



PEACE CORPS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



**ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER/2010**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

2010 marks the 17th year anniversary of Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic. Since 1993, more than 800 American Volunteers have worked in partnership with the people of Kyrgyzstan.

The Peace Corps is in the Kyrgyz Republic at the invitation of the Kyrgyz government. Our Volunteers teach side by side with local teachers to improve English language education, promote healthy communities, help build strong local community organizations and businesses, and assist local government agencies.

Volunteers who come to the Kyrgyz Republic spend 27 months living side by side with local people in cities, towns and villages. These Volunteers range in age from 21 to 80 years old. Some are recent university graduates and others are mid-career professionals or pensioners who come to country wanting to both share their experiences and learn from the people of Kyrgyzstan.

Volunteers share their skills and knowledge with their counterparts and host families and help pave the way for countless individuals who want to build better lives. Peace Corps Volunteers also help build a better understanding between the people of the United States and the people of the Kyrgyz Republic through the cultural exchange that occurs by their presence in Kyrgyzstani communities, and by the knowledge of Kyrgyzstani life, culture and history that they pass on to their fellow Americans once they return to the United States.

All of us associated with Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic, both staff and Volunteers, share a commitment to the success of the country.

Respectfully,



Seth G. Fearey

Country Director

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To Be a Volunteer

- Volunteers agree to serve for 27 months, which includes an average of three months of in-country training and 24 months of Volunteer service.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to community service, leadership experience, and a willingness to learn a new language.
- Volunteers receive a living allowance that covers housing, food, and incidentals, enabling them to live in a manner similar to people in their local communities.
- Volunteers must successfully complete a rigorous training program that includes learning technical skills, the local culture, and the language that is most appropriate for their site.

OVERVIEW OF GLOBAL PEACE CORPS

The Peace Corps is an independent U.S. Government agency that provides Volunteers to countries requesting assistance around the world. The agency traces its roots and mission to 1960, when Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. Thus, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy officially established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship, and that mission has not changed. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries. Today the U.S. Peace Corps is working in 76 countries around the world with more than 7,671 Volunteers, the largest numbers of countries served and Volunteers serving in 30 years. Peace Corps Volunteers around the world are committed to grassroots development by working and living hand-in-hand with local people of countries served in order to achieve the agency's three goals. Those goals are as relevant today as they were nearly 50 years ago:

- Helping people of interested countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women.
- Helping to promote a better understanding of American people on the part of the peoples served.
- Helping to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of American people.

Volunteers around the world share their time and talents by serving for a two-year commitment to work as teachers, business advisors, youth development specialists, information and technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators and agriculture and environment workers. These Volunteers are women and men, young and old, married and single, and come from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. They are committed to learning from their host families and partners and integrating themselves into the culture of the country where they serve as well as participating in community designed development and service projects. All Volunteers serve at the invitation of the host country government and work in partnership with a host agency. Funding for the Peace Corps programs around the world is allocated by the United States Congress and comes from the taxes paid by individual American citizens.

The Peace Corps Today

Peace Corps Director:

Aaron S. Williams

Host countries:

77

Volunteers and Trainees:

8,655

Gender:

60% female, 40% male

Marital status:

93% single, 7% married

Minorities:

19% of Volunteers

Average age:

28

Volunteers over 50:

7% of Volunteers

Education:

90% have undergraduate degree

Peace Corps Approach to Development

The word “development” is used in so many ways that it has come to mean different things to different people. Some speak of housing developments or the development of infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. Others speak of the economic development of countries. The Peace Corps uses the term “development” in human, people-to-people terms: helping people develop the ability to improve their own lives. By working within a human capacity-building framework, Volunteers focus on developing people, not things. The Peace Corps is not a grant making organization; our contribution is the energy, skills, and enthusiasm of our Volunteers, young and old. Our approach focuses on empowering local people to be their own decision-makers and develop the skills they need to carry out those decisions and improve their lives. The legacy of the Volunteers is the skills they transfer and the memories of living and working with people of other cultures.



