

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR INTERNATIONAL AGING**

**65 WAYS TO BE INVOLVED
IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

A Retired American's Guide to Participation in
Volunteer, Education and Alternative Travel Activities

2nd Edition



Nan Miller
Helen Kerschner

Prepared by

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AGING

The American Association for International Aging, founded in 1983, is a private, non-profit voluntary agency addressing population aging from a global perspective. AAIA focuses on projects that meet the needs of the elderly by providing opportunities for them to contribute to and benefit from social and economic participation in their communities.

Second Edition, Winter 1996

For additional copies of this guide, please send a check for \$12.95 to

The American Association for International Aging
1900 L Street, NW Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036

For multiple copies, please call for rates: 202/833-8893

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR INTERNATIONAL AGING**

**65 WAYS TO BE INVOLVED
IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

A Retired American's Guide to Participation in
Volunteer, Education and Alternative Travel Activities

2nd Edition

Nan Miller
Helen Kerschner

DEDICATION

I met David Watson ten years ago. His background in education and international development was of great interest to our organization since one of our major agendas was to provide education to retired Americans about international concerns. The fact that David was one of the nicest people I had ever worked with precipitated a collegial friendship that I will always treasure.

David was with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) when we first began working together. His expertise in adult education design and delivery was of critical importance to the development of our Development Education for Retired Americans Program. But more important than that was his interest and enthusiasm in exploring innovative approaches to education. When we suggested the use of focus groups for designing our curriculum, he said, "What can I do to help?" When we asked if we could do a series of demonstrations combining education and service, he said, "I know you will be successful." When we decided to publish a resource book on volunteer opportunities in other countries, he said, "What a great idea!" So, it was David who provided the inspiration for us to publish the first edition of *65 Ways To Be Involved in International Development*.

David died earlier this year. However, he continues to be a source of inspiration to our staff and our program...and to me. So it is with great humility and appreciation that we dedicate this 2nd edition of *65 Ways To Be Involved in International Development* to David...for his contribution, his energy, his expertise and his friendship. I can't think of anyone who is a better example of "government with a heart."

Helen K. Kerschner, Executive Director

65 WAYS TO BE INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Retired American's Guide to Participation in
Volunteer, Education and Alternative Travel Activities

2nd Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction and Acknowledgments	1
 Organization Profiles	
1. American Refugee Committee	3
2. Amigos de las Americas	3
3. B'nai B'rith Travel	4
4. Brethren Volunteer Service	4
5. Catholic Medical Mission Board	5
6. Catholic Network of Volunteer Service	5
7. Center for Global Education	6
8. Childreach (U.S. member of PLAN International)	6
9. Citizens Democracy Corps	7
10. CONCERN/America	7
11. Council on International Educational Exchange	8
12. Dental Health International	8
13. Earthwatch	9
14. Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization	9
15. Elderhostel	10
16. Florida International Volunteer Corps	11
17. Foreign Policy Association — Great Decisions Program	11
18. Friendship Force	12
19. Global Exchange	13
20. Global Volunteers	14

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(continued)

21. Habitat for Humanity International.....	16
22. Hands Together	17
23. Health Volunteers Overseas	17
24. Heifer Project International.....	18
25. Institute for International Cooperation and Development	18
26. Institute of Noetic Sciences	19
27. International Bicycle Fund	19
28. International Development Exchange.....	20
29. International Executive Service Corps	21
30. Los Niños.....	23
31. Lutheran World Mission Volunteers	23
32. MADRE.....	24
33. Maranatha Volunteers International	24
34. Mercy Corps International	25
35. National Audubon Society	26
36. National Forum Foundation — American Volunteers for International Development Program	26
37. The Nature Conservancy	27
38. Oceanic Society Expeditions.....	27
39. Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc.	28
40. Our Developing World.....	28
41. Our Little Brothers and Sisters	29
42. Overseas Development Network.....	29
43. Partners of the Americas	30
44. Peace Brigades International	30
45. PLENTY International	31
46. Plowshares Institute.....	31
47. Project Concern International	32
48. Project Mercy, Inc	32
49. Rotary International	33
50. Servas International	34

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(continued)

51. Service Civil International	34
52. Sister Cities International	35
53. SUSTAIN	36
54. Trees for the Future	36
55. Trickle Up Program	37
56. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission	38
57. U.S. National Committee for World Food Day	39
58. U.S. Peace Corps	40
59. University Research Expeditions Program	41
60. Volunteers for Peace, Inc	42
61. Volunteer Missionary Movement	43
62. Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance	43
63. Volunteers in Technical Assistance	44
64. The World Wildlife Fund	45
65. WorldTeach, Inc	45
Resources	47

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Are there really 65 ways to be involved in international activities?” The answer is yes...and more. There are literally hundreds from which to choose. What you will find in this book is information about 65 of those organizations that provide opportunities for meaningful involvement, for making a contribution, and for sheer enjoyment.

This second edition of *65 Ways To Be Involved...* is being published at the request of literally hundreds of retirees and the professionals who serve them. The first edition was prepared in 1991, and the demand was so great that more than 7,500 copies were distributed to organizations and individuals across America.

In many respects this second edition may be even more meaningful to readers than the first. Unlike the earlier publication, this edition not only introduces international volunteer opportunities, but also includes many international education and alternative travel opportunities which also are available to retired Americans. Another improvement is the expansion of the number of personal stories of “volunteers in action” which provide readers with a rich tapestry of the many possible ways to become involved.

The book reflects the agenda of involvement which has long been a major feature of AAIA’s Development Education for Retired Americans Program. It also reflects five important messages: that it is important to be aware of America’s involvement in international development; that there is a link between aging in America and foreign assistance; that volunteer agencies and individual volunteers play important roles and retirees should be encouraged to participate; that education combined with service offers a unique way to involve learners in the general importance of America’s involvement in development; and that retirees and their organizations should be included in the agenda. What better way can retirees be involved than through volunteerism, education, and travel?

