

A group of diverse children are playing basketball on an outdoor court. In the foreground, a young girl in a light blue tank top is jumping with her arms outstretched, looking up at a basketball. Behind her, several other children are watching the game with interest. Two basketballs are suspended in the air above the court. The background features a chain-link fence, lush green trees, and a building with a red roof. The scene is set under a clear sky with a decorative metal structure overhead.

# Belize Report

**Building Strength Through  
Service & Partnerships**

**2021-2024**



**Peace  
Corps**  
BELIZE





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## FROM OUR COUNTRY DIRECTOR

The last few years have challenged those of us working in grassroots development. A pandemic that lasted over two years left behind a tangle of social and economic impacts, including educational interruption, healthcare system strain, and employment instability. In recent times, we have endured extreme weather events such as storms, floods, and unprecedented temperatures in the Caribbean sub-region, for an even more challenging context. Beautiful Belize, a place rich in history, culture, and biodiversity, is responding to a huge 'youth bulge' demographic phenomenon with its own special demands.

Over the past four years, Peace Corps has gone from evacuating all Volunteers globally, to returning over 3,220 Volunteers to service in 61 countries. This has been no small feat as the world has changed considerably since 2020. Putting Volunteers back in Belize's communities was our priority—realized in 2022 through 2024 as we worked our way from zero to over 40 Volunteers across all districts nationwide.

Peace Corps Belize staff worked closely with newly elected host nation partners to shift programmatic emphases to youth development and to expand our work in literacy to include Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) and special education using a mix of service models. With the launch of the Youth Empowered by Sports (YES) project and the expansion of the Response program, Peace Corps Belize's contributions are relevant and impactful.

We trained and placed two-year and Response Volunteers to live and work in Spanish and Kriol communities, and our talented staff took on initiatives that strengthened our community bonds and enhanced Volunteer service. For example, Peace Corps staff helped to build capacity within the Belize Police Department for using a trauma informed response to victims of sexual assault – a benefit to Belizean communities and our currently serving Volunteers.

We also expanded our partnership network to include others working in Belize such as UNICEF, SATIIM, and OCEANA as we seek to create new opportunities for collaboration and growth.

For over 60 years, Peace Corps has partnered with the people of Belize in the spirit of friendship and shared learning. Through innovative engagements, such as the Service Summit held in September 2024, or staff service days that met the needs of the elderly or provided access to basic health information in communities where we sought to expand our reach. Peace Corps has continued to demonstrate its commitment to partnering with Belize.

I want to thank our host families who opened their homes and hearts to our Volunteers. We are especially thankful for the new and exciting partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport and the National Sports Council. We have strengthened and broadened the scope of our work with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology. We are grateful to the Belize Police Department, National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), and the Fire Department for their collaboration in keeping our Volunteers safe and making it possible for us to return to Belize City. I am inspired by and in awe of the staff at Peace Corps Belize who demonstrate commitment, creativity, and courage every day. Team member, Anthony Williams embodied world peace and friendship throughout his 36-year contribution—he was a star and his legacy lives on.

**NADINE ROGERS, PHD**

**COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PEACE CORPS BELIZE**



Peace Corps Volunteers and host community partners advance and embody our mission, values, and three goals in communities around the globe. We promote human connection across cultures and make a lasting impact.

## **PEACE CORPS GOALS**

1. To help the countries interested in meeting their need for trained people.
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.





In Belize, Peace Corps staff developed a country specific vision which they are working every day with Volunteers and partners to fulfill.

## **PEACE CORPS BELIZE VISION**

We use cultural exchange to shape respectful partnerships that inspire individuals, transform communities, and advance Belize's development goals.

## **PEACE CORPS BELIZE: DECADES OF SERVICE**

1960s – Global Volunteers as of 1961. First Peace Corps Volunteers arrive in then British Honduras in 1962. Since then, Volunteers have continuously served in Belize except during the global pandemic.

1970s – Peace Corps Volunteers work in the areas of education, health, and youth development. Outstanding work done between Volunteers and their counterparts includes improved farming irrigation systems, advanced seeding methods for rice in Toledo, and the development of honey production through cooperatives in Northern Belize.

1980s – Peace Corps' work was highly concentrated in the educational sector, with Belize, Cayo and Toledo as the most heavily involved districts. Other areas that received support from Peace Corps Volunteers included veterinary services, social services, public works, education, transportation, arts and recreation.

1990s – Peace Corps Volunteers served in a wide range of sectors: agriculture, economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development. Volunteers contributed to the creation of the first drug treatment and outreach facility in northern Belize and HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness initiatives with community health workers.

2000s – While Peace Corps Volunteers continued to serve in a wide range of sectors, the greatest investment of volunteers was assigned to the environmental and educational sectors, with focus on the central and southern districts of Belize.

2010s – Through Peace Corps Volunteers support to counterparts, 5,405 women participated in women development activities; and 13,614 youth completed education on non-communicable disease under the new Rural Family Health Project. Teachers and Community Health Workers, alongside Volunteers, worked to improve physical activity through consistent physical education classes and workout groups in classrooms and communities across five districts.

