

BUFFALO RPCV

NEWS OF THE RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Bringing the Peace Corps
to Western New York



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April 2014

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Do you have an announcement or item of interest to RPCVs? All area RPCV's/Peace Corps supporters/interested persons are invited to submit event announcements, news items or other items which may be of interest to the Western New York RPCV community. You may request for the information to be placed in the newsletter or as a separate email. Items submitted may be subject to editing and/or editorial discretion. Submit to: buffalorpcv@yahoo.com.

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Join Us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/45930918164/>



Upcoming Events

Peace Corps send off/welcome home party:

*Please join fellow RPCVs at Erie Community College North Campus on **Wednesday April 23 at 6 pm.** Come and wish luck to our newest Peace Corps Volunteers and welcome home those who have recently completed their service.*

Please bring a dessert to pass and international desserts are welcome.

RSVP by Monday April 21st to buffalorpcv@yahoo.com or call Audrey at 632-6435

*Address: ECC North Campus: Gleasner Hall Administration building
6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221*

Directions:

Driving directions to the ECC campus:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=6205+Main+Street,+williamsville,+NY&hl=en&sl=42.88234,-78.873092&sspn=0.010126,0.026071&vpsrc=0&hnear=6205+Main+St,+Williamsville,+New+York+14221&t=m&z=16&safe=active>

Campus directions:

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=208272613427511827651.0004c1374a6027f2f5de3&msa=0&hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=h&ll=42.959846,-78.72174&spn=0.007538,0.013733&z=16&source=embed>

if you scroll to the bottom of the page, you should be able to click on Gleasner Hall and an arrow will show you where it is on the map

Take Main Street and turn on to Youngs Rd. You will first see the athletic fields and then the academic buildings. Gleasner Hall is the G building. It will be the first building you see with parking in front of the building.

Stay tuned for the room number.



Hands Across Buffalo:

Please join fellow RPCVs On Saturday May 17th at 11: 00 am. as we participate in Hands across Buffalo along Ferry St.

Hands Across Buffalo is a coalition of local organizations and businesses committed to promoting diversity and challenging poverty across the City of Buffalo.

We have registered as a group but you need to register as an individual.

Click on the link below and then click on individual to register. Please put Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for the organization.

<http://www.handsacrossbuffalo.org/get-involved-1.html>

Please email buffalorpcv@yahoo.com to let us know that you have registered.

Andy will have your registration packet on the day of the event. She will receive our location prior to the event and will need your email address so you can be informed of where to meet on the day of the event.

The board would like input if we would be interested in **volunteering** at the event. Volunteer opportunities include handing out registration packets, clean up, set up, transportation, block coordinator, traffic control, stage crew, and Ferry Street clean up. There will be other events after the linking of hands to promote, make aware of diversity and poverty in Buffalo.

If you are interested in volunteering, email buffalorpcv@yahoo.com

Save the dates:

Annual Meeting: Friday June 20th at 6: 00 pm at Chef's restaurant. Come and be informed about the happenings of our group. Make an evening out of it and enjoy the Friday Night Bash Buffalo Bison baseball game after dinner since you will be in the neighborhood.

Highlights

On Thursday February 27th, our organization was presented with the Bonnie Butler award for our work with VIVE. The board members attended the 30th Annual Recognition Dinner at Salvatore's Restaurant where we met Bonnie and heard her story, accepted our award. All in all it was an enjoyable evening. The board is happy with the media coverage we received as well from WGRZ, *The Buffalo News*, and the *Western NY Catholic*.



VIVE, INC.
invites you to join us in celebrating the
"New Americans" ...

**30th
Annual Recognition Dinner**

February 27, 2014 at 6:00 pm
Salvatore's Restaurant
6461 Transit Road, Depew, NY

DONATION \$100 per person
Tables of eight available for \$1,000
Full tables include 8 sheets of raffle tickets

Chair Couple: SHELLY & TOM SCHRATZ

Award Recipients:

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers — Bonnie Butler
Humanitarian Award
WGRZ Channel 2 — John R. Long Award
Jericho Road Community Health — Leadership Conference
of Women Religious

space is limited - reserve your seat now

RSVP by sending payment to
VIVE
50 Wyoming Street, Buffalo, NY 14215
or contact Tracy@TracyDina.com
208-1064



Peace Corps group slated to receive award from Vive

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Group of Western New York will be honored Thursday with the Bonnie Butler Humanitarian Award, presented by Vive for efforts to protect the rights of under-served populations.

The Peace Corps group, with about 200 members, is being recognized for its sponsorship of annual Thanksgiving dinners for Vive refugees, conducting a clothing drive for Vive and for assisting Vive residents on a volunteer basis.

