



# Friends OF COLOMBIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLOMBIA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Colombia,

Did you know that Colombians are rated among the happiest people in the world, according to the latest WIN/Gallup International's annual global End of Year survey? How privileged we were to have had the experience of living and working with people who are capable of having a positive attitude and enjoying life even in the midst of poverty and, in some cases, tragedy.

You should have received the electronic version and a mailed letter regarding fundraising in December. To date we have received \$11,700 in donations, which will be distributed in 2016. In 2015 we donated \$2,000 to The Colombia Project, \$2,000 to the Marina Orth Foundation, \$4,000 to Fundehumac and the Paso a Paso program, and \$1,000 to the American University Archives which houses our memorabilia. Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership and donated to FOC.

Please remember that our membership renewal date has been changed for everyone, and is now January 1 of each year. And note that you can now pay for your membership and make donations by using PayPal on our website

[www.friendsofcolombia.org](http://www.friendsofcolombia.org). Due to a change in NPCA's membership category, we no longer include NPCA membership payment on our membership form. You can go to [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org) for further information.

We welcome Constance Ray of the second generation volunteers to Colombia as a new member and Social Chair for FOC. Constance worked in Barrio Boston in Barranquilla in group CII-4. She currently is an Administrative Specialist in the Inter-America and Pacific Region at Peace Corps HQ.

Looking forward, the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Corps is this year and will be celebrated in Washington, DC over the weekend of September 22–24. Please mark your calendars. I hope you will plan to come to DC and join in on the festivities. Watch our website for information as we move forward making plans specific to Colombia RPCVs. We have a track record for throwing a great party so stay tuned.

Sincerely yours,

Arleen Stewart Cheston  
President, Friends of Colombia



WINTER 2016  
ISSUE

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# FROM THE *Field*

## CELEBRATION! 25 YEARS AND SOON....55! PEACE CORPS GROWS OLD GRACEFULLY

### Peace Corps Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Colombia

BY MAUREN ORTH

Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler Radelet presided over a festive 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps in Colombia at the Hotel El Prado in Barranquilla on October 21. An outstanding exhibit chronicling the early years and latter years—separated into those who arrived in country between 1961–81, and the latest group who began again in 2010—was also on display throughout the ballroom with about 150 attendees.

About a dozen “elders” from the early years traveled to Colombia for the anniversary and each early volunteer present was called to the stage by Carrie Hessler and presented with a special pin. “Flaco” Bob Arias won the unofficial distinguished service award for

*(Below top)* Maureen Orth and Donald Rabinovitch in front of anniversary exhibit. *(Below bottom)* Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler Radelet surrounded by outgoing PCVs.



having served five different times in the Peace Corps, once as a Colombia volunteer, once as a Colombia Response Corps volunteer, and as a Country Director in three different countries in Latin America. The older volunteers took great delight in trying to recognize one another in the old photos while younger volunteers took selfies in front of the exhibits. Between speeches by Hessler, the Secretary of Education of Atlantico State, current Peace Corps staffers and the Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Bogotá, videos showed Colombians who work with current volunteers expressing their gratitude for the contributions that the Peace Corps continues to make in Colombia.

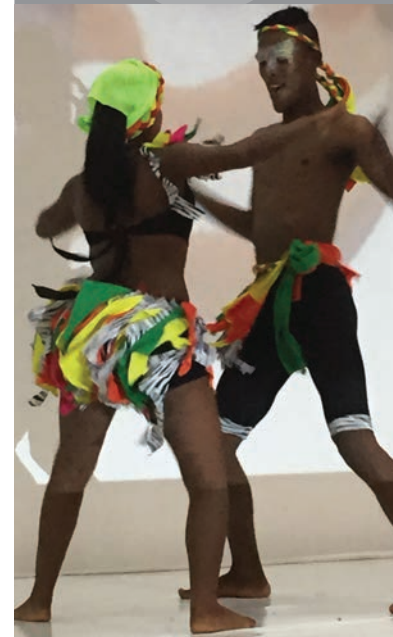
The grand finale was a series of amazing Costeño musical performances in both song and dance—a mini Barranquilla Carnaval. Seeing those colorful performers made it hard to believe that today in Colombia the number-one mission of the Peace Corps is “safety and security.”