2020s – The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted Volunteer operations, but Peace Corps Belize rebounded with the return of Volunteers in 2022. Volunteers have since focused on education and youth development sectors. A key milestone is the collaboration with the National Sports Council on the Youth Empowered by Sports (YES) Project. Additionally, Peace Corps Response projects expanded beyond Literacy to include Special Education (SPED) and STEAM initiatives, underscoring a commitment to addressing country needs.



## SNAPSHOT OF PEACE CORPS BELIZE'S PROJECTS

Since 1962 Peace Corps Belize has worked in:



Agriculture – Economic Development – Education – Environment – Health – Youth Development

Peace Corps Belize is now focused on:

**2022**



### **Youth Development**

Youth Health & Wellbeing Project



### **Education**

Literacy Project

**2023**



### **Youth Development**

Youth Health & Wellbeing Project

Youth Empowered by Sports



### **Education**

Literacy Project

**2024**



### **Youth Development**

Youth Health & Wellbeing Project

Youth Empowered by Sports



### **Education**

Literacy Project

Special Education Project

STEAM Project

# SERVICE MODELS

## PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

Peace Corps Volunteer service assignments last for two years, preceded by three months of intensive training. Volunteers come from different backgrounds, including recent college graduates, working professionals, and retirees, and bring a wealth of experience to their roles. In Belize, Volunteers serve in the Youth Development Sector, working alongside local counterparts to address community needs and empower young people. Volunteers can extend their service up to 12 months.

## PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

Peace Corps Response offers opportunities for experienced professionals to serve overseas on short-term, high-impact assignments typically lasting nine months. Volunteers must hold a college degree and have at least two years of professional experience. In Belize, Peace Corps Response Volunteers work in the Education Sector, serving for nine months across the academic calendar. Response Volunteers can extend their service or serve consecutive assignments.

## STAFF-LED INITIATIVES

Peace Corps Belize staff lead initiatives that strengthen relationships within communities where Volunteers serve. These locally prioritized projects are designed to complement Volunteer efforts and enhance the impact of Peace Corps programs. By fostering collaboration and supporting capacity building, staff-led initiatives play a crucial role in sustaining community development efforts and ensuring long-term success.







# RETURN TO SERVICE

## PEACE CORPS BELIZE

Peace Corps Belize proudly welcomed the return of Volunteers to service after a global evacuation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This milestone was achieved in May 2022 after meeting a rigorous set of health, safety, and security standards, and signified a renewed commitment to the communities of Belize.

The return began with a cohort of nine Volunteers under the Youth Health and Well-Being Project. Their arrival marked a significant step forward in re-establishing the organization's mission. This effort was further bolstered in June 2022 by the addition of five Peace Corps Response Volunteers, who brought renewed energy and focus to critical initiatives.

This period of re-entry coincided with a momentous occasion: the celebration of Peace Corps Belize's 60th anniversary of service. The dual significance of the milestone underscored the enduring partnership between Peace Corps and the people of Belize.

By 2023, the program experienced substantial growth, with 20 two-year Volunteers joining the Youth Empowered by Sports Project and six Response Volunteers contributing to the Literacy Project. This expansion reflected the organization's adaptability and commitment to addressing evolving community needs.

Momentum continued into 2024, with the arrival of 23 two-year Volunteers and five Response Volunteers. These Volunteers have brought fresh perspectives and energy to Peace Corps Belize's initiatives, further solidifying the organization's impact and reach.

Through resilience and adaptability, Peace Corps Belize has emerged stronger than ever. The return and growth of Volunteers reaffirm the organization's unwavering dedication to supporting the people and communities of Belize in meaningful and transformative ways.



## 2-YEAR VOLUNTEERS



## RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS



RETURN TO SERVICE 2022



# RETURN TO SERVICE 2023



## 2-YEAR VOLUNTEERS 2023 RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS







**2-YEAR VOLUNTEERS**

**2024**

**RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS**



**RETURN TO SERVICE 2024**



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## **YOUTH HEALTH & WELL BEING PROJECT** **EPWORTH REDEMPTION INITIATIVE (ERN)**

Peace Corps' strong commitment to Belizean communities often shines brightest when one of our two-year Volunteers chose to extend her service to take on an ambitious project with local counterparts. In Dangriga, Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) Jess, a member of the Youth Health and Well-Being Project (2022-2024), took advantage of this opportunity to make a lasting impact.

Working with local partners, Jess conducted an informal community survey that revealed critical issues among youth aged 6-14. The survey, which reached five schools and over 900 respondents, found:

- 60% reported being in a physical fight;
- 53% reported witnessing violence in their community; and
- 69% reported seeing someone in their community use drugs.

Additionally, 73% of respondents reported participating in one or more sports. From these findings, Jess and her local counterparts deduced that sports could serve as a vital outlet for youth. In response, the committee designed, launched, and registered ERN as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to meet the needs of at-risk youth. To formalize ERN's programming and support its development, Jess and her counterpart received a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Small Project Assistance grant to stand up an after-school program that leads sports and life skills activities.

