

Southern Arizona Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Group – “Desert Doves” 2009 Narrative Report

2009 Leadership Team

President: Stephanie Springer

Vice-President: Carrie Presnall

Treasurer/Membership: Kara Jones

Co-Social Chairs: Mary Ann Ahrens and Richard Roth

Peace Corps Partnership Coordinator: Debbie Curley

Community Service Coordinator: Aaron Banas

Community Advocacy Coordinator: Gwen Woods

2009 Summary of Activities

The Southern Arizona Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Group, also known locally as the “Desert Doves,” is based in Tucson, but includes members from throughout southern Arizona. The group’s purpose is three-fold: to provide a great social network for RPCVs, to engage members in community service activities, and to provide financial support to Peace Corps partnership projects abroad.

To facilitate the first goal, the Doves have get-togethers every month. We alternate between potluck business/social meetings and ethnic dinners. Officer reports and local member announcements are made at the open business/socials meetings. During the “off” months, members meet at local ethnic restaurants for a social meal. In addition, the group’s leadership team compiles a newsletter that is e-mailed to members via our group email list (rpcvtucson@yahoo.com) and group website (www.desertdoves.org). The newsletter is published every other month.

During the past year, the Doves partnered with the University of Arizona’s Peace Corps Fellows to engage in multiple community service events (the group’s second goal). Doves participated in the following 2009 Peace Corps Week activities: community and school presentations, the annual “Tucson and the World” Peace Corps Fair, and a Humane Borders desert trash pick-up service project. Additional community service activities included participating in a work day at the Community Food Bank’s farm and raising funds and awareness for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

To raise funds for our contributions to partnership projects abroad, Doves continued the longtime tradition of working at Tucson’s spring and winter Fourth Avenue Merchants Association Street Fairs. The fair features arts and crafts vendors from around the region. A minimum of 36 volunteers are needed for each fair to work courtesy carts that deliver water and treats to the vendors, with five to ten additional volunteers performing other roles in planning and cart organization.

We raised additional funds throughout the year through national and local membership dues and by selling Peace Corps calendars. Our revenue for the year was just over \$4,000.

Our long-term partnership with the Merchants Association and the individual members’ commitment to support fundraising and membership activities affords us the opportunity to fund multiple Peace Corps partnership projects each year (the group’s final goal). Twice a year at the potluck business/social meetings, members vote on which Peace Corps Partnership projects to support with partial or full funding. During 2009, financial support was provided to projects sponsored by current Peace Corps Volunteers, including those in the following countries: Tanzania, Kyrgyz Republic, and Ethiopia.

2009 Summary of Finances

REVENUE

Local Membership dues	675.00
Street Fair (December 2008)	1151.00
Community Member donation	100.00
Calendar sales 2009	2078.00

Total Income 4004.00

EXPENSES

NPCA Membership Renewal	25.00
Peace Corps Week	200.00
Peace Corps Week Fair Lodging for Guest speaker	191.00
CHE Fund for Honduran Education	250.00
PC Partnership Projects - January	750.00
PC Partnership Projects - May	1200.01
CEDO Rocky Point Community Service Project	100.00
2010 Calendars (200 units)	860.00

Total Expenses 3576.01

Net Income 2009 427.99