

Botswana benefits from Peace Corps



In this Issue

Message from the Country Director	1
Sites: Past and Present	2
2012 Achievements	3
President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief	4
Assignments and Typical Outcomes Under the HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Project	5
Cross-Sector Programming Priorities	6
Training Continuum and Language Achievements	7
Peace Corps Botswana In The News	8
Thank You To Our Partners	10



Peace Corps Botswana

ANNUAL REPORT 2012





Message from the Country Director

It is with real pleasure that Peace Corps Botswana releases its 2012 Annual Report. It has been quite a year – filled with accomplishments, excitement, and challenging but rewarding work. 2012 saw over 130 Peace Corps Volunteers living modestly and proudly serving in over 100 towns and villages across every corner of Botswana.

A historic milestone has been the completion of 40 years of active service in Botswana! Since our arrival here in 1966, through the ensuing decades, and upon our return in 2003 after a brief absence, Peace Corps has been a steadfast partner in development, and in promoting peace, friendship and understanding between our great nations. To ensure our efforts are focused on addressing Botswana's true priorities, Peace Corps works in close collaboration with the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA), and Ministerial and community partners.

The relationship between Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and the people of Botswana is family-like. Volunteers commence service living with local families for two months, to develop language skills and truly learn about the culture here. We owe a debt of gratitude most recently to the people of Kanye, for opening their hearts and homes to our Volunteers in training. Many Volunteers continue to live on family compounds once they settle in their villages for their two years of service. You can also spot them at Kgotla and Village Development Committee meetings, along with funerals and weddings. And just as families care for children, most Volunteers teach, coach, or work with youth – helping them to stay healthy and develop into Botswana's leaders of tomorrow.

Peace Corps was honored in 2012 to have former Presidents Masire and Mogae join some of our conferences and events. Americans continue to enjoy learning from these superb leaders; they are inspirations for me personally, and for our staff and Volunteers. Equally thrilling were visits by HE President Seretse Khama Ian Khama and former US President George W. Bush to the site of one of our Volunteers – Gabane Home Based Care. President Khama and his cabinet performed a morning of community service at this center for orphans and vulnerable children; the garden they helped expand continues to provide nutritious food and much needed income to the center. President and Laura Bush met with over 20 Peace Corps Volunteers and staff members at the site, to witness first-hand the work being done by our Volunteers. In addition to touring the facility and reading to the children, President Bush was happily surprised to be presented with a cake and to listen to the children sing in celebration of his birthday!



Photo by Shealah Craighead / The Bush Center

Of course, most of the time we aren't occupied with such high profile events. On any given day, Peace Corps Volunteers are quietly performing their duties – in schools, clinics, government offices, non-governmental organizations, and

throughout their communities. Their work spans an incredible breadth of activities. Some will be conducting health education talks in their villages and mobilizing people to get tested for HIV or to get circumcised. Others will be working with guidance and counseling staff in schools to infuse life skills lessons into classes, or facilitating PACT (peer approach to counseling teens) or "Delay Early Sex" clubs, or GLOW (girls and guys leading our world) camps. Others will be working with Women's Affairs Department staff to address issues of gender based violence (GBV), or training health workers on providing compassionate support to victims of GBV. Still others will be helping communities plant gardens or construct homes for the destitute. Some PCVs will be teaching computer skills and working to improve systems and processes in their offices. Other will be working to expand arts and crafts businesses to preserve local culture and generate income, or will be engaging youth in healthy sports activities, or organizing to bring latrines to a needy village community, or helping arrange paralympic events or other services for people living with disabilities, or screening instructive health education films, or holding youth and adult HIV support groups, or otherwise helping to build local capacity to more effectively respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Botswana. The list goes on and on!