Numerous organizations and individuals have contributed to AAIA’s Development Education for Retired Americans Program and to the preparation of this publication. In addition to the information and materials so generously contributed by the profiled organizations, many groups and individuals also provided particularly interesting descriptions of their involvement experiences. The retired Americans who gave so generously of themselves and then took the time to relate their experiences so that others can be encouraged and mobilized by their example deserve a special note of thanks. And finally, the technical guidance and financial assistance and support of the U.S. Agency for International Development has been of special importance.

Helen Kerschner, Executive Director
Nan Miller, Editor
American Association for International Aging

This publication was made possible through support provided by the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation, Bureau for Humanitarian Response, U.S. Agency for International Development, under Cooperative Agreement FAO-0230-A-00-3073-00.

AMERICAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

2344 Nicollet Avenue South, Suite 350
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404-3305

Telephone: 612/872-7060
Fax: 612/872-4309
E-mail: archq@archq.org

AMIGOS DE LAS AMERICAS

5618 Star Lane
Houston, Texas 77057

Telephone: 800/231-7796 or 713/782-5290
Fax: 713/782-9267
Website: <http://www.amigoslink.org>

Organization Description: The American Refugee Committee (ARC), founded in 1979, is a non-profit, nongovernmental organization providing primary health care, self-help training, and related services to refugees and displaced persons in 10 countries. ARC is recognized by the U.S. State Department and the United Nations for its effective, efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons in crisis.

Location: ARC staff and volunteer specialists are currently helping more than one million persons, most of them women and children, in Bosnia, Croatia, Rwanda, Zaire, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Guinea, Thailand and Cambodia.

Participation Opportunities: ARC places volunteers who give their time and energy to assist refugees as medical trainers, healthcare providers, tutors/mentors and career/education advisors. They also utilize volunteers at their Minneapolis headquarters to assist with computer and organizational duties.

Organization Description: Amigos de las Americas is a private, voluntary, nonprofit development organization that works on public health projects in collaboration with sponsoring agencies throughout Latin America. More than 18,000 volunteers have served since its founding in 1965. Projects involve immunization, community sanitation, dental hygiene, environmental education, community development and other areas. Every volunteer must complete a training program organized by their local chapters or the international office.

Location: Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, and Paraguay.

Participation Opportunities: Although the majority of Amigos volunteers are high school and college students, there is no upper age limit. In addition, adult volunteers at local chapters recruit, offer training in Spanish and cultural awareness, and help the young people raise funds for the participation fee. Volunteers must speak at least minimal Spanish.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: DR. LOUIS BRAILE

"Epitomizing the spirit of ARC..."

Dr. Louis Braile, an American Refugee Committee board member and long-time volunteer, was honored at a reception for his 15 years of dedicated service to ARC and the people it serves around the world. Dr. Braile's extensive ARC experience includes work in Goma, Zaire, Cambodia, and several trips to the Thai-Cambodian border.

Dr. Braile, or "Papa Louie" as he was called by his friends in Thailand, was praised by ARC President Anthony Kozlowski as "epitomizing the spirit of ARC through his compassionate, humane care and his dedication to helping train refugees so they may help themselves."

B'NAI B'RITH TRAVEL

1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: 202/857-6584
202/537-TOUR (tour agency)

BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Telephone: 800/323-8039 or 847/742-5100
Fax: 847/742-6103

Organization Description: B'nai B'rith (children of the covenant) was founded in 1843. It is the oldest international service organization in the U.S. and the world's largest Jewish organization, with 500,000 members and affiliates in 51 countries.

Location: B'nai B'rith's Active Retirees program takes place in Israel.

Participation Opportunities: B'nai B'rith's Active Retirees in Israel (ARI) program provides the opportunity to volunteer in Israel for one or two months, working for a few hours a day, four to five days per week. Participants have a choice of different volunteer activities including tutoring children, cultivating a garden, serving on an army base, or working for a municipality. Afternoons are spent learning Hebrew at a comfortable pace, and evenings are filled with social and cultural activities including concerts, lectures, and discussions with immigrants from around the world. Other types of international travel especially designed for older persons are also sponsored by B'nai B'rith.

BVS: Older Americans Are an Asset

BVS feels that the life skills and experiences of older Americans are an asset and encourages them to apply. BVS volunteers come from varied backgrounds with different motivations. Some have little formal training, others have advanced degrees. They are individuals wanting to live out their religious convictions and persons seeking to reach out beyond themselves.

Organization Description: Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), founded in 1948, places volunteers in over 200 projects in the United States and around the world in peace and justice work, serving basic human needs and protecting the environment. BVS' four goals include advocating justice, peace-making, servicing basic human needs, and maintaining the integrity of creation. Project categories include: children, senior citizens, community development and services, farm workers, disabled persons, homelessness, prisoners, refugees, peace, domestic violence, housing, health care, education and environment.

Location: BVS projects are located in China, Croatia, England, El Salvador, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Peru, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland, and the Virgin Islands. There are also U.S. projects in most states.

Participation Opportunities: Requirements for entrance into BVS are to be at least 18 years of age, to be in sound physical and mental health, to have a high school education or equivalent experience, to have a willingness to examine and study the Christian faith, and to have a commitment to the goals of BVS. A minimum commitment of one year is required for persons accepting placements in the U.S.; overseas assignments require a two-year commitment.

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, people age 55 and over represent more than 20 percent of today's domestic and overseas travel market.

**CATHOLIC MEDICAL
MISSION BOARD**

10 West 17th Street
New York, New York 10011-5765

Telephone: 212/242-7757

Fax: 212/807-9161

Organization Description: The Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), a charitable organization which has been in existence for over 67 years, is engaged in the care of the sick and the poor, as well as in the shipment of cost-free medical supplies to overseas missions. The Board recruits short- and long-term volunteers, not necessarily Catholic, for Catholic mission hospitals and clinics around the world. Special attention is given to institutions where volunteers can participate in training native personnel in medical skills. The Board, through its medical supply program, also sends medicines, instruments and equipment to over 8,000 Catholic hospitals and dispensaries.

Location: Missions supported by the Catholic Medical Mission Board are found throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania.