Volunteers in the Kyrgyz Republic

Officially opened on:

November 5, 1993

Volunteers:

80

Gender:

51% female, 49% male

Marital status:

93% single, 7% married

Minorities:

24% of Volunteers

Average age:

25

Volunteers over 50:

2% of Volunteers

Education:

89% have an undergraduate degree

Partners

Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic

State Agency of Social Care under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

Ministry of Health Care of the Kyrgyz Republic

Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic

THE PEACE CORPS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

It has been 17 years since the United States Peace Corps opened in the Kyrgyz Republic in 1993 with an official country agreement signed between the governments of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States of America. In that time, more than 800 Peace Corps Volunteers have helped over 100,000 people learn English, develop management and leadership skills, engage in environmental protection and build healthy lifestyles. The government to government agreement establishes the principal worksites of Volunteers as secondary schools, higher academic institutions, municipal and non-governmental health and environmental agencies and small and medium-size business organizations. The many generations of Volunteers that have served the country have also carried out successful projects in teacher training and HIV/AIDS prevention. These Volunteers helped strengthen community participation by teaching teachers advanced teaching methods and promoting critical thinking, leadership, project planning and implementation, gender education, computers and Internet technology. Volunteers work closely with local counterparts; they do not replace members of the staff.

Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic has three main programs:

- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
- Sustainable Organizational and Community Development (SOCD)
- Health Education (HE)

An important theme that underlies many of our programs is a focus on developing youth. Most Volunteers work in secondary schools, participate in summer and winter camps, and teach young people about health, including how to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

All Volunteers receive technical training in their program. They learn a language, Kyrgyz or Russian according to where they will be posted, and study Kyrgyz culture.

Peace Corps Volunteers presently work in 120 towns and villages in four Oblasts: Talas, Chui, Issyk-Kol and Naryn. The program particularly seeks sites in small or economically disadvantaged areas.

By working both in rural and urban communities, the Peace Corps is able to maximize its potential in the country with a limited amount of human and financial resources.



Towns and villages, where U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers have served

Investment



In a typical year, Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic spends about \$ 1.4 million in the country. Much of these funds go to Volunteers to pay host families for food and housing. Other funds go to hotels and transportation services for training events and to staff. The staff of 35 host country nationals includes trainers, program managers, accountants, doctors, facilities operations, an information systems specialist, guards, drivers, and Volunteer support personnel. Staff members receive continuing training from the Peace Corps, often including travel to other countries. The Peace Corps also provides training in educational techniques for local language and cultural trainers, and in project management and in fund raising for counterparts. In addition, Peace Corps Volunteers help their communities and partner organizations apply for grants to fund school renovations, libraries, computer technology, summer camps, and more. Grants also help fund training programs for counterparts. Such programs brought an additional \$78,000 into the country in 2009.



CORE PROGRAMS

English Language Education

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has experienced difficult economic conditions and a lack of resources to support a transition to a market economy. Because English language skills can provide Kyrgyzstani citizens opportunities to further their education, advance careers, and access the information and technology needed to stay up-to-date with developments in all fields, the Ministry of Education has determined that English must play an important role in schools. Therefore, the Ministry has invited the Peace Corps to help build the capacity and skills of local English teachers in rural areas.

The TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Program develops the English language skills of students and teachers. Peace Corps Volunteers work as team teachers and teacher trainers, bringing resources and methodologies to the local education system and fostering teacher-to-teacher links to promote the exchange of information on the best teaching methods. Since inception in 1993, more than 530 TEFL Volunteers have served as teachers at 189 secondary schools and 15 regional universities.



Many TEFL Volunteers provide assistance to their schools and communities in establishing or expanding English teaching resource centers, contributing to curriculum development, and production of innovative teaching materials. During the school breaks in summer and winter, TEFL Volunteers help organize and lead language and sports camps for Kyrgyz youth. When school is in session, they lead English clubs, assist with in-service teacher training, sponsor student newspapers and direct drama performances. They also organize essay and debate contests as well as share information on health topics, information technology, gender issues and other subjects through their English lessons and extra-curricular activities with their students.

TEFL Volunteers work toward four goals:





- **Resource Development.** Help counterparts and students acquire, adapt, or develop, communicative English language teaching resources to support and implement the national curriculum.
- **Instruction.** Help students improve their English language and critical thinking skills through formal and informal interactions with Peace Corps Volunteers.
- **Capacity Building.** Train English language teachers in communicative teaching methods to encourage student-centered participatory learning and critical thinking.
- **Community Development.** Work with community members to identify local needs and develop projects to address them.

These goals were agreed on in an official Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States Peace Corps that was renewed and signed in 2006.





