

The Mission of the Peace Corps

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.

To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

History

Peace Corps officially established:	March 1, 1961
Total number of volunteers and trainees to date:	170,000
Total number of countries served:	137

Current Director

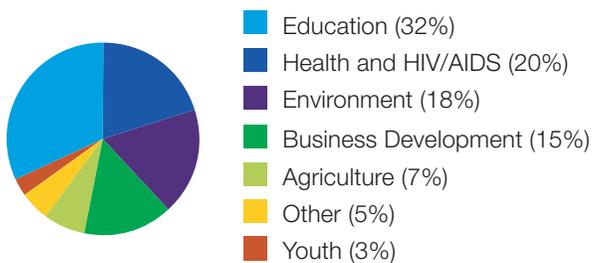
Gaddi H. Vasquez

Current Volunteers

Volunteers and trainees:	7,533
Gender:	59% female, 41% male
Marital status:	90% single, 10% married
Minorities:	15% of volunteers
Age:	Average—28 years old Median—25 years old
Volunteers over 50:	6% of volunteers (oldest volunteer is 81)
Education:	83% have undergraduate degrees; 14% have graduate studies or degrees

Countries and Sectors

Current number of countries served: 71



Budget

Fiscal year 2004: \$308 million

Notable Returned Volunteers

- Lillian Baer, Founder, Africa Consultants International, Baobab Training and Research Center (Côte d'Ivoire, 1966-68)
- Patricia Buckles, Peru Mission Director, USAID (Guatemala, 1973-77)
- Johnnie Carson, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya (Tanzania, 1965-68)
- Patricia Cloherty, Chairman, U.S. Russia Investment Fund (Brazil, 1963-65)
- Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. (Dominican Republic, 1966-68)
- Jim Doyle, Governor of Wisconsin (Tunisia, 1967-69)
- Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif. (Colombia, 1964-66)
- Robert Patrick Finn, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan (Turkey, 1967-69)
- Thomas Gouttierre, Dean of International Studies and Director, Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska—Omaha (Afghanistan, 1965-67)
- David Greenlee, U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia (Bolivia, 1965-67)
- Robert Haas, Chairman of the Board, Levi Strauss (Côte d'Ivoire, 1964-66)
- Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif. (El Salvador, 1965-67)
- Edmund J. Hull, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen (Morocco, 1971-73)
- Alberto Ibarguen, Publisher, *Miami Herald* (Venezuela, 1966-68)
- Darryl Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand (Thailand, 1962-65)
- Christopher Matthews, Journalist (Swaziland, 1968-70)
- M. Peter McPherson, President, Michigan State University (Peru, 1964-66)
- Larry Palmer, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras (Liberia, 1970-72)
- Rep. Thomas Petri, R-Wis. (Somalia, 1966-67)
- Michelle Press, Managing Editor, *Scientific American* (Malawi, 1962-64)
- Donald J. Putrimas, Vice President, Warner Bros. (Brazil, 1976-78)
- Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. (Fiji, 1968-70)
- Robert Taft, Governor of Ohio (Tanzania, 1963-65)
- Mildred Taylor, Author of the 1977 Newbery Award-winning *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (Ethiopia, 1965-67)
- Bob Vila, Television Personality (Panama, 1969-70)
- Rep. James Walsh, R-N.Y. (Nepal, 1970-72)
- Priscilla Wrubel, Founder, Nature Company (Liberia, 1961-63)

Contact

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