Participation Opportunities: CMMB has recruited and processed over 1,600 volunteer health care personnel since its founding — physicians, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, medical students, dental assistants and technicians. Volunteer qualifications include a degree in medicine, dentistry, nursing or technology; high personal and professional standards; a congenial, well-integrated personality; and the ability to improvise while maintaining acceptable medical standards.

**CATHOLIC NETWORK OF
VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

(Formerly International Liaison of
Lay Volunteers in Mission)
4121 Harewood Road, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

Telephone: 800/543-5046 or 202/529-1100

Fax: 202/526-1094

E-mail: cnvs@ari.net

Organization Description: Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS) promotes and assists 168 member programs serving in the U.S. and throughout the world. They are a resource for people who are answering a call to volunteer service, are in service, or have returned from service. They advocate an increased role for all women and men to utilize their gifts in service to the church and the world.

CNVS publishes an annual directory of volunteer opportunities, *Response*, which provides a listing of lay mission opportunities for people of all faiths. CNVS will mail a free copy of *Response* to all readers upon request.

Location: CNVS has placement opportunities all through the United States and around the world.

Participation Opportunities: The opportunities for service range from “helping in a soup kitchen”-types of volunteering, to long-term assignments in teaching, health care, etc. — a very wide range of placement services.

Comments of Center for Global Education Participants...

“Speaking directly with spokespersons and citizens gave me a chance to see and learn about life in these countries which I couldn’t have understood in any other way.”

“This trip was a turning point in my life. The people we met and experiences we had combined to create a change within me that I couldn’t have anticipated and I’m not willing to forget.”

CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454

Telephone: 800/299-8889 or 612/330-1159
Fax: 612/330-1695
E-mail: globaled@augsborg.edu
Website: <http://aug3.augsburg.edu/global/index.html>

CHILDREACH

(U.S. member of PLAN International)
155 Plan Way
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-1099

Telephone: 800/444-7918 or 401/738-5600
Fax: 401/732-0625
Website: <http://www.interaction.org/mb/chldrech.html>

Organization Description: The Center for Global Education was established in 1982 at Augsburg College to provide educational travel experiences which help North Americans think more critically about global issues so they might work toward a more just and sustainable world. It is an alternative travel organization recognized for its work in experiential, educational travel opportunities to the "Two-Thirds World." The Center's one- to three-week travel seminars place participants face-to-face with people of other cultures, people struggling for justice and human dignity.

Location: The Center for Global Education tours take learning adults around the world, bringing them into encounters with peoples and situations of Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Southern Africa and Asia.

Participation Opportunities: Most of the Center's travel programs are open to any adult over the age of 18.

Organization Description: Childreach, the U.S. member of PLAN International, is a global, child-focused development organization linking, through sponsorship, caring people in the U.S. with needy children and their families in emerging countries. Overseas programs are implemented by PLAN International and are strengthened by global education efforts in the U.S. Founded in 1937 as **Foster Parents Plan**, Childreach is nonprofit, nonpartisan and nonsectarian. Its mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in emerging countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning and value to their lives.

Location: PLAN International has assistance programs in 35 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participation Opportunities: Individuals are welcome to join Childreach as sponsors of needy children and their families.

Not a Handout But a Hand Up

Childreach does not give cash handouts directly to families. Instead, children and their families benefit from projects designed to lift them out of poverty. These projects address issues such as safe drinking water, sanitation, child survival and health care, home improvement, agricultural and income-generating projects...projects that make a lasting difference because the planning and work is carried out by the people themselves...a genuine chance for a better life for a child, a family, indeed, an entire community.

From their website

CITIZENS DEMOCRACY CORPS

1400 I Street, NW Suite 1125
Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: 800/394-1945 or 202/872-0933
Fax: 202/872-0923
E-mail: info@cdc.org
Website: <http://www.cdc.org>

Organization Description: The Citizens Democracy Corps (CDC) mobilizes the volunteer resources of the U.S. private sector to assist in the development of market economies and democratic societies in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe. CDC enlists senior-level volunteers from American business to provide on-site technical, management and marketing assistance to private and privatizing small and medium-sized businesses and business-support institutions. The on-site assignment often serves as a platform for a continuing CDC role in local enterprise and economic development through activities such as cross-border market development for client companies and assistance in identifying financing, partners, buyers and suppliers both in the region and in the U.S.

Location: CDC programs are located in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria, Poland and Romania.

Participation Opportunities: Volunteer Advisors are assigned on-site for up to two months. CDC pays round-trip travel from the volunteer's home to the assignment site. Host organizations provide housing, interpreters and local transportation. Volunteers cover their own food and other daily expenses. Qualified individuals may volunteer by sending their resumes to CDC at the above address.

CONCERN/AMERICA

2020 N. Broadway 3rd floor
Santa Ana, California 92706

Telephone: 714/953-8575
Fax: 714/953-1242

Organization Description: CONCERN is a non-denominational, nongovernmental international relief and development organization founded in Ireland in 1968 and organized in California in 1972. CONCERN'S main objective is to provide training, technical assistance and material support to people in less developed countries who need assistance as a result of natural disaster, civil disruption, forced migration, discrimination, or historically-rooted impoverishment. Volunteers are professionals in the fields of public health, nutrition, sanitation, engineering, economic and agricultural development, and education who share their knowledge and skills with disadvantaged people and train others to carry on and to build on what they have started.

Location: CONCERN supports programs in Bangladesh, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

Participation Opportunities: Individuals can assist CONCERN with promotional work in the U.S. or can volunteer for a one-year field position. Qualified volunteers must have a degree or advanced degree in public health, nutrition, agriculture, engineering, or medicine, and be fluent in Spanish (for placement in Latin America). Volunteers with overseas field experience are preferred. CONCERN provides room, board, round-trip transportation, and a small monthly stipend.

Children's Health Care Needs

According to the World Health Organization, of the 105 million children born in less developed countries each year, less than ten percent ever see health care workers in their lifetime.

SEEDS Magazine, March 1996

**COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE (CIEE)**

International Volunteer Projects
205 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017-5706

Telephone: 888/268-6245 or 212/822-2600
Fax: 212/822-2699
E-mail: info@ciee.org
Website: <http://www.ciee.org>

Organization Description: The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) is a membership organization that has been offering voluntary service projects since 1984. Volunteers have built schools, renovated youth centers, restored historical sites, organized cultural festivals, and worked with children and the elderly. Participants work along with local residents.

