

**2006 Annual Report**  
**Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers**  
**P.O. Box 55294, Birmingham, AL 35255**  
[www.gbrpcv.org](http://www.gbrpcv.org)

**Membership in 2006:** 30 paid memberships; 2 recently-returned RPCVs (free membership for one year post COS date); 10 honorary members (trainees and volunteers in the field).

**Planning Meetings:** Planning meetings were held on February 18 at President, Heather White's home, after elections on August 5, and November 19th at brunch at a local restaurant. All members were welcome to attend and give input.

**Recruitment Events:**

Members assisted the Atlanta office with Birmingham recruitment visits in both spring and fall at area colleges.

The annual "*Bon Voyage*" party was held at Formaggio's restaurant on April 20. Members met new volunteers to bid farewell and offer support, and talked to prospective volunteers about the reality of Peace Corps service. A recruiter from the Atlanta office attended and presented Peace Corps hats and books to the new nominees.

A Fall Reception was held at UAB's Smolian International House in early October. Nearly 50 people attended including 12 RPCVs and a couple of new volunteers who would be leaving in the next couple of months. A panel of 3 recently returned volunteers: Jared Schnader, Lisa Medley, and Ray Odom told of their experiences and other members helped with the question and answer session. Dave Leavitt, from the Atlanta office, gave application information.

In November, Abbott "Shorty" Williams gave a presentation on Peace Corps service, particularly as a choice for retirees, at the UAB New Horizons group. Jared Schnader helped out, telling them of his more recent experiences with the application process and service in business programs.

Dan Frederick assisted the Atlanta PC Office media relations officer, David Leavitt, meet with Birmingham area media representatives and officials at local colleges on October 30 and 31, about promoting Peace Corps service on their campuses and in the media. Contacts included the deans and directors of international programs, career offices, student affairs, social studies and service learning offices, etc at UAB, Birmingham Southern, Samford and the University of Montevallo. Their meeting with a reporter from The Birmingham News resulted in an article in the Birmingham News November 6 and in the Tuscaloosa News November 7 featuring recently returned volunteer, Jared Schnader.

On December 4, Heather White gave a presentation on her PC experience to 25 undergraduate students in a World Cultures class at UAB.

**Volunteer Events:**

*Birmingham International Festival's Professional Development Workshop for teachers* – This event took place on February 25. Sue Seay helped with presentations, and staffed an information table, sharing stories and experiences with area teachers.

*Map Project* Brighton Elementary school students painted two world maps on canvas. One will hang in their present school and move with them when their new school is built. The other was presented to representatives from Japan during Birmingham's annual International Festival Teachers' Workshop on February 25. The canvasses were painted blue and outlined during two work sessions in fall 2005 by volunteers assisting Adrienne Retief and Sue Seay. There were about 25 kids that participated from grades 3 through 8. Adrienne and Sue also presented two sessions on how to do the map project to teachers who attended the workshop. The kids from Brighton were treated to a presentation on Bonsai and another session called Japan in a suitcase that focused on teaching students in American schools about Japan. They had breakfast at the event and saw themselves on a slide show. The kids loved the project and thought they were stars when they got to present the map to the workshop participants and to the JASA government officials

*Spring Service Project*-On Saturday, April 22, a group of RPCVS went with a group of kids from Scott Alexander's Pell City Boys and Girls Club to their summer camp on Smith Lake. We helped paint the outside of the dining hall and some dormitories to get the camp ready for summer. Everyone had a good time; members especially enjoyed the interactions with the kids over chores and lunch in a beautiful setting.

*Fall Service Project*- On Sunday, October 8, 2006 2 members led a group of hikers in work on clearing a portion of the Vulcan Trail along Red Mountain.

*School Presentations-Bringing the world back home*-Scott Alexander presented his Kenya volunteer experience to 549 students at 5 schools this year. He has developed a power point program with insights into geography, culture, political systems in central and east Africa. He also participated in the World Showcase program for Fayetteville, Alabama schools which served over 700 area students.

**Social Events:**

June 17, Heather White and Mukesh Patel hosted the *annual president's party/cook out*. Members enjoyed the food and camaraderie and discussed production of the upcoming newsletter.

The *Annual Lake Party/Elections* were held on August 5 at the home of Rob and Kathy Angus.

