

Dear PCV,

Congratulations on reaching your Close of Service! Your COS is a milestone event: you have administrative paperwork to be completed, goodbyes to be said, travel, and other post-service plans to be made. I remember my COS conference being simultaneously exciting, overwhelming, and sad: it was a time to reflect upon my service, shared accomplishments, shifting values, and new friends. It was also a time to start saying goodbye to all that was my life as a Peace Corps Volunteer while beginning to consider the implications of being a returned Volunteer.

Whether you traveled around the world prior to your Peace Corps service or, like me, had never set foot outside the U.S. before joining the Peace Corps, many adjustments await you as you transition from PCV to RPCV. Being a Peace Corps Volunteer has, most likely, become a part of your identity – one that has allowed you to live your life in ways you never thought possible and contribute to the well-being of a community.

As RPCVs ourselves, the staff in the Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services recognizes that carrying forward that identity can be a challenge. Our office is committed to supporting your transition to whatever comes after Peace Corps, and we offer a number of resources to help facilitate your re-entry into the U.S. We offer free job bulletin subscriptions, in-person and online career development events, self-assessment tools, networking resources, and more.

To aid in your transition and readjustment, the Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services has created this COS page on the Peace Corps website. We hope that the information contained in these links will prove useful, and that you will visit the other 'Returned Volunteer' sections of the website to see all that is available to you as an RPCV. Be sure to keep in mind that our office is always happy to answer any transition-related questions you might have, or direct you to the appropriate resource.

As you reflect back on your service and the ways it has impacted you, we hope you will remain enthusiastic about sharing your experience with others in the U.S. Telling stories about your service not only aids in your own transition back home, but it also serves as a valuable opportunity to hone your networking skills. Additionally, it will go a long way toward supporting the Third Goal of the Peace Corps – “To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.”

Please stay connected with us, and visit www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv for up-to-date resources. Again, congratulations on reaching your COS, and thank you for your commitment to your community, to your country of service, and to the Peace Corps. We look forward to hearing from you!

Eileen Conoboy, (RPCV/Mali, 1995-1997)
Director, Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services