Location: CIEE runs over 600 two- to three-week volunteer work camps in at least 30 countries in Europe, in the former Soviet Union, in Tunisia and Morocco, and in North America.

Participation Opportunities: CIEE projects vary from working at an archaeological site, on the environment, with the disabled, or at a construction site. Groups of 10 to 20 volunteers stay in local churches or at community centers. Costs include a \$295 placement fee plus travel expenses. Room and board are provided.

DENTAL HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

847 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30605-1331

Telephone: 706/546-1716
Fax: 706/546-1715

Organization Description: Dental Health International (DHI), incorporated in 1973, secures new and used dental equipment and supplies for use in setting up dental clinics in Third World countries. DHI enlists the help and expertise of volunteer dentists to travel to these countries to set up the equipment and give dental care. DHI also distributes information on dental hygiene and dental diseases to the public and to dental schools around the world while in the host country. In addition, DHI develops and tests portable dental equipment to be used in sparsely populated areas of the world and encourages dental students in developing and developed nations to settle in less populated areas where the need for dental care is greatest.

Location: DHI clinics have been established in Bhutan, Cook Islands, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Cameroon, Lesotho, and other developing countries.

Participation Opportunities: Dentists are needed to go to future targeted countries to set up the equipment and perform dental work. Also, equipment not over 10 years old is needed on a donated basis. All work is done on a volunteer basis and all equipment is donated.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: IONE RICE

"You can learn more on one Earthwatch expedition than in a year's class on archaeology..."

Ione Rice just turned 86 — and she is still looking for adventures. Rice has participated on over 35 Earthwatch projects. She's tracked orangutans in Borneo, banded finches on a remote island off Costa Rica, and dug up the three-toed hoof of a 5-million-year-old horse. She's also explored the Canary Islands on a camel safari, collected coral reef specimens off Fiji, and unearthed mammoth remains in South Dakota. The trips fulfill the former high school Spanish teacher's desire to learn. "It isn't like sitting in a chair in a classroom," she says. "You can learn more on one expedition than in a year's class on archaeology."

from their brochure

EARTHWATCH

680 Mt. Auburn Street Box 403
Watertown, Massachusetts 02272

Telephone: 800/776-0188, 617/926-8200

Fax: 617/926-8532

E-mail: info@earthwatch.org

Website: <http://www.earthwatch.org>

**EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS FOR
HUNGER ORGANIZATION (ECHO)**

17430 Durrance Road
North Ft. Myers, Florida 33917

Telephone: 941/543-3246

Fax: 941/543-5317

E-mail: ECHO@xc.org

Website: <http://www.xc.org/echo>

Organization Description: Earthwatch, a non-profit membership organization founded in 1972, is one of the world's largest private sponsors of scientific field research projects around the world. Its mission is to improve understanding of the planet, the diversity of its inhabitants, and the processes that affect the quality of life on Earth. It offers unique opportunities to work side-by-side with distinguished field scientists and scholars.

Research expedition categories include animal behavior, archaeology, art, architecture, biodiversity and ecology, birds, coral reefs, culture and tradition, fossils, earth dynamics, endangered species, global change, health and nutrition, rain forests, resource management, sustainable development, marine mammals, and wildlife management.

Location: To date, Earthwatch has mobilized nearly 2,000 projects in 111 countries and 36 states. More than 40,000 Earthwatch volunteers have contributed over \$30 million and 5,230,000 hours to the search for solutions to important problems around the world.

Participation Opportunities: Earthwatch participants need no special skills. They are trained in the field in teams of five to ten people. Participants help fund the research and cover food and lodging expenses with tax-deductible contributions ranging from \$600 to \$2,200.

Membership in Earthwatch is \$35 per year. Membership contributions fund the ongoing program development and administration of research projects.

Organization Description: The Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO), founded in 1981, is a multi-denominational Christian non-profit group that provides agricultural information and seeds to people such as missionaries, U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, agricultural officers with the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other development workers who are working with peasant farmers in the Third World. ECHO undertakes a limited amount of agricultural experimentation, primarily with gardening systems for difficult conditions, on a small farm in Florida.

Location: ECHO's network extends to more than 100 countries around the world.

Participation Opportunities: A number of researchers and college faculty support ECHO's efforts by providing consultation on technical questions and preparing educational materials for their network. Volunteers also provide support at the ECHO farm in Florida.

We Are Making a Difference!

Mike Sullivan, Development Director of the ECHO, writes that volunteers contributed 10,558 hours to the organization last year and are essential to ECHO's ability to serve the network of over 3,500 agricultural development workers in countries around the world. According to Mike, "This is a great place to work, and it is very satisfying to know that we are making a difference!"

ELDERHOSTEL

75 Federal Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-1941

Telephone: 617/426-7788

Fax: 617/426-8351

Website: <http://www.elderhostel.org>

Organization Description: Elderhostel is a non-profit organization that provides learning opportunities for people who are age 55 and older. It combines the best traditions of education and hosteling (informal, inexpensive lodgings). Elderhostel is based on the belief that retirement does not mean withdrawal from meaningful activity and that the later years should be viewed as an opportunity to enjoy new challenges.

Elderhostel consists of a network of more than 2,300 educational and cultural institutions – colleges, universities, conference centers, state and national parks, museums, theaters, environmental/outdoor education centers, and many others. Each site is responsible for organizing and running its own programs, but registration is handled through the international headquarters in Boston. Last year more than a quarter of a million people enrolled in Elderhostel programs.

Location: Elderhostel provides programs throughout the U.S. and Canada and in 70 countries overseas.