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peace Corps in Colombia! 20 plus 5 years!

BY BOB ARIAS (AKA “FLACOBAB”)

At present I live in Chitré, Panamá...keeps me close to Colombia and some beautiful memories. As I was getting myself ready for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I kept remembering the very first time our group arrived in Bogotá...summer of 1964. Little did I know then how much my life would change, and the challenges to live and work in Colombia. I was sent to Sevilla, Valle... Coffee Capital of Colombia. Then, I returned to Colombia in 1968 as Peace Corps staff, assigned to the North Coast as the Regional Director... I could not ask for more. I had a Colombian bride, Gloria, beautiful and a Paisa. Our son Randy was born in Cali... does it get any better? And then in 2011, I decided that I was to become a Response Volunteer in Campo de la Cruz, Atlantico... I was a Disaster Relief specialist and remained for 18 months. I had already served in Panamá and Paraguay as a Response Volunteer.

Colombia has become “mi patria chica,” and attending the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event was

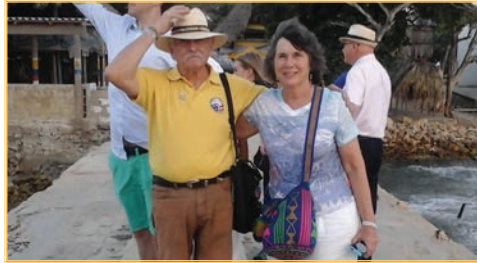


“  
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”



## FROM THE FIELD (CONTINUED)

### PEACE CORPS GROWS OLD GRACEFULLY (CONTINUED)



(Above) RPCVs Bob "Flaco" Arias and Suzanne Adams visiting her old site near Barranquilla. (Left) Two "elder" volunteers at the celebration.



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”

like coming home... again! Especially when we stood and sang the National Anthem of Colombia, brought tears to all of us! The Peace Corps Colombia staff were awesome, friendly and full of questions about the past. Most of all, Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler made us all feel a part of a greater family. We were one!

But to see former Volunteers that I had not seen in over 40 plus years, made the event even more important... we sat and talked, and talked. Suzanne Adams and I visited her old site. Though she had not been to barrio Las Americas in 50 years, the community remembered her. Awesome! Donald Rabinovitch and I talked about our efforts with Areocondor, a Peace Corps project to protect the jobs of over 1,500 Colombians... it changed our lives! And with the help of the Soviet Embassy, we got to purchase six Lockheed Electra Jets... life is great!

What I keep repeating to present and past Volunteers... where would any of us be had there never been a Peace Corps? Just consider, who you are and how Peace Corps has changed your life, your environment, your friends and extended families, and how we look at the world. I know I am better because of my service to my country as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Staff. Had there never been a Peace Corps... I am unable to fathom the thought!

Thanks Peace Corps y Gracias a mi Colombia!

### Colombian Embassy in DC Joins the Celebration

Old friends and new friends alike gathered at the residence of Colombian ambassador to the United States, Juan Carlos Pinzon, in Dupont

Circle, Washington D.C. to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peace Corps Colombia.

Guests included returned Volunteers from both phase one (1961–1981) and phase two (2010–2015) of Peace Corps operations in Colombia, Peace Corps HQ staff, and a few friends of Colombia.

Embassy staff welcomed guests with a warm *cafecito* and *pan de yucca* before Ambassador Pinzon began with an interesting discourse on the history and current state of Colombia, thanking Peace Corps Volunteers for their contributions and continued service in the country.

Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler Radelet spoke next, offering her heartfelt appreciation to Ambassador Pinzon as well as the former Volunteers in attendance. Radelet recognizes Peace Corps Colombia as one of the earliest Peace Corps programs and praised the Group 1 Volunteers for their bravery and continued support of Colombia.

Group 1 Volunteers then presented Radelet with a copy of the bronze plaque that hangs at Rutgers University, commemorating the first group to go into training in 1961. A copy of the original plaque now hangs proudly at Peace Corps Headquarters.