TEFL Program Accomplishments

- Fifty-three TEFL Volunteers team taught English and related subjects to approximately 2,700 students at 70 secondary schools.
- Five TEFL University Volunteers team taught 500 students at universities through the creation of an interactive learning environment and use of contemporary methods and materials.
- Twelve Volunteers and counterparts created visual aids and team-teaching lesson plans based on the 8th grade curriculum during the summer break in 2010 and enhanced communication abilities of students as well as encouraged independent thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Forty Volunteers actively participated in teacher training by planning and conducting methodological seminars promoting the use of the communicative approach to foreign language instruction in Naryn, Talas, Issyk-Kul and Chui regions.
- Five Volunteers supported their sites in an effort to improve English language education by establishing teacher development resource centers equipped with modern resources and technology.
- Many school students successfully enrolled in international education exchange programs at internationally recognized universities abroad.
- Thirty Volunteers conducted teacher trainings at different regions throughout Kyrgyzstan in 2010.
- The "Forum" newsletter was developed in the English language at Naryn State University to give local students and teachers opportunities to develop press writing skills in English.
- Schools and universities enriched their libraries by getting books from external resources such as the Darien Book Aid Plan, Oxford University Press and the Rotary Club.

Community Development Projects

- Volunteers organized 16 summer life skills building camps throughout the country for over 500 children to promote youth leadership, volunteerism, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, gender issues, problem solving and decision-making skills.
- More than 200 secondary school students were exposed to community awareness issues during summer schools and environmental campaigns implemented in 2010.
- Peace Corps Volunteers and their hosting organizations in the recreational territories of Issyk-Kul conducted environmental awareness campaigns, motivating residents to adopt new behaviors.
- One Volunteer connected his village to a donor organization which provided free glasses for the visually impaired.





Sustainable Organizational & Community Development (SOCD)

Since independence, more than 8,000 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have sprung up in the Kyrgyz Republic to address social problems and community needs. Because they represent a significant force and may themselves lack sufficient resources, the Ministry of Labor has asked the Peace Corps to place Volunteers in selected institutions as business advisors and organization developers.

Today SOCD Volunteers work with NGOs, municipal government organizations and businesses. They promote social and economic development at the grassroots level.

SOCD program goals are to:

- increase the capacity of individual community members and service providers,
- assist local institutions in achieving organizational sustainability, and
- foster cross-sector cooperation between NGOs, government entities and private enterprises.



The program strengthens cooperation between local community members and organizations, and enables them to more effectively assess, plan and implement community, social and economic development projects that will improve their quality of life.

The program has three main goals:

- **Individual Professional Development.** Develop and strengthen the professional skills of counterparts in organizations, communities and municipal agencies to increase their future opportunities.
- **Organizational Development.** Improve the quality of the services community-based organizations provide by strengthening their organizational structures and planning abilities.
- **Community Development.** Work with community-based organizations, local businesses and governmental organizations to conduct community assessments. Develop and implement projects that promote community engagement and achieve locally identified goals.





SOCD Accomplishments

- Six Volunteers conducted workshops and training on how to develop formal mission and vision statements, and organizational goals for the Senior Staff members of their organizations.
- One Volunteer helped a women's cooperative acquire certification to accept Visa credit cards so they could accept payments over the Internet
- One Volunteer mobilized scores of villagers to plant 350 fruit trees.
- One Volunteer organized fundraising and advised on building a greenhouse which later became an income generation project for the organization.
- Two Volunteers and their counterparts developed marketing plans for their organizations.
- Four Volunteers created information, advertising booklets and brochures to introduce activities for potential clients, donors and sponsors of their organizations.
- Five Volunteers and their counterparts developed new partnerships with five community organizations.
- Three Volunteers developed or updated websites for their organizations and trained local staff how to maintain them. They also trained them on how to create and implement an electronic inventory system.
- Six Volunteers trained their staff and community members on grant writing and project design.
- One Volunteer organized five workshops for 80 women in natural dyeing techniques at a rural handicrafts outlet using locally available materials. This saved the organizations the costs of importing artificial dyes that are potentially environmentally hazardous.





Health Education (HE)

The Ministry of Health (MOH) seeks to create a sustainable public healthcare system while simultaneously strengthening and integrating priority programs such as tuberculosis prevention, reproductive health, child health and wellness, prevention of cardio-vascular diseases and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. After launching its national health reform program, the MOH invited the Peace Corps to participate in health education efforts at the village level to build the training capacity of local leaders.

Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic welcomed the first group of Health Volunteers in 2007. They work in health education and promotion with provincial health departments, health promoting schools, and NGOs. The Health Education Program strives to increase the awareness and understanding of healthy lifestyles and practices among the people of the Kyrgyz Republic. This can be achieved by building the professional capacity of trained health professionals and educators in the Kyrgyz Republic, by improving access to health information and community awareness programs, and by establishing preventive health practices. In addition, the project supports government and non-government initiatives which promote healthy lifestyles and educates communities on issues of health that affect them.

Health Education Volunteers work with a wide variety of organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic. Some Volunteers work at the regional or grassroots level in health promotion units in towns or villages across the country. Others work in health institutions, local health-promotion schools, NGOs or other health-focused community-based organizations. All Volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a Peace Corps initiative to teach life skills to teachers, students and youth. They work at schools, youth service centers or community groups providing education and building awareness on health issues.

The program has three main goals:

- **Health Promotion.** Adults, youth, and children of the Kyrgyz Republic have greater access to quality preventive health information that promotes positive health practices.





- **Building Capacity.** Service providers increase their capacity to promote healthy practices that respond to the changing health and social needs of Kyrgyzstan.
- **Healthy Lifestyles.** Communities are actively engaged in activities that promote healthy lifestyles and practices.



HE Accomplishments

- Volunteers taught health classes on a broad variety of health topics including hygiene, hand washing, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, infectious diseases, smoking, alcohol and depression. More than 800 children, youth and adults participated in classes.
- Two Volunteers organized puppet shows for performances to disabled children about healthy lifestyles.
- Two Volunteers and a local partner hosted a two-day *Save Your Teeth* seminar for ten motivated secondary school students. During the seminar they discussed peer education concepts and what it means to be a volunteer and mentor for others. They learned dental health and proper tooth-brushing techniques and shared it with others. As a result of this peer teaching, 275 other students learned dental care skills.
- Three Volunteers ran fitness, yoga and sports (basketball and volleyball) clubs for people in their communities, including school students and co-workers.
- Two Volunteers developed mural art projects for village children on HIV prevention.
- Eight health Volunteers developed and improved lesson plans using the local language on health topics that included reproduction, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases, spreading germs, teeth brushing, nutrition, alcohol, hygiene, fever, shock, seizures, heat emergencies, frostbite, hypothermia, bleeding control, cleaning wounds and burns and depression.
- Three Volunteers took part in a training of trainers seminar on using community theater to heighten awareness of health and conflict resolution issues.
- Four Volunteers organized beach clean-ups in Issyk-Kul.



CROSS CUTTING PROGRAMS

HIV/AIDS Prevention

In 2007, Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic began implementing the PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) HIV/AIDS prevention program to prevent new HIV infections and support care and treatment for people living with

HIV/AIDS. Since then, funding has increased, from \$ 20,000 to \$ 125,000. These funds support Volunteers' and their counterparts' joint efforts to raise awareness and combat major misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. A special focus is on young people living in small towns and villages.



Using PEPFAR resources, the Peace Corps/Kyrgyz Republic program aims to contribute to the Kyrgyz National Strategic Program on HIV/AIDS by empowering communities to implement HIV education programs focused especially on youth and educators in small towns and villages throughout Kyrgyz Republic.

PEPFAR activities include:

- Conducting training for students, parents, school teachers and nurses.
- Organizing community-wide events, such as HIV awareness concerts, World AIDS Day programs, planting trees in memory of those who died of AIDS, organizing HIV-themed marathons, and creating murals on buildings.
- Organizing local HIV training centers run by host country national service providers who have gone through HIV training. Besides literature on HIV, these centers offer regular training to students and teachers on topics related to HIV and healthy lifestyles.
- Creating youth peer educator clubs to discuss HIV and healthy lifestyles.
- Organizing drama performances for youth.
- Setting up information tents and organizing mobile consultation points.
- Holding HIV-related summer camps.



