



Peace Corps Community for Refugees

Connecting the Peace Corps Community to Refugee Support Opportunities

PCC4Refugees E-Newsletter!

Congratulations to 2018 Teacher of the Year, RPCV Mandy Manning!

Mandy Manning, an RPCV from Armenia, was named the 2018 National Teacher of the Year on Friday by the [Council of Chief School State Officers \(CCSSO\)](#). Mandy Manning teaches English and math to refugee and immigrant students in the Newcomer Center at Ferris High School in Spokane, Washington, where she is her students' first teacher once they arrive in the U.S.

You can see her interview on [CBS This Morning here!](#)

Latest News



2018 Teacher of the Year, Mandy Manning

PCC4Refugees members had the tremendous pleasure of meeting Mandy!



Read more about her on our our home page [here](#) and through our articles:

[RPCVs Find Champion in 2018 Teacher of the Year](#)

[Trump presents teaching award to Spokane educator of teen refugees](#)

During her trip to Washington, D.C., Mandy met with:

President Trump [Teacher of the Year hands Trump letters from her refugee students](#) and [Betsy DeVos](#) at the Department of Education where she delivered positive messages about her students.

Mandy and refugee students have been featured in several newspapers across the nation. Please consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in response to any stories about Mandy, or in response to stories on local refugees. It can be a short letter that references basic details of the article and encourages more positive stories and advocacy for refugee issues.



Host Mandy Manning!

If you, your NPCA affiliate group, local Rotary club, or other organization is interested in hosting Mandy Manning for a visit or event, please fill out [this form](#) to request through the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the coordinating organization.



Advocate and Spread the Word!

Please consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in response to any stories about Mandy, or in response to stories on local refugee student graduates. It can be a short letter that references basic details of the article and encourages more positive stories and advocacy for refugee issues.

An advocacy letter could read as such:

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who strongly supports refugee resettlement, I encourage the Trump administration to reverse the government's dramatic reduction in refugee visas, which have reached the lowest levels in four decades. These reductions will result in thousands of people like XXXXXX (name of graduating student) missing out on the same opportunity to succeed.



Notable Refugee News Articles

David Miliband, President and Chief Executive of the [International Rescue Committee](#) wrote an [opinion article](#) for the Washington Post *Onrefugees, the Trump administration is competent and malevolent*. He explains how bureaucratic means are being used to subvert an agreed-upon interagency decision. There have been no hearings in Congress and no accounting for the result.

The New York Times ran a very [informative article](#) on the current status of refugee resettlement. It highlights the low admissions numbers of refugees for this fiscal year and the effects in the field.



Cincinnati Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (CARV)

[Refugee Connect of Greater Cincinnati](#) is Cincinnati's umbrella program that links refugee communities, service providers, and engaged community members to each other. Ron Ison (RPCV Togo), known as "Uncle Ron", supports students and families to see and reach their potential academically, socially, and in their career; helps families identify options for home ownership; participates on Education and Employment Action teams within the Refugee Empowerment Initiative collaborative.



RPCVs are also connecting with local refugees. **Rachel Von Holle** (Peace Corps/Macedonia 2014-1016) teaches English to 6th-8th graders at Roselawn Condon School, where Lamont had established a relationship. Von Holle and her ESL colleague meet twice a month with her to discuss ways to involve their students and families. Another RPCV who works closely with RefugeeConnect, even serving on its leadership committee, is **Adelyn Hall** (Peace Corps/Swaziland, 2011-2013). As director of housing and neighborhood development with the Community Learning Center Institute in Cincinnati, she builds housing opportunities for refugees, immigrants, and low-income families. You can read more about them in [our articles here](#).

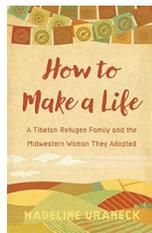


Refugee Well-Being Project

Brandon Baca, RPCV Rwanda 2009-2011 is a Research Coordinator at the [Refugee Well-being Project](#) at the RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. The Refugee Well-being Project is an innovative program that brings together newly arrived refugees (from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi) and students from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Refugees both learn from and teach American students in the promotion of their well-being. For several years, they have been funded through the National Institutes of Health but that funding is going away soon and they are raising funds to keep this amazing project going. If you cannot attend fundraisers they host but would still like to support our work, please consider a tax-deductible donation that can be easily made online [here](#). They also have volunteering opportunities available and currently have 4 RPCVs volunteering with them.

New book published by RPCV on a refugee family

RPCV Madeline Ura-neck writes in her new book, "How to Make a Life: A Tibetan Refugee Family and the Midwestern Woman They



Adopted” about the life of a family of immigrants just arriving from India and Tibet. An evocative blend of immersion journalism and memoir, *How to Make a Life* shares the immigration story of a Tibetan refugee family who crossed real and cultural bridges to make a life in Madison, Wisconsin, with the assistance of the Midwestern woman they befriended. From tales of escaping Tibet over the Himalayas, to striking a balance between old traditions with new, to bridging divides one friendly gesture at a time, readers will expand their understanding of family, culture, and belonging.

Madeline Uraneck is an RPCV: Teacher Trainer, College of Education, in Lesotho, 2006-2009; Ed. Specialist, in Peace Corps HQ, 2009-2010; and, PTO Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, 2010-2012. She was selected as the State of Wisconsin's first International Education Consultant, wrote one of the country's first international education curriculum guides to come out of a state department of education and in 2009 was named the Global Educator of the Year by the Friends of International Education.

Information on a speaking event with her in Middleton, WI is at [the link here](#).



Community Support Efforts

Learn what others in the Peace Corps Community and NPCA Affiliate Groups have been doing to support refugees in our featured Articles.

[Articles](#)



Upcoming World Refugee Day on June 20!

To celebrate [World Refugee Day](#) on June 20, the Peace Corps Community for Refugees would like to tell your stories of supporting refugees. We know RPCVs are involved in aiding the resettlement of refugees and helping those already here. Because of our own experiences living and working in new environments, we can empathize with their difficulties adjusting. We invite your brief anecdotes, profiles or slices of life about helping a refugee, which we will publicize through our [website](#) and [social media](#). Send your story in an email to info@pcc4refugees.org.

Please keep it to 300 words or less, and let us know your name, city/town, and Peace Corps country of service & years.

The journalist Helen Thorpe places refugee resettlement work at the intersection where acts of courage are met by acts of generosity. Your stories can help us raise awareness of the plight of refugees. Give our most vulnerable people a voice. Help us celebrate them on World Refugee Day!



New Hampshire RPCVs will host Refugee event

Laura Bonk and other RPCVs, will host representatives from New Hampshire Immigration Legal Services (CC-NH.ORG/IMMIGRATION) to speak about the valuable and free services that they provide to New Hampshire immigrants who need assistance. Cathy Chesley, the program director, will be joining us as well as other guests. The evening will begin with a discussion and followed by a potluck social. The event will occur on Thursday, May 24, 2018 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the University of New Hampshire Law School in Concord, NH. For more information please email Laura Bonk at laurambonk@gmail.com.



Peace Corps Alliance for Intercultural Understanding (PCAIU)

The Peace Corps Alliance for Intercultural Understanding. This is an NPCA affiliated partnership that is designed to Educate, Advocate and Organize reasoned responses to extremism and to promote the civil society agenda of Peace Corps. Visit their website (pcaiu.org) and follow the simple directions to join the organization and effort to address the causes of Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism and all other forms of intolerance. The PCAIU, which serves a clearinghouse for numerous RPCV groups, is currently operating through the 501c(3) protection of Friends of Afghanistan. Joining PCAIU is free.



The One Journey Festival

PCC4Refugee members will be attending the [One Journey Festival](#), a day-long, large-scale celebration of refugee talents and contributions. The free event will take place on Saturday June 2, 2018 on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral and is expected to draw 3,000+ participants. The One Journey Festival aims to connect cultures through food, fashion, music and dance as we celebrate refugee talents and stories and empower participants to take actions to stand in solidarity with our global displaced brothers and sisters.



Volunteers working with refugees in Greece

PCC4Refugees is developing opportunities for RPCVs to provide direct assistance to refugees in Greece through NPCA's 'Next Step Travel' program. Prior to identifying the sites and the skills needed, we would like to get an idea of the interest that RPCVs have in this type of opportunity. If you are interested, please take the short survey below:

[Next Step Travel PCC4Refugees Survey](#)

Are you serving refugees in your community? We would love to hear what you're up to! Your answers help us stay connected to Peace Corps Community efforts by sharing stories and experiences with others through outreach. [Please take a short survey!](#)



Helpful Resources

Find helpful resources for supporting refugees

Resources

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Contact:

info@pcc4refugees.org

www.PCC4Refugees.org

You have received this email because you are a member or a prospective member of **The Peace Corps Community for the Support of Refugees**, a membership organization powered by [SilkStart](#) [update notification preferences](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#)