

peace corps Armenia



Annual Report 2009



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. Kennedy's Promise

part of President John F. Kennedy's statement upon signing the Executive Order creating Peace Corps

5. Letter from the Director

a statement about the mission and activities of Peace Corps Armenia

6. Project accomplishments

descriptions of projects completed by Volunteers in collaboration with counterparts, other NGOs, and/or community members throughout Armenia

16. In The News

reports of significant meetings and events that occurred in Spring

Glossary

A15	15th group of Peace Corps Volunteers in Armenia (arrived June 2007)
A16	16th group of Peace Corps Volunteers in Armenia (arrived June 2008)
A17	17th group of Peace Corps Volunteers in Armenia (arrived June 2009)
PCV	Peace Corps Volunteer
PCT	Peace Corps Trainee, pre-Volunteer status
PST	Pre-service training, 3-month period of language, cultural, and sector training
RPCV	Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, a Volunteer who has completed service
CD	Country Director
SECTOR	Type of technical expertise including of CBD, CHE, EE, and TEFL
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language, a sector
CBD	Community and Business Development, a sector
CHE	Community Health Education, a sector
EE	Environmental Education, a sector
IT	Information Technology
SPA	A grant for Small Project Assistance funded by USAID (United States Agency for International Development)



Peace Corps Armenia is published by:
US Peace Corps | 33 Charents Street | Yerevan 0025 | Republic of Armen

Phone [37410]524.450, [37410]562.565

Fax [37410]557.991

E-mail pcarmenia@am.peacecorps.gov

Websites www.peacecorps.gov; www.usa.am/peacecorps.php

No portion of the contents may be reproduced without prior express permission of the Peace Corps office.

Graphic design services provided by Mariam Arzumanyan, PR Coordinator
Photos are provide by Peace Corps Volunteers



Kennedy's Promise

We will only send abroad Americans who are wanted by the host country, who have a real job to do, and who are qualified to do that job. Programs will be developed with care, and after full negotiation, in order to make sure that the Peace Corps is wanted and will contribute to the welfare of the other people. Our Peace Corps is not designed as an instrument of diplomacy or propaganda or ideological conflict. It is designed to permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development.

JOHN F. KENNEDY
MARCH 1, 1961



ABOUT PEACE CORPS

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship by challenging students to live and work

in developing countries. Since then more than 195,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited into and served in 139 countries all over the globe.

No longer limited to students, today, almost 7,876 Volunteers and Trainees are serving abroad. Representing every demographic group, they reflect the

extraordinary diversity of America. Volunteers serve for 27 months in their host countries, learning language and culture and living at the same level as the people they serve.

The Peace Corps Armenia program was established in 1992. Since that time 644 Volunteers have served in villages, towns, and cities around Armenia. Currently 78 Volunteers work in:

- Community and Business Development
- Teaching English as Foreign Language
- Community Health Education
- Environmental Education

Peace Corps is an independent agency of the United States government. The Country Director for Armenia is Lee Lacy, a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Samoa.

PEACE CORPS ARMENIA PROJECTS

Community and Business Development [CBD]

- NGO capacity building
- Small and medium enterprise development
- Business and IT training for students of local colleges and other community members

The Peace Corps Mission

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the Armenian peoples served.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Armenians on the part of Americans.

English Education [TEFL]

- Teaching English
- Teacher professional development
- Resource development
- Community development projects

Community Health Education [CHE]

- Preventive health education
- Nutrition training
- HIV/AIDS awareness
- Health resources development

Environmental education [EE]

- Environmental agencies development
- Creation of resource centers
- Environmental educational camps

Peace Corps Ministry Partners are:

Ministry of Economy
Ministry of Education and Science
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Nature Protection
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

Lee Lacy was appointed Peace Corps Country Director for Armenia in May 2007. She began her long time Peace Corps connection as a Volunteer English teacher in Samoa (1971–73). Following her service, she worked for Peace Corps in its Program Evaluation Office in Washington DC. In the early 1980s, while her husband served as Peace Corps Country Director in Nepal, she worked as the Community Liaison Coordinator for the US Embassy in Katmandu.

In the 1990s, Ms. Lacy returned to Peace Corps and served first as the Director of the Office of Special Services and later as Chief of Operations for the Asia Pacific Region. In 2002, she began work as Chief of the Field Assistance Division.

