



# Friends OF COLOMBIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLOMBIA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Colombia,

At this time of year, I like to take a few minutes to share with you the kinds of projects in Colombia that your generous gifts allow us to support.

**Paso a Paso**, a scholarship program, was started in 2007 by Friends of Colombia. It currently provides 35 elementary and high school students with their registration fees, books, uniforms, two pairs of shoes, and a backpack for the school year, along with family workshops and tutoring. This year five students will graduate from high school. It costs \$800 a year for educational support of a Paso a Paso student. In addition, the director of the program, Alba Lucia Varela, is seeking ways to raise funds, \$20,000, to construct a small dwelling where the students will have a safe place to receive tutoring and workshops to enhance their education. FOC is the principal support for Paso a Paso.

**The Magdalena Foundation** has provided 76 college scholarships during the past 12 years, with visible results—many young recipients become leaders in their communities and provide support and encouragement to other young people with college ambitions. The annual scholarship awarded is \$900.

**The Marina Orth Foundation** supports four One Laptop per Child schools in and around Medellín. Through public/private sponsorships, over 2,500 students receive their own laptop computers as well as computer technology training, English language education and leadership training. This year, in memory of Colombia 66-68 volunteer Steve Bergren, who passed away in August, his family has set up with the foundation The Steve Bergren Engineering Scholarship to sponsor a student from the foundation's schools to receive a full five-year scholarship at EAFIT University. Details of this fund and all the foundation's activities can be found on [MarinaOrthFoundation.org](http://MarinaOrthFoundation.org).

**The Colombia Project (TCP)** supported over \$275,000 in micro-loans to 1,300 entrepreneurs from 2000-2013. Permanent loan pools developed through TCP have enabled its partners to now be able to issue over \$50,000 in loans in marginalized communities each year. As of 2014 TCP will be providing free consulting services, rather than financial support, to help organizations implement similar loan programs in Colombia and other countries.

**American University Peace Corps Colombia Archives** preserves our legacy by archiving photos, letters, articles, and



WINTER 2014  
ISSUE

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>

# FROM THE *Field*

## PEACE CORPS COLOMBIA, REDUX

Hello Friends of Colombia!

Where do we stand in Peace Corps Colombia today? It has been just over three years since Peace Corps began reentry in Colombia and every day Volunteers are out in the field doing wonderful work in their host communities. Hopefully, we can provide some insight into the five cohorts—or groups—that we've had, as well as offer some insight into our Volunteer-run newsletter: *Oíste*.

Peace Corps started its reentry in Colombia in December 2010. Welcoming nine Response Volunteers (former PCVs from different countries) in Barranquilla, it is with their arrival that the Teaching English for Livelihoods (TEL) project was born. In order to honor the first generation of PCVs' work in Colombia, those who served between 1961 and 1981, this new group was called CII-1. They were joined in January 2011 by the CII-2 cohort, partnering 14 Peace Corps Response Volunteers with an equal number of schools.

Peace Corps Colombia saw its first cohort of traditional Peace Corps Volunteers join the team a month before, this cohort

being CII-3. With 22 Volunteers swearing in, this group marked the first cohort since reentry to serve 27 months. As the TEL project was piloting a first Project Framework draft, the insights gained from this cohort were invaluable. It was a particularly exciting time, in which our training staff facilitated our first 11-week Pre-Service Training, and our first Host Family meetings were held.

Two more traditional cohorts of Peace Corps Volunteers have since followed them. Fast forward a year, and in November 2012, CII-4 arrived. With 29 Volunteers swearing in, thanks to a much more experienced staff, this cohort had an amazing training. CII-4 is currently in their second year of service now, expecting to complete their tour in mid-November this year. This brings us up to where we are now today. CII-5 arrived in November 2013, with 27 Volunteers swearing in. This cohort will continue building our program in Peace Corps Colombia and we are thrilled to have them on the team.

All of this is to say that we are humbled and motivated to keep furthering the

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >>](#)

### LETTER (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

books donated by Colombia Peace Corps Volunteers.