I'm very proud of the work being done by Peace Corps Volunteers; it is making a big impact. In 2012, Peace Corps Botswana Volunteers collectively reached over 20,000 Batswana with individual and small group HIV prevention activities! Many of the individuals reached were trained to conduct additional prevention activities, hence multiplying the impact and ensuring sustainability. Other people were reached many times with different interventions, for example through weekly meetings or multi-day camps. Peace Corps interventions run deep, and often change or save lives. We're confident that 2013 will be an equally impactful year, as we continue to work towards Botswana's goal of no new infections by 2016.

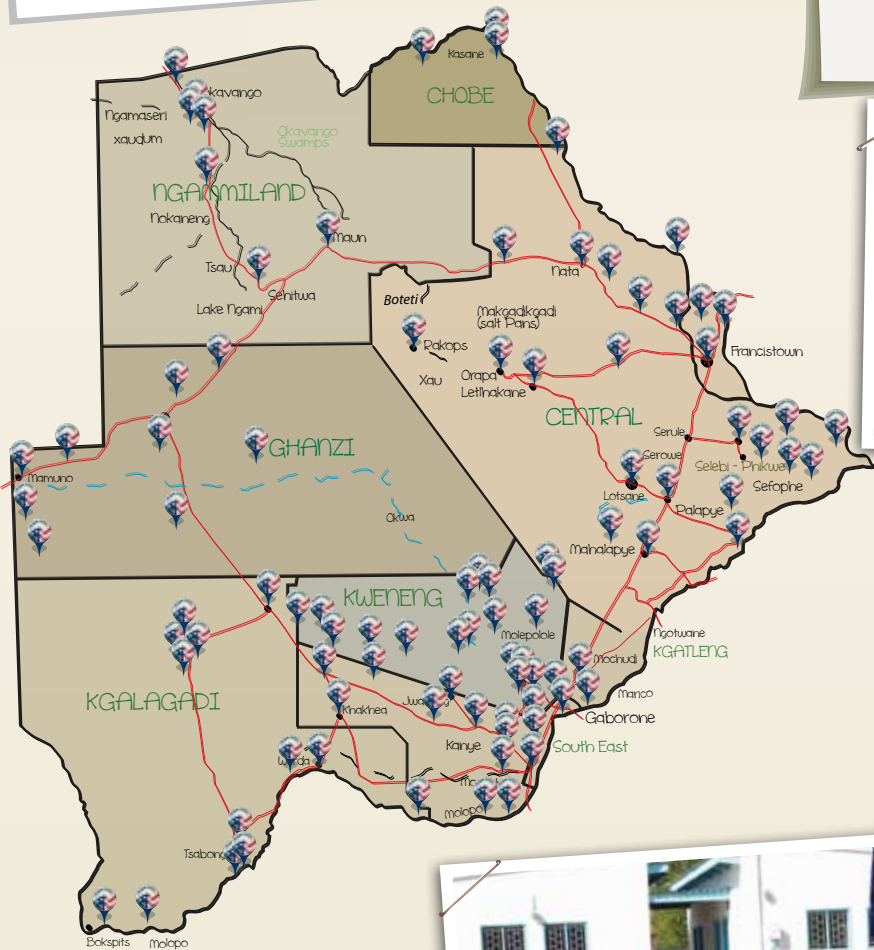
Tim Hartman
Tim Hartman - Country Director

In 2012, Volunteers lived in over 100 communities spread throughout Botswana. They also worked in many neighboring villages, easily touching lives in at least 300 communities. Placement of our Volunteers is prioritized in smaller rural villages; giving our Volunteers exposure to grassroots community development and opportunities for mobilization, especially around HIV/AIDS prevention.

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Peace Corps Worldwide Goals

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of peoples served
- Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans



Non-Governmental Organization
Volunteers, Ross S. and Heidi P.

Non-Governmental Organization
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In Botswana, one-third of women between the ages of 25-29 are HIV-positive. For those ages 30-35, the number is almost 50%. There are a myriad of reasons why young women are considered an at-risk group, and lack of economic empowerment is one of the biggest. With the help of the kgosi (chief), the Village Development Committee (VDC), a social worker and other community members, my wife and I supported one young woman in starting her own fashion design company. We were both NGO Volunteers at the time, serving in the Ngamiland District from 2010-2012.