**Go, Jess!**







# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## YOUTH EMPOWERED BY SPORTS (YES) PROJECT

The Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transport (MYST), through the National Sports Council (NSC), envisions using sports and fitness to foster physical and mental development, instill values and character and cultivate civic responsibility among Belizean youth. Achieving these goals requires structured engagement in sports, fitness, and life skills development. In 2022, Peace Corps Belize partnered with MYST to design the Youth Empowered by Sports (YES) Program, which supports the government's vision of holistic youth development.

Peace Corps Volunteers collaborate with NSC Coordinators, teachers, and parents to:

- Build afterschool sports club programs at schools;
- Engage parents to reinforce youth physical and mental resilience; and
- Strengthen the organizational capacity of youth development organizations to manage and sustain active youth sports programs that integrate life skills.

In 2023, the project emphasized skill and knowledge transfer to NSC staff, including senior leadership, administrative officers, and sports coordinators responsible for implementing the National Primary School Sports Program. Peace Corps Volunteers and NSC staff participated in:

- **Project Design and Management (PDM) Workshops:** These workshops empower participants with skills to develop and manage projects. Attendees included seven NSC staff and nine school staff who worked in teams to create and refine project ideas. Participants later implemented grant-funded and unfunded projects nationwide.
- **Organizational Development and Performance Training:** Using detailed assessment tools, this training helped NSC offices create action plans to enhance their organizational capacity. These annual workshops build on previous efforts to continuously improve NSC's performance.







# "MOST IMPROVED STUDENT"

BY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SIMON  
(2023-2025)



“ One of the reasons why parents don’t allow their kids to play sports is because of academics. While some kids may take hits to their grades due to time spent playing sports, sports lead to many benefits to kids: and one of those benefits includes improved academic performance.

A prime example of this is a student at my school who played basketball in early 2024. Every time we had basketball practice, this student would show up to train. During the basketball season, he was an important player. He was important not only because of his athletic talents but because of his confidence and enthusiasm for the sport which rubbed off on other teammates. Of course, not everyone is perfect and there were times when he showed up to practice unreasonably late or distracted his teammates. However, he has learned to become more focused and disciplined as an athlete, and that has also rubbed off in the classroom. One of the teachers I worked with to coach the basketball team also teaches the student. Mr. Gershom Rodriguez joined my school at the start of 2024. He had to get accustomed to his new students and he also had a basketball team to coach. Although it was a lot, he found his footing at the school fairly quickly and he attributes that to coaching basketball. Several students, boys, and girls, from his class, played basketball this year. It seemed as if the respect from being a basketball coach translated to respect in the classroom, and a shining example of that is the student I mentioned earlier.

Since Mr. Gershom Rodriguez began teaching at my school, that student has raised his grade average from 78% to 88%. The growth that this student has shown already exemplifies what the Youth Empowered by Sports Project is about. The soft skills he’s worked on from playing sports have helped him to succeed academically and will help him to succeed in life. My school’s principal has expressed that this student has come a long way in his behavior, and he continues on that upward trajectory. This student has also been training in softball as well and looks to once again be an important player for the school when the softball tournament comes around.

I look forward to seeing how he grows and what he’ll accomplish in the future. ”