Because of the generosity of our membership in response to our 2012 fundraising request, we were able to develop a teacher training workshop for 40 English teachers in Medellín in conjunction with the Marina Orth Foundation and the Department of Education of Medellín. We were also able to donate \$2,000 to the building fund for Paso a Paso in addition to supporting the program. Our total donations for 2013 were \$19,700.

Please remember that you have an opportunity to continue to support grassroots

projects in Colombia as an extension of your service as a Peace Corps Volunteer by sending your donation to Friends of Colombia, P.O. Box 15292, Chevy Chase, MD 20825. You may designate a project for your donation. To ensure that you are receiving our new electronic newsletter, please send your current e-mail address to [foc.memberlist@gmail.com](mailto:foc.memberlist@gmail.com). And don't forget to renew your membership or join as a new member. See the attached membership/donation form on the last page of this newsletter.

Sincerely yours,  
Arleen Stewart Cheston, President



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“  
... we are humbled  
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”

## FROM THE FIELD (CONTINUED)

### REDUX (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Peace Corps mission in Colombia. One way that we'd like to invite you to stay involved is by following our newsletter! We're more than happy to add any Colombia RPCVs to the list. All you have to do is shoot us an email at this address: [oistecolombia@gmail.com](mailto:oistecolombia@gmail.com).

For those who may be interested, to compose the editorial team of *Oíste*, we have a few different departments. For example, some Volunteers work in layout, some in content editing, and some in copy editing. The editorial team looks for a few things with prospective candidates. We select people who truly enjoy this type of work, show a deep interest in it, and also possess the technical skills necessary. These three traits combined are key, something we would like to continue insisting on going forward.

In choosing our writers, those who will contribute articles to each issue, we usually have specific categories to work on. For instance, under our Spotlights category, in each edition we like to include features on our counterparts, on

Volunteers, and on staff members. Other categories include articles on travel, work, and secondary projects.

In terms of oversight from staff, we are given a great deal of freedom and independence, and are encouraged to take ownership of the newsletter. While staff does get a final review before publishing each edition, we like to think that it is a great example of Volunteer-run work.

Hopefully, this helps bring you up to date on the state of Peace Corps Colombia, as well as provides some background on what goes into the making of *Oíste*.

A huge thank you goes out to all for supporting the Peace Corps mission in Colombia.

A la orden,  
The *Oíste* team

*The views expressed are ours personally and do not reflect any position of the U.S. government or Peace Corps.*

(BELOW) The swearing-in ceremony for Peace Corps Volunteers, group CII-5.



“  
... we like to think that it is a great example of Volunteer-run work.  
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# After PEACE CORPS

*Peace Corps Connect Boston, June 2013, hosted the second annual gathering of the Peace Corps community sponsored by National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and its affiliated member groups. The success and enthusiasm of Peace Corps 50th Anniversary activities in 2011 inspired the NPCA Board to launch the first Peace Corps Connect in Minnesota in 2012. NPCA works with local member groups to plan and host these annual gatherings in different regions of the U.S. The objective is to provide an affordable forum for returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), potential Peace Corps Volunteers, friends and families to meet, share stories and inspire one another in their lives of service. Peace Corps Connect Nashville is scheduled for June 20 – 21, 2014. Check it out at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org>. All are welcome!*

## SHARING THROUGH “PEACE CORPS CONNECT”

BY ROBERT SEMLER, COLOMBIA

This past summer I had a great opportunity to coordinate a Friends of Colombia (FOC) workshop at the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) annual Peace Corps Connect conference in Boston. Members of the FOC Board contacted me to see if I was interested in putting together a session on Colombia. Truthfully, after much thought I reluctantly agreed because the annual conference was happening during the time my grandchildren were arriving to spend most of the summer with my wife, Cecilia, and me on Cape Cod. Cecilia is Colombian from Tunja, Boyacá. I met her while serving as volunteer leader for Boyacá in 1967, my third year of service. Pat Wand, FOC and NPCA Board member, was extremely helpful in assisting me in the organization of this session despite her busy schedule before and during the conference. Following the workshop Cecilia and I hosted a dinner at our home for returned Colombia Volunteers.