Ms. Lacy has also worked for the Corporation for National Service, where she served as Senior Program Officer; Volunteers in Service to America as acting director; and for Overseas Briefing Center at the Foreign Service Institute where she designed and managed the Department of State's Security Overseas Seminar, expanded the Post Information Center and Training.

Ms. Lacy received a BA Degree from Georgia State University; an MA in Education from Stanford University; and an MS degree in Organizational Development and Knowledge Management from George Mason University. She also holds a certificate in Organizational Development from Georgetown University.

Ms. Lacy has two children, Lillian and Henry.

A LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Dear Ministers and Staff of the Republic of Armenia, staff of Non-Government Organizations and Volunteers:

I am pleased to report that Peace Corps Volunteers and their Armenian counterparts have been working very hard over the last year to improve schools, non-government organizations, and businesses. I hope you will enjoy reading this report which highlights some stories of their successes. Currently 78 Volunteers serve across the country, largely in rural communities where they work with schools teaching English, leading environmental and health clubs, and working with local NGOs and businesses. They strengthen nongovernmental organizations and help to expand the range of community services.

Peace Corps wants to thank our partners and other stakeholders especially the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Nature Protection, the Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Sport and Youth. Thank you for your support of our programs. We would also like to thank the many teachers, school directors, community leaders, and host families that give so generously of their time to make these Americans feel welcomed and at home in Armenia.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Lacy".

Lee Lacy
Country Director
United States Peace Corps, Armenia

OPENING OF IT AND BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER IN VAYK

Peace Corps Volunteer Elliot Roper and his local counterpart Aram Hovsepyan were SPA Grant recipients, which they used to open Vayk's IT and Business Resource Center. The center opened in June 2009, and will be a place for young adults and business professionals to learn and develop their professional computer skills.

The SPA funds were used to purchase 5 new computers, printers, and overall professional office equipment. Classes are being conducted Monday through Friday 2 hours a day for young adults in the community to learn business English and computer skills. So far the center has proved to be a big success, and has already seen 35 community members using the new facilities. Plans for the upcoming year include using the center to host a computer camp and to continue offering business English classes and interactive computer development classes.



- Elliot Roper (A-16 CBD Volunteer)

5th ANNUAL FARMER'S EXPO

On Friday October 16th, the Kapan Small Farmers' Association (KSFA) held their fifth annual Farmer's Expo at the Cultural Center in downtown Kapan. The annual event focuses on locally grown agriculture and dairy products while exposing the community to new and innovative techniques that farmers in the region are using to produce healthy and more viable food options.



Sixteen villages from the Kapan region participated, and each village represented their specific talents in agricultural and dairy production. The exhibition gives farmers the opportunity to market and sell their products directly to the consumer while educating the community about the benefits of choosing locally produced products. Dairy products held the largest demand among customers, followed by vegetables, wheat, legumes, and wild berries.

KSFA's agronomist marketed a technique utilizing bio-humus fertilizer which has proven very successful among farmers in the region. There are currently 13 bio-humus stations operated by the NGO, which produce 500 tons of bio-humus each year. Increasing the volume of bio-humus used in agricultural production can decrease the volume of necessary mineral fertilizers and resolve ecological problems. Bio-humus increases the volume and quality of the yield 8-20 times more than manure. It has a greater positive impact on the biological properties of the soil compared to agricultural chemicals, increases fertility, improves the sanitary structure of the soil, and is favorable to decomposing pesticides which produces safer food for consumption.

Overall the event was a huge achievement for both the farmers and KSFA. Sales from dairy and agricultural products totaled over 2 million AMD. In honor of World Food Day, KSFA distributed information to farmers and the community about food security and sustainable local farming, including proper guidelines for growing and producing organic products.

For more information about KSFA visit www.ksfa.org

-Andrea Trowbridge (A-16 CBD Volunteer)

Community and Business Development Program



GOAL 1 - Local business, government and community organizations and motivated individuals, particularly youth and women, will increase their opportunities and effectiveness by learning and using new business practices for effective use of local resources.

Objective 1.1
PCVs and their partners have assisted 500 individuals, 41 organizations and 21 communities to increase their professional effectiveness through training and follow-up support in improving customer service, financial management, time management, marketing and business planning.

Objective 1.2
PCVs and their partners have assisted 324 individuals, 60 organizations and 77 communities to use participatory tools and techniques to research, plan and implement business and community projects.