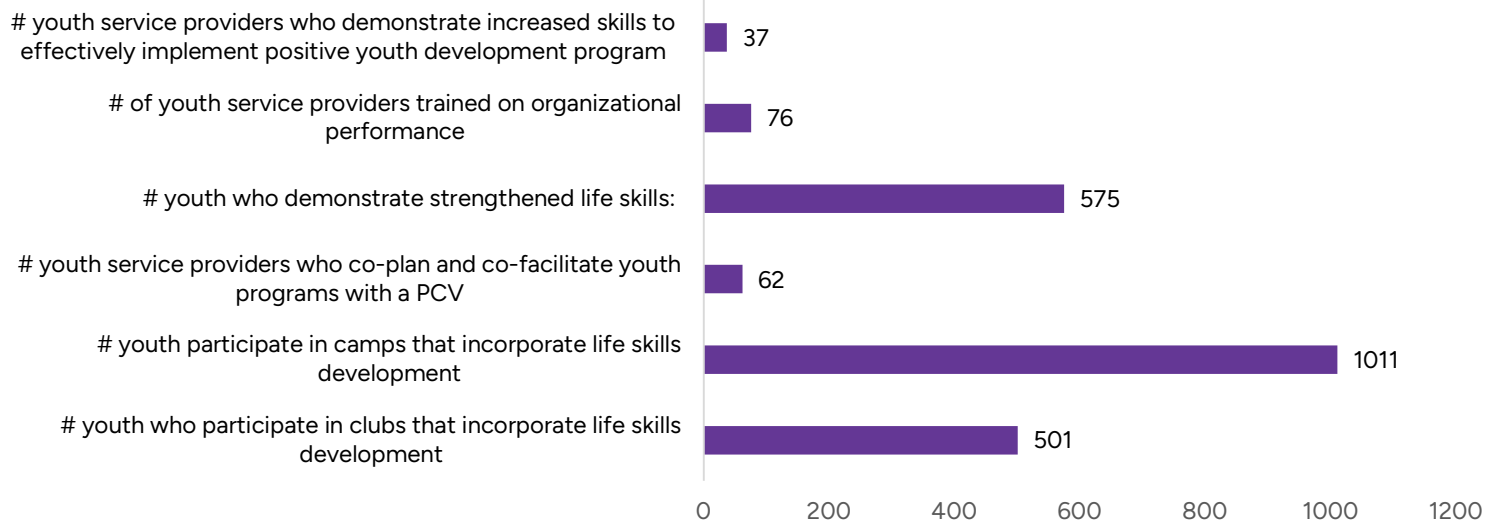


# **YOUTH EMPOWERED BY SPORTS PROJECT**

**HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT OF THE FIRST YEAR  
NOVEMBER 2023-2024**



## YES 1 Output / Outcome Indicator Highlights



## YES 1 Activities by Objective 2023-2024



37

Peace Corps Volunteers



15

Communities



37

Schools



9

Offices







# LITERACY INTERVENTION PROJECT

## RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

More than 90% of Standard One (U.S. Grade 2-equivalent) students in Belize are not reading at grade level. The ability to read by second grade is critical to a child's success in school, life-long learning potential and their ability to contribute to the nation's economy and its security. With the current trends, 90% of Belize's children are at increased risk of dropping out of school because they are unable to read proficiently by the end of second grade.

Peace Corps Belize has rallied to support Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology's (MoECST) efforts to close the gap in literacy attainment since 2017. Now in our fifth year, we remain committed to supporting execution of the Belize Education Sector Plan (BES) 2021-2025, aligning with the vision to "Make Education Work for Belize." Through Peace Corps Response, our Literacy Intervention project assigns high-skilled literacy Volunteers who serve for a full school year, working with District Education Officers, school principals and teachers to deliver training and model explicit and systematic phonological instruction in the lower division.

Initially focused solely on early childhood literacy, the Response program expanded in August 2024 to include initiatives in Special Education (SPED) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). All projects are aligned to support Strategic Goal II of the BES Plan: Transforming Teaching and Learning.

**June 2022 - May 2023** | Following the pandemic, the Literacy Project resumed, with a focus on bridging skill gaps among early learners who were impacted by disrupted schooling. Five Peace Corps Response Volunteers (PCRVs) served as literacy coaches across 14 schools in urban Belize, supporting teachers.

**August 2023 - May 2024** | Building on previous outcomes, the primary goal for the 2023-2024 Peace Corps Response Literacy Intervention aimed at ensuring all Standard One students read at grade level or were receiving appropriate literacy support. Key objectives included (1) Strengthening foundational reading skills in lower division students by enhancing teachers' literacy assessment and instructional capabilities; and (2) Building the capacity of school leaders to support and oversee intervention efforts effectively.



# EDUCATION



# EDUCATION

## LITERACY AND BEYOND RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

**August 2024 – May 2025** | Our work in literacy over the past several years highlight a powerful truth: early intervention and evidence-based strategies are transformative for young learners. With this in mind, the 2024 Literacy Project is focused on preschool through Infant 2, advancing literacy through developmentally appropriate practices tailored to each stage.

While the Literacy Project grows and adapts, our principles remain:

- All children deserve to learn to read;
- The science of how children learn to read must ground our work.
- What and how we teach really matter; and
- A focus on prevention with young readers reduces the need for intervention in mid- and upper- primary school.

This year, our PCRVs support counterparts on:

- Data-driven intervention planning and detailed analysis;
- Responsive coaching tailored to teachers' needs;
- Continuous professional development for Standard One and lower division teachers;
- Ongoing assessment and evaluation of student progress;
- School Leader Capacity Building (2023-2024); and
- Holistic support for teachers and parents, emphasizing literacy, motivation, confidence, and social-emotional skills.

We're also excited to expand our impact through our sixth cohort of PCRVs, who are working alongside the MoECST to enhance Special Education (SPED) and STEAM programs in the 2024 academic year.

1. **SPED Project Goal:** Ensure that all Belizean children have access to quality education services regardless of their unique physical, social, emotional or academic needs.
2. **STEAM Project Goal:** Innovative use of science and technology to transform teaching, learning and decision-making processes.

With an eye toward the 2025 Academic Year, Post continues conversations on future partnerships in preschool education and instructional coaching for school leaders and instructional supervisors. Through a commitment to continuous learning, collaboration and adaptation with MoECST partners, we are building a brighter, more inclusive future for Belize's children—one where literacy, creativity, and curiosity thrive.





# EDUCATION PROJECTS

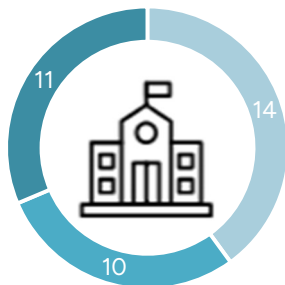
## HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT

### Response Volunteers Cohort



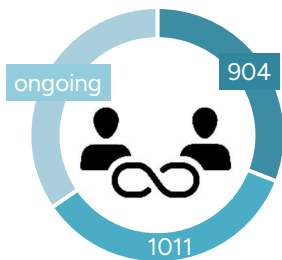
■ School Year 2022-2023 ■ School Year 2023-2024 ■ School Year 2024-2025