We helped this woman to attain basic equipment, learn computer skills and develop partnerships with nearby tourist initiatives - all of which helped her small business expand. Now the woman offers sewing and business management training for other women, including those with disabilities. She has become an entrepreneur and has so far hired two other women to work for her company. In 2013, she is slated to attend the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program in Washington D.C. on a nomination from Peace Corps Botswana. Even though we are back in America now, she'll remain an inspiration to us, and a great friend.

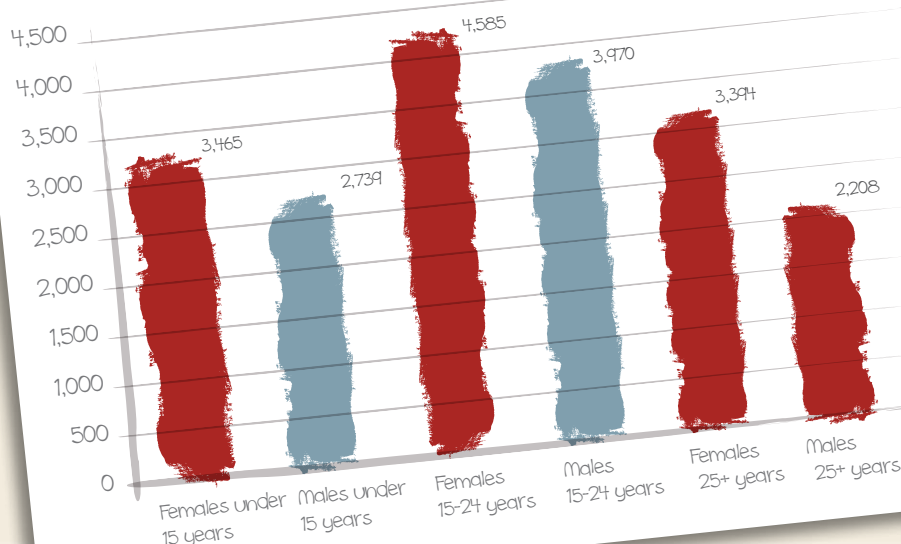
2012 Achievements

Peace Corps/Botswana Volunteers worked with Botswana counterparts to reach over 20,000 Botswana with HIV prevention messages and interventions. 1,495 service providers, such as teachers, nurses, health education assistants, lay counselors, and social workers were reached to improve their knowledge or skills with regards to prevention.

Volunteers worked with 578 organizations to improve their capacity to address HIV/AIDS, through work such as strategic planning, meeting facilitation and documentation, information technology improvements, database establishment, or evidence-based planning processes followed.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children, People Living with HIV/AIDS, and caregivers also benefited from Volunteer interventions, including 8,533 individuals and service providers. Further, our Volunteers worked with 300 communities to implement HIV/AIDS related activities, far beyond their official 100 site placements - in order to get out the HIV/AIDS messages far and wide. The graph offers a breakdown of the age ranges of people reached in an array of settings, from schools to clinic waiting areas, and from football pitches to conference rooms.

Batswana Reached with HIV/AIDS Prevention Interventions



In their own Words:
Clinic Volunteer, Susan B.