Objective 1.3
PCVs and their partners have assisted 717 individuals (particularly women and youth) to expand their understanding of their work, and career options and skills development.

GOAL 2 - Businesses, informal community groups and community based organizations (including municipalities and NGOs) will serve their communities through effective use of organizational management, teamwork and leadership skills.

Objective 2.1
PCVs and their partners have assisted 88 businesses and community based organizations to improve their organizational structures and their management skills.

Objective 2.2
PCVs and their partners have assisted 514 individuals to learn and practice techniques to strengthen teamwork and enhance leadership.

GOAL 3 - Community-based organizations, municipalities, NGOs, businesses and informal community groups will effectively serve their communities by developing communication skills and networks of cooperation within their communities as well as externally.

Objective 3.1
PCVs and their partners have 73 individuals improved their communication skills through developing writing, communication, publicity and ICT skills.

Objective 3.2
PCVs and their partners have assisted 70 businesses develop and use networks of contacts with lenders, commercial enterprises and international organizations.

Objective 3.3
PCVs and their partners have assisted 12 NGO organizations develop and improve their network of contacts and their outreach, marketing and service delivery techniques.

CBD Totals

Total Project Participants

Individuals	1572
Service Providers	366
Organizations	152
Communities	88

2009 HIV/AIDS POSTER CONTEST

The 2009 Peace Corps Armenia HIV/AIDS poster contest was a huge success with 61 students spanning forms 8-11, submitting their interpretation of the theme, “Understand the Situation. Respect Yourself. Protect Armenia.”

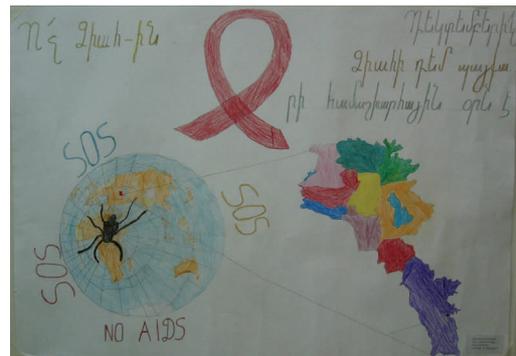
Students used a variety of media, ranging from pencil and paper to pastels. The December 12 opening at the Peace Corps office for guests, attendees and judges included representatives from UMCOR and Counterpart International. Meeting the goal of the project included raising HIV/AIDS awareness for students in over 12 villages.

The first and second prize winners will receive an HIV/AIDS awareness t-shirt designed by PC Volunteers Nick Hutchings and produced by Tom Coon. All participants will receive an HIV/AIDS information packet compiled by Daniel Lovell with resources from 5 local NGOs, and school or hygiene kits requested from UMCOR.

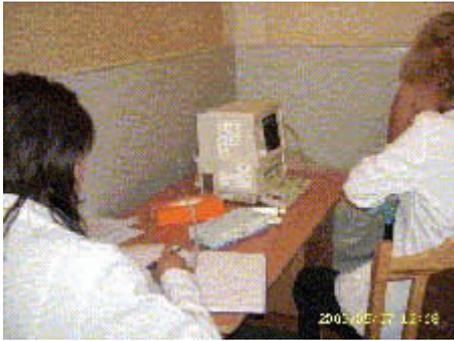
Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Initiative co-chair Vanessa Bowie celebrated the team effort of many volunteers who helped make the Poster Contest a reality. In her speech, she highlighted the work of A-16 EE Willa Brenowitz as director of advertising, who created the poster that was hung in schools all over Armenia; Terri Pohl for distributing the minutes; and the 12 volunteers whose schools submitted posters. Special thanks go to HIV/AIDS Initiative coordinator Susanna Yeghiazaryan for refreshments and Grace McSoley for her amazing American Snickerdoodle cookies! Many thanks to Hector Alarcon, Nick Hutchings, Willa Brenowitz and Vanessa Bowie for setting up posters in the PC office in preparation for the contest.

Volunteers will hold individual recognition events of student participants within their villages. The Kapan region, where Joe Heffron serves, had both the first and second place winners, while the Lori Region, where Brent Hines and Robby Robinette serve, had the two third place winners. Brent Hines of Stepanavan plans to continue HIV/AIDS awareness with his NGO by holding seminars in various regions throughout Armenia. Two seminars are scheduled for the Martuni region this spring.

