

**From:** First Coast RPCV  
**To:** [First Coast RPCV](#)  
**Subject:** April 2017 FCRPCV Newsletter  
**Date:** Sunday, April 02, 2017 3:36:17 PM

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Hello First Coast, and beyond, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers & Friends  
Happy Spring to all, we are delighted to bring you up to date on some good &  
not so good news. First, I hope, if you are close by the Five points area, you will  
be able to join us on Wednesday, April 5, at the South Kitchen & Spirits from  
5:00-7:00 pm located at 3638 Park St. Our host Phil Stantial, Sierra Leone, has  
arranged this get together.

### **SIGNATURE PROJECT UPDATE**

Our Board met last Wednesday and made progress on a number of issues.

Our Signature Project, to support the Refugee Community in Jacksonville, was  
discussed. Actually, an organizing meeting was held on Friday, attended by  
Bernadette Miron, Colombia, & Rosemary Calhoon Takacs, Paraguay/Guatemala,  
at Catholic Charities. We are a supporting partner to CC given their  
Resettlement Project, which is directed by Michelle Karolak, Mauritania &  
Frances Luna, Niger, our former FCRPCV, President. Our goal for this year's  
effort is to support the July 30, City wide Brunch/Dinner Gala at Christ the King  
Church in Arlington. Please save the date. We will need your help. The  
Committee told Bernadette & Rosemary on Friday, "we never see many  
Americans at this event, please come & help us Celebrate!"

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Board asked David Miron, Colombia, to send out an invitation to "Stand &  
Stride with Hubbard House" on Saturday, April 8 at 8:30 am at the Landing. We  
want to support our former Board member, Ellen Siler, Jamaica, as she retires  
as CEO, after 25 Years at Hubbard House. This is a free event to participate in  
the Walk/Run. Most of you have received the information on donations. We  
welcome you to support FCRPV2017 Team by donating \$5.00 or more.

Follow This Link <https://www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1167141&supld=417174082>

On Saturday, April 8, our Board Member, Chris McMillan, Zambia, is asking for  
VOLUNTEERS to help at the SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRYOUTS

Athletics (Track/Field) ,Bocce ,Cycling ,Soccer Tennis

Athlete Check-In, 8:00 AM

Opening Ceremonies, 9:00 AM

Atlantic Coast High School Sports Complex

9735 R G Skinner Pkwy, Jacksonville FL

Lunch will be provided for all athletes, coaches & volunteers. Concessions  
available for public.

Awards will be presented directly following each event.

There will be plenty to do, just show up, sort of like Peace Corps Service!

Contact Chris [910-916-2656](tel:910-916-2656)

### **LOOK FOR AN EVENT CLOSER TO FOR THOSE LIVING SOUTH OF JACKSONVILLE**

The Board has been working to update our mailing list. Thank you for providing  
current information. A very pleasant byproduct of this effort is making new  
friends. We decided that we have so many RPCVs, south of Jacksonville, that we  
should expand our Happy Hour events to accommodate our members who  
cannot come to Jacksonville. In March, we met Ted Mooney, Senegal & Country

Director in Lesotho & Uganda. Ted, his wife Robyn, & partner, from South Africa, Tash, own & operate City Bistro at 1280 N Ponce de Leon Blvd, St. Augustine. We have a date Thursday, May 18 from 5:00-7:00pm. Stay Tuned all you RPCVs south of Jacksonville for a special invite with details. But don't wait for the invite, go and stop for great farm to table food, coffee, have a beer, etc.

### ADVOCACY UPDATE

Well the news is not good regarding the Peace Corps Budget. The team at NPCA has been very helpful getting us mobilized. But we need your help to do more, if you have already written or called thank you. Please do it again. If you are still on the sidelines please call or write. One local Congressman Al Lawson has signed the "Dear Colleague Letter", Three local Representatives: DeSantis, Rutherford & Yoho have not. This is a good indication they will vote for the cuts to the State Department budget that determines Peace Corps funding. Here is our suggestion for you. Go to the NPCA Advocacy web page. Their campaign is in the charm offensive stage, thanking those who have signed the 'Dear Colleague' letter. But you will find tools to send an email in 5 minutes plus advice on calls, Twitter, etc.

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/protectpeacecorps>

Use as many of these methods as you can

- **Email** thanks to your Representative
- **Call** for a more personal touch
- Write a Letter-to-the Editor. Your town will see it, RPCVs will see it, and most importantly, your House Member will, too. Use this **LTE Toolkit** for tips as well as a template, which you can customize to express your thanks.
- Say thanks or encourage their support at district events: **Find upcoming Town Halls** and use our **Town Hall Toolkit** for optimal engagement.
- Mention your Member's support on social media! **Find their Twitter handles and Facebook URLs here.**

*Sample Twitter message: Thanks @[Member handle] & staff for championing @PeaceCorps funding! #ProtectPeaceCorps #AmericaLeads*

## Our 2017 Calendar is as follows:

4/5/2017 Wednesday, HAPPY HOUR 5:00-7:00 pm South Kitchen & Spirits 3638 Park St. Jacksonville <http://south.kitchen/>

Host Phil Stantial RSVP [ptstantial@bellsouth.net](mailto:ptstantial@bellsouth.net) or [904-874-0670](tel:904-874-0670)

5/6/2017 Saturday, CINCO DE MAYO Pot Luck 1:00- 5:00 pm at the Miron Home in Ponte Vedra Beach

RSVP for directions [damiron@comcast.net](mailto:damiron@comcast.net) or [904-614-1177](tel:904-614-1177)

5/18/2017 Thursday, May 18 Happy Hour IN ST. AUGUSTINE! 5:00-7:00 pm City Bistro 1280 N Ponce de Leon Blvd [citybistrofl.com](http://citybistrofl.com)

Host Ted Mooney, [jemooney09@gmail.com](mailto:jemooney09@gmail.com)

6/16/2017 Friday, Partnership Dinner 6:00-8:00 pm Tom Bliss, Host Restaurant TBD

7/30/2017 Sunday, Hosting Refugee Brunch 11:00-3:00 pm Christ the King Church, 742 Arlington Road <https://ctkcatholic.com/>

RSVP Bernadette Miron [sawgrassinpyh@comcast.net](mailto:sawgrassinpyh@comcast.net)

8/9/2017 Wednesday, HAPPY HOUR 5:00-7:00 pm Beaches Area Host Joan Lipp TBD

9/15/2017 Friday, Lunch at Clara's at the Cathedral 11:00-1:00 pm

RSVP Rosemary Calhoon Takacs [Rtakacs2@bellsouth.net](mailto:Rtakacs2@bellsouth.net)

10/14/2017 Pot Luck at the Lipsey, Black Creek Compound, in Middleburg, 2:00-5:00 pm

11/12/2017 Sunday, Annual General Meeting, 2:00-5:00 pm Location TBD

All of the above brought to you by your FCRPCV, 2017 Board of Directors

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Kind regards,

**Jan Miller**  
**FCRPCV President**  
**Botswana RPCV 2011-2013**



Check out our updated website at <https://sites.google.com/site/fcrpcv/>

PLEASE Like us and follow us on Facebook: **FIRST COAST RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS**

**FCRPCV, Inc. is a non-profit organization which serves as an alumni group of returned Peace Corps volunteers, friends and family with the express purpose of promoting the Peace Corps and educating our fellow citizens about the countries where we have served. There are over 200 returned volunteers on the First Coast who have served in over 66 countries.**