



GBRPCV NEWSLETTER

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Don't forget we are voting new officers in this August! Come to the Annual Lake Party and let your voice be heard. We want you to help us strengthen our group!

Mission

In the spirit of our Peace Corps experience, Greater Birmingham RPCV's promotes a continuing commitment to our community.

Goals

- To develop a social and community action network*
- To remind ourselves and educate others about why we served*
- To provide support for potential, current and recently returned Peace Corps volunteers*
- To promote public awareness and support for the Peace*

Nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public....
—H. L. Mencken

I'll take GBRPCVs for \$100, Alex.

ANSWER: A GBRPCV who appeared on the game show "Jeopardy" on Cinco de Mayo 2006.

QUESTION: Who is Karmie Johnson, RN, RPCV Western Samoa 2001-2003?

Written By Helen "Missy" Bemis DRC '84-86



Karmie, an ER nurse at the Birmingham VA and a longtime Jeopardy fan, was a contestant on May 5, 2006. Karmie grew up watching the show and playing it like a "fiend on my Nintendo" when she was a kid. She never played board games until her PC service in Western Samoa where she proceeded to destroy other PCVs in Trivial Pursuit.

One of 15 selected from an initial pool of 900 candidates, Karmie had to pass a 10-question initial test, a 50-

question test, and a screen test before becoming a contestant. During her screen test, Karmie told Peace Corps and life in the ER stories.

To prep for Jeopardy she bought a Webster's International Atlas because "I stink at geography" and a pocket world almanac for book lovers. She also studied history books. "I felt that 75% of the game is dumb luck and 25% is buzzer control." According to Karmie, there was a bit of truth in that: "The evening that I qualified I went home and watched Jeopardy and there was a category on Samoa. After that I refused to watch jeopardy since

it would just make my angry when question would come up that I would know and no one else would and I knew because they were being aired now I'd never get them."

For those of you who think it's easier at home Karmie says "I've always thought that all three of the contestants know most of the questions. It's just whoever is "in the zone" with the buzzer. It's easier at home because you don't have to buzz in and also because most

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SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER READING

By Kathy Angus

Botswana '68-'71, Brazil '64-'66

Some of us have shared books from time to time. Paul Theroux's *Dark Star Safari*, an account of his trip overland from Cairo to Cape Town, circulated a year or so ago. Last month, Adrienne Retief passed along *Skinners Drijfi* by the daughter of Athol Fugard, Lisa Fugard. It is set on an Afrikaner farm along the Limpopo River, the border with Botswana. Reading it took us back to our Gaborone, Botswana days with excellent descriptions of the land,

people, flora and fauna.

A sub-group of the Atlanta area RPCVs have had a book/supper club for several years. Most recently they read a Nigerian book - *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. My friend Carolyn, who served in Brazil with my PCV group many years ago wrote: "It is so very well written. The story is a family tragedy that could be happening anywhere. We read books that expose us to the culture of the country. This one was excellent. In a nod to Chinua Achebe her first sentence in the book is "Things started to

fall apart at home...." We do a covered dish at each meeting. The Nigerian/West African meal was a huge success. I chose the recipes from the [Time Life Recipes: African Cooking](#) and the [Africa News Cookbook](#). We had Egusi Soup, Groundnut Stew with chicken, Jollof rice, Fufu, yams, black eyed peas, plantains in coconut milk and a ginger cake with crystallized ginger. It was grand."

I think our group is too small to form a book club; but I include a list of some of the books they have read in the past
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear GBRPCV Members and Friends,

As the leader of our group, I receive a fair amount of recruitment material from Peace Corps on a regular basis. In fact, if you walked into my living room today, you would have to manage some pretty clever footwork to maneuver around boxes of PC calendars (2007!), baseball caps, stickers, and books that have practically taken up residence there. So I am constantly surrounded by Peace Corps "stuff", and to be honest, I don't like the clutter. So I usually just glance over it quickly and try to send it on to others who can use and enjoy it. But the other night I decided to pick up the most recent edition of *The Great Adventure* that arrived not long ago. Do you know the book? It is a series of short stories written by volunteers who describe their most memorable experiences in Peace Corps. They are at times funny, at times sad, but always very personal and thoughtful.