-Vanessa Bowie (A-16 CHE Volunteer)



HEALTH EDUCATION VOLUNTEER IS WORKING TO SAVE LIVES IN BERD



Rebecca Tantama (A-16 CHE Volunteer) has worked with her local counterpart, Dr. Asya Mardayan, to raise breast cancer awareness through seminars and screenings in Berd. In November, Rebecca met with Khachanush Hakobyan, Director of the Armenian American Wellness Center NGO (AAWC) in Yerevan, to better understand how women in her community of Berd could benefit from mammogram screening. In Berd, Rebecca had encountered little to almost no awareness about breast cancer, and saw a real need for education and screening to help women catch any issues early, address them through medical care, and go on to live their lives. Breast cancer, when caught in the early stages, can be easily treated and – when caught early – women who undergo treatment have about a 90% survival rate. This number drops dramatically in later stages.

Rebecca began by addressing the lack of awareness through a series of educational seminars on breast cancer in ten locations in five villages. Over the course of 3 months, Rebecca and Dr. Asya Mardayan engaged over 400 women, educating them about all aspects of breast cancer, and the importance of getting screened (mammogram). At the end of that period of time, Rebecca and Dr. Mardayan were able to get the AAWC to visit Berd and do a series of free breast cancer screenings for women in the area. Over 209 women signed up for the screening, and out of that 112 came to be tested.

From those screenings, over a dozen women were referred for follow-up medical care.

Rebecca plans to continue her work, and continue to raise awareness and conduct screenings for women in her region.

- Rebecca Tantama (A-16 CHE Volunteer)

Community Health Education Program

GOAL 1 - Communities will have increased awareness of local conditions and issues that affect their health.

Objective 1.1

PCVs and counterparts have surveyed 10 communities using participatory tools to determine and prioritize their health and social needs and assets.

Objective 1.2

PCVs and their counterparts trained 10 service providers to design small community projects to address health and social issues.

GOAL 2 - Community educators will establish and strengthen sustainable public health education programs focusing on preventive health care practices and healthy lifestyle choices.

Objective 2.1

PCVs and their counterparts distinguished culturally and age appropriate health education materials to 195 community members.

Objective 2.2

PCVs and their counterparts conducted various health educational activities for 1,425 community members.

Objective 2.3

PCVs and their counterparts assisted 14 service providers in integrating and adapting health education materials into their regular curriculum and/or activities.

GOAL 3 - Existing organizations and/or programs will increase their capacity, and will be able to respond effectively to the changing health and social needs of the community.

Objective 3.1

PCVs and their counterparts conducted seminars, workshops, and/or training in organizational capacity skills for 11 local organizations.

Objective 3.2

PCVs and their counterparts support 8 organizations to use new skills, information, and other capacity to carry out health or social services

GOAL 4 - Community members will participate in community projects to gain skills to improve various aspects of their lives.

Objective 4.1

By the end of 2010 80 PCVs and their counterparts will have incorporated priority content themes in their health lessons and community projects for 2,000 community members.

CHE Totals

Total Project Participants

Individuals	9686
Service Provider s.	401
Organizations	152
Communities	152

GREEN CAMP

Peace Corps Volunteers in Armenia worked with Green Tavush NGO this summer to host another successful year of Green Camps. There were a total of 5 camps with each camp hosting 40 children ages 11-15. Three camps were held in Ijevan, and 2 were held in local villages of Artik and Bagratashen. The camps focused on bringing attention to environmental issues as well as learning about nature through active games and activities. Each camp, a week in length, gave the campers a chance to bond with their peers, come together, learn about the wonder and power of the natural environment, how important it is to protect and respect it, and ways they could make a difference in their own communities. As Peace Corps Volunteers, we brought motivated groups of kids from our communities to participate in one of the camps. Each camp had approximately 4-5 groups of kids from different areas in Armenia to help enhance the diversity and experience of the campers. In addition, each PCV was asked to bring an Armenian counterpart to the camps to help maximize the sustainability of the education, as well as help teach the lessons in Armenian. We saw excellent results this year, and hope to work alongside Green Tavush NGO and with some of the very dedicated and enthusiastic young Armenians for next summer's camps.