Participation Opportunities: U.S. and Canada programs are one week in duration; international programs are three to four weeks. Practically any subject that can be taught is available somewhere among the hundreds of Elderhostel classes. Prior formal education or knowledge of the subjects aren't necessary to enjoy Elderhostel programs; an open, inquisitive, mature mind is all that's needed. Participants from all walks of life share living quarters, meals, classes and activities with their fellow hostellers.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

**University of New Mexico/Elderhostel
Seedball Education/Service Program
*Rio Grande Restoration Project***

The southwest United States has many problems concerning vegetation and soil loss, as well as the constant struggle for water conservation. The land is desperately in need of re-vegetation projects. The UNM/Elderhostel Seedball Project is proven to bring back native species and beneficial food vegetation, even to the most diversified areas.

During this project, participants learn about sustainable agriculture, organic farming, and the importance of reclaiming decertified, barren areas for the health of the earth and all its inhabitants. Hostellers visit all of New Mexico's "life zones" and become acquainted with every type of ecosystem that occurs in New Mexico.

Seedballs are simple to make. The ingredients are fine terra cotta pottery clay, 20-100 different native species of seeds, humus, and mycelium. Participants collect a sufficient amount of mycelium (an activator for seeds) on a field trip to the Rio Grande Bosque. Thirty people working together can make approximately 3,000 seedballs in an hour.

Participants then throw their seedballs in areas in need of re-seeding, donating their time and energy to the effort. The clay surrounding the seeds and humus protects the seeds from animals and insects until proper growing conditions (rain) occur. Then the clay softens, the seeds germinate and have an instant, rich rooting medium in the clay and humus. Nature takes over control of the project from then on.

Hostellers also develop action plans for community rehabilitation projects in their own home bio-regions.

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
VOLUNTEER CORPS**

1311 Executive Center Drive Suite 202
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Telephone: 904/877-4705
Fax: 904/942-5798
E-mail: FAVACA@worldnet.att.net
Website: <http://www.favaca.org>

FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM
470 Park Avenue South 2nd Floor North
New York, New York 10016

Telephone: 212/481-8100
Fax: 212/481-9275
E-mail: info@fpa.org
Website: <http://www.FPA.org>

Organization Description: The Florida International Volunteer Corps, a program of the Florida Association of Volunteer Agencies for Caribbean Action, Inc. (FAVA/CA), was incorporated in 1982. It is a one-of-a-kind development partnership between Florida and the Caribbean region, with volunteers providing on-site, overseas technical assistance and training in health, agriculture, social services and education at the request of government and private organizations overseas. Seniors in Service Overseas affords volunteer-consultants the opportunity to share their skills and knowledge solving crucial issues through targeted, time limited, specialized volunteer assignments in Florida's International Volunteer Corps. The Corps undertakes projects which create jobs, increase productivity, prevent disabilities, and improve living conditions.

Location: The Caribbean and Central America.

Participation Opportunities: Volunteer technical consultants serve one or two weeks in the field per consultation. The number of visits over time, however, can be substantial — one volunteer in three will return after the initial mission. The Corps has conducted over 320 missions to thirteen nations, training 7,000 participants. One volunteer in five is over 60 years of age.

FAVA/CA's efforts are: *"self-help, short-term, small-scale, cost-efficient, on time and high impact."*

Organization Description: The Great Decisions program of the Foreign Policy Association is the oldest and largest grass-roots world affairs educational program in the nation. It strives to help individuals discover the linkages between 'global' concerns and 'local' issues through the process of reading, discussing and expressing informed views on important international issues. The cornerstone of the program is the annual Great Decisions briefing book, prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. It analyzes eight vital topics of interest to Americans. Each article provides background, policy options for the U.S., recommended readings, discussion questions, illustrations, and maps.

Location: Contact the New York office for the location of Great Decisions Programs in your area.

Participation Opportunities: The Great Decisions Program offers participants the opportunity to gather in homes, offices, schools, libraries and places of worship in order to discuss, debate, and learn about foreign policy issues.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: EDDIE BOSTON

Market weight of Belizean pigs from Double Head Cabbage Village is up 40%, and bio-gas is being generated from swine by-products in Belize with the help of veteran Florida swine husbandryman Eddie Boston, a FAVA/CA volunteer.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE

57 Forsyth Street, NW Suite 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Telephone: 404/522-9490
Fax: 404/688-6148

Organization Description: The Friendship Force has three different types of programs: Exchanges, Missions, and Festivals. On Friendship Exchanges, a group of people (known as ambassadors) from all over the world visit another country where they split up to stay in the homes of private citizens — hosts. The experience is a very personal one of exploring and learning. Friendship Missions were established for those countries that are unable to provide overnight accommodations in private homes. Instead, ambassadors stay as a group in a hotel but have daily interactions with the local citizens. Friendship Festivals are gatherings of people from all over the world who come together to celebrate their differences and similarities in a central place for several days before dispersing into private homes for about a week. The Friendship Force evolves around local clubs that work all year toward their upcoming programs — keeping informed, raising money for scholarships, and preparing themselves for their trip.

Location: The Friendship Force has been involved in over 1,500,000 friendship contacts, has 110 U.S. clubs in 40 states and 100 international clubs in 39 countries, and has proven that individuals can make a difference in building bridges of international understanding.

Participation Opportunities: To become a host or an ambassador of the Friendship Force, participants must be screened by a local committee. Participants need to be flexible, willing to try new things, and caring — and it helps to have a healthy sense of humor. Orientation sessions will prepare participants for what to expect and provide some basic language lessons. Programs last one to two weeks.

**VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION:
*Betty and Dana Davis***

How does one structure the retirement years after being responsible for the security of all Desert Storm satellite communications (Betty) or the installation of re-entry vehicles for nuclear bomb-carrying missiles in the silos of Kansas (Dana)? Although Northeasterners by birth, after making 108 moves in the first three years of their marriage, they can claim all the United States as their home territory. Albuquerque is now their home and where they make their greatest contribution.

They serve on the Board of Trustees and various committees of their church, and they are active in many civic organizations, including the Albuquerque Rose Society, the Philosophy Club, the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Organization, the Bosque de Apache bird and animal sanctuary, the Friends of the Zoo and Friends of the Rio Grande Center. At the University of New Mexico they served as co-vice presidents for the Learning Institute for Elders, they are weekly participants in the Maxwell Museum Vault Project where they curate artifacts for the preservation and research of the Mimbres culture, and they have participated in the Adobe Mission Project.