We considered a variety of options on what to focus on for the workshop. Rather than attempting to have academic experts on Colombia as presenters, we decided to focus on a theme that dealt with how we, as RPCVs, can get our communities and local organizations involved in the many activities that can benefit needy Colombians; to make that positive connection between the U.S. and Colombia.

We decided to feature Helene Dudley, RPCV Colombia and Slovakia and 2013 recipient of the Lillian Carter Award. Helene shared her unique perspective on the “The Colombia Project,” a micro-credit program, which she heads up, that raises funds in the U.S. to provide grants to Colombian grassroots organizations already working effectively in marginalized communities. One hundred percent of funds sent to Colombia are distributed as micro-loans to qualifying individuals. The grassroots partners provide technical assistance and training to ensure that the micro-entrepreneurs are successful. Over a four to five-year period, a micro-loan site has the opportunity to develop a permanent loan pool adequate to meet the community’s needs, allowing Colombia Project resources to assist other communities.

In the workshop Helene used visuals to share her experiences on how she and her partners jump-started The Colombia Project and specific ways to replicate or grow it with additional funding and other support. After her brief presentation, workshop attendees discussed other activities and projects RPCVs are currently

(IN PHOTO, RIGHT) Dennis Grubb, newly elected Director representing the Americas, National Peace Corps Association Board and FOC member, talking with Eileen Conoby, Peace Corps Office of the Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services.



At Peace Corps Connect Nashville, Friends of Colombia will sponsor a special program on Friday, June 20, followed by a Colombian dinner and evening of socializing. Put it on your calendar and join us for a music-filled, Peace Corps-inspired gathering that is sure to remind you why you joined in the first place! Register for the two-day gathering (June 20-21) at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/Nashville-2014](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/Nashville-2014). For more information, contact [patwand@mac.com](mailto:patwand@mac.com).

## AFTER PEACE CORPS (CONTINUED)

### PEACE CORPS CONNECT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

involved in. What is distinctly unique about The Colombia Project is the involvement of many partners both here and in Colombia. We talked about how RPCVs can work with such groups as the Rotary, Lions, and the many other community organizations in the States on new initiatives or in growing existing ones.

There was a general consensus that returned volunteers involved in projects in Colombia need to continue to share their knowledge and best practices with others interested in doing similar work. The FOC newsletter is an excellent vehicle for furthering the third Peace Corps goal “to promote a better understanding of other people on the part of American people.”

In addition to this discussion, Dennis Grubb, former Colombia volunteer and newly elected member of the NPCA Board representing The Americas, gave a brief, informative update on current socio-economic and political matters in Colombia.

After the workshop 15 returned volunteers joined my wife and me at our home to enjoy “*una comida tipica*” catered by “El Paisa”, a nearby Colombian restaurant in East Boston. In addition to continuing our workshop discussion, we took advantage of this occasion to catch up on mutual friends and acquaintances with whom we had associated in Colombia and to reminisce about old times while we feasted on Colombian *platos* native to the region of Antioquia (hence the restaurant name “El Paisa”). We enjoyed many Colombian specialties including *carne de res*, *huevos fritos*, *arroz*, *frijoles*, *yuca*, *arepas*, *empanadas de carne y pollo* and *chicharon* followed by a *torta* to die for. There is nothing like a Colombian meal to bring back the many fond memories we all have of Colombia and its people. Quite a meal! Quite a good time!

Clearly, both the workshop and the dinner gave all of us the opportunity to connect or reconnect with RPCVs and learn about the many ways we in the Northeast and around the country can continue to be engaged in making a difference. It gave me a renewed interest to step up my involvement. Despite our initial misgivings about organizing the session and dinner, it was well worth the effort.

### RPCVs CHECK IN...

**CRAIG CARROZZI**, Colombia 78-80, says he “drew heavily on my Peace Corps experience” in writing his latest book, *India Basin Triangle: A San Francisco Noir Thriller*. “I learned Spanish to a level that the FBI hired me as a translator on a big drug case in San Francisco,” which led to this book. Carrozzi says, “My job as a Volunteer was as a recreation director in a Colombian juvenile prison. Working with *gamines* and guards who were sometimes straight-up thugs, I attained a magnificent knowledge of Colombian street slang. When the FBI interviewed me for a job, this knowledge was very instrumental in my hiring because the tapes our team of translators worked on dealt with Colombians and Nicaraguans speaking a very street-oriented Spanish. There was a time when I was the only one who had a clue what they were talking about.”

Reunion of the **COLOMBIA FAO/PINA-ETV/UPT 1964** group will take place the second weekend in September in Wisconsin. For more information, contact chief organizer Jerry Brelage at 3264 White Marsh Lane, #16, Ft. Myer, FL 33912, (850) 228-6669, [bandbbees@peoplepc.com](mailto:bandbbees@peoplepc.com).

**COLOMBIA 6** will hold a reunion in late September-early October in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact John Muccifori at [muccifori@aol.com](mailto:muccifori@aol.com).

*If your group is planning a reunion, let us know by e-mailing [pkellycom@gmail.com](mailto:pkellycom@gmail.com).*

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There is nothing like a Colombian meal to bring back the many fond memories we all have of Colombia and its people.  
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# Project UPDATES

*The Marina Orth Foundation supports four One Laptop per Child schools in and around Medellín. Through public/private sponsorships, over 2,500 students receive their own laptop computers as well as computer technology training, English language education and leadership training.*

## PARTNERING FOR TEACHER TRAINING

BY MARY RAY, COLOMBIA

Friday, October 11, 2013, Medellín, Colombia: A classroom at the end of week-long workshop. We respectfully stood and sang along to music familiar from our Peace Corps days: the *Himno Nacional de Colombia* and the *Himno de Antioquia*. Then, as we began to take our seats, we were asked to please remain standing and, to our surprise, we heard *The Star Spangled Banner*. This was the closing ceremony of “Engaging Students Through Interactive Learning,” a workshop resulting from a partnership between Friends of Colombia, the Marina Orth Foundation and the Ministry of Education of Medellín.

Responding to a request for training for English teachers in Medellín, three members of Friends of Colombia, Arleen Cheston, Barbara Muchisky and I, had traveled to Medellín. We worked alongside Luis Fernando Sanchez, executive director of the Marina Orth Foundation, and Susana and Alejandro Urrego, two teachers from the same foundation, and representatives of the Ministry of Education. Some 40 elementary and high school English teachers participated in five days of English training.

We found the English level of the teachers to be higher than we had expected and were

pleasantly surprised to find that they had already begun to use some of the interactive teaching techniques that just a few years ago were rarely seen in the classrooms that we visited. The teachers were enthusiastic, hard working and very grateful for our classes. Our two Colombian assistants, Susana and Alejandro, who currently teach English in the Marina Orth Foundation’s schools, were previous attendees at one of our trainings and offer us hope that in the future more and more of the workshops will be conducted by such wonderful young, enthusiastic and capable Colombian teachers.

During the closing ceremony on Friday, there was an amazing show of support for our workshop with many of the teachers asking that more such workshops be offered in the future. Hopefully staff and funding will again be available to fulfill this need.



“  
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”

### VOLUNTEER TEACHING OPPORTUNITY IN MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

Here’s an exciting volunteer opportunity for an experienced elementary ESOL teacher. We are looking for an additional team member to collaborate in our June workshop “Engaging Students Through Interactive Learning” to public elementary school ESOL teachers. Responsibilities include planning with other team members between now and June and presenting the workshop June 9 to June 13 in Medellín, Colombia. Workshop will include hands on teaching techniques, creative curriculum integration, classroom management, interactive activities, and use of ESOL websites, etc. Spanish helpful.

Travel expenses, room and board in Medellín will be paid.  
Probable travel dates are June 7 to June 14.

Please email brief resume to [maryfranray@cox.net](mailto:maryfranray@cox.net) by the end of February.

