gathering in San Francisco in the fall of 2002, when a Paraguay RPCV mentioned to a Peace Corps employee that one of his Peace Corps Paraguay buddies, Chuck Brennick, had founded an organization called InterConnection. InterConnection

coordinates “virtual volunteers” who donate their Web design and database skills to nonprofit organizations in developing countries. Though the Peace Corps obviously does not fit this category, Brennick, nonetheless, received an e-mail requesting his assistance in finding volunteers to make the RPCV matching system a reality.

Through Brennick's generosity (and a soft spot for the Peace Corps), InterConnection made an exception to its international non-profit requirement and connected the Peace Corps' San Francisco recruitment office with a Web design volunteer, and later, a database volunteer.

Jim Rudolf, one of InterConnection's “virtual volunteers,” performed the bulk of the project work—all from his home in Switzerland. Through e-mails and late-night conference calls, the Peace Match concept started to take shape, creating a buzz in the Peace Corps community. In September 2003, the Peace Corps and

the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) signed a cooperative agreement to complete the project and promote the site in three pilot areas: San Francisco, Denver, and Boston.

After months of toil, Peace Match debuted in early February 2004—just in time for Peace Corps Week in March. Campaigns are now under way to promote the website to RPCVs and educators nationwide.

Peace Match represents a great opportunity for teachers to invite speakers who have had unique, first-hand experiences in developing countries to talk to their students. By sharing their stories, RPCVs can make far-off places and peoples come alive—often inspiring others to follow where they have been. Similarly, returned Volunteers who are eager to discuss their experiences and share their photos finally have an efficient means of connecting with students eager to hear from them.

Got a Match?

Register today to find a classroom speaking opportunity and help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

As of this writing, 270 returned Peace Corps Volunteers and 82 educators have signed on to Peace Match. Please join them. *Peace Match makes it easy!*

Register at www.peacematch.org.

All of this wonderful potential comes from an idea that, when conceived a few years ago, seemed to have little hope for fruition. But as a testament to the power of the RPCV network, the labors of InterConnection volunteers brought a fuzzy concept to life.

Editor's Note: You can learn more about the work of InterConnection by visiting their website, www.interconnection.org.

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To place job announcements, visit
www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv/hotline
or contact

Peace Corps
Returned Volunteer Services
Phone: 202.692.1430 or
800.424.8580, ext. 1430
E-mail: hotline@peacecorps.gov
Fax: 202.692.1421