Betty and Dana recently returned from a home stay in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia as members of the **Friendship Force**. Their goal now, as retirees, is to serve the interests of peace by bringing people from all over the world together by sharing meals and, when possible, with home stays. In addition to all their other activities that serve their community, the Davises are enthusiastic members of the Albuquerque Council for International Visitors. Visitors are their guests to be housed and entertained — an opportunity the Davis's welcome.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE

2017 Mission Street Suite 303
San Francisco, California 94110

Telephone: 800/497-1994 or 415/255-7296

Fax: 415/255-7498

E-mail: gx-info@globalexchange.org

Website: <http://www.globalexchange.org>

Organization Description: Global Exchange is a nonprofit research, education and action center which was formed in 1988 to help advance internationalism. Its goals are: to build people-to-people ties between the First and Third Worlds; to support the struggle for democratic and sustainable development in the Third World; to build bridges between U.S. groups working on international issues such as the environment, development, disarmament, and U.S. government and corporate policies; and to link internationalism with grassroots activism that tackles injustices in the U.S.

Global Exchange organizes Reality Tours throughout the Third World and in the U.S. — a unique alternative to commercial vacations. Participants learn first-hand about some of the most pressing issues confronting the world today. They meet with farmers, religious leaders, women's groups and unions, as well as government figures and opposition leaders. The tours visit hospitals, schools and villages, and provide time with families in their homes. They offer participants resources, organizing ideas and contacts to facilitate building partnerships with the groups they've met.

Global Exchange also publishes books, promotes alternative trade to benefit Third World artisans, fosters partnership programs between First and Third World groups, and conducts human rights and public policy campaigns.

Location: Global Exchange Reality Tours go to Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Haiti, Central America, Vietnam, Ireland and Chile. Special trips can be arranged for groups of people. For example,

Global Exchange organized a trip to El Salvador and Nicaragua for a professor and students during their spring break.

Participation Opportunities: Reality Tours are open to all individuals with a genuine interest in learning about the regions visited and who are flexible and sensitive to Third World realities. Trip participants are usually a diverse group of people from across the country. Past tours have included students, retirees, industrial workers, teachers, health professionals, church workers and community organizers.

The tours range in price from \$500 to \$3,300. Most trips include accommodations, ground transportation during the trip, at least two daily meals, full-time trip leader, program fees, reading materials and translation when necessary.

Participants are encouraged to share their experiences in their communities upon returning home, to volunteer in Global Exchange's headquarters office in California, and/or to do outreach for Global Exchange in their own communities.

Why Go on a Reality Tour With Global Exchange?

Global Exchange sets up meetings with people you'd never get to meet on your own, from government figures to grassroots organizers and families in isolated villages.

It's an opportunity to learn not only from the country you are visiting, but also the people you are with. Trip participants represent a diverse cross-section of the U.S. population in terms of geography, race, occupation and age.

If you've ever asked yourself, "What can I do?," Global Exchange offers the opportunity to take part in exciting, educational trips to places where grassroots development is really happening.

from their brochure

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS

375 E. Little Canada Road
Little Canada, Minnesota 55117

Telephone: 612/482-1074 or 800/487-1074

Fax: 612/482-0915

Website: <http://www.globalvlnters.org>

Organization Description: Global Volunteers is a nonprofit, nonsectarian and apolitical organization founded in 1984 with the goal of helping establish a foundation for peace through mutual international understanding. The program centers around one-, two- or three-week volunteer work experiences in host communities in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and the Americas. At the request of local leaders and host organizations, Global Volunteers sends teams of 8-12 volunteers to the same community three or four times a year. The volunteers and a Global Volunteers team leader live in host communities and work side-by-side with local people on human and economic development projects. Volunteers are immersed in the local community, experiencing first-hand the language, culture and traditions the country offers.

Location: Current projects are located in Mexico, Tanzania, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Vietnam, Poland, Russia, Spain, Italy, Greece, and the southern U.S.

Participation Opportunities: Global Volunteers has no language nor professional requirements for participation. Team members come from all backgrounds and occupations, including retirees, teachers, mechanics, actors, executives, nurses, carpenters, business managers, homemakers, farmers, physicians, etc. Global Volunteers is not subsidized by nor affiliated with any governmental or religious organization and must rely on its volunteers for financial support. The tax-deductible fee that volunteers pay — ranging from \$300 to \$1,995 — goes toward travel, food and lodging; contributes toward defraying project costs; and helps support the office staff at the St. Paul office.

The "Servant-Learner" Concept: What Does It Mean?

Global Volunteers is totally committed to supporting local people in their struggle to become self-reliant. Over the years, we've learned that the role of outside volunteers is vital, albeit precarious, to the development process. Therefore, we developed the model of the "Servant-Learner" to help volunteers understand how to be of genuine service.

Volunteers are able to empower, advise, encourage, and work shoulder-to-shoulder with local people in their efforts to build their future. But it is not the function of volunteers to "do local projects." Global Volunteers does not attempt to impose outside views or expertise on local people. Furthermore, we work in teams, using team methods tested over time.

Our role is to serve local people and share our talents. We recognize that to be truly helpful, the volunteer must fully respect the host community's inherent wisdom and potential.

Local people embody their cultural, social and economic issues and must articulate their own needs. They alone must identify the barriers which prevent those needs from being met. Therefore, we work only on projects selected by local people that have broad-based community support with local people providing leadership, and where there is at least an equal number of local participants and outside volunteers.

We ask you to reflect on how becoming a servant-learner can help you be a successful volunteer. As you consider your travel plans, think about how you might lend a hand in a developing country, Europe or a U.S. community. Join us in waging peace and promoting justice through an "Adventure in Service."

(from their brochure)

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: JOAN McINNES

Well, It Is Not the Hilton...

Joan McInnes, who recently spent 18 days on assignment with **Global Volunteers**, describes the living conditions she encountered at an English language camp in Zakopane, Poland:

“We lived in two dorm-like buildings, two to a room the size of a single. Ours was the largest building, housing 35, in which we shared four showers, four sinks, and five toilets. The water was hot between 6 and 9 twice a day. The beds were pull-outs with a groove, or rut, down the middle...not bad if you didn't need to turn over in the night. It was adequate and we managed...but it is amazing how spoiled we Americans are.

