



BUILDING BRIDGES



"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."

- Sydney Smith

TAKING A LOOK AT 2008

We, the staff of the Office of Private Sector Initiatives, would like to thank all of our donors and participating Volunteers for making last year a huge success. It is with great excitement and deep gratitude that we share these achievements from fiscal year 2008 (FY08). Including both in-kind gifts and monetary contributions, our Office processed more than \$2.4 million in private donations, and we can't thank our donors enough for their support!!

A large portion of the amount raised was directed to Peace Corps Partnership Program projects. In fact, the Partnership Program saw incredible increases when compared to the previous fiscal year. In FY08, the Program received donations from 8,857 donors totaling nearly \$2.03 million. This represents a 52% increase over the last year! These donated funds also helped to leverage an additional \$1.76 million from participating host communities.

In addition to our amazing donor participation, more Volunteers than ever became involved with the Partnership Program. We were thrilled to fund 595 projects in more than 62 countries with the most projects funded in Mali (54), Dominican Republic (42), and Georgia (26). The three most common project requests were for latrines (41), educational resources (31), and libraries (27). And perhaps, most importantly, through the generosity of our donors, the perseverance of the Peace Corps Volunteers, and the commitment of host communities, the Partnership Program was able to positively impact more than 550,000 individuals.

With this overarching success, we are looking at 2009 with anticipation. We believe that our supporters will help us to be able to provide more people with access to clean water, educational resources, maternity trainings, and other projects that provide essential necessities.

In 2009, we will also be fundraising for Peace Corps' upcoming 50th Anniversary that will take place in 2011. This anniversary will highlight the impact of all those who have served and also celebrate Peace Corps' past and promising future. This year there will be a wide variety of opportunities for the public to be an integral part of supporting the Peace Corps Mission.

IN 2008 THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:

Received
8,857 donations

Dispersed
\$1.86 Million
to PCPP projects

Funded
595 Partnership
Program projects

Impacted
over **550,000**
people in
communities
worldwide



GOOD-BYE AND HELLO FROM OUR ESTEEMED LEADERS

A Message from Michelle Cangelosi

As you know, I have had an incredible opportunity to serve as the Director for the Office of Private Sector Initiatives (OPSI) however; my time serving this office and this great organization is coming to a close.

While it is difficult to leave the people and the programs that I have grown to love, I do so knowing that I am leaving OPSI and the Partnership Program in the very capable hands of a talented and dedicated staff. I am grateful to our Volunteers for their tireless efforts improving the lives of those they touch throughout the world. I am also immensely grateful to our donors and supporters

who made this last year an overwhelming success! Without individuals and organizations that actively care about the work of Peace Corps Volunteers and the needs of their communities, the Partnership Program could not exist.

As of January 16, I will turn over the responsibilities of OPSI to our new Program Manager, Barbi Broadus, who joined us this past December. Under Barbi's leadership, I know the OPSI team will remain as strong as ever. I look forward to staying connected by entering the ranks as part of the donor community and hearing about the projects from Volunteers!



Michelle Cangelosi and Barbi Broadus

A Message from Barbi Broadus

As the new Program Manager with OPSI, I understand the enormity of the responsibilities that await me. Even so, I am also thrilled because I have the opportunity to work again with an Agency that I love, to support Peace Corps Volunteers in the field, to engage communities around the globe in sustainable development activities, and to bring the 3rd Goal of the Peace Corps back home.

Given OPSI's record of achievement, the dedicated and efficient staff, and numerous indicators of continuing success, I feel honored to enter this office, particularly following the vision and leadership established by Michelle Cangelosi.

Going forward, OPSI will continue to concentrate its efforts on improving the quality of the PCPP experience for Volunteers and to develop our ability to more effectively communicate with our donors the importance and impact of their contributions.

In addition, OPSI looks ahead to the celebration of Peace Corps 50th anniversary in 2011 and the numerous events associated with the occasion. (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/50>) I thank you for your generous support and commitment to the Peace Corps. It is my great honor and privilege to join the OPSI team and I look forward to working with you.

SECURING FUTURES IN IT EDUCATION

When Namibian PCV, Ben Sigrin, mentioned the need for security in the new computer lab at his school, his principal didn't call a carpenter. He didn't start researching prices, and he refused to bring in workers from the nearest town. Instead, the Principal found his own way of keeping the new computer lab safe with burglar bars and burglar doors that he built himself. This is exactly the kind of action that the Partnership Program seeks to foster. Partnership Program projects are all about sustainability—and the best way to make a project sustainable is to get community members excited about, and involved in, the entire process.

Many Namibian children living in rural boarding schools are often unfamiliar with the basic workings of a computer, and this lack of knowledge often becomes a major road-block in the path to future success. After noticing the significant need for computer literacy in rural schools, Sigrin submitted a Partnership Program Proposal in 2007.

Sigrin was neither the first nor the only one concerned about the lack of IT training at his school. The staff initially identified the need for a computer lab, and they were willing to give as much as they could to make it a reality for their school. Sigrin was incredibly impressed by the community's effort to initiate the lab. "They were very eager to spend the N\$21,000 to buy the first 6 computers, which is an enormous sum for the school, more than half of the yearly school fees collected," he said.

Funds received from the Partnership Program allowed the school to triple the size of their lab, allowing for the purchase of 15 additional computers. Two teachers at the school became co-teachers and lab administrators, ensuring the sustainability of the lab. But the children have truly been the ones to benefit. "They're so eager to use the computers, pleading to use them, and coming to my house all hours of the day. When the lab is full they peer through the windows to watch others and patiently make queues, waiting for someone to leave," said Sigrin.



Sigrin's positive experience with this project encouraged him to remain in Namibia, extending for a third year to be a Peace Corps Volunteer Leader in the northern area of Rundu. He will be teaching IT, encouraging communities to work together to build sustainable labs. However, he will also teach another important lesson as well: when communities come together to complete sustainable IT projects, they're not just creating labs—they're securing successful futures.