2nd SUNCHILD ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 25th marked the beginning of the 2nd Sunchild Environmental Film Festival. This film festival is held every other year, and is a one of a kind festival in this region of the world. On the first day of the festival, all the children that participate in Sunchild after school eco-clubs marched in a parade through Yerevan. All the children were responsible for making their own animal costume out of recycled material. As a volunteer working with an after school Sunchild eco-club in the village Urtsadzor, it was my responsibility (along with my Sunchild counterpart) to help prepare costumes with the children in the club. We turned garbage bags into bear costumes and from newspaper, plastic bags and cardboard came eagle costumes. The masks that the children wore were made from paper mache and decorated with paint. It was time consuming, but worth it to see it all come together. When we arrived in Yerevan on October 25th, we saw all the costumes from other eco-clubs. Sunchild has clubs in every Marz in Armenia, including Dilijan, Yeghenadzor and Sisian. We spotted some leopards, a large white owl, some turtles, frogs and porcupines. All the children's costumes were so creative, any observer could see how much effort was put into this event.

The parade started at the top of Mashtots Avenue and made it's way past the Opera, down Northern Avenue and ended up at the Moscow Cinema. At the theater, we were entertained by a short concert of traditional Armenian music along with a German troupe of carnival dancers in bright costumes.

The children especially liked the German dancers and were happy to get some photographs with them after the show. After the parade, most of the children went back to the village, but the festival continued until October 29th. Films were shown in many venues throughout Yerevan, including Moscow Cinema and the National Gallery of Armenia.

On Friday October 30th, prizes were given out and in the children's film category the Special Jury mention went to the film made by the eco-club in my village. The students in the club were very happy to receive this honor, as was the Sunchild coordinator that I work with, Manuk Manukyan. It was due to his and the children's effort this past summer that they received this honor and I am very happy for them. Overall, the festival was a fun way to learn about the environment for children and adults, and I believe it was a great success in building awareness about Armenia's environmental issues.



-Janet Best (A-17 EE)

Environmental Education Program

GOAL 1 - Educational institutions throughout Armenia will establish and/or strengthen their environmental education programs by introducing environmental education curricula and teacher trainings.

Objective 1

EE Volunteers and their counterparts assisted 33 Schools and organizations organize and implement environmental education activities and extra-curricular clubs in secondary schools to complement the curricula.

Objective 1.2

EE Volunteers and their counterparts have conducted or supported training in environmental education for 91 teachers and community members.

GOAL 2 - Educational institutions, environmental non-governmental organizations and community unions will protect their local environment by organizing and/or participating in projects and extra-curricular activities that raise environmental awareness and increase youth participation in community environmental stewardship.

Objective 2.1

EE Volunteers and their counterparts organized and implemented community environmental activities involving 133 volunteer participants from urban and rural communities.

Objective 2.2

EE Volunteers and their counterparts established 3 community youth watch groups to monitor environmental quality.

EE Totals

Total Project Participants

Individuals	7803
Service Providers	391
Organizations	47
Communities	85

Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program

ENGLISH CLUBS IN THE AMERICAN CORNERS

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Volunteers Lindee and Dustin Johnson have found English clubs can be about more than just English.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, Dustin and Lindee held English clubs for local youth. The clubs centered around providing interested participants with practical experience in writing and speaking English, and also in providing a forum for discussion on cultural issues and local subjects. The clubs began with just a few participants, but grew to over 35 individuals, who met every week. They began to form their own civil society group, and engaged the local community through volunteerism.

Dustin and Lindee mentored two youth from their clubs, who, in 2009, will head out to America on UGRAD scholarships. Another group of participants started their own English clubs to benefit other local youth in primary schools. Some participants are volunteering at local NGOs.

“Advocating for volunteerism has been very rewarding,” said Dustin regarding this work with the club. “We found that by opening up a forum for developing English skills for local youth, we opened a door for general development by nurturing our participants’ passions for personal and professional growth, and their communities and civil society in general.”

“Seeing these youth take an interest in their community, overcoming stereotypes and many local political, social and economic challenges, has inspired me. It’s funny when you enter into a situation thinking you’ll just be teaching, and end up learning.”

THE BERD POETRY FESTIVAL



October proved to be a busy month in the Shamshadin Region of Tavush Marz. Heather Mailander (A-16 TEFL) organized the October 2009 Poetry Festival for Berd and its surrounding communities. October 26th was the day students from Berd, Chin-Chin, Choraton, Artsvaberd and Verin Karmir

gathered to participate with their recitations that they had spent the last month working on and preparing.