HIV/AIDS Accomplishments

- Three Volunteer-led training-of-trainers seminars on HIV prevention for Peace Corps Volunteers and their local counterparts. They organized summer projects funded at an average of \$2,000 each.
- Seven Volunteers and their counterparts educated 525 youth on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention through peer education seminars at local universities, schools and clubs. The focus of the seminars using the *Life Skills* approach was to dispel local myths about the transmission of HIV/AIDS and raise HIV awareness.
- Two Volunteers participated in an HIV school outreach program that informally taught secondary school students HIV health topics. Tables and tents were set up at Osh city schools and Volunteers and counterparts were stationed at them to an HIV trivia game for students who visited. As a result, 150 school students increased their knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and its prevention.
- Five Volunteers helped their organizations prepare and organize Youth Day, Volunteers Day, Mountain Day, Earth Day and Sports Competition Day events. In these outreach projects, different aged students from different schools came to participate in activities such as a basketball tournament, physical fitness activities and other games. Kids and teens received prizes. All activities were aimed at increasing children's knowledge about these specific days and promoting exercise as a healthy lifestyle technique.

Community Development

The Small Project Assistance (SPA) program provides support for small-scale community grants and targeted skills training for men, women, boys, and girls in grassroots organizations and communities around the world. The program is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps, originally established in 1983.





The SPA program increases the capacity of local communities to conduct low-cost, grassroots level, sustainable, development. The program works toward this objective through grants and field assistance. Grants provide small sums of capital for community-initiated, sustainable, projects through a competitive process designed to select the most feasible and sustainable projects. To enhance the sustainability of these small projects, skills training can be provided to host country and community counterparts through targeted training workshops. In 2009, with the aid of almost \$30,000 in SPA funds, Volunteers and their counterparts helped community organizations implement projects that improve facilities, repair unsanitary conditions, improve health, address environmental issues, promote the safety of the children, and enhance the training capabilities of hospitals, kindergartens and secondary schools. Community members helped build two outhouses, one for a school and one for an elder house, and three playgrounds. In addition, a hospital conference room and a school for children with disabilities were renovated. More than 50 English language resource centers have been developed through SPA funds over the last 5 years.



The **Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP)** connects interested groups or individuals to the pressing needs in developing communities where Peace Corps Volunteers serve. The Partnership Program does not directly fund projects, but serves as a link to groups, foundations, service organizations, and individuals wanting to contribute to the valuable work Volunteers do within their host communities. Grants average \$2,500 and range in size from a few hundred dollars to ten thousand dollars.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, over 150 PCPP projects have been implemented in the last five years. The majority of the projects were directed towards creating English language resource centers, youth centers and American culture centers. Volunteers also conducted environment clean-up events, boys and girls summer leadership camps and teacher training workshops. In 2009, \$30,900 in grants helped fund projects in business development, a barn cooperative, a women's sewing cooperative and a greenhouse.



Gender in Development

The Women in Development (WID) committee of Volunteers was first formed in June of 2005 in Peace Corps/Kyrgyz Republic. In recent years it has come to be known as the WID/GAD committee to reflect the recognition that men's and women's issues are inter-related, adding Gender in Development (GAD).

Peace Corps Volunteers have taken an active stance in working with host country nationals to explore how gender issues affect development in the Kyrgyz Republic and disseminating useful information to fellow Volunteers.

One of the most useful ways to pass along information is through project booklets. For example, the Bride Kidnapping Toolkit was distributed to every member of one Volunteer group along with an orientation session. These booklets contain information and history on non-consensual bride kidnapping, a still common, though outlawed practice, in rural Kyrgyzstan. It also contains lesson plans, multimedia tools and tips on how to approach discussions on this sensitive subject. This toolkit was developed by local Kyrgyz people and Volunteers. It has been shared through the WID/GAD network of Peace Corps.



Volunteers have sponsored many girls' leadership camps geared towards empowering and educating Kyrgyz girls. In the same vein Volunteers have successfully conducted boys' leadership camps to examine boys' leadership issues and how boys and girls can relate in respectful ways. Other camps involving WID/GAD themes have included healthy choices camps dealing with nutrition, health, hygiene, drugs, alcohol, and how to make informed choices regarding these issues. Camps revolving around HIV/AIDS education and outreach also accomplish WID/GAD goals.

Many Volunteers find success in starting clubs centering on gender issues in their communities. Girl's clubs, boy's clubs, men's clubs, and women's clubs can provide host country nationals with a comfortable environment to discuss sensitive topics like non-consensual bride kidnapping and traditional gender roles. These are also good places to speak about health and nutrition, as well as drugs, alcohol, and even safe sex and sexually transmitted diseases. A perennial event





that Volunteers host is Take Our Daughters to Work Day and its counterpart, Take Our Sons to Work Day. This is a day where Volunteers arrange for local students to meet with men and women in many professions including doctors, lawyers, fashion designers, translators, business men and women and many more. Students shadow a person in a career that interests them for a day, who in turn can facilitate greater interest and passion to pursue a career path. It can also expose girls and boys to men and women working in careers outside traditional gender roles.