Capacity Building

Improved Systems:

578 Organizations had improved systems to respond to the demands of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

394 Service providers adopted at least one new facilitation skill or technique

1084 service providers improved their knowledge about HIV prevention or mainstreaming

I have been serving in Eastern District since 2010, helping the community make strides in supporting disabled youth by bringing attention to a 13-year-old girl named Lorato (for privacy the name has been changed). "Lorato" lives with two disabilities - spina bifida (a birth defect where the backbone and spinal canal do not close before birth) and clubfeet. With disability services still in their early development stages in Botswana, Lorato struggled with no support for her disabilities and was not attending school. I was able to help the Rotary Club to provide a wheelchair for Lorato (and other needy children), and the clinic made arrangements for her to be fitted with special shoes at the Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone. I also worked with a rehabilitation officer to address Lorato's schooling situation, as she desperately wanted to go to school. She began Primary School in January 2013 - how wonderful that was! A friend of mine will present about Lorato's and my experience at her local Rotary Club in the United States, encouraging wider support for disabled peoples in Botswana.

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

PEPFAR is a collaborative effort amongst US government agencies working to address HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and support in collaboration with many Botswana government partners. Peace Corps Botswana receives a large portion of its funding from PEPFAR, due to our focus on HIV/AIDS. In July of 2012, former US President George W. Bush visited a project made possible, in part, by PEPFAR funding.



Photo by Shealah Craighead / The Bush Center



Photo by Shealah Craighead / The Bush Center



In their own Words:

District AIDS Coordinator Volunteer, Tom D.



I am a District AIDS Coordinator (DAC) volunteer serving in the South East District since 2010. I discovered in my district a great interest in Scouts by youth and adults alike - but nothing much was happening to train leaders or form troops. With the help of "Rev-it", a community mobilization program to revitalize scouting, a group of nine former Botswana Scouts and I co-facilitated a Scout leader recruitment and training program, which attracted eleven potential leaders. We devoted a lot of time to this all year, and I'm delighted to say that troops are now forming at the local level. Ambassador Gavin recently joined us for the launch of our first new troop, and many of those scouts were soon later awarded the HIV red ribbon merit badge on World AIDS day!

I presented about the Botswana Scout program when United States Senators Michael Enzi and Kent Conrad paid a visit to Botswana back in April. Both Senators had been scouts, and I believe our work and that discussion gave a big boost to building support for scouting. Scouting is perfect for Botswana; it's a wonderful way to productively engage youth and create the leaders of tomorrow. The US Mission is actively on board to help revitalize Scouts at the national level. I'm proud and humbled to have played a part in this initiative, and will continue to diligently support Scouts however I can.



Assignments and Typical Outcomes Under the HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Project

Peace Corps Botswana is guided by a Project Framework that is aligned with the National Strategic Framework II for HIV/AIDS. There are three goals that Peace Corps/Botswana seeks to achieve and four assignment areas in which Volunteers work.

Project Goals

1. Men, women, and youth will participate in activities that promote healthy lifestyles and emphasize prevention of HIV/AIDS to move Botswana closer to the national prevention goal of “no new infections by 2016.”
2. Organizations, agencies, and departments have improved systems to respond to the demands of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
3. Orphans and Vulnerable Children, People Living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, community members, and service providers will provide and/or have access to quality services related to HIV/AIDS.

Assignment Areas

Life Skills - An important component for preventing new HIV infections is working with in and out-of-school youth. In this assignment, Volunteers work with schools, teachers, and community leaders and parents to design and implement activities to address identified needs, such as leadership training, lack of recreational activities, and health education.