The award is named for Bonnie Butler, a Vive founder and its first executive director. It will be presented at Vive's annual Recognition Dinner, held at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

Vive is the largest shelter in the country dedicated to assisting refugees seeking protection in the United States and Canada. In its 29 years, it has helped place more than 84,000 people from 110 countries who have applied to Canada for refugee status or sought asylum in the U.S. It currently has more than 100 people staying at its site at 50

Vive La Casa hosts annual recognition dinner

Vive La Casa in Buffalo, the largest transitional housing facility in the United States, will host its annual recognition dinner at Salvatore's Restaurant in Depew on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. This year's honorees have served Vive La Casa in fulfilling its mission of providing shelter, food, clothing and legal services to more than 3,500 refugees. The organization has served more than 84,000 asylum seekers.

Among Vive La Casa's 2014 award recipients will be the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Group which will receive the Bonnie Butler Humanitarian Award. WGRZ-TV will receive the John R. Long Award. Jericho Road will receive the Leadership Conference of Women Award.

Vive Inc. began in 1984 as a response to the many refugees coming from Central and South America seeking freedom. Members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious of the Diocese of Buffalo founded the organization after realizing the need to assist refugees in the area.

The 118-bed facility's home is on the East Side of Buffalo in a renovated school building. Rooted in an interfaith tradition, Vive welcomes refugees from diverse backgrounds.

Corporate sponsorship opportunities and tickets to the event are still available.

For more information email tracy@diina.com or contact Shelly Schratz at 716-998-4007.

WNY
catholic

A Special thanks goes out to Laura Mondello, fiancée of RPCV Joe Grasmick, who wrote the press release.

Acceptance Speech:

This is National Peace Corps week and today, our National Day of Advocacy. Is it a coincidence that we are being honored by VIVE, another organization known for its humanitarian contributions to Western New York?

I would like to thank VIVE for recognizing the work of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Buffalo with the Bonnie Butler award. Bonnie, one of VIVE's founders advocated for refugees in a manner reminiscent of President Kennedy's insistence that Americans more actively engage in the causes of global democracy, peace, development, and freedom.

Thank you VIVE for 30 years of assisting the refugee community in Western New York. Thank you to my Returned Peace Corps board members for all of your hard work and support, and thank you to the person who donated our table this evening.

Happy Anniversary VIVE and to many more!

Something of Interest

Rescue **Nurture** **Empower**

A Refugee's JOURNEY

JOIN US TO BE INSPIRED BY THE JOURNEYS AND STORIES OF REFUGEES
Come Hear the Courage of Buffalo's Newest Families
Journey's End • 2495 Main Street • Suite 317 • Buffalo, NY 14214 • jersbuffalo.org/journey

January 30 • 5 PM	April 10 • 8 AM	June 5 • 12 Noon
February 11 • 8 AM	April 22 • 12 Noon	June 17 • 5 PM
February 27 • 12 Noon	May 8 • 5 PM	July 17 • 8 AM
March 25 • 5 PM	May 20 • 8 AM	July 29 • 12 Noon

FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:
716-882-4963 x205 • journey@jersbuffalo.org
Entrance and parking in the rear of the building on Halbert Street.

HELP! Our website, www.buffalorpcv.org needs help. We are looking for anyone who knows word press and is willing to donate their time and show us the ins and outs of making a web page. Please contact Andy at buffalorpcv@yahoo.com or call 716-592-0469. Check it out! We need a little bit of help.

REPLYING TO THE LIST SERVE- some of you have noticed that when you respond to an email that was sent out on the list serve, the return address comes up as buffalercv@yahoo.com. (Note the E instead of O in Buffalo). It has been looked into but we do not know how to correct it at this time. Please type in the correct address, buffalorpcv@yahoo.com when replying to an email. Otherwise, the message will return to you.

2014 Membership Now Available

It is membership renewal time and if you haven't officially joined our local group, please consider joining. *Stay looped into the Peace Corps as well as local social and volunteer opportunities in 2014!* Our dues are from January to December.
(See form on next page)

**RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

RPCV/Buffalo membership is open to all returned Peace Corps Volunteers, active and friends of Peace Corps. Please complete the following and return with your membership dues (15.00 annually) payable to RPCV/Buffalo :

RPCV/Buffalo
c/o Mac McCabe
1691 West River Drive
Grand Island, NY 14072

Please check

Renewing Member _____ New Member _____

Are you a member of the National Peace Corps Association? Yes _____ No _____

I. Personal Information:

Name: (first) _____ (last) _____

Address: _____ (apt) _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

II. Peace Corps Service Information (if applicable):

Country(ies) of Service: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Primary Service Role: _____

III. National Peace Corps Association

You may also join RPCV/BNY as an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). For additional information or membership regarding the NPCA, please contact:

National Peace Corps Association

1900 L Street, NW

Suite 610

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 202-293-7728

Fax: 202-293-7554

<http://rpcv.org/>