There was a sense of collective comradery in the room and spirits were high as guests remembered their own experience with Peace Corps and Colombia.

United States Congressman Sam Farr was also in attendance for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

As a parting gift, each guest received a photography book called, “Colombia; A Country of Opportunity.”

## SAVE THE DATE!

**PEACE CORPS CONNECT 2016**, in conjunction with the Peace Corps' 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be held in Washington DC from **September 22–25, 2016**.

The conference itself will take place on **Friday and Saturday (September 23, 24)** and will be preceded by the **National Day of Action on Thursday, September 22**.

# After PEACE CORPS

## VETERAN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS BRING VALUABLE SKILLS & GRIT TO THEIR WORK

BY TAYLOR OWEN RAMSEY (CII-3)

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is benefiting from an influx of former Peace Corps volunteers who bring many valuable skills and qualities to their work from their unique experiences abroad.

With ED's mission "to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access," Peace Corps volunteers are uniquely suited to carry out it out since they spend 27 months trying to level the global playing field, in part, by increasing access to resources in the communities in which they serve. When their service ends, several volunteers want to continue their commitment to public service back home, and working for the federal government is a great way to do it.

ED's Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Affinity Group (RPCV-ED) meets once a month for a brown bag lunch. The monthly meetings have been organized by RPCVs Beth Plewa and Brian Martin, both of the Office of Innovation and Improvement. The mission of the group is to:

- foster a closer network of ED employees who have served in the U.S. Peace Corps,
- keep ED's RPCVs abreast of topics and professional opportunities particularly relevant to them, and
- work towards forming a unified, vocal group of international education experts within ED.

To that end, the group often hosts guest speakers. Recently, Senior Advisor to Secretary Duncan and director of ED's International Affairs Office Maureen A.

McLaughlin discussed with the group how the unique experiences of RPCVs could add to ED's international activities and engagement. ED's group plans to work with RPCV groups in other agencies to broaden their collaborative approach across the government.

The skills and knowledge that volunteers gain in the Peace Corps translate well at ED. For

instance, Eddie Moat monitors grants to help new charter schools become successful under ED's Charter Schools Program in the Office of Innovation and Improvement. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Mozambique (2010–2012), Moat was a classroom teacher in a rural school, and also helped the Peace Corps manage a large grant that was dispersed to other volunteers to help them start small projects in their community for women's and girls' empowerment, sex education, and youth development. Much of what he learned managing that grant he now applies to his work at ED.

Similarly, Kathy Killian, who served in the Malawi Department of National Parks (2004–2006), utilized a grant there to create activities such as a women's jam-making group to generate income to prevent poaching. She now works with grants policy in the Office of the Deputy Secretary.

Roberto Flores was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Ukraine (2008–2010) and now works as an investigator in the Office for Civil Rights in Chicago. While serving as a classroom teacher in the Ukraine, Flores worked with other volunteers to create a "Camp Unity" summer camp to teach local students about diversity in the Ukraine, a topic they found to be overlooked in their classrooms and one of the driving factors behind the lingering civil violence. Now, Flores works at ED investigating complaints related to civil rights laws and enforcement in our schools.

(Below) Roberto Flores helped create a "Camp Unity" summer camp to teach local students about diversity in the Ukraine. (Right) Taylor Ramsey working on a photography project with Wiwa children in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.



“When their service ends, several volunteers want to continue their commitment to public service back home, and working for the federal government is a great way to do it.”