The festival was inspired by fellow volunteer Marilyn Matt’s (A-16 TEFL) poetry festival that she organized in her sight of Hrazdan. Students were given poetry specific in length to their abilities and grade level. Interaction was encouraged between teachers and the students in preparation for the event. Students were expected to have their pieces memorized and be able to present it with poetic flow, individual interpretation, and expression. The goal of the Poetry Festival was to encourage a sense of community and sharing as all the students gathered from the local towns and villages to share what they had prepared.

The festival started bright and early on Monday the 26th at 10:00 am. Students started showing up by Marshutni and Taxi at 9:30 with their teachers, family and friends in tow. In the end there were about 50 students – a greater than expected turn out for the day. Local Volunteers Beth O’Neil, Megan Christy, Rosa Hensley and David Boggs accompanied their students, and Marilyn Matt herself was invited as a guest judge.

The students were very nervous and anxious as they were ushered into the dimly auditorium. They were all apprehensive about speaking in front of all these new people and strangers, but this experience would prove to be irreplaceable. One by one, grade by grade, the students took the stage to recite their poems for the audience. Results and remarks were gathered from the judges, and certificates were signed by Heather and David and presented to the students. The closing ceremony started with the presentation of certificates as each participant came up on stage to receive their award. The final surprise was 7 trophies awarded to the top students who had shown exceptional work in presentation, expression and interpretation.

The ultimate goal of the Berd Poetry Festival was to give students practice in a participatory and individual competition setting. The hope is to hold more competitions like this one and eventually branch out to a Marz-wide regional festival. The October 26th event was a way to give students experience and an idea of what to expect in the future. Hopefully there will be more events like this to come.

- By David Boggs (A-17 TEFL Volunteer)

VARDENIS STATE COLLEGE RENOVATION

On Wednesday, December 9, Vardenis State College saw a project come to fruition aided by the Peace Corps and USAID. The project originated with Connie Speake and her counterpart, Anna Mkrtchyan, an English teacher at the college. After Speake ended her service in Armenia in September, volunteers Wayne Burt (A-16 CHE) and Lora Davis (A-17 CBD) joined Mkrtchyan to lead the effort. Alongside wide-ranging and general renovation on the third floor of the college, the project involved obtaining new materials for the library, a Dewey Decimal System, vocational learning materials for beauticians and fashion designers, and space for a student cafeteria.



The project required much forethought and concerted energy. On her first day at Vardenis State College, Speake asked to see the college library, planning for future improvements. It seemed daunting at the onset, but motivation was plentiful. "I knew that it would take much effort, much work, but I knew we had to do it," said Mkrtchyan.

Indeed, the hard work paid off. College librarian Margarita Madoya was clearly happy with the project. "Everything is great about this library," she said.

The hard work was shouldered by several organizations. Funding was provided by the Peace Corps Partnership Program, which connects donors in the U.S. with projects in Armenia, and the USAID CHF Bridge Program, which teaches unskilled workers a trade while working on a

project such as the Vardenis State College renovation. College employees and students also played an invaluable role in the renovation, supplying guidance, input, and effort.

This most recent project only adds to the hard work that the College and Peace Corps have put into improving the facilities. Recently-completed projects include a modern computer & language learning lab and an inventive English language classroom. These facilities benefit a large number of students and community members.

While Speake was unable to physically see the final results of this project, her presence was still felt. When asked what project will be next, Mkrtchyan and Madoya turned to the library and indicated that they will remain committed to hosting a sustainable and efficient center. "There is no way, seeing [Connie's] passion, to not continue this project," said Mkrtchyan.

Vardenis State College is in the city of Vardenis, Gegharkunik Marz. It has an enrollment of 350 students studying vocational trades, languages, business, and education.

-Kyle Doran (A -17 TEFL Volunteer)

SPORTS EQUIPMENT FOR ARTSVABERD SECONDARY SCHOOL

In summer 2009, Artsvaberd Secondary School received a SPA grant to purchase sports equipment. Shortly afterward, Physical Education teacher Ashot Grigoryan, volunteer Heather Mailander, and counterpart Melsida Madyan used ranking tools to select the most desirable items and were able to obtain their equipment by the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

In the intervening months the equipment has already proven its worth. Participation in P.E. classes has increased - especially among female students - and there has been noticeable improvement in students' gymnastics, volleyball and football skills. The school hopes to do a sports carnival this spring with the continuing support of the mayor, whose help in all village projects has been instrumental.

