



Peace Corps Success Story Community Economic Development



Wendy Lee

Financial Analyst, Apple Inc.; Community Economic Development Volunteer in Cameroon, 2008-2010

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Saint Louis University; Master of Public Administration, London School of Economics and Political Science/Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs

CURRENT JOB: “I work in Shanghai managing the financing for the construction and operation of Apple retail stores in China. This entails working with a wide range of partners - both local Chinese and international counterparts.”

SLICE OF SERVICE: “I taught a series of business classes to entrepreneurs in Cameroon and provided advisory services to the clients at a local microfinance institution.”

CAREER SKILLS GAINED: “Coming into my role at Apple, I didn’t have extensive technical experience. Yet, I quickly learned that emotional intelligence (EQ) is even more valuable than any technical skill. Peace Corps service is the best training ground for emotional intelligence. The ability to adapt quickly and to pick up cultural nuances is extremely important in today’s interconnected world.”

CAREER ADVICE: “The Peace Corps is not well understood by the private sector. It is vital that you craft your stories in a way that private sector people can relate to. I recommend identifying the core competencies that your role requires and thinking of specific examples from your service that highlight each competency. The story telling takes practice, but if done well, it can be your most useful interview technique.”

“Having gone through my Peace Corps service made the decision to uproot my life and relocate to China much easier.”



RPCV Wendy Lee is a Financial Analyst helping Apple expand its footprint in China.



Wendy with kids from her Peace Corps Cameroon village.

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