## AFTER PEACE CORPS (CONTINUED)

### VOLUNTEERS BRING VALUABLE SKILLS AND GRIT... (CONTINUED)

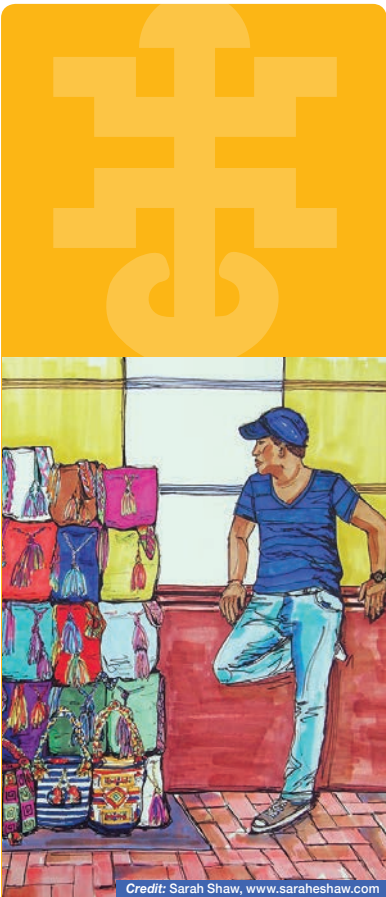
Michelle Guilfoil, who works in ED's International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) Program, says her experience as an education volunteer in the Central African Republic (1989–1991) taught her to “advocate for the importance of our students and educators having cross-cultural and foreign language skills” because “[those skills are] a requirement for our students to be able to compete in the global market.”

Michael Band, an information resource specialist in the Office of Communications and Outreach's Information Resource center, was a Peace Corps education volunteer (2011–2014) in a small Caribbean community in Colombia. He was humbled by how welcoming and friendly the community was when he arrived, and he remembers that friendliness when he is working with ED constituents. He says he approaches his work with “a positive outlook and a smile like every single person on the coast” of Colombia. Speaking Spanish also helps Michael answer questions each day with ED's Spanish-speaking constituents.

When joining the Peace Corps, most volunteers are given very little structure and are instead expected to fully immerse themselves in their communities to learn what their local counterparts want to accomplish and to help them achieve what they think their community needs. Thus, perhaps the best quality that Peace Corps volunteers bring with them to the Department is what Jennifer Coffey (Lesotho, 1999–2001) from the Office of Special Education Programs says is the “can-do attitude” that Peace Corps volunteers develop in “situations with a lot of autonomy.”

Among the many skills of returned Peace Corps volunteers at ED is a unique ability to tell colorful stories of their lives abroad. Peace Corps volunteers make great lunch and coffee friends. If you see Michael Band around, be sure to ask him how he used a donkey cart to move his belongings from one house to another.

*Taylor Owen Ramsey, Education Program Specialist, Office of Communications and Outreach, Region II, Peace Corps Colombia 2011–2015.*



Credit: Sarah Shaw, [www.sarahshaw.com](http://www.sarahshaw.com)

“  
Through art,  
I was able  
to show the  
complicated  
beauty of my  
Peace Corps  
site ...  
”

## DOCUMENTING DAILY LIFE IN COLOMBIA THROUGH ILLUSTRATION

BY SARAH SHAW (CII-5)

Less than two weeks ago, I finished my Peace Corps service in a peri-urban fishing community called La Boquilla, located 25 minutes north of Cartagena, Colombia. I'm still thinking about scenes that I need to draw—the lime green cart filled with fritos surrounded by red plastic tables and chairs, the aggressive hat vendors in the Centro, and the bustling, chaotic Bazarro Mercado. Cartagena continues to inspire me.

Throughout the last 27 months in Colombia, I documented my experience through a series of full-color illustrations and daily drawings. During training, before I knew much about Colombia, I began making collages of scenery from the beaches outside of Barranquilla, typical meals, and street scenes with kids riding bikes and playing soccer. However, on

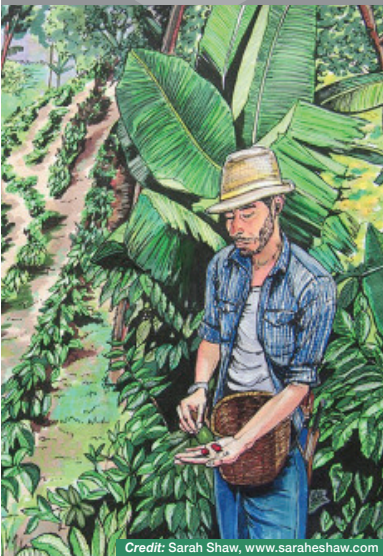
a trip back to the States, I discovered a set of Prismacolor markers that I hadn't used since high school. The fuchsias, turquoises, and bright yellows reminded me of the colors I saw everyday in Cartagena, and I hadn't realized the extent of their absence until I was once again surrounded by the calm blues, whites, and muted tones of a New England summer.

