



Peace  
Corps  
ARMENIA



Celebrating  
**25** years  
of service  
to **Armenia**  
in 2017



# Annual Report 2016

## About Peace Corps

In 1961 United States President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship by challenging Americans to live and work in developing countries. More than fifty-five years have passed since Peace Corps was established, but the mission and role of the Peace Corps has withstood the test of time and the three goals of the Peace Corps remain as important today as they were at our founding:

- Goal 1:** Help the People of Interested Countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Goal 2:** Help to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- Goal 3:** Help to promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

## Celebrating 25 Years of Peace Corps Service in Armenia

The Peace Corps program in Armenia is pleased to share our 2016 annual report with our various stakeholders. The report highlights the 2016 accomplishments of our TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) project that we implement in partnership with the Ministry of Education, and the CYD (Community and Youth Development) project that we implement with the Ministry of Sport and Youth, as well as highlighting various small-grant assisted projects that we implement in partnership with USAID (the United States Agency for International Development).

You will note that the format of this report is different from previous years'. Rather than a booklet, we have chosen to create a promotional poster that we hope you will display and share.

In 2017, our Program will celebrate its 25th Anniversary of service to the people of Armenia. The first Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in December of 1992. Since then, almost 1,000 Volunteers have served in the Armenia Peace Corps Program.

Peace Corps Armenia looks forward to celebrating the progress made and the projects accomplished, with our Armenian friends and partners that we have collaborated with over the last 25 years. Please join us in our celebration!

Sincerely,  
Charles Enciso  
Country Director  
US Peace Corps, Armenia



## Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Volunteers in the Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) project are teaching English at village and town secondary schools, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning together with Armenian counterpart teachers. The main goals of the program are help students improve their academic performance and demonstrate personal attributes for achieving success in life and to help teachers improve the effectiveness of their classroom English instruction.

### Achievements in 2016

- Over **2,500** students working with Volunteers have demonstrated improved English proficiency.
- Over **9,500** students have demonstrated increased confidence and motivation through participation in a class club or camp organized by the Volunteers.
- Over **2,000** students demonstrated improved decision making and problem solving skills.
- Over **250** local English teachers working with Volunteers improved their English instruction by using new techniques for teaching language skills.
- Over **200** teachers working with Volunteers conducted a higher proportion of their procedural language in English in a class or extracurricular activity.
- Over **150** teachers increased their use of learning resources or classroom materials.



## Community and Youth Development

Community and Youth Development Volunteers work with local nongovernmental organizations, community based organization or groups, educational institutions including schools and universities. Through this program Peace Corps is committed to empowering community youth to responsibly exercise their civic rights & responsibilities as active citizens, contributing to the prosperity of Armenia, and to helping organizations develop sustainable projects & services that benefit their client/target groups.



### Achievements in 2016

- Over **500** youths received training/coaching by Peace Corps Volunteers to improve their level of employability in the local job market. Around 300 of the young people trained, demonstrated improved employability skills.
- Over **1,700** individuals were trained by Peace Corps Volunteers in leadership and around 700 of them demonstrated increased civic engagement in 2016.
- Over **2,000** young people were trained/coached by Peace Corps Volunteers to enhance their Life Skills.
- 60** organizations working with Volunteers improved their project design and management practices due to trainings/coaching received by Peace Corps Volunteers.
- 40** organizations improved their planning processes and **50** organizations have improved their internal management.

## Volunteer Success Stories

### Save the Books!

With the goal of improving the quality and efficacy of English language education and the teacher proficiency in Armenia, TEFL Volunteer Brian Saliba initiated the "Save the Books" project. With the help of Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), Syunik-Development NGO and other local partners, Brian was able to import and distribute a large number of English-language supplemental resources for Armenian classrooms. "The project was a success: 7,808 children in 65 schools in Armenia started the new academic year with 5,860 new English-language books from a British multinational publishing company-DK Publishing. We were very happy to have the support of the Ministry of Education and Science to use the books in Armenian classrooms, and 27 new lesson plans were created for the imported books. We also designed a training seminar, which provided training for 74 English-language teachers in sourcing and using these supplemental resources in their classrooms." – TEFL Volunteer Brian Saliba.



### Promoting Sales of Handicrafts Made by the Women in Goris

Part of Patricia's job as a Community Youth Development Volunteer working at the Goris Women's resource center is to help with the marketing for two local businesses: Goris Crochet and Wool-to-Carpet, where women are trained to make rugs, stuffed toys, and other handicrafts, which are sold to tourists. With around 70% of women in the Syunik region of Armenia unemployed, this is a great way for these women to learn business skills and contribute income to their families. Throughout the year Patricia has been undertaking different initiatives and using various channels to help sell these products and find a broader market for the products in order to keep these women employed. Recently Patricia also applied for and received a small grant to hire an Armenian Marketing Specialist, who will be creating a marketing and sales plan for the organization to help better market and



sell the products. Patricia plans to create a marketing Tool-kit based on the marketing plan, to share with other Women's resource centers that have social enterprises.

### Boosting Girls' Voice

Peace Corps Volunteer, Hamzat Koriko started a girls' empowerment theater at his school in Syunik marz. He says: "Through conversations with teachers, school directors and students, it has become clear to me that in our village expectations and gender roles about boys and girls are clearly defined. Girls are usually in the background, when it comes to playing sport and taking leading roles in addressing issues affecting their community. This is where the idea of a girls-run theater "Boosting Girls' Voice" came from. This is a strong new initiative for the entire community, as our school has never had a theater group before. The goal of the project is to create a safe space where boys and girls can better "see" and understand each other and talk, hear and listen to each other more carefully.



In this theater club, participants are learning communication and performance skills while at the same time gaining confidence in expressing their opinions and feelings, to be better able to stand up for themselves and become leaders. The club strives to broaden traditional attitudes towards girls' societal roles, heighten boys' respect for girls, and for youth to create greater expectations for each other."

# In 2016

**115** Peace Corps Volunteers have lived and worked

in **61** Armenian communities:



Peace Corps Volunteers have served in **120** schools and **39** NGOs

**150+** Armenian families have hosted Peace Corps Volunteers in their homes

Peace Corps Volunteers have implemented **16** grant projects with **\$89100.89** total budget

**300** Armenian partners have received training by Peace Corps