Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Buffalo,

Bringing peace corps to WESTERN NEW YORK

Annual report June 1, 2020 - June 1, 2021

I would like to thank the board members for their assistance and continued support: Tony Agnello,
Ginna Coon, Lisa Ried, Audrey Seidel, Jeri Titus, and Kathleen Taylor who served on the board for a few months.

Peace Corps Events:

1. **Peace Corps Connect:** board members, Tony Agnello and Ginna Coon, and Jeri Titus attended the conference virtually last August.

2. **Advocating for the Peace Corps:** Board members met with Congressman Higgins’ and Senator Gillibrand’s office reps here in Buffalo in October and again in April. Chairperson met with the other NY RPCV groups who had a combined meeting with Senator Schumer’s reps in DC. All events were virtual. Key talking pts included increase Peace Corps Funding, support of the Health Force, Resilience Force, and Jobs to Fight COVID-19 Act of 2021 as well as the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021

3. **A Towering Task: The Story of the Peace Corps:** movie was shown virtually to kick of National Peace Corps week. It was followed by a panel discussion on how refugee and immigrant issues impact and intersect with the ideals of the greater WNY Community. Panel members were from the local VOLAGS and the Peace Corps for Refugee Community

4. **Recruiting and promoting Peace Corps:** Recruiter, Anne Tatarsky met with the board a few times to update us on current information and volunteers getting back into the field.

5. **Evacuated Peace Corps Volunteers:** board members met virtually to hear the story of 3 EPCVS and to see how we could assist.

6. Board members met in July, August, September, October, January, February, March, April and May, and communicated often via email or phone.

Community Service events:
1. **International Institute:** We assisted Elizabeth Oddy and her Go Fund Me fundraiser to support II in which baskets filled with dry goods and some games to help refugees during Covid. (May and June)

2. **Refugee assistance:** donations were made to Journey’s End and Jewish Family Services

3. **Thanksgiving dinner** was replaced with donations of toilet paper, napkins, dish towels, and cleaning supplies to the Buffalo Peace House.

4. **Martin Luther King National Day of Volunteer Service:** RPCVs donated to International Institute Buckets of Love fundraiser (Jan)

**Social Events:**

1. **Social gatherings:** RPCVs met at local establishments or parks to gather socially during the months of August, September, October and May. We met virtually in December

2. **Journey’s End Refugee Film festival:** Many RPCVs have supported the virtual festival. (December–June)

3. **Guest Speaker:** Randy Hobbler and his PC experiences in Libya via zoom. (January)

4. **Buffalo and Albany RPCV Refugee Panel Discussion:** history of International Institute and Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus and well as what services they support. We also heard one refugee’s journey from Rwanda to Albany. (April)

5. **Cinema Club:** met several times to discuss movies and get recommendations for movies shown virtually through North Park Theatre.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Smith, Chair of RPCV of Buffalo, Bringing Peace Corps to WNY
Treasury Report

Beginning balance 6/1/2020

$1903.05

Deposits $3134.50

Total $5037.55

Expenditures $1983.73

Bank Charges $21.71

Ending balance 5/31/2021

$3032.11

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Titus
Treasurer of RPCV of Buffalo