Back in Cartagena, I began posting my sketches on Facebook and received a very positive response. Colombian friends, Peace Corps Colombia volunteers, my family and friends from the States, co-workers and friends from Korea, and people I'd met from all over the world began commenting and following my posts. This personal endeavor turned into a third goal project, where I suddenly felt motivated to illustrate images that subtly combatted prevailing stereotypes of Colombia being a dangerous, drug-



## AFTER PEACE CORPS (CONTINUED)

### DOCUMENTING DAILY LIFE IN COLOMBIA (CONTINUED)



Credit: Sarah Shaw, [www.saraheshaw.com](http://www.saraheshaw.com)



Credit: Sarah Shaw, [www.saraheshaw.com](http://www.saraheshaw.com)

(Left) *Farmer in Salento*; (Above) *Bazurto Mercado, Cartagena*

“  
... Songs that I'd  
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”

ridden country. My work showed the daily, monotonous beauty of fishermen working on the beach, a watermelon vendor sending Whatapp messages on her smartphone as she waited for customers outside of a run-down building in a rural town, and indigenous kids playing soccer outside their home in the mountains. Through art, I was able to show the complicated beauty of my Peace Corps site, a community struggling through cycles of poverty while trapped in the midst of a rich, booming tourism industry.

As I constantly observed my surroundings, inspiration struck often, no matter where I was or what time of day. Luckily, my Peace Corps cell phone had a camera function, which allowed me to document daily occurrences. Once I decided on a scene that I wanted to illustrate, I would use photo references to create a composition, often researching other details that I wanted to add into the story—a stray cat or dog, a certain facial expression, or vendors selling various types of street food. After sketching the initial composition, I would outline the drawing with black pens and India

ink, and add color with Prismacolor markers and colored pencils. The colored pencils were mostly used for adding highlights.

Although I'm now shivering in my over-sized sweater in Maine, rather than sweating through my shirt before noon, the coast is still within me. Songs that I'd hear everyday play in my head as the bright colors continue to evade my sketchbook. I plan to keep illustrating scenes and telling stories from my service in Colombia to eventually combine them into a graphic novel.

*Sarah Shaw is a recent Colombia RPCV. She served in La Boquilla, a peri-urban community north of Cartagena. She mainly worked on the Teaching English for Livelihoods project in a public secondary school, but also taught computer classes and photography through a youth development curriculum. She has a passion for illustration and visual storytelling, and is continually drawing scenes from her Peace Corps experience, which can be seen on her website, [www.saraheshaw.com](http://www.saraheshaw.com). She hopes to continue working with communities on art, design and media-related projects.*



# Books, BOOKS, BOOKS

## TIME PASSAGES A REVIEW BY RALPH BATES, COLOMBIA 22



It isn't often that a person gets to see paths in his or her life intimately interwoven in the journey of another person—in this case a dear friend. The author of that journey is Jay Hersch in his entertaining book "Time Passages".

Jay and I go back to dormitory days at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1960. We didn't know each other well but Jay told me a few years later that he voted for me for Student Senate. Probably that revelation when we met, quite by surprise and unknowingly, at Peace Corps training in 1964 at Los Angeles State College, helped create another bond that grew and flourished over all the subsequent years and to this day.

From the first chapter, I was drawn on to his path vicariously since, fortunately, I wasn't on the vomit-strewn bus in the mountains of Colombia as he first made his way to a rural site—his new home for two years. I was an urban cooperative development volunteer who infrequently experienced the "Yellow Death"-like terror and nausea of Colombian rural and mountain buses racing to get ahead of a competitor's bus. Yes, the bus line was affectionately and chillingly called "La Muerte Amarillo" for its bright yellow color.