Future projects include developing resource materials such as the Mentoring Boys Toolkit. It will contain lesson plans for conducting boy's and men's clubs, information on the role of men and boys in gender equality and how men and women are viewed as partners.





Volunteers Share Their Stories

Community Clean Up Project

Dawn Maker, K-16 Health Volunteer, Issyk-Kul oblast

My village health organization and I wrote a PCPP grant to conduct an environmental clean-up day in my village. With the grant we purchased T-shirts, baseball caps, food, gasoline, trash bags and gloves for the students and workers that would be participating. We decided on a date in early September. Although the day was cold and rainy, the participants did an outstanding job and made the project a success.

Health/Life Skills Camp

Michael Tran, K-16 Health Volunteer, Issyk-Kul Oblast

In July 2009, my organization and I held a summer camp to provide youth with an entertaining and educational opportunity to become trainers and to learn about life skills, the environment, health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention and nutrition in a warm, safe environment. Using peer education techniques we also taught them how to implement their own community service project for a hands-on experience. We provided Volunteers with an opportunity to work with community members to organize and conduct a summer camp that addresses critical needs for the targeted youth population. The camp was a SPA project which sought to involve the community and beneficiaries in project planning, implementation and evaluation, determine what the community wants to do, problem analysis and selection of a cause that the community can work on and assign tasks and roles to qualified persons.

Teacher Training Experience

Katie Guthro, K-16 TEFL Teacher Trainer Volunteer, Issyk-Kul Oblast

The main idea of our teacher-training workshops was to develop leadership and organizational skills among FORUM members, to give more experienced English teachers an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and to create a chance for city and village English teachers to collaborate and improve their teaching skills. Over the summer, my counterpart went to the rayon centers to meet with the heads of the education departments to explain our goals for teacher training and receive support for a venue, permission for teachers to attend and assistance with tea breaks. We also ran a training-of-trainers seminar



on how to run training sessions to be an effective teacher trainer. At the end of the summer, the training workshops were advertised to the teachers and we began them in September, 2009. Now, twice a month English teachers come together to learn new methods of teaching, share ideas for the classroom and find a support group among colleagues. The greatest behavior change is in the teacher trainers from the university. I can see their confidence growing as they present new and useful information to their peers. In all, I believe the project is a success and I look forward to see what a full year of teacher training workshops will bring.

Web Site Launch Project

Bradley Pribe, K-17 SOCD Volunteer, Naryn oblast

Currently in Kyrgyzstan, the Internet is recognized as an invaluable tool for gathering information and marketing and selling local products. I helped my organization the Naryn Education Center (NEC) develop a web site that promotes U.S. study abroad scholarships and programs. The organization focuses on assisting students and other interested individuals in acquiring the skills necessary to study in the U.S. I took care of the technological aspects of designing the site while my co-workers provided the content. This content includes information on NEC, the services it provides, a database of U.S. study abroad opportunities, and a list of websites for further information. Now we are able to market the organization to universities and colleges in the U.S. Additionally, I have trained my counterpart on how to update the content of the site and upload it on the Internet. It has been so successful that a second organization that sells Kyrgyz handicrafts to an international market asked for my technical help so that they could use their web site as an online marketing and sales tool. The Altyn Kol Women's Handicraft Cooperative, now has a new site (www.altyn-kol.com) that represents the current direction of their organization to increase sales online by updating information and making price changes. Both organizations are happy with their sites and excited at present and future possibilities being online can provide them.

The Peace Corps is a non-political and non-religious organization of the U.S. Government that seeks to promote peace and friendship among peoples of different nationalities and cultures. For almost five decades, Peace Corps has provided technical assistance in 139 countries through the implementation of programs in education, business development, environmental protection, agriculture, and health. In 2011 the Peace Corps will celebrate its 50th year anniversary.

This report is not intended to cover all activities implemented by the Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic and merely represents a key snapshot of Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic in-country programs and activities.

For more information about Peace Corps Kyrgyz Republic, please contact Mahabat Sultanbekova, External Resources Coordinator at 996-312-650-494 x103.

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