



# Peace Corps Success Story HIV/AIDS



**Charlene Barina**  
**Health Volunteer**  
**Mongolia 2007-2009**

**EDUCATION:** MPH, PCMI Global Health, University of Washington-Seattle, B.A., Computer Science, Duke University

**NOTABLE PROJECTS:** Charlene had the chance to work with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) staff in a variety of projects focusing on reproductive health, including national research, program monitoring, and youth outreach and peer education. One of her most memorable projects was working with secondary and college students on ways to understand the pressures around relationships and sex, how to listen and provide feedback when your friends may talk to you about their experiences, and how adults and young people both bring strengths to a partnership in increasing access to reproductive health care.

**CAREER/SKILLS GAINED:** “I learned how to really pick up the general gist of conversations to keep up in a difficult language with minimal English as well as how to work respectfully and sincerely with people who have been doing this work locally for decades. This was a great skill for my subsequent professional work with community-based and ethnic health organizations on the Thai-Burma border.”

**WHY DO PEACE CORPS:** “I have a clearer sense of how work really gets done in a developing country context that informs my ability to get work really going in my chosen career. I was out to my work colleagues as well as Peace Corps Mongolia at large, and I do believe that being out as much as is comfortable and safe is invaluable in reducing stigma and stereotypes of LGBTQ folks being people you only hear about and don’t know. It’s the same approach I believe in when you live in the US as well as abroad, and there are more LGBTQ people in international work and development than you may think.”



**“I was out to my work colleagues as well as volunteers and PC staff”**



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