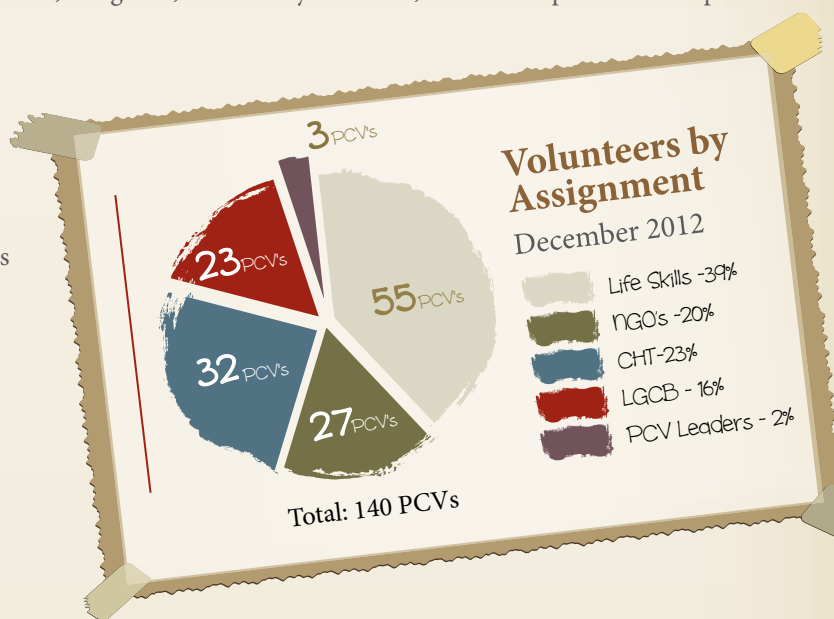
- Prevention of new infections by offering health education
- Increased and improved leadership skills, self-confidence, and self-awareness
- Delayed sexual debut or abstinence and reduced pregnancies
- Improved study skills
- Raised awareness about alcohol abuse
- Strengthened Guidance and Counseling teams in schools

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) - Peace Corps Botswana works to help build the capacity of civil society. Volunteers work to help build sustainable NGOs that can provide services to clients and meet community needs. The focus for these Volunteers is on systems strengthening, resource mobilization, and organisational development.

- Prevention of new infections through improved service provision and program implementation
- Systems established to improve human resource management, governance, financial accountability, and monitoring and evaluation systems
- Improved grant writing skills and increased funding

Clinic and Health Teams (CHT) - Volunteers in clinics and District Health Management Teams work to help achieve the mandate for community outreach and HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Volunteers in these placements work with their counterparts and communities to mobilize individuals and educate communities on different services, such as ARVs, tuberculosis prevention, malaria, maternal and child health, and HIV prevention.

- Prevention of HIV infections through improved education and outreach to targeted audiences
- Improved data capturing and reporting to national level
- Improved computer skills, including typing and internet use
- Improved implementation of programs by committees such as the Health Committee, Men's Sector, and Peer Mothers' Support Groups
- Improved monitoring tools and databases



Local Government Capacity Building (LGCB) - The Ministry of Local Government manages two critical components in Botswana's efforts to address HIV/AIDS, including the District AIDS Coordinators' (DAC) offices and Social and Community Development offices, under the Department of Social Services. DAC-assigned Volunteers play a key role in the annual planning process and coordination of yearly plans' implementation, especially related to monitoring and evaluation. Those Volunteers assigned to Social and Community Development offices address efforts to especially reach orphans and vulnerable children and their families.

- Coordination of district-level agencies and organizations working to address HIV/AIDS
- Increased inclusion of smaller community-based groups working on HIV/AIDS
- Improved computer literacy comprehension
- Improved outreach and services to the most vulnerable rural communities



In their own Words:

Life Skills Volunteer, Jeanne D.

With one of the world's highest HIV rates, Botswana sees many parents pass away, leaving orphaned children to grandparents. With the help of extended family and food baskets from the Botswana Government, many of these children find sufficient support - but unfortunately some still fall through the cracks. I was a Life Skills volunteer who served in Kweneng District from 2010-2012. Our community identified a family that was terribly in need. A visually impaired grandmother was caring for 17 orphaned grandchildren, all in the open air with no real shelter. With the help of a Peace Corps Partnership Grant, the Village Development Committee (VDC), local police Clusters, social workers, the kgosi (chief), and several local volunteers, a safe and appropriate house was built for the large family. The "Handing over of the House" ceremony was a highlight of my service! The local police also committed to following up with the family, helping them to maintain their link with the clinic and social work office. The children now receive the support they require, and, as the grandmother reported, "The rains cannot find me anymore." This project is an example of what can happen when a community produces its own volunteers, and attracts additional donations. Anything is possible.