As I sat there reading story after story, I felt connected to these stories and the people in them. I empathized with the frustrations that some volunteers expressed, laughed out loud at the jokes played on them by villagers at their expense, and couldn't help but feel heartache as they said their goodbyes to the people that they had known and loved during their service. Peace Corps is valuable and unique as an institution because it brings

people together from all walks of life and forces us to recognize that we need one another, we can learn from one another, and doing so makes the world a better

Heather White



Well-mannered. Heather White (Burkina Faso '00-'02) assists a woman at the well during her Peace Corps service as a community health educator.

place to live. Peace Corps is as valuable and relevant today as it was 45 years ago because it simply *brings people together*. This is no easy task considering how much more

we interact with our computers everyday as opposed to actual human beings.

So, why do you ask, am I waxing poetic about the importance of Peace Corps and its ability to connect people? Well, because our GBRPCV group holds the same purpose, and we are always interested in bringing in new members. We welcome those of you who have served as volunteers in the past, are thinking about applying to become a volunteer, or anyone who is interested in learning more about Peace Corps. As some of you may know, Rob and Kathy Angus will be hosting the annual GBRPCV lake party at their house on Saturday, August 4. Guests usually bring a small dish, and we spend the afternoon swimming, boating, just enjoying the weather and each other's company. We will be holding our annual officer elections. We are looking to fill our social/media relations chair, and Dave Leavitt, Public affairs Specialist from the PC Atlanta office, will be on hand to help us brainstorm ways to make people in Birmingham and throughout Alabama more aware of Peace Corps. Please make plans to attend, especially if you have never been to one of our events and would like to learn more about our group and the ways in which we help to bring people together in and around Birmingham. Hope to see you then!

Peace,

Heather

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MAP PAINTING IN BRIGHTON

This year, GBRCV's members got an early start on 2006's map project with Brighton Elementary/Middle school students. GBRCV members lead by Adrienne Retief and Sue Seay, along with students and teachers from Brighton, outlined and painted two world maps this year. One map is to remain at Brighton while the other was presented to representatives from Japan during Birmingham's annual International Festival which highlighted Japanese culture this year. Approximately twenty-five 3rd-8th graders outlined and painted the map in December and January. The map presentation was made by the Brighton students at the Birmingham International Festival's Salute to Japan Teacher Education Workshop on February 25, 2006. The kids loved the project and thought they were stars when they got to present the map to the workshop participants and to the JASA government officials – Better Basics paid for a bus to get the kids to the event and bought them lunch after Adrienne and Sue presented two sessions on how to do the map project to teachers who attended the workshop. The kids from Brighton were treated to a presentation on Bonsai and another session called Japan in a suitcase that focused on teaching students in American schools about Japan. They had breakfast at the event and saw themselves on a slideshow that Sue had prepared showing the kids working on the map and all the phases of making the map and the educational activities involving the kids. Other participating GBRCV members included Missy Bemis, Gwen Standifer-Stech, Richard Seay, and Kathy and Rob Angus. A huge thanks to Dr. Betsy Rogers, the 2003 National Teacher of the Year at Brighton who contributed to all of the planning and coordination of this year's map projects. The Brighton map will be dedicated at the school on May 8, 2006. If you'd like to attend this event or want to learn more about getting involved in a map painting project, please contact Sue Seay at suseay@bellsouth.net.



Commentary

By Scott Alexander (Kenya 97-99)

Type in "peace corps blogs" in Google and you will get a whopping 3,999,000 hits. Probably some of these sites aren't distinct blogs- but the number Volunteer blogs is large and growing. Instead of writing illegible hieroglyphics on a flimsy arogram to one person at a time, Volunteers can broadcast their adventures to the world with very little effort. With the onset of readily available internet and cellular service, some would

argue that the "typical" Peace Corps experience is vastly different than even just five years ago. Though it is hard to imagine my own experience with internet and cell phones, what if I did have it? Would my experience be that different?

I remember the first time we returned from our site visit. I was sitting in the Peace Corps Training lounge, and one by one dusty Trainees were trickling back from their trips. "Wow! No power, phone, water, anything! I am in the bush!" was whispered with a hint of pride and smug smile to those who were "lucky" enough to have modern amenities. It was with a bit of shame that others replied "Well, I do have power, but it only comes on at night" or some other qualification that would sooth the sting of having a nice site. Strangely, Volunteers would cite their living conditions as if it was a badge of honor to be placed out in the bush. It did not take long for this naive view to fall by the wayside, at least in speaking with other Volunteers.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The GBRPCV Newsletter is the official, semi-annual publication of the Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, which publishes articles and information on the group's activities and upcoming events. Our goal is to publish interesting and useful content, as well as to encourage and assist Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in carrying out the third goal of the Peace Corps: "To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the American people."

Paper copies of the newsletter will be distributed to members in good standing, and the newsletter will be posted online at www.gbrpcv.org at the time of publication. To receive additional paper copies, please send your name and address to the editor.

Submissions Policy for Articles

The GBRPCV Newsletter invites Peace Corps-related articles, information, feedback and ideas for articles. If you are interested in contributing to the next issue of the GBRPCV Newsletter, please submit material by e-mail to laura@bakersmith.net and include your country and dates of service. Do not use attachments; put everything you want us to consider in the body of the message. Although we are only able to respond to submissions that we publish, all are read and considered. We reserve the right to choose or reject submissions based solely on our editorial judgment.



WE NEED YOUR PICTURES! WE NEED YOUR STORIES! THIS SPACE IS BLANK BECAUSE WE NEED YOU TO FILL IT!

A Brief Financial Report for Jan-Aug 2006

Revenues: From Dues \$157.50

From Fund- \$ 488 raising

Expenses: Operating \$ 296.82 Expenses

Project \$ 1177.44 Expenses

Closing Balance: \$671.67

Join the National Peace Corps Association in DC this September for Advocacy

The Advocacy Program of the National Peace Corps Association is organizing activities in Washington this September for all interested RPCVs and former Peace Corps staff. These programs will coincide with NPCA's Annual General Meeting, Group Leaders Forum, Board of Directors' meeting, and Peace Corps 45th anniversary celebration events.

Central to the activities will be a Capitol Hill Advocacy Day on Thursday, September 14th. A full day of programming is planned, including a breakfast gathering, meetings with the offices of your Senators and Representatives, and post-meeting discussions, socializing and celebrating!

All participants are strongly encouraged to arrive early to take part in orientation programs on Wednesday, September 13th.

That's not all. While details are still to be finalized, NPCA advocacy is planning to offer several other skill-building, educational or action opportunities in the days following the 14th.

"We hope to bring together as many advocates as possible, and offer a range of opportunities allowing people to take action with their lawmakers, meet other advocates, and provide input on our program", said NPCA Advocacy

Coordinator Jonathan Pearson.

Capitol Hill Advocacy Day participants must pre-register no later than Monday, August 14th. You can find out more by visiting www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy2006.

Thanks to the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison for their generous contribution in support of this program.

COMMENTARY

Continued from page 3

After three months at the first IST, the stories from the volunteers were remarkably similar regardless of access to a phone line or electric socket. The stories consisted of the daily frustrations of cross-cultural communication, public transportation and the obligatory discussion of one's bowel movements. We grudgingly realized that truly every Volunteer experience was unique, and every site had its advantages and disadvantages.

Ahh, but letters home? It was one thing to compare your living condition with other volunteers, but America? Hah. I shudder when I think of how smug I must have sounded when describing my mere forty-five minute walk to public transportation. My weekly sojourns to buy supplies in nearest town- a short four hour trip probably sounded like a tortured soul's journey down the river Styx. I hope my letters got less "holier-than-thou" as time wore on, but more importantly I pray they are all burned by now.

So, back to the question at hand- if I had a cell phone and blog would my experience have been that different? How easy it would have been to text a message to meet in the capital, instead of dealing with the local post office when sending a telegram. How nice it would be to write one weekly update that all my friends and family could read. It would save on postage and hassle. No longer would I have to rely on the Headmaster to bring mail once a week, I could just log on and have instant gratification.

Yet, in reading Joe McHanon's blog, I am reminded that even though he may have regular access to the Internet and cell phone service, his experience is full of the same challenges that all of us faced. The only difference is that he is able to let many of us live vicariously through his experiences with a click of the mouse. As more developing countries experience the "flatter" world, some aspects of the Peace Corps experience will change. But ultimately, the most best part of the PCV experience -the daily interaction with the host-country nationals- will stay the same.

SPRING 2006 VOLUNTEER PROJECT



Lots of Painting, Sunshine, and Fellowship: Early Saturday April 28th, our group went to Camp Goodwin to help the Boys & Girls Club of Central Alabama members paint a cabin and the Mess Hall. With excellent weather, both the kids and adults had a good time joking and painting. RPCVs Kathy and Rob Angus, Adrienne Retif, Scott Alexander joined Claire Bosire, Jeff Degrafenried, Cheryl and Wayne Johnson and 12 members of the Pell City Boys & Girls Club. The group bonded over lots of paint and sunshine, and everyone agreed that Kathy's Oatmeal Cookies made the trip worth it.