### Schools Receiving Support



■ School Year 2022-2023 ■ School Year 2023-2024 ■ School Year 2024-2025

### Coaching Sessions/In-school Support



■ School Year 2022-2023 ■ School Year 2023-2024 ■ School Year 2024-2025

### Data Collection & Analysis

School Year 2022-2023

↑ **18%**

Increase in Standard One students at/above reading level

### Data Collection & Analysis

School Year 2023-2024

↑ **22%**

Increase in Standard One students at/above reading level

### Teacher Professional Development

School Year 2022-2023

**692**

Participants attended 71 sessions

### Teacher Professional Development

School Year 2023-2024

**667**

Participants attended 28 sessions





Excuse me  
Sorry  
Lo siento



- to wipe your nose
- to blow your nose
- to cover a cough
- to catch a sneeze



- use a napkin
- chew with your mouth closed
- drink from your own cup
- throw away food that falls on the floor
- throw away your trash



0 - zero cero	1 - one uno	2 - two dos	3 - three tres
6 - six seis	7 - seven siete	8 - eight ocho	9 - nine nueve
12 - twelve doce	13 - thirteen trece	14 - fourteen catorce	15 - fifteen quince
16 - sixteen dieciséis	17 - seventeen diecisiete	18 - eighteen dieciocho	19 - nineteen diecinueve





# "LITERACY SPARK"

BY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER CAROL  
(2022-2024)



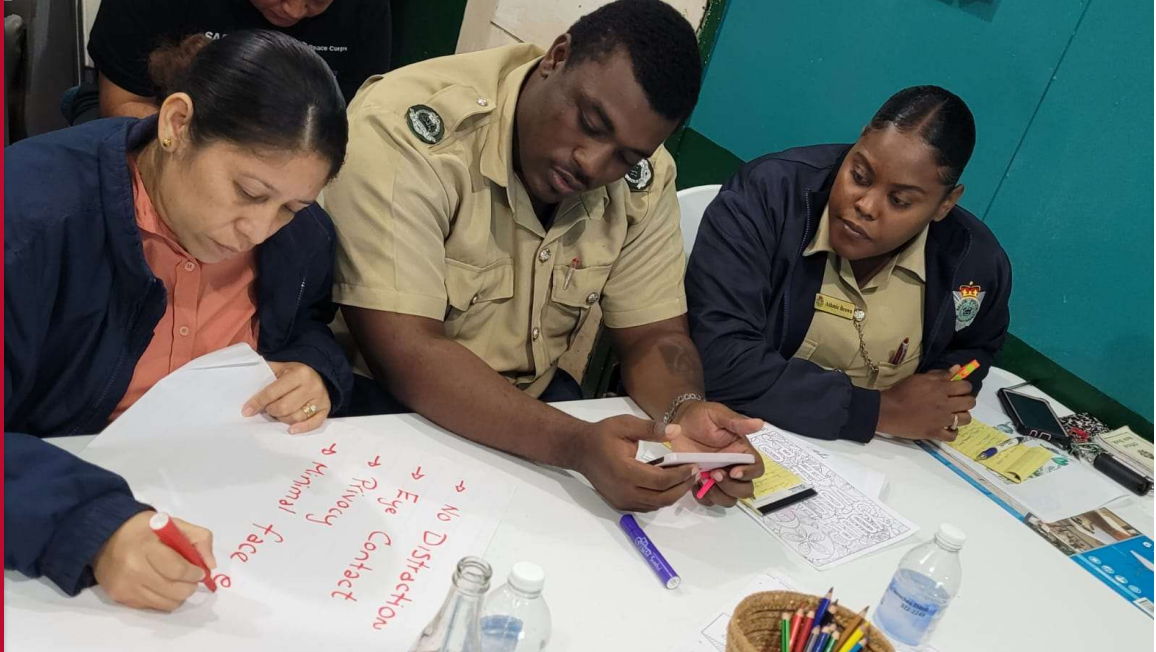
“Forest Home Methodist School serves primary school children in the Toledo district village of Forest Home. From the commencement of our Literacy Project, my Standard One teacher, Ms. Eunice Williams, very enthusiastically responded to the implementation of the Peace Corp's new Reading Intervention Guidebook to enhance the reading skills of her students. She recognized the need to raise the reading proficiency levels of her students and was determined to put in the continuing professional development work required to gain the knowledge and skills required to meet the students' needs through this sustainable literacy project. The trust she put in me to guide, coach and support her through the process was humbling. She never hesitated to ask questions, to try new teaching strategies or to re-work her Literacy plans to incorporate the elements of this new reading intervention program. Throughout the year, she maintained a consistently positive response to the introduction and use of new reading assessment tools to the benefit of her students. From the beginning of the academic year, she participated in all my after-school training workshops and was keen to learn how to sustainably use the new MICO Diagnostic Reading Test (MDRT II-C) to establish a 'baseline' assessment of the students' reading levels. Together, we analyzed the test data and used it to plan differentiated lessons to fill the student's 'learning gaps' to meet their individual needs. Her burning passion for teaching and supporting children to improve their literacy levels so they could develop into more proficient readers and writers was an inspiration to me. It is incredibly rewarding to witness her growth as a teaching professional; it was an honor to have been invited into her classroom to support her efforts to confidently implement the Peace Corps' Reading Intervention Guidebook in daily lessons. I have no doubt that she will continue to employ her new teaching methods, knowledge and skills to good effect over the coming years, as she competently assesses her students' reading skills using evidence-based data to organize, plan and teach her students in differentiated groups.