Cross-Sector Programming Priorities

Peace Corps Botswana addresses HIV/AIDS in myriad ways through Volunteers working in its four assignment areas. Peace Corps Botswana also addresses two cross-sector programming areas, defined as Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GenEq), and Technology for Development (T4D) plus a regional initiative to support malaria eradication efforts in Botswana. Peace Corps Volunteers are highly qualified to assist Botswana in leveraging the nation's resources and commitments to these critical areas for ongoing development. Volunteers work with committed colleagues in these areas in a variety of ways, as described below, and Peace Corps expects Botswana to make leaps and bounds in advancements related to these interventions.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GenEq)

Dozens of Volunteers are involved with gender-related initiatives, demonstrating a variety of avenues for improving gender equality in Botswana. With the support of numerous counterparts, these Volunteers co-planned and co-facilitated activities on subjects such as sexual abuse, gender-based violence, condom promotion, HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) education, women's reproductive health, Safe Male Circumcision (SMC), and women's economic empowerment.

The subject of gender is often stereotyped as exclusively pertaining to women's rights, but through their broad array of activities, Volunteers have drawn attention to the necessity of men and children's involvement as well in promoting gender equality. Volunteers conducted several gender equality-promoting campaigns.

They have also helped train health workers in recognizing signs of sexual abuse, adequate reporting procedures and how to create a safe and supportive environment for survivors of violence and abuse. To promote women's empowerment, some Volunteers co-facilitated girls' soccer teams in their villages, taught self-defense classes, helped infuse gender topics into school curriculums, and are encouraging boys and girls to analyze and discuss their perceptions of healthy relationships.

The examples of these Volunteers' successes demonstrate what a wide spectrum of opportunities there are to promote gender equality. In every aspect of Botswana's development, be it in the home or in the public sphere, gender equality is impossible to ignore as one key to unlocking Botswana's future.

Technology for Development (T4D)

There is no doubt, Botswana is developing rapidly. With development and increasing globalization comes a dire need for citizens to acquire technical skills. Many Peace Corps Volunteers in Botswana have technical skills that can assist greatly in such things as improving office systems, analysis of data, outreach for behavior change, and improving efficiencies by saving time. The majority of Volunteers in nearly all assignments, whether in District AIDS Coordinator offices (DAC), clinics, DHMTs, schools, or NGOs, find themselves improving development through technology in their officially assigned sites, as well as in neighboring offices or in the community.

Examples of work done by Volunteers throughout the country include: installing internet access, networking computers and printers, promoting computer based trainings such as TeachAIDS and typing programs through installation on hundreds of computers, developing newsletters to disseminate important information, designing forms to facilitate reporting, reconfiguring fax machines, creating back-up systems, advising on IT upgrades, configuring servers, and developing websites for offices and NGOs alike. From one Volunteer who is particularly technology focused, "Adding networking, backup, forms, emailing, faxing and all kinds of other office improvements has taken [our] office from a place where three staff members were demoralized to an office with agendas, schedules and monitoring and evaluation - in just ten short months."

Training Continuum and Language Achievements



Peace Corps provides its Volunteers with a continuous learning curriculum. From the time they arrive in-country to the time they depart, Peace Corps works hard to meet the needs of their service, as well as the needs of the Botswana counterparts and supervisors. In Botswana, Volunteers have two months of training before going to their permanent sites for two years of service. The purpose of the early two-month training is to familiarize Volunteers with the cultures of Botswana, language, food, HIV/AIDS interventions, and the different structures of relevant government ministries.