Even if the reader didn't work in cooperatives or an isolated rural area, you will relate easily to his stories about dubious local political supporters, promises not kept by government officials, priests in support and not so much, and the creativity and resiliency of "la gente"—the people who ultimately wanted our assistance and support in their struggles for peaceful social and economic justice. Recall the meetings you went to where no one showed up—at first—or came in numbers deceiving of the potential of rapid progress with their expressed enthusiasm to have a "gringo".

The story of his passage, and mine, moves to searching for "how to continue" expanding the

threads of dreams lived and new dreams created in Colombia as we thought about returning to our homes. They were in varying glimpses of clarity requiring more experimentation and insight to sharpen and shine. You will recall. So it would be, as the next few chapters reveal, that some of Jay's learning would find new soil in which to root. Some learning required more learning away from the soil and farmers of Colombia that could only be borne from intellectual pursuits (graduate school), the crucible of Vietnam in the protest movement, and another "real life" set of experiences working in the War on Poverty. All this while searching with his wife Pat to find "honest to goodness" earth and land to root and nurture his bigger personal dreams.

All journeys, and the choice to "Take the road less traveled" is filled, for most of us, with distractions, stops and starts, triumphs and disappointments from which we learn until we enter the comfort of "ahh, I think I now have gotten to the place I want to be". And guess what? When you look at the threads you brought from Colombia, strengthened afterward, discovered anew in your quest, you'll find they all make sense in your special mosaic of life.

I have been privileged and honored to have this nearly lifelong friendship with Jay (and a bit later including Pat). Our roads have intersected, and been traveled often hand-in-hand, but I would add a footnote about my friend: His determination and focus to find farm land to build a cattle operation that later morphed successfully into his food business, and the land a retreat harkening to his days living in the rugged but beautiful mountains of Colombia, has been accomplished by his unwavering tenacity that made him a successful agricultural marketing volunteer in those years from 1964–66. I am personally humbled to be a part of the living narrative.



## A SPY AMONG US—A COMMENTARY By James Todd, Colombia XIII

An interesting new nonfiction book called *The Billion Dollar Spy*, by David E. Hoffman, has drawn renewed attention to Edward Lee Howard, a former CIA employee who defected in 1985 to what was then the Soviet Union. Howard was a PCV who trained in Costa Rica to go to the Dominican Republic but was transferred to Colombia. He served in Bucaramanga in 1973 where he met another PCV, Mary Cedarleaf, who would become his wife in 1976. He worked briefly as a Peace Corps recruiter and also for USAID. When he went for his initial CIA interview in 1980, he said that he had used cocaine and marijuana while a volunteer. The CIA told him that was no problem but don't do it again. He went through one year of CIA training, including many months on the Soviet desk, since his first assignment was going to be Moscow. At the end of the year, after failing repeatedly to pass lie detector tests, the CIA reluctantly fired him. Apparently this infuriated him, and he vowed revenge and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Howard offered his services to the USSR and ended up under FBI surveillance. However, in early 1985 he eluded the surveillance (with his wife's help, and using a trick he had learned in CIA training), flew to Helsinki and then to Moscow where he defected. Although this drew large headlines at the time, the story didn't last for long because the CIA and the FBI—both strongly embarrassed by it—did everything they could to bury it. The FBI looked really inept because Howard had been under constant (24-hour) surveillance, and the CIA because he had access to all the highly classified traffic on the Soviet desk, including that regarding a top-secret spy for the U.S. who was a senior Soviet avionics expert. The CIA never publicly revealed how much damage Howard's defection had done. According to the new book, however, that avionics expert provided detailed top-secret information about Soviet plans and capabilities to the CIA for nearly ten years back in the late 70's and early 80's—our Defense Department said that knowledge saved them billions of dollars in what would have been otherwise useless efforts to figure out what the Soviets were doing—thus the book's title. The spy was betrayed, probably by Howard, and executed in 1986.

Howard lived a privileged life in Moscow and died (allegedly from a fall that damaged his head!) in 2002. His wife Mary cooperated with the FBI and was never prosecuted, despite having aided him in eluding surveillance when he slipped out of Santa Fe. She visited him occasionally in Moscow but divorced him in 1996.

