



May 5, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce that the Peace Corps and Rotary will expand collaboration between our organizations to promote shared missions of service and sustainable community development.

For more than 50 years, the Peace Corps has promoted world peace and friendship by making it possible for American citizens to serve as Volunteers in developing countries and participate in the development efforts of their host communities. The purpose of the Peace Corps is to help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. Rotary also builds peace and international understanding through education, humanitarian service and by connecting young leaders.

The Peace Corps and Rotary operate in many of the same countries, and Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) live and work as members of local communities during their two years of service. Continuing their service, many PCVs become Rotarians upon their return home.

The Peace Corps and Rotary have collaborated on projects in literacy, water and sanitation, and health. Many Rotary clubs are contributors to the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP), a mechanism for PCVs and their communities to access small amounts of funds to implement community-initiated, volunteer-led projects based on locally assessed needs. Building on many years of PCVs and Rotarians working side-by-side around the world, opportunities for expanded collaboration include:

In-Country Collaboration

Under this letter of collaboration, the Peace Corps and Rotary will explore working together solely in Philippines, Thailand, and Togo for one year as a pilot. Our organizations may consider expanding collaboration to other countries based on the results of a review of the collaboration in the initial three countries and the determinations of individual Peace Corps posts and Rotary districts. By exploring new ways of working together, our organizations will seek administrative efficiencies and greater development impact.

Within these three countries, Peace Corps posts and Rotary districts will coordinate at the country level with support from Peace Corps/headquarters and Rotary/headquarters; we encourage local Rotary clubs to express interest through their district governors. Rotary clubs located elsewhere that are interested in working under this letter of collaboration should contact their Rotary counterparts in the pilot countries.

Community Projects

Peace Corps posts can encourage PCVs to collaborate with local Rotary clubs, such as on Rotary District Grant projects or larger, sustainable Global Grant projects. Rotary clubs can continue to work with Peace Corps posts to provide small grants to PCVs and their communities through PCPP.

Training

At the invitation of Peace Corps posts, Rotarians with relevant expertise or country knowledge could support PCV training, in person or through technology such as video teleconferencing. Rotary Clubs and Peace Corps posts could also share training materials. Rotary clubs would incur any expense in connection with such training.

United States-Based Collaboration

Networking

Rotary can draw on its members, including Rotarian returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), and networks to assist the Peace Corps in recruiting PCVs and Peace Corps Response Volunteers, who serve in short-term, high-impact assignments. Rotary can also promote Peace Corps service through Rotaract, a Rotary group for young professionals and university students. The Peace Corps can encourage RPCVs to establish relationships with Rotary clubs in U.S. communities for networking opportunities and as possible funders for projects in which they remain involved in their host country.

Public Education

The Peace Corps and Rotary can collaborate to share with domestic audiences their experiences with service and sustainable community development, for example, by providing opportunities through the Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools program.

Communications

The Peace Corps and Rotary may pursue mutually beneficial joint communications around their collaboration and in the interest of promoting service and global development. Both organizations must approve, in writing, all press releases or public statements referencing this letter or any implementing document. Similarly, the organization that owns or has legal right to an official name, seal, emblem, and/or logo, trademark, or trade name must approve, in writing, its use by the other organization.

Collaboration in any of the aforementioned ways must align with each organization's authority, policies, programmatic priorities and interests. This is particularly true at the field level, where decisions around collaboration rest with the local Rotary club or district and the Peace Corps post.

Prior to commencing particular programs and activities, our organizations may need to agree upon an implementing document. Any such collaboration or commitment of financial resources shall be subject to the internal review processes of each organization and any applicable law, regulation and policy.

This letter of collaboration will remain in effect for one year, unless terminated sooner by either organization by written notice. At least 30 days prior to the end of the one-year period, Rotary and the Peace Corps will examine the joint benefits and lessons learned from the activities to explore the possibility of renewing or expanding further our collaboration.

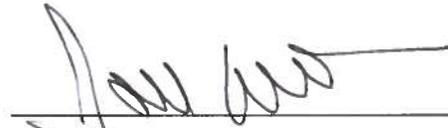
Nothing in this letter of collaboration constitutes the Peace Corps' or Rotary's endorsement of, authority for, involvement in, or approval of, any fundraising activities engaged by either organization. This letter of collaboration does not create any employment, partnership, agency, joint venture or other similar legal relationship between the Peace Corps and Rotary, and neither the Peace Corps nor Rotary has the authority to bind or act on behalf of the other. The Peace Corps' undertakings are subject to its statutory authority, regulations, policies, programming priorities, and the availability of funds.

We ask that Rotarians channel their inquiries through Rotary (John Osterlund, John.Osterlund@rotary.org) and members of the Peace Corps family through Peace Corps/headquarters (Dilana Martinez, dmartinez@peacecorps.gov). We look forward to working further together.

Sincerely,



Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Acting Director
Peace Corps



John Hewko
General Secretary
Rotary International