A homestay program is a crucial component to the success of our work in Botswana. Newly-arrived Volunteers live with local host families for their first two months in country. Peace Corps and the local authorities select the host families on a voluntary basis following an assessment process. The selected families undergo an orientation in which they are briefed in detail about hosting Volunteers, including tips for cross-cultural communications. The host families are asked to welcome Volunteers into their homes as family members and to teach them the culture and language. Host families also assume the responsibilities of caring for these Volunteers so that they can adapt to the new culture and lifestyles they will encounter in Botswana during their service. Host family living conditions are modest, ideally approximating the simple level that Volunteers are expected to live at during their two-year service. Peace Corps looks for host families who want an opportunity for cross-cultural exchange, to make an American friend, and to help a Volunteer learn about their culture and language. We are very thankful to host families in the Villages of Kanye, Molepolole, Thamaga,

Kumakwane, Moshupa, and Rasesa - to mention but a few communities - that have opened their hearts and homes to the Volunteers.

Peace Corps offers Volunteers a chance to learn Setswana through what we call pre-arrival outreach. This is done through conference calls, Google groups, and YouTube videos. During their two months of intensive training, they have over 100 hours of language learning in small groups with a Motswana Language and Cross-Cultural Facilitator; this is in addition to the practical use they have daily with their homestay families. After Volunteers start service at their sites, ongoing language support is provided through tutorials, language weeks, and newsletter articles.

100% of the most recent group of trainees achieved the language competency level set by Peace Corps Botswana to become official Volunteers. We will continue to put a heavy emphasis on language learning, because it is clear that strong language skills correlate highly with effectiveness in the community, and Volunteer satisfaction.



Botswana benefits from Peace Corps

Daily News Thursday March 15, 2012 No. 51 Page 4



Former president, Mr Festus Mogae, congratulating the United States of America Peace Corps, Ms Salwan Hager, Ms Abigail Taylor and Ms Teresa Hager at the close of service luncheon in Gaborone on Tuesday. Mr Mogae commended them for the important role they played in fighting HIV/AIDS pandemic. The volunteers stayed in the country for two years, working with NGOs among other duties. Photo: Felicity Male

Bush visits Gabane

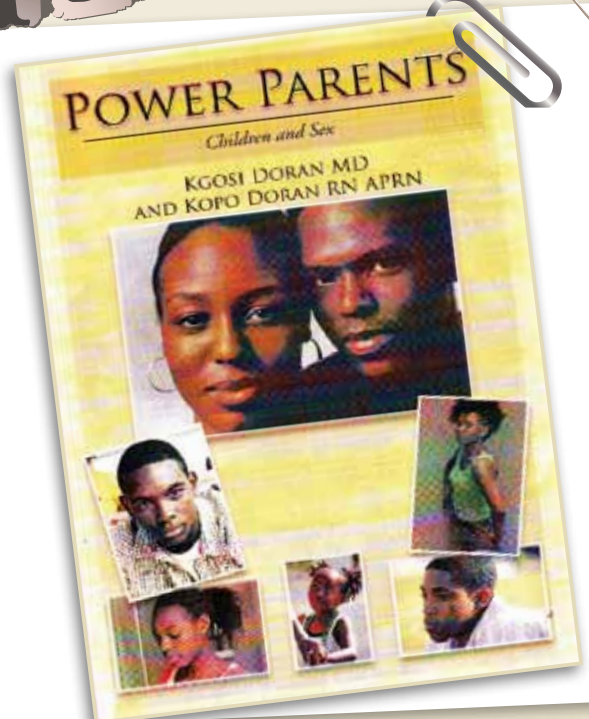
Captured by Mmegi lensman KAGISO ONKATSWITSE

*** wednesday, 14 march, 2012 vol 29, no. 39

Peace Corps intervention in HIV/AIDS extolled

POWER PARENTS

Kgosi and Kopo Doran are American Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Botswana from 2009-2011 and were always known by their Setswana names. They wrote this book to promote dialogue between adults and youth on sensitive issues related to reproductive health. In America, Christopher M. Doran MD and Maureen O. Doran RN APRN are medical and mental health professionals. Dr. Doran is a board-certified Psychiatrist, a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and the author of three other books. Maureen Doran is board-certified Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse and the recipient of numerous awards including the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, the Department of Veterans Affairs Excellence in Nursing Award, and the Outstanding Nurse Clinician in the State of Colorado. In addition to 30 years of experience treating adults, families, and adolescents, each of the Dorans is a Clinical Professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.