**SAMUEL JOHNSON  
GROUP VIII, 1963–1965**

BY JACK SWENSON, GROUP VI

Sam Johnson, Peace Corps Colombia VIII (1963–65) passed away September 3 after an eight and a half-year struggle with Alzheimer’s Disease. Sam, his wife Ann (Peace Corps Chile, 1966–68), and two children have lived in Carbondale, Colorado for the past 20 years.

Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, raised in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, and educated in Vermont, Sam was a true New Englander. A man of few words, his actions spoke volumes. He entered Peace Corps immediately following his graduation with a degree in Spanish from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont. He had spent his Middlebury junior year abroad, studying in Spain, plus spent summers doing volunteer work in Puerto Rico.

Sam often said that “entering Peace Corps was the best thing I ever did with my life”. He trained in community development at the University of New Mexico, arriving in Colombia in September, 1963. He was initially placed in Tunía, soon moved to Piendamó (both sites in Cauca), and was later named Volunteer Leader for Cauca, based in Popayán. Some months later, he was moved to Antioquia to serve as Volunteer Leader there. His fluency in Spanish served him and Peace Corps well throughout his various positions in Colombia.

Post Peace Corps, Sam continued to serve throughout his life. After earning an M.A. in Latin American Studies, he taught Spanish in a private school before becoming an employee of the State of Vermont in community organization. He left this position to return to Latin America where he served as country director and later regional director for PLAN International (formerly Foster Parents Plan), one of the world’s largest child-centered non-profit community development organizations, working in 58,000 communities with 600,000 volunteers in 56 countries to improve the quality of life for more than 56 million children. Sam served and lived with his wife and children in Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Ecuador.

These various chapters of Sam’s life were honored together with his family and by those who had worked and lived with Sam at a Celebration of Sam’s Life, held on October 3, 2015 at the Johnsons’ home in Carbondale. The service was attended by more than 100 friends and family.

**CHARLES  
‘CHUCK’ WILLSON  
GROUP VI, 1963-1965**



BY JERRY NORRIS, GROUP VI

Chuck Willson graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in accounting, a trophy as CMU’s ping-pong champion, and a desire to answer JFK’s challenge in his Inaugural Address: “Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask ...”

He took concrete action and became a Group VI volunteer in Miraflores from 1963–1965. During these years, he joined with the community to develop consumer and credit union cooperatives. Chuck instilled the principle of ownership among co-op members by constructing a one-room adobe structure for which all the bricks were handmade by the community. With his education in business and accounting, he taught co-op leadership the proper methods for keeping their books. Chuck met and married another volunteer who took his heart into the highlands, Almira ‘Myra’ Cram. They recently celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Returning home, Chuck’s National Guard Unit was called up for service in Vietnam. He was among the less than one percent of his fellow citizens who ever serve this country in peace and war. In some of the worst years of that problematic conflict, which roiled an entire generation of Americans, Chuck did his bit from 1968–1969 in a country whose place-names were most probably never in his sixth grade geography book. Through the decades of post-volunteer years, as Group VI gathered to retell its stories—increasingly more with nostalgia than accuracy, we’d ask Chuck: hey, didn’t you go to Vietnam after Colombia? And he would answer: yeah, been there, done that, and then he’d move on to another subject. We never knew if Chuck was a dog-faced soldier or a cook. It only mattered to him, though the trumpet was uncertain, that he had faithfully answered its call.

After Peace Corps and military service, Chuck and Myra lived and worked in Maine where they proudly raised their family. There, in a place they came to call home, Chuck passed away on July 5 in Portland.

A good man was in our midst.



‘Entering Peace Corps was the best thing I ever did with my life.’

—Sam Johnson

‘Yeah, been there, done that.’

—Chuck Willson







## FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete one form for each member.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name in Peace Corps \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Peace Corps Service \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Site (include city, village, department) \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

New       Renewal

Annual Individual      \$ 25.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Couple      \$ 40.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Individual      \$ 500.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable over a two-year period)

Donation to FOC for projects in Colombia      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation specifically for *Paso a Paso*      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO:** FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA  
PO Box 15292  
Chevy Chase, MD 20825

**NOTE:** FOC is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.  
Consult your tax accountant regarding personal tax deductions.