# Books, BOOKS, BOOKS

## WANTED: AN ADDENDUM TO PROFILES IN COURAGE

BY JERRY NORRIS, COLOMBIA VI

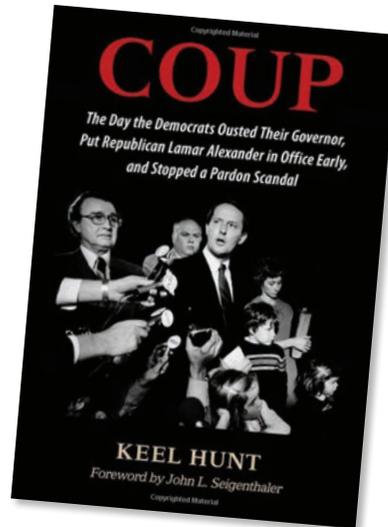
... before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience...

—Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

In September, *COUP: The Day the Democrats Ousted Their Governor, Put Republican Lamar Alexander in Office Early, and Stopped a Pardon Scandal* was published. It describes how Tennessee achieved an unwanted distinction of being the only state to replace a sitting Governor by swearing in the Governor-elect, a Republican, before the official inauguration. Hal Hardin, a volunteer in Group VI, 1963-65, is a central character.

Hal earned his law degree from the Vanderbilt School of Law. In 1974, he became the first judicial appointee as a state circuit judge by a new Governor. Governor Ray Blanton also appointed him to the Tennessee Law Enforcement Commission. In 1977, Hal's fellow judges elected him the presiding judge of all Nashville's courts. Later in that same year, President Jimmy Carter appointed Hal as U. S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, requiring Senate confirmation. Hal was a staunch Democrat, as was the entire Democratic leadership in the State house. He was considered to be an attractive candidate for public office.

Until that moment when Hal was provided with information by the FBI that Governor Blanton had recently commuted the terms or pardoned fifty-two criminals in the middle of the night in a cash for release transaction. At one point, Hal was present when the FBI was monitoring conversations of a Blanton



staff member with an informant in a hotel room. When he took a cigarette break in the parking lot, Hal and his associates suggested he go back in and “ask...how much would it cost to spring James Earl Ray [the assassin of Martin Luther King]?” The response: “Whew, I don't know about that—that's pretty hot. But ... maybe we can help him escape”!

The Governor-elect, Lamar Alexander, was a Republican. In the space of less than 24 hours on January 17, all of the Democratic leadership had to set party loyalties aside and decide ... with the one Republican, how to stop the Governor from issuing more pardons.

On that day, the FBI informed Hal that more commutations were being prepared. Armed with legal information from the Attorney General that the State's Constitution made a critical distinction, permitting a governor-elect to be sworn into office as early as 12:01 am on January 16, with the official inauguration to follow on the 20th, Hal phoned the governor-elect, on January 17,



## Readers' Picks

### LETTERS FROM ALFONSO: LEARNING TO LISTEN

BY EARL KESSLER

The first-hand account of a Colombian village's birth and growth—important lessons for the Peace Corps, NGOs, and the rest of us.

Following his service in the Peace Corps in Colombia in 1964-65, Earl Kessler pursued a career around the world in urban design, focusing on earthquake reconstruction, new shelter finance programs, secondary city planning and environmental improvement initiatives. But his first such effort began in the impoverished Colombian community of Puerto Badel when a natural disaster forced families from their homes. There Earl worked with Alfonso, who became a close friend. For years, Alfonso wrote letters to Earl, which are translated and juxtaposed with Earl's own story of their work to build a functional community from scratch.

—Jim Todd, Colombia 13

## AN ADDENDUM ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

saying: "I am calling you as a Tennessean not as the U. S. Attorney. The governor is about to release some inmates who we believe have bought their way out of prison. The FBI has given us that information. Will you take office as soon as you can to stop him?"

Hal's call initiated secret negotiations on the afternoon of January 17. Each of the Democratic officials knew what had to be done, yet they were reluctant participants in taking an action which could be seen as a coup more befitting a banana republic. The Governor-elect would only agree to be sworn in early if they all concurred that it was necessary—and that it was their idea, not his. The one constant on setting their moral compass on what had to be done—and quickly, was Hal Hardin. Under State law, pardons are irrevocable, no matter the circumstances of their issuance.