-Heather Mailander, PCV A16 Artsvaberd

Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program

GOAL 1 - Learners of English throughout Armenia, both youth and adults, will develop and improve their English language communication and critical thinking skills through classroom instruction, extracurricular activities and self-evaluation.

Objective 1.1

Volunteers and their teaching counterparts have provided instruction in English language and critical thinking skills to 1,181 students in regular classroom settings.

Objective 1.2

PCVs and their teacher counterparts helped 1,554 students examine individual, civic, cultural, social, and environmental topics, through participation in English clubs and other extra-curricular activities including ICTs.

Objective 1.3

PCVs and their teacher counterparts taught 276 students strategies to evaluate themselves as part of their educational experience and created opportunities for these students for self-review and reflection.

GOAL 2 - English teachers throughout Armenia will improve English communication skills, teaching practices, methodologies and assessment program, through skills transferred from Volunteers.

Objective 2.1

PCVs interacted with 35 Armenian teachers through co-planning, informal meetings, social activities and team teaching and helped Armenian teachers improve their English communication skills.

Objective 2.2

PCVs sponsored teacher training workshops, seminar, conferences and trained 103 Armenian teachers to use new TEFL methodologies.

GOAL3 - Armenian English teachers will enhance existing English language curricula and assessment practices through the Volunteer/Counterpart production and/or acquisition of appropriate educational materials for schools and other local organizations.

Objective 3.1

PCVs collaborated with 28 teachers to create appropriate educational materials, using existing and new resources, including ICTs, and incorporate them into the existing English language curriculum.

Objective 3.2

PCVs collaborated with 231 teachers to acquire appropriate education materials training teachers on educational resource acquisition, adaptation, and implementation.

GOAL 4 - Communities will be strengthened through Volunteers' collaborative efforts with colleagues, NGOs, youth, parents, civic and business leaders and local community organizations, bringing community groups together to implement local, regional, national and international projects.

Objective 4.1

PCVs provided 243 community members a range of opportunities for developing personal and professional skills including English language practice, resume writing and computer training.

Objective 4.2

PCVs and their Armenian English teacher Counterparts organized educational events in 65 communities.

TEFL Totals

Total Project Participants

Individuals	3653
Service Providers	299
Organizations	132
Communities	149



IN THE NEWS

Memorandum of Understanding Signed with the Ministry of Economy

On August 7, 2009, Lee Lacy, US Peace Corps (PC) Armenia Country Director, Stepan Shoyan, Community and Business Development Program Manager and several PC Volunteers met Nerses Yeritsyan, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia.



During the meeting a three-year Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Economy and US Peace Corps Armenia.

The memorandum defined the framework of

collaboration between Ministry of Economy and US Peace Corps aiming at fulfilling Community and Business Development programs of Peace Corps Armenian office, improving the business circles training in Armenia, as well as business and community development. After signing the Memorandum Nerses Yeritsyan presented to the guests the infrastructural programs (particularly, Gyumri techno city construction, Jermuk resort centre establishment and other programs) developed by RoA Government where Peace Corps volunteers support would be appreciative and useful.

In her turn Ms. Lee Lacy assured the Minister of Peace Corps Armenia's readiness to provide support to these

Peace Corps Armenia Swears in the A 17 Group of Volunteers

On August 13, 2009, U.S. Peace Corps Armenia conducted the Swearing In Ceremony held in Charentsevan for the 17th group of Volunteers serving Armenia. This year 44 new Peace Corps Volunteers were sworn in by Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch. In her address to the audience Ambassador Yovanovitch stated, "Peace Corps Volunteers significantly contribute to the good will between the United States and Armenia."

Director Lee Lacy recognized the 44 Trainees and acknowledged the excellent support provided by the Pre-Service Training staff, the core Staff, and the many Volunteer host families that attended the event. During the event the Trainees demonstrated their knowledge of Armenian language by singing Armenian songs, giving speeches, and performing an Armenian theatre classic. Representatives of government ministries, the governor of Kotayk Marz, the city mayor of Charentsevan, and other representatives from international and local organizations were invited to the well attended ceremony. With the addition of this new group, there are a total of 79 volunteers working in schools, universities, NGOs, and health facilities throughout Armenia.

