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For immediate release

Contact info:

Kate Schachter, 50th Anniversary Coordinator, kateschachter@yahoo.com, 608-234-1795

Ana Zambie, RPCV Group President, annzam2001@yahoo.com, 608-234-0281

Rebecca Martin, RPCV 50th Anniversary Media Contact, ramartin@uwalumni.com, 920-723-7129

Bringing the World Back Home: Wisconsin Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Celebrate 50 Years

Madison, Wisconsin—Composting latrines. Toybraries. Citrus trees. AIDS prevention. Artisan cooperatives. Since 1961, Wisconsin men and women have traveled to the farthest corners of the globe as part of the Peace Corps. From the challenges of parasites, lack of resources and poor transportation to the joys of teaching, of building communities, of building libraries, of seeing crops grow, of improving water access and sanitation, Peace Corps Volunteers are celebrating 50 years of service.

Throughout 2011, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) in Madison and across Wisconsin will be bringing the world back home through art shows, conferences and other events.

Bringing the World Back Home Art Exhibit: March 24th-May 31st at the Promega Art Showcase. This exhibit recognizes Wisconsin Peace Corps Volunteers whose 50 years of service affected thousands of lives in various parts of the world. The art objects are windows into their memories and experiences with their overseas communities and honor the people who welcomed them so warmly into their homes. Additional art will be displayed at the Madison's Children's Museum and the Sun Prairie Public Library. A poster display of the artwork will be presented at the Goodman Community Center, the Mazomanie Free Library and other locations throughout Wisconsin. The show's featured art and the memories along with it are also presented in a catalog of the exhibition, supported in part by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Overture Foundation and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation. Contact: Kate Schachter, kateschachter@yahoo.com, 608-234-1795.

Peace Corps and Africa Conference: March 24-26, presented by the UW-Madison African Studies Department, this conference features presentations by RPCV writers, poets and film makers; former US Ambassadors; Johnnie Carson, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; John Lange of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Program; and more. The conference culminates in a public presentation featuring Aaron Williams, the Director of Peace Corps, followed by an African dance party. For more information, visit www.africa.wisc.edu/peacecorps. Contact: Cathy Day, connect@africa.wisc.edu, 240-753-4763.

Around the World Expo: March 27th, the Regional Peace Corps office in Chicago and the National Peace Corps Association are putting on this event. It will be free and open to the public at the Monona Terrace. This is one of a series of 50th Anniversary expos being held around the country in 2011. This expo will highlight the work of the Peace Corps over the past 50 years, while engaging RPCVs and inspiring the next generation of Volunteers. Contact: Lauren Moscoe, ljmoscoe@gmail.com, 585-315-8304.

Looking for photos, speakers or service stories from Returned Peace Corps Volunteers? Contact Rebecca Martin for more information.

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