

## 2004 Annual Report to the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)

Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
P.O. Box 55294, Birmingham, AL 35255  
www.gbrpcv.org

**Membership in 2004:** 34 paid memberships (18 NPCA members); 3 recently returned RPCVs (free membership for one year post COS date); 6 honorary members (trainees and volunteers in the field).

**Planning Meetings:** A planning meeting was held on January 24 before the pot luck supper. All members were welcome to attend and give input. Additional business was conducted at the August 14 lake party, fall recruiting meeting September 22 and at the holiday supper December 16. Otherwise group business was generally conducted via email and phone between the board members and committee chairs.

### **Social/Recruitment Events:**

A **Potluck Supper** was held at the home of Sue and Richard Seay on January 24. Many GBRPCV members attended and mingled with visitors from Birmingham's international community.

Shorty Williams, Heather White and Erin Branigan assisted with the Atlanta office Birmingham recruitment visit Jan 21 & 22. the Homewood Library event was really great, standing room only.

The **annual "Bon Voyage" party** was held at a Birmingham restaurant on April 29th for area residents departing for PC service (and for anyone interested in PC service). The event was co-sponsored by the Peace Corps' Atlanta office.

The **Annual Lake Party/Elections** were held on Aug 14 at the Angus household. Attendees enjoyed swimming and eating; members held a planning meeting and elected officers for 2004-2005. Visitors included Erin's friend and fellow RPCV from Morocco, Bea Covington, several recently returned volunteers and PC nominee, Ryan Smith, who will be leaving for the Pacific..

A **Fall Reception** was held at UAB's Smolian International House on September 22 from 6-8 PM. Bernadette Lorenzo, Atlanta recruiter was there. RPCVs shared their experiences with visitors who were interested in becoming volunteers. President Erin Branigan announced that she had accepted a position in Seattle and would be leaving Birmingham. She handed over the presidency to VP, Paul Baker.

**Farewell party** for Erin: On October 17, Paul and Laura Baker hosted a wonderful farewell dinner at their home for Erin Branigan and her family and the GBRPCVs.

Our **annual International Dining experience** was held at a local Indian restaurant for a holiday happy hour/supper on Dec. 16. Two new (to us) RPCVs and a new applicant attended as we shared our experiences and celebrated the coming holidays. Heather White accepted the nomination to serve as new vice president and announced that we had sold all 150 of our PC

calendars.

**Volunteer Events:**

**Birmingham International Festival's Professional Development Workshop for teachers -**

This event took place on February 7. GBRPCV members helped with presentations, and staffed an information table, sharing stories and experiences with area teachers.

**Map Project** - In March, volunteers helped paint a world map on the wall of the cafeteria at Gibson Elementary School in Birmingham. The map inauguration was March 15 with GBRPCVs wearing native dress of their countries of service. Donations for the project were generous and allowed us to buy some geography related books for Gibson's library.

The Map Project Instructions written by Missy and Adrienne Retief are now on the web page [www.gbrpcv.org](http://www.gbrpcv.org). We would like to advertise it through Global Teach Net or World Wise Schools, etc.

**Service Project** - A work day at the Jones Valley Urban Farm Saturday October 23 from 8-12. Members enjoyed removing old plants and cleaning up the community gardens.

**Charitable Giving** - The International Calendar produced by RPCVs of Wisconsin/Madison was once again sold by GB/RPCV members. Proceeds from last year's sale were used to make donations of \$250 to Heifer International, \$250 to Care-International and \$200 to PCV, Kyla Holcomb's Peace Corps Partnership Project in the Dominican Republic. In addition, members contributed individually to support PCV Ron Odom's Partnership Project in Uzbekistan.

**Communications** - The GB/RPCV website was fully functional as of April 2002. Members are contacted by e-mail and post and encouraged to visit the website for news of upcoming events.

**Mailing** - A newsletter was mailed out and e-mailed to members in July. In addition to articles by RPCVs about volunteer service in the Pacific and letters from current volunteers, it contained ballots for officer elections to be held in August.

**Governance:** Missy Bemis and Sue Seay are continuing work on our non-profit status.

Finances

Revenues: From Dues	\$ 302.50
From Fundraising	\$ 1382.50
From Grants	\$ 150.00

Expenses: Operating Expenses	\$ 1099.16
Project Expenses	\$ 984.00