“The food was edible and adequate; however, I don't care if I ever have cold garlic sausage and cucumbers for breakfast again. We also had cheese and bread, much tea and very little coffee. Dinner always included good soup, meat, potatoes, gravy, and a cooked vegetable, usually some variety of cabbage. Supper was always unique, Polish, and usually tasty. Sometimes it was necessary to supplement later at the pub with ice cream or French fries. The Poles don't have the cholesterol or fat fetishes we Americans do and have wonderful ice cream and Kielbasa. In the cities we ate in some very good restaurants, and Zakopane had McDonalds where, in desperation, one could get an icy drink. We didn't starve...far from it. Again, we're spoiled.”

ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

by Helen Kerschner

Alternative tours...

- can provide opportunities to travel to countries that are spurned by commercial operators because of the lack of Western tourist facilities;
- are usually organized so that someone else takes care of the details;
- generally stress local spending and simple living;
- may be organized for stays in homes or in hotels;
- generally provide plenty of chances for individuals to do what people normally do on vacations...swim, shop, dance...
- may include extensive education;
- may emphasize specific issues such as the environment or a cross-cultural experience;
- often enable travelers to meet people — from government officials to peasant leaders — they couldn't meet on their own;
- often result in the feeling on the part of returned travelers that they can live full, rich and satisfying lives with fewer material goods.

from Aging Network News, June 1995.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
INTERNATIONAL**
121 Habitat Street
Americus, Georgia 31709-3498

Telephone: 912/924-6935
Fax: 912/924-6541
E-mail: public_info@habitat.org
Website: <http://www.habitat.org>

Organization Description: Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry founded in 1976. Habitat works in partnership with people who live in inadequate shelter to help them provide a decent home for themselves and their families. Since its inception, Habitat has built over 50,000 homes for more than a quarter of a million people through its local affiliates worldwide.

Habitat builds and renovates simple, decent houses, using mostly volunteer labor so the costs are kept low. It sells them to people in need for the actual cost of construction; no interest is charged on the mortgage. Each Habitat homeowner family must contribute hundreds of hours of their own labor — sweat equity — into the building of their house and the houses of others. They make low monthly house payments which are recycled into a “Fund for Humanity” that is used to build even more houses. Through the work, people relationships and a sense of community are built as well as new houses.

Location: There are nearly 1,300 active Habitat affiliates located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are also more than 800 building projects coordinated by the 250 international affiliates in 57 nations around the world.

Participation Opportunities: Habitat has needs for all skills and all levels of skills and can use most people in some way. Volunteers can help construct houses, serve on various committees, participate in fundraising events, and spread the word about Habitat. Both short-term and long-term opportunities are available in the U.S. and other countries.

*Elderhostel and
Habitat for Humanity
Form a Partnership*

Elderhostel and Habitat for Humanity International have formed a partnership that allows older participants to volunteer with selected Habitat affiliates as part of the newly developed Elderhostel Service Project program.

Elderhostel is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 1975. According to William Berkeley, Elderhostel president, “The primary emphasis of the Service Program is on the work performed on behalf of others — work which is for common good.” The new Service Projects are different from the traditional programs offered by Elderhostel in that their focus is on achieving personal satisfaction for participants through work in public service rather than through an academic experience.

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical, grass-roots Christian ministry with the goal of eliminating poverty housing. Unwilling to accept the fact that millions of people live without adequate shelter, Habitat challenges individuals, churches, companies, foundations, and other organizations to join in partnership with the poor to change the conditions in which they live. Participants need to know that house building is hard work. However, volunteers are encouraged to work at their own pace and comfort level.

Service Projects with Habitat for Humanity as well as Global Volunteers, Oceanic Society Expeditions, and other well-established volunteer organizations, are open to previous Elderhostel participants. To register, or for information, contact Elderhostel at 75 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 (617/426-8056).

HANDS TOGETHER

P.O. Box 80985
Springfield, Massachusetts 01138-0985

Telephone: 413/731-7716
Fax: 413/731-6405

Organization Description: Hands Together is a nonprofit organization devoted to educating, inspiring, and encouraging people to understand and respond to the needs of all people, especially the poor and disadvantaged. Hands Together conducts Experiential Learning and Volunteer Programs in impoverished areas in the U.S. and abroad designed to help people better appreciate and understand the plight of the poor and disadvantaged. They also provide educational, developmental, and emergency humanitarian relief toward resolving the needs of the poor and disadvantaged through their Assistance Response Programs.

Location: Hands Together projects are located in Haiti; Venezuela; Philadelphia, PA; Trenton, NJ; and Springfield, MA. Future programs are being organized in Jamaica, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

Participation Opportunities: Short-term (1-3 months) and long-term (6 months to 1 year) programs are available. Volunteers serve as trip leaders for Hands Together's short-term Experiential Learning Programs. Projects on which long-term volunteers have worked include working with Hands Together staff to run orphanages, to work with abandoned infants, to work with local artisans to develop an art cooperative, to conduct clinics on tuberculosis prevention, to teach English to young adults, and to work with abandoned elderly.

HEALTH VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS

P.O. Box 65157
Washington, D.C. 20035-5157

Telephone: 202/296-0928
Fax: 202/296-8018
E-mail: HVO@aol.com
Website: <http://www.concentric.net/~hvousa>

Organization Description: Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), founded in 1986, is dedicated to improving the availability and quality of health care in developing countries through training and education. Programs vary according to the needs of the countries in which they are located. HVO's programs emphasize teaching rather than service and strive to create an indigenous group of trained health workers who can teach others. This builds an ongoing capability that will benefit the population long after the volunteer and HVO have departed.

Location: HVO has over 30 programs located in Africa, Asia, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America.

Participation Opportunities: Individuals can volunteer for programs in anesthesiology, dentistry, internal medicine, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, and physical therapy. HVO is looking for volunteers with good communication skills, as well as the ability to be innovative and flexible. Assignments generally require a commitment of at least 2-4 weeks. Volunteers pay their own travel expenses, but room and board are usually provided.