TIME OUT



A Peace Corps Volunteer's Story

June Woods

Time Out – A Peace Corps Volunteer's Story.

June Woods was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana in the late 1970s. She taught Richard Matlhare when he was a boy, and mentions him in her book.



“

I am a product of Peace Corps. I had 4 Peace Corps teachers who contributed to what I am today.

”

*Richard Matlhare
National Coordinator of the
National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA).*



In their own Words:

Community Health Team Volunteer, Hayley S

According to Botswana's Gender Based Violence Indicators Study published in 2012, over two thirds of women living in Botswana experience gender based violence (GBV) at some point in their lifetime. As a District Health Team volunteer in the Kgalagadi South District, I work closely with those who respond to GBV cases. What I have learned is that gender issues such as GBV have many root causes, making it necessary to involve all groups of the population in its prevention. I try to tackle gender issues through the existing Botswana institutions of Tribal Administration and Village Chiefs, Ministry of Health education programs, women's support groups and through school based peer education clubs.

With the help of the local library and coworkers at the local Hospital, I developed a women's empowerment project aimed at promoting women's importance and their ability to stand up to abuse. A banner was taken around the village for women to trace their hand prints and write inside what they feel they have the power to do as women. This project provided a way for women to talk to each other about what they hope for in life and what they deserve, such as the power to be respected, the power to achieve their goals and the power to stop GBV. The project also gave women the chance to outwardly express the issues they face to men. Since its creation, the banner has been used at many events including a Women's Empowerment Event with U.S. Ambassador Gavin to help inspire discussion and action on women's issues in Botswana.

Thank you to our partners!

Peace Corps is grateful to its many Botswana government partners and others who support the Volunteers and our project goals and implementation. We certainly could not exist without you.



2012 Partners

National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA)

Village of Kanye and dozens of homestay families

Ministry of Education and Skills Development

- 26 Volunteers with Primary Community Schools
- 23 Volunteers with Community Junior Secondary Schools
- 3 Volunteers with Community Senior Secondary Schools
- 1 Volunteer with a Teachers Training College
- Education Centre of Kanye for classroom and training facility use

Non-Governmental and Community Based Organisations

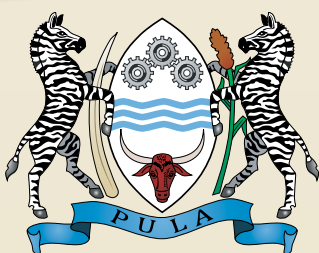
- 34 NGO and CBOs have Volunteers placed either full time or part-time with them, such as, but not limited to: Bakgatla Bolokang Matshelo, BAPR, Botswana National Youth Council, Botswana Family Welfare Association, Botswana Retiree Nurses Association, Gabane Home Based Care, House of Hope, Humana People to People, Kagisano Society, Khakhea Youth Centre, Kuru Art, Leretlhabetse Support Group, Mother Theresa Resource Centre, Mpule Kwelagobe Children's Centre, Pabalelo Trust, Sekgele Training Society, Stepping Stones International, Thuso Rehabilitation Centre, TOCaDI, Top Banyana, YWCA,

Ministry of Health

- 27 Volunteers with Clinics
- 4 Volunteers with District Health Management Teams

Ministry of Local Government, Department of Primary Health Care

- 20 Volunteers with District AIDS Coordinator Offices
- Department of Social Services
- 5 Volunteers with Social and Community Development Offices



Ministries of Local Government and Education and Skills Development



MINISTRY of HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA



Peace Corps volunteers to be welcomed



MOKATAKO
BOTSWANA



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PEACE CORPS



ANNIVERSARY

1961-2011