The Education Officer in the Toledo district office observed her literacy lesson and rated it as 'outstanding' - he reported to her that she is doing everything needed to properly implement the reading intervention program - an independent validation that meant a lot to the both of us! ”

# STAFF-LED INITIATIVE

Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault

With A Trauma Informed Approach



## BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## NATION-WIDE TRAINING





# STAFF-LED INITIATIVE

## Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault

### With A Trauma Informed Approach

In January 2024, Peace Corps Belize conducted trauma-informed, victim-centered training for approximately 90 police officers from the Belize Police Department. This nationwide initiative was part of our ongoing effort to improve responses to sexual assault cases. Officers from all six districts of Belize participated, including personnel from the Domestic Violence Unit, Criminal Investigation Branch, and first-line responders.

The initial one-day trainings covered the following topics:

- Tackling Unconscious Bias
- Sexual Assault Awareness
- Understanding Trauma and Its Impact
- Trauma-Informed Interviewing
- Practicing Self-Care

Participants engaged in peer-led exercises to practice trauma-informed interviewing techniques, reinforcing the skills introduced during the sessions. Feedback from the cohorts was overwhelmingly positive, with participants emphasizing the relevance and applicability of the training to their daily roles.

This led to the concept and realization of a training of trainers' event. It was held on November 5, 2024, in the Peace Corps Training Center with 22 officers who will act as trainers for the Belize Police Department with a nationwide reach.

Peace Corps Belize believes that fostering a skilled and informed police force contributes to safer communities and enhances the safety and well-being of Volunteers.





# ANTHONY WILLIAMS: A LIFE OF SERVICE



Picture it, 1988, a young Anthony saw a vacancy for a General Services Clerk at Peace Corps in Belize City. Thanks to a Peace Corps Volunteer at the time, Walter J., who provided context and encouragement. Anthony applied for the position and the rest as they say is history.

The Peace Corps way of cultural exchange was what kept Anthony motivated in the job for 36 years. Anthony viewed his service to Peace Corps as his service to his country, Belize and it showed as he transitioned into the role of General Services Manager. He was instrumental in spearheading new initiatives in the Inter-America and Pacific Region, launching the *Smith Drivers Training Program* at posts, which enabled the agency to certify drivers of U.S. Government vehicles, and most recently, he advocated for and oversaw the implementation of a major solar energy project at Peace Corps Belize.

He will be remembered for his quick and wonderful wit, kindness, and the care and interest he took in the professional development of others. Everyone at Peace Corps Belize has an "Anthony story," because he had a way of making each person feel special. Anthony prided himself on being Post's keeper of memories and history—often regaling staff with stories of when we issued saddles to Volunteers and when his own family hosted Volunteers.

Anthony was the embodiment of people-centered service, always putting others first. To honor his 35 years of service, in November 2023, Peace Corps Belize inaugurated the "Anthony Williams Day of Service," to ensure that Anthony's legacy lives on.

In late July 2024, we gathered as a staff to join his family and lay Anthony to rest.

**Thank you, Anthony, for your service to Peace Corps & Belize.**





## **ANTHONY WILLIAMS DAY OF SERVICE**

**Established in 2023  
TO COMMEMORATE 35 YEARS  
OF SERVICE TO PEACE CORPS BELIZE**



**COMMUNITY SERVICE**



## 2023 PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Anthony Williams began his service at Peace Corps Belize on the 3rd of May 1988 as the General Service Clerk, and he now serves as the General Service Manager; and

Whereas, Anthony Williams has always executed his responsibilities with excellence; going above and beyond the call of duty; and

Whereas, Anthony Williams has always been helpful and compassionate to countless members of the Peace Corps network, truly epitomizing 'do no harm' and 'I am my brothers and sisters keeper'; and

Whereas, Anthony Williams has been a dedicated and valued member of the Peace Corps Belize staff and management team; and

Whereas, Anthony Williams holds with pride the ceremonious title of Post Historian and guardian of our institutional memory; and

Whereas, Anthony Williams has upheld the Peace Corps values of people to people engagement, grassroots collaboration, sustainability, exchange of knowledge and skills, humility, and mutual respect; and

Whereas, Anthony Williams chose to share his humor, skills, talents, time and heart for the betterment of Peace Corps as an agency and the country of Belize; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, BY THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF PEACE CORPS BELIZE, for and on behalf of the Peace Corps Belize network, that November 21st be declared Anthony Williams Service Day in the City of Belmopan, Belize.







# MEET THE TEAM



# EXECUTIVE UNIT

## US DIRECT HIRES

### **Dr. Nadine Rogers | Country Director**



Dr. Rogers' career in public service has included the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service Officer at the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator; 10 years at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, handling scientific review of multi-million-dollar research grant applications; and PEPFAR Country Lead for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration in Vietnam. In 2018, she received a Franklin Award from the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam for her efforts on behalf of drug abusing populations in Vietnam. In 2022, The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association presented Dr. Rogers with its Global Achievement Award for epitomizing the University's tradition of excellence in her work internationally.