JEOPARDY

Continued from page 1

people at home read the question whereas on the show, you're listening for the question. It's an adjustment."

Karmie said that "if country music or female southern authors had come up I would have killed." She received "Chess, A Visit to the Intel Corp, British Spelling Bee, South Dakota, and Baseball Names" for her categories, none of them her strong suit. As she said "See, there's that 75% luck."

Going into the final round, the two other contestants players had a big lead over Karmie. She said "I knew that I could be the "spoiler" if the question was hard enough. And I kept my fingers crossed because the category was "US Presidents" which is a notoriously difficult subject." They had \$11,200 and \$10,800 while I had \$8,400. If no one answered the question correctly, they would have cancelled each other out with their bets. It did me no good for all of us to answer the question correctly. I bet \$1,200

hoping they would bet \$10,401 and \$10,800 respectively. If we all answered wrong, I would have \$7,200 and the other two would have \$799 and \$0 making me the winner. And the two other contestants did bet that way. The problem the question -it was the easiest question of the day. We all answered it correctly."

So Karmie, would you do it again? "Even though it cost me \$1600 to be on the show and they only gave me \$1000 BEFORE California taxes? Probably. It's another one of my great once-in-a-lifetime experiences. If money really stressed me, I would have never done the Peace Corps. And my PC experience taught me to roll with opportunities and have fun in the moment."

GBRPCV Challenge: Karmie's final Jeopardy question was "This president would have been called Odysseus if he had lived in ancient Greece." Okay GBRPCVs, don't forget to give your answer in the form of a question. Send your correct responses to msscott_alexander@yahoo.com, and we will pick a winning entry for a special prize at the Lake Party.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Lake Party: August 5th

ANNUAL FALL RECEPTION, Date TBA, UAB Smolian International House, 1600 10th Ave. S.

Join us as we welcome former and future volunteers to the Greater Birmingham RPCV community. This event will highlight the experiences of three newly returned volunteers. A Peace Corps recruiter should be available to answer questions about PC service. Please bring a snack or favorite international dish to share. Tee-shirts and calendars will be available for purchase. **Additionally, care package donations (such as pre-packaged food, candy, music or reading materials) for current volunteers will be accepted.**

Fall Volunteer Event, TBA for October.

Holiday Social, TBA for mid December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southeastern Outings (SO) is a non-profit organization created and committed to serving people who enjoy being active in the outdoors. The organization plans, organizes and leads outings such as day hikes, easy canoe trips, stream and waterfall walks, tube floats, bicycle rides, lake events and other fun activities to beautiful sites in our natural environment. All events and activities of the group are open to the public. SO does not charge for any of its outings. Dan Frederick, President of SO, is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Thailand. For more information, please contact Dan at 631-4680 or dfred4@bellsouth.net.

If you are plan on joining or renewing your membership to GBRPCV or NPCA, you may do both online at www.rpcv.org



South Africa

Katy Gianni (Zimbabwe '99-'00) has recently taken a new job in Johannesburg, South Africa, and sends this news to the group.

When Heather asked me to write a note to catch you up on my life, I told her, "This is nothing like my Peace Corps experience!" When I was in Zimbabwe, I had a very simple life. No running water meant collecting water from the borehole two times a day, and bathing outside in the cool morning air. No electricity meant reading by candlelight, and certainly no e-mail!

Now I've moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, which is among the top 50 largest cities in the world. I've had to make adjustments of a very different sort, like traffic, crime, and all the other things that are a part of living in a big city. The one thing that I was most worried about was driving on the left. That turned out to be less of a problem than I imagined. What was more difficult was learning to drive a manual transmission, and on the left! I knew how to drive a stick shift but have never owned one, so doing it as a matter of course – on the left – was an adjustment. I'm glad to say that I now feel 100% comfortable, even on big hills.

Johannesburg is quite a large city, as I mentioned, and there are times you might forget that you're in Africa. It could be any city in any developed country. We've got big shopping malls, universities, concerts, major airport, good restaurants, and so forth. But there are reminders. Robots (traffic lights) are so routinely broken that it is a regular part of the traffic report. There was a

NEWS FROM GBRPCV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

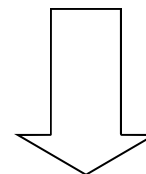
typhoid outbreak in a nearby town shortly after I arrived. "Informal settlements" are interspersed among the more prosperous suburbs. And you still see women walking along the road with buckets or other bundles on their heads.