Finally, agreement was reached with the Attorney General, Speaker of the House, the Lt. Governor, the Governor-elect, and Hal. They visited the Chief Justice at his home, requesting that he swear in the Governor-elect early; he was sworn in at 5:55 p.m. on January 17. The pardons were halted. He took the oath a second time on January 20 at a formal inauguration.

None of the principals participated in further meetings on this subject--ever. They instinctively didn't want to appear as gloating after the Governor's demise. The leading Democrats would hold their positions during Governor Alexander's two four-year terms.

They had faced their most difficult problem at a time when they hardly knew each other. Taking their operational cue from Hal that they were Tennesseans first, this became the basis for a bond of mutual trust. They met every Tuesday in the Governor's office to work out problems. From these meetings

bipartisan legislation flowed for the benefit of all their citizens over the next eight years.

If there should ever be an addendum to *Profiles in Courage*, then set aside a Chapter for Hal Hardin, a person whose fidelity to conscience served as a reaffirmation that when holding a public trust as a U. S. Attorney, primacy to the rule of law trumps that of any political loyalty.

*COUP: The Day the Democrats Ousted their Governor*, by Keel Hunt, is available at Amazon, and book stores.

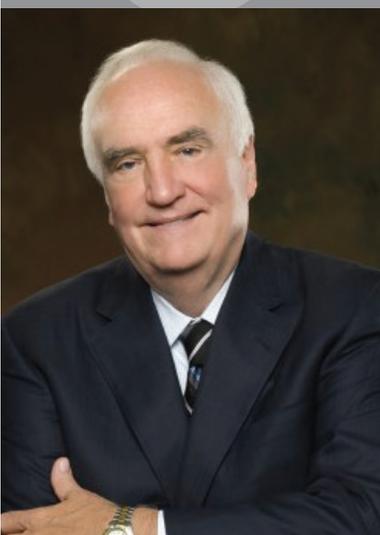
## INTERVIEWING HAL HARDIN

**Q:** I understand that Bill Moyers, after reading *COUP*, wrote the author saying that Tim Kreider, who wrote *The Pain—When will it End?*, believes there is a "fragile black market in human decency that keeps civilizations going despite the pitiless dictates of self-interests." Does this describe the role you played since all parties to this action had less than one day to act on your unprecedented suggestion?

**A:** Contrary to some of what has been written, I am no hero. I believe most people would have done exactly what I did if faced with those facts.

**Q:** Last October, you returned to your Peace Corps site in Plato, on the Rio Magdalena, which you left 48 years ago. What were your impressions?

**A:** I went with the local priest who helped me so much. It was an emotional, sentimental journey. We were treated like long lost friends by wonderful villagers. I am still trying to sort out my thoughts about my time there and my recent visit. Both involved a mixture of happiness and sadness. Much had changed; much remains the same.



(ABOVE) Hal Hardin, Board Member, National Association of Former U.S. Attorneys

“  
We were treated  
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”



# Treasurer's REPORT

## F.O.C. TREASURER'S REPORT, 2011–2013

	2011	2012	2013
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Dues	\$7,657	\$7,650	\$4,670
Donations to FOC	6,567	17,357*	5,010
Event income:			
Members	1,822	--	--
Colombian embassy*	9,510**	21,006***	--
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$25,556</b>	<b>\$46,013</b>	<b>\$9,680</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Donations by FOC	\$5,000	\$9,250	\$19,405
Event expense	10,399	--	--
Newsletters, other mailings	6,683	2,817	3,368
USPS permits	270	96	120
D & O insurance	600	600	680
Other business expenses	401	6,120****	1,114
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$23,353</b>	<b>\$18,883</b>	<b>\$24,687</b>

<b>On Hand (as of 12/31)</b>	<b>\$3,543</b>	<b>\$30,673</b>	<b>\$15,666</b>
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\*A \$10,000 contribution came in after FOC donations were made in 2012

\*\*FOC's 3 percent for administering donations to Colombian embassy exhibit at Smithsonian Folklife Festival

\*\*\*Colombian embassy turned over remaining festival funds to FOC

\*\*\*\*includes \$5,500 for a required financial report



## 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)

Annual NPCA Individual (optional)      \$ 35.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.