Dr. Rogers holds a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from the Johns Hopkins University; a Master of Science in Communication from Clarion University of Pennsylvania (PennWest); and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. She was sworn in as the Peace Corps Country Director for the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in February 2020. When she isn't working, Nadine likes to write poetry, take photos, and salsa dance.

### **Joey Manfredo | Director of Programming & Training**



Joey Manfredo brings more than a decade of international development project management and leadership experience to his role as the Director of Programming and Training at Peace Corps Belize. Prior to joining Peace Corps, he spent more than 11 years managing environment sector projects at DAI Global LLC, a USAID contractor. Between roles in the home office as a Senior Project Manager, he worked in the field as Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for two projects. From 2019 to 2021, he worked in the Philippines on DAI's USAID/ Protect Wildlife project—which was focused on biodiversity conservation and wildlife law enforcement. From 2015-2017, he served in Fiji, supporting DAI's USAID/ Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP), which supported climate change adaptation and disaster risk management interventions in 67 communities across nine Pacific Island countries.

Joey is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Tonga, 2005-08) and earned a master's degree in public policy from the University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree from Penn State University. In his free time, when Joey and his wife Nora (RPCV Tonga, 2010-12) aren't listening to jam bands while playing with their kids, Ollie (2) and Ida Marie (4 months), you can find him enjoying the outdoors, reading, writing, or watching Philadelphia Phillies baseball.

### **Kristina Brayman | Director of Management & Operations**



Kristina serves as the Director of Management and Operations for the Peace Corps in Belize. With over 18 years of experience in international development, she brings a wealth of expertise in managing complex programs, operations, and diverse teams. Her career spans leadership roles across Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and South America.

Kristina's journey in international development began with the U.S. Peace Corps, where she served as a Health Program Volunteer in Guyana (2005-2007). Before returning to the Peace Corps, Kristina was most recently the Country Representative/Director for East Asia and the Pacific at Catholic Relief Services (CRS), overseeing programs addressing disaster risk reduction, climate change, and humanitarian response. Kristina also held roles as Regional Director for Management Quality in West Africa, Director of Operations in Pakistan, Deputy Country Manager in the Republic of Congo, and Chief of Party in Mali, among others.

Kristina holds a Master of Public Health in Nutrition from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, traveling, and exploring new places with her husband (Andy) and two boys, Caden (9) and Quinn (4).



# EXECUTIVE UNIT

## LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF



### **Jackie Waight | Peace Corps Medical Officer**

Nurse Jackie provides primary clinical care preventative health training sessions that allow Trainees and Volunteers to make informed decisions about their health.

**Started at Peace Corps:** January 1990

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Nicole Wade | Medical Assistant**

Nurse Nicole performs administrative and clinical duties in support of the Peace Corps Medical Officer/s, Trainees, and Volunteers. She is also a Sexual Assault Response Liaison (SARL). She enjoys family time, especially outdoors.

**Started at Peace Corps:** May 2024

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Dora Najarro | Safety & Security Manager**

Dora oversees Volunteer safety and security, including site selection, incident response, emergency planning, coordination with external organizations, and providing safety training to Trainees, Volunteers, counterparts, and host families. When Dora is not working, she enjoys spending time with family and friends.

**Started at Peace Corps:** March 2014

**Languages:** Spanish, English & Kriol



### **Rikki Lambey | Quality Assurance Specialist**

Rikki champions a culture of quality assurance and continuous improvement. Her role entails ensuring organizational compliance with global standards, a responsibility she approaches with dedication and strategic insight.

**Started at Peace Corps:** September 2023

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Laryssa Contreras | Executive Assistant & Communications Coordinator**

Laryssa is the lead storyteller for Peace Corps Belize and ensures standards of practice are maintained. She approaches work and life with creativity and intentionality.

**Started at Peace Corps:** January 2019

**Languages:** Spanish, English & Kriol

# ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

## LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF



### **Chevon Bradley | Financial Specialist**

Chevon passionately promotes and exercises financial efficiency through the implementation of budgets. She takes pride in being able to incorporate her passion into the work of the Peace Corps.

**Started at Peace Corps:** November 2024

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Dulcie Palma | Administrative Human Resource Assistant**

Dulcie ensures seamless operations in her responsibilities including drafting contracts and managing payments. She is a lifelong learner, educator, and advocate for positive change.

**Started at Peace Corps:** January 2024

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Kent Haylock | General Services Manager**

Kent manages fleet operations, logistics, building and property oversight, procurement, assets documentation and property disposal. He enjoys building new things and spending time with family.

**Started at Peace Corps:** August 1999

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Edison Cooper | General Services Assistant**

Edison is tasked with providing logistical and administrative support in fleet, property, and inventory management. He relishes traveling and cooking.

**Started at Peace Corps:** December 2024

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Tereza Torres | Janitress**

Tereza is responsible for the clean, inviting atmosphere of the PC Office and the Mayflower Transit House. She likes gardening and spending time with her family.