My job got off to a slow start. It took weeks and weeks and weeks to get my work permit. Until that came through, I could not open a local bank account. And I couldn't get a local credit card without a bank account. It's hard to be a traveling salesperson with no credit card! I finally got the work permit in mid-February, and I have just – today, 7th April! – gotten my local credit card.

I'm serving both as the sales manager for the Johannesburg office of EBSCO Information Services, and also as the sales representative for the academic and research libraries market. The job is not so very different from my first, pre-Peace Corps position with EBSCO, in which I was calling on existing customers (mostly academic libraries) in the southeast U.S. In South Africa, most of the academic libraries are already partial EBSCO customers, so I will be concentrating my efforts on making them full EBSCO customers!

Our territory is actually all of southern Africa, and some of east Africa. I made a visit to Botswana a few weeks ago, and am putting together trips to Namibia and Uganda. I also hope to find a reason to visit Kenya in June, when a Birmingham friend will be there doing some research.

ITEMS NEEDED!



We need items to send to PCVs in country. Please bring paperbacks, cds, magazines, packages of noodles, anything you can think of that a PCV would enjoy in the field. We will collect them to the Lake Party so that we may send them out before the Fall. Contact Scott at msscott_alexander@yahoo.com for suggestions.

SUMMER SUGGESTIONS

Continued from page 1

that some of you might enjoy. And I invite you to review these or other books you think we might find interesting, informative or otherwise edifying:

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Milan Kundera-Czechoslovakia

Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez-Colombia

Midnight's Children, and *The Moor's Last Sigh*, Salman Rushdie-India

Anthills of the Savanna, and *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe-Nigeria

The Master and Margarita, Mikhail Bulgakov-Russia

The House of the Spirits, and *Paula*, Isabel Allende-Chile

Kaffir Boy, Mark Mathabane-South Africa

The Beginning and the End, and *Palace Walk* and *Palace of Desire*, and *Sugar Alley* Naguib Mafouz-Egypt

Aunt Julia and the Script Writer, and *The Storyteller* and *Death in the Andes*, Mario Vargas Llosa-Peru

The Bone People, Keri Hulme-New Zealand
Waiting for the Barbarians, and *Disgrace*, J.M. Coetzee-South Africa

A Change of Skin, Carlos Fuentes-Mexico
Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands, and *Gabriela*, *Clove and Cinnamon*, Jorge Amado-Brazil
Ake: The Years of Childhood, Wole Solinka-Nigeria

This Earth of Mankind, Pramoedya Ananta Toer-Indonesia

Gray Skies Tomorrow, Silvia Molina-Mexico

The Famished Road, Ben Okri-Nigeria

How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accent, Julia Alvarez-Dominican Republic

The Road to Mecca, Athol Fugard- South Africa

A Personal Matter, Kenzaburo Oe-Japan

The Antipeople, Marcel Sony Labou Tansi-Zaire

Memed My Hawk, Yasar Kemal- Turkey

The Obscene Bird of Night, Jose Donoso-Chile
None to Accompany Me, and *July's People*, Nadine Gordimer-South Africa

Cosmos and Pornografia, Witold Gombrowicz-Poland

The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy-India

The Dreams of My Russian Summers, Andrei Makine-Russia

Crystal Frontier, Carlos Fuentes- Mexico

Summer of Betrayal, Hong Ying-China

Secrets, Nuruddin Farah-Somalia

Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith, Gina Nahai-Iran

Death and the Penguin, Andrei Kurkov-Ukraine

NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD

By Joseph Mchanon (Kenya '05-'07)

I'm a Peace Corps volunteer living and working in Kakamega, Kenya. Kakamega is in the Western Province near the Ugandan border, and I love it here. The people are so generous and friendly, and the landscape is just beautiful. I have never been anywhere so lush and green in all my life. Thatched and tin roof houses are scattered around fields of sugarcane and banana trees, which cover the rolling hills in all directions. A drawback to such beauty is that it requires plenty of rain, and everyday there are downpours in the afternoon and evenings. However, if I time things right I manage to make it through a day relatively dry.

Just a few kilometers from town is the Kakamega rainforest, which is the last remaining section in Kenya of a jungle that at one time formed a belt across all of Central Africa. I have been to the forest several times and the dense foliage and tall, moss covered trees are full of monkeys and just about every kind of poisonous snake you could think of.

I have been assigned through the Peace Corps as a United Nations volunteer in the Food and Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO). The majority of Kenyans in the Western Province are small-scale farmers raising crops at a sustenance level, and they are growing the same crops in the same manner that they have known for generations. These crops are mostly maize and beans, which farmers will take to the markets to try and sell to their neighbors, who are also trying to grow the same things. There is very little money to be made in this approach, and as a result over 50% of the population is living under the poverty line of \$1/day. The FAO has been working in Kenya since 1996 to resolve this problem. Farmer Field Schools have been implemented through UN-FAO to educate the farmers on more efficient growing techniques and crop diversification. The FAO trains farmers to be facilitators and FFS leaders, who then conduct training for other farmers on what they have learned. As a result there are well over 1,500 farmers in Kakamega district alone who have been educated with the FAO methodology and are better able to grow crops with higher yields and more profitable markets.

After reading the last paragraph most of you assume I have some sort of agricultural background, right? Actually I am a SED-ICT (Small enterprise development-information communication technology) volunteer with a background in Marketing and Information Technology. As far as agriculture goes, I can't even keep a cactus alive. However, through the efforts of the FAO the farmers have already been well trained in agricultural practices. A big issue facing farmers now is finding markets for the crops they have been taught how to



This is the Winning Bull from this years annual bullfighting contest in Kakamega Kenya. Joe describes this on his blog: "Each bull represents the strength and pride of the village, and these bulls are pampered, extremely well fed, and raised for one thing: to beat the crap out of other bulls." Joes said it was a great cultural event and looks forward to next year's fight.

grow. I am acting as a marketing facilitator and working with commodities exchanges and distributors in finding markets for these crops. I am able to use my IT skills as well by maintaining a database with information on what the farmers are growing and when it will be ready to harvest. Thus, a group of farmers can sell a large quantity of a specific crop to a much bigger market, such as Nairobi, for a significantly more profit than if they were selling individually and locally.

The farmers in the Kakamega FFS Network are learning value addition as well. A focus crop of our organization is the orange-fleshed sweet potato, which is not currently widely grown in Kenya. We are focusing on this crop due to it's high Vitamin A content and the nutrition it can provide to low-income households throughout East Africa. The Kakamega FFS Network has purchased six stainless steel hand-operated chippers, which we are using to chip and dry the sweet potatoes. These dried chips can then be sold to millers for a much larger sum of money than the raw material alone. In fact, a grant is currently in the works to take this a step further and purchase a mill for the network, which can enable the farmers to mill and sell the flour themselves.

Beyond my work with the UN-FAO and Kakamega FFS Network I have

many secondary projects as well. I am currently working with the Kenya Programme for Disabled Persons (KPDP) in Nairobi on using the Peace Corps for the distribution of free wheelchairs throughout Kenya. There is currently a donated container of 550 wheelchairs coming from the States and things are looking very promising. I am also working with several orphan groups and educating them on self-sustainability and nutrition. Finally, I have recently began conducting HIV/AIDS education for several secondary schools in the area.

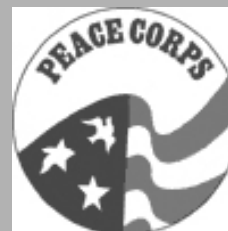
So life in Kenya is very busy and I am enjoying every (well, nearly every) moment of it. I truly feel my decision to join the Peace Corps was one of the best I've made and I am optimistic that it has opened up a long-term career path that I will find both rewarding and fulfilling as well.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW MEMBERS

Laurel Hitchcock
Don Kelly
Cole Sautter
Jennifer Cook
jack Timmons
Diane Matson



Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Day phone: _____
 Evening phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____
 Profession: _____
 Country of service: _____
 Peace Corps job(s): _____
 Dates served: _____

I am interested in participating in the following activities:

Social activities
 Leadership role
 Newsletter/Web page/Mailings
 Volunteer activities
 Presentations to schools/civic groups
 Willing to give an informational interview to a recently returned PCV

You are:

An RPCV
 A former PC staff member
 A family member of a PCV or RPCV
 Interested in PC service
 Other

Dues Categories

- \$50 Individual (includes NPCA dues)
- \$65 Family (includes NPCA dues)
- \$15 Individual (GBRPCVs only)
- \$22.50 Family (GBRPCVs only)
- \$7.50 Student rate (GBRPCVs only)

Please send checks and completed form to: GBRPCVs, P.O. Box 55924, Birmingham, AL 35255



GBRPCVs
PO Box 55924
Birmingham, AL 35255

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4th: Annual Lake Party
Late Sept: Annual Fall Reception at UAB Smolian House
Late Fall: Volunteer Event