Meeting with the Minister of Education

On July 27, 2009, Peace Corps Country Director Lee Lacy, Programming and Training Officer Nicholas Bruno and English Education Program Manager Gayane Zargaryan had a business meeting with Armen Ashotyan, the Minister of Education of the Republic of Armenia.

The meeting was aimed to give a picture of what Peace Corps Volunteers in Armenia do, to describe our mission project and placement of Volunteers.

Mr. A. Ashotyan mentioned that international organizations often give the priority to the issues related to Education.

Participants discussed areas of future collaboration.

Peace Corps Armenia Held 11th Annual Development Fair

The 11th Annual Peace Corps Armenia Development Fair was held on November 24th at Hrazdan Hotel.

The goal of the event was to promote cooperation and collaboration between PC Volunteers and development organizations, particularly in the four areas of Peace Corps programs: English Language Education, Business and Community Development, Health Education, and Environmental Education.

Peace Corps Volunteers met with the representatives of the invited organizations, learned about their programs and activities and shared information for future collaboration. It was very successful event this year.



The picture is taken by Yerevan Aarhus Center



IN THE NEWS

PEACE CORPS ARMENIA CELEBRATES PEACE CORPS WEEK FROM FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 1



Peace Corps Armenia celebrated PC week from February 23-March 1. The first event of the week was the award ceremony for the 2nd annual Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. Volunteers nominated Host Country National counterparts and community partners for their exceptional volunteer work within their communities all over Armenia. This year, five awards were presented by Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch. The winners of the 2009 awards are: Anahit Mkhoyan, Gyumri; Anna Mkrtychyan, Vardenis; Kristine Sahakyan, Lejan; Liana Sahakyan, Goris; Alita Sahakyan, Vardenik and Peace Corps Volunteer in Gyumri – Elizabeth Pou.

Out of all the PC week events, the biggest ones were in Sevan and Gyumri and some of its villages:

In Sevan, Peace Corps Volunteers from Sevan, Gavar, Martuni and Charentsavan gathered at Sevan's Cultural Center to celebrate Peace Corps Week with the people of Sevan. They shared pictures, food and music from America.



In Gyumri, Peace Corps volunteers in the Shirak region held a meeting on Thursday, February 26 at the American Corners. Activities at the meeting included a short film about the early days of Peace Corps, remarks from the current volunteers and a panel of local Armenians discussing volunteerism and its effect on themselves and their community.



On Wednesday, February 25 and Friday, February 27, the volunteers presented a games carnival for students at two village schools, Getk and Mets Sepsar.

On Saturday, February 28th, the local Peace Corps volunteers visited the Huis Orphanage, where they conducted a cooking session with the children, taught them how to bake chocolate chip cookies, a popular American snack.

54.5 % of all Peace Corps Armenia Volunteers directly participated in the organization. Over 850 Host Country Nationals, 6 hub communities and 8 branch communities benefited through Volunteer-initiated outreach activities and events during Peace Corps Week.

Photos are provided by the US Embassy and PC Volunteers



This journal is not intended to cover all volunteer activities, and merely represents a snapshot of Peace Corps Armenia's in-country programs and activities.

For more information about Peace Corps Armenia, its activities, its volunteers, its programs or related information, please contact Mariam Arzumanyan at 010-524-450.

Staff

LEE LACY | Country Director
AMY LARSEN | Administrative Officer
NICK BRUNO | Program and Training Officer
NUNE KARAPETYAN | Medical Officer
ANNA ARZUMANYAN | Medical Officer
GAYANE ZARGARYAN | TEFL Program Manager
SUSANNA YEGHIAZARYAN | CHE Program Manager
STEPAN SHOYAN | CBD Program Manager
ARMEN TIRATURYAN | EE Program Manager
LIANA AMIRBEKYAN | Training Manager
ARMINE KOCHARYAN | Language Coordinator
VAHAGN TONOYAN | Safety and Security Coordinator
MARIAM ARZUMANYAN | Executive Assistant/Public Relations Coordinator

Contact

US Peace Corps | 33 Charents Street | Yerevan 0025 | Republic of Armenia
Phone [37410] 524.450 [37410] 562.565
Fax [37410] 557.991
E-mail pcarmenia@am.peacecorps.gov
Websites www.peacecorps.gov
www.usa.am/peacecorps.php