**Started at Peace Corps:** August 2002

**Languages:** Spanish, English & Kriol



# ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

## LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF



### **Odion Marvyn Edenojie | Information Technology Specialist**

Odion maintains and troubleshoots computer systems, networks, and software to ensure smooth operation of the IT infrastructure. He provides support to Staff and Volunteers with technical issues. He is an avid sports fan, he enjoys football, basketball, and table tennis.

**Started at Peace Corps:** April 2015

**Languages:** English, Yoruba, & Spanish



### **Aura Montes | Principal Cashier**

Aura manages Peace Corps Belize's imprest fund. She ensures that all cash payments are accurate, legal, and timely. She enjoys movie nights, making memories with her three wonderful children, and being in nature.

**Started at Peace Corps:** July 2020

**Languages:** English, Spanish and Kriol.

# PROGRAMMING & TRAINING UNIT

## LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF



### **Sharmaine Ritchie | Training Manager**

Sharmaine oversees all training events for Trainees and Volunteers, facilitates sessions, manages training logistics, creates Calendars of Training Events (COTEs), and provides guidance to staff, Trainees, and Volunteers. She enjoys spending time with her children, reading, cycling, jogging, and making time daily for her yoga practice.

**Started at Peace Corps:** January 2010

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Rocio Vasquez | Language & Cultural Coordinator**

Rocio plans, implements, and evaluates language and cultural learning activities, supports language facilitators, monitors their performance, and organizes cultural activities. She enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

**Started at Peace Corps:** March 2014

**Languages:** English, Spanish and Kriol.

# PROGRAMMING & TRAINING UNIT

## LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF



### **Isela Garay | Response Program Manager**

Isela leads the management of the Response Program, ensuring high-quality programming and technical services in collaboration with Volunteers and Belizean organizations. She values simple living, motherhood, reading, art, and serving others.

**Started at Peace Corps:** July 2020

**Languages:** English, Kriol & basic Spanish



### **Lynelle Williams | Youth Development Program Manager**

Lynelle is responsible for coordinating with local counterparts in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating the Youth Empowered by Sports (YES) Project, and supporting Volunteers in their service. She is also a Sexual Assault Response Liaison (SARL). She enjoys following local basketball, gardening, cooking and being a mommy.

**Started at Peace Corps:** 2016

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Jamall Swaso | Programming and Training Specialist**

Jamal is the lead technical trainer – facilitating sessions throughout the training continuum, assessing trainees' readiness to serve in Belize, and supporting Volunteers throughout their service. He is also the Small Grants Coordinator, and Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation point of contact. He enjoys reading and being an active community member.

**Started at Peace Corps:** October 2024

**Languages:** English & Kriol



### **Miguel Vanegas | Host Family Coordinator**

Miguel is responsible for the identification, recruitment, and training of suitable families to host Trainees and Volunteers, supporting them in their integration. He also serves as a SARL and backup Safety and Security Manager. He enjoys listening to music, playing the guitar, and spending time with family.

**Started at Peace Corps:** December 2017

**Languages:** English, Spanish & basic French





**POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS**





# POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS



## GROWING OUR NETWORK

Partnerships are essential in expanding our network and creating meaningful connections that align with our vision. Through these collaborative efforts, we aim to work toward Belize's development goals. These partnerships, built on trust and mutual respect are key to making meaningful impact locally and globally.







## SERVICE SUMMIT STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

Authenticity, commitment, and trust were at the heart of the discussions during the 2024 Service Summit. The event brought together Peace Corps Volunteers, staff, and community partners to foster collaboration and strengthen the foundation of service in Belize. Currently, Peace Corps Volunteers support efforts across all six districts of Belize, with service durations ranging from one academic year to 27 months.

Volunteers are at various stages of their service journey, including members of the newest cohort sworn in just two months prior to the event and a dedicated two-year Volunteer who extended their service for a third year. The Service Summit provided an invaluable opportunity to deepen connections, share experiences, and reaffirm the shared mission of transforming lives and advancing Belize's development goals.



# SERVICE SUMMIT



## INTRODUCING PEACE CORPS TO A NEW GENERATION

The Peace Corps Belize Media Tour began on February 28, 2024, with its first appearance on a nationwide morning show. Over the following month, Peace Corps Belize was featured on all major media outlets and one regional radio station, amplifying our presence and mission across the country.

The warm reception at each media house highlighted the strong connection between Peace Corps Belize and the local community. Many individuals, both on-air and behind the scenes, shared personal experiences of how Peace Corps Belize has positively impacted their lives over the past six decades. The combination of curiosity about the organization's work and admiration for its 60+ years of service in Belize was evident throughout the tour.

Key outcomes of the media tour include increased interest in future media engagements, a rise in families expressing interest in hosting Volunteers, and enhanced recognition of Peace Corps Belize as a valuable partner in development.







**OVER 60 YEARS IN BELIZE**



**MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**





**Our Vision for Belize**  
**We use intercultural  
exchange to shape  
respectful partnerships  
that inspire individuals,  
transform communities,  
and advance Belize's  
development goals.**







Return to Service, November 2023, YES 1 Cohort



**Peace  
Corps**  
BELIZE