From the Health Volunteers Overseas Website...

If you give a man a fish, he can eat for a day.

If you teach a man to fish, he can eat for a lifetime.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, Maryland 21776

Telephone: 800/422-0474
Fax: 501/889-5124
E-mail: project@heifer.org
Website: <http://www.intellinet.com/Heifer/>

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 103
Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267

Telephone: 413/458-9828
Fax: 413/458-3323
E-mail: IICD1@berkshire.net
Website: <http://www.berkshire.net/~iicd1>

Organization Description: Heifer Project International (HPI) is a nonprofit, ecumenical, Christian organization that works to alleviate hunger and poverty by providing livestock and technical know-how to low-income rural families around the world. Each recipient receives training and agrees to "pass on" the first female offspring to another needy family. The International Learning and Livestock Center in Arkansas is a hands-on campus for education about world hunger and solutions through animal agriculture. The 1,100-acre facility provides more than 15,000 visitors a year with a variety of educational experiences — from one-day tours to week-long work camps.

Location: Current HPI programs are found in 32 countries — in Africa and the Near East, Asia and the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Canada and the U.S. Since 1944, HPI has worked in over 110 countries around the world and in 33 U.S. states, providing animals, fowl, beehives and fish fingerlings to impoverished families throughout the world.

Participation Opportunities: Most volunteer positions are at the International Learning and Livestock Center, 40 miles west of Little Rock, although there are a few positions in project areas around the world and others at the regional offices of Heifer Project International (in Rutland, MA; Ceres, CA; Goshen, IN; New Windsor, MD; Perryville, AR). Both individual volunteers and workcamp participants do general ranch work, although some office work is available occasionally for those who find more difficult ranch work too strenuous. No ranch or farming skills are necessary.

Organization Description: The Institute for International Cooperation and Development (IICD) is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1986 and dedicated to promoting global understanding and international solidarity. IICD offers an opportunity to learn about the world we live in through participation in community development projects.

Each program has three periods: a Preparation Period which includes regional studies, language studies, practical training and fundraising; an International Period which includes travel to Africa or Latin America and work in community projects such as planting trees, building schools, and teaching children; and a Follow-up Period in the U.S. which includes the creation of educational materials for use in schools and by the general public.

Location of Programs: IICD has provided global education programs in 54 countries. The current program includes travel and study courses in Latin America and Africa.

Participation Opportunities: IICD seeks a diversity of experience among its participants and welcomes applications from all people who are ready to accept the challenges of undertaking new and demanding tasks, working in a group, and opening themselves to new understandings of the world — and of their own potential. There are no specific age, academic or skill requirements. Programs cost \$3,400 - \$4,600. Costs cover tuition, room and board, and all traveling expenses. Limited fundraising assistance is available.

INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES

P.O. Box 1369

Sausalito, California 94966-1369

Telephone: 800/353-2276 or 415/331-5650

Website: <http://www.noetic.org>

Organization Description: The Institute of Noetic Sciences (INS) is a nonprofit research, education, and membership organization whose purpose is to support research and education on consciousness, human potential, and personal and social transformation. INS activities include support for scientific and scholarly research, an annual conference, local community groups and educational materials and travel programs.

Location: INS tours in 1997 will be conducted in 18 countries including Ethiopia, Tibet, Costa Rica, Peru, China, Bali, Equador, Cuba, Europe and the U.S.

Participation Opportunities: INS offers unique, in-depth experiences of diverse cultures around the world on a wide variety of topics. The programs last for from one to four weeks, and costs range from \$1,150 to over \$5,000.

INTERNATIONAL**BICYCLE FUND**

4887 Columbia Drive, South

Seattle, Washington 98108

Telephone: 206/628-9314

Website: <http://intlbike.home.ml.org/homepage.html>

Organization Description: The International Bicycle Fund (IBF) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization promoting sustainable transport and international understanding. Major areas of activity are economic development, safety education, responsible tourism and the cross-cultural, educational travel program 'Bicycle Africa'.

Location: IBF also links interested participants with tours and travel sites in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East as well as Western Europe.

Participation Opportunities: All programs are small group, self-contained bicycle tours. Each is unique and highlights the diversity of the culture, social institutions and environment, and the complexity of the history, economy and society.

Is This Right for Me?

Commonly, prospective **Global Volunteers** participants ask if their expertise and interests can be used in a host community. Our answer: If you're open to new challenges and enjoy working with and learning from local people, you can contribute to and benefit from a service-learning program.

You may ask:

- Am I willing to offer my skills and interests to a community requesting help?
- Can I accept direction from local people?
- Do I understand the need for and value of working as part of a team?
- Do I value being a part of a long-term effort?
- Do I enjoy learning about new cultures and unfamiliar lifestyles?

If these possibilities appeal to you, join us!

From the Global Volunteers catalog.

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
EXCHANGE**

827 Valencia Street #101
San Francisco, California 94110-1736

Telephone: 415/824-8384
Fax: 415/824-8387
Website: <http://www.idex.org>

Organization Description: International Development Exchange (IDEX) supports small-scale community-based development projects while actively engaging North Americans in development issues. IDEX provides grants of \$8,000 or less to community groups overseas, then seeks sponsoring organizations and individuals in the U.S. who provide the financial support for a project. IDEX provides regular progress reports and facilitates exchanges between the Third World community group and their sponsors.

IDEX is dedicated to creating partnerships which benefit both parties. The Third World community receives financial support to get its project off the ground, while the American sponsor has a chance to learn about the challenges and successes of communities working for positive change. IDEX serves as the bridge — linking the groups, facilitating the partnership, and providing educational materials and presentations to groups in the United States. IDEX, supported by over 60 volunteers in this country involved in all aspects of the project, has raised over \$1.2 million in support for nearly 350 projects.

Location: IDEX projects are located in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Participation Opportunities: Individuals and/or groups are encouraged to join IDEX as sponsors. Individuals in the San Francisco area can also actively participate in IDEX's local volunteer network.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

The following volunteer vignettes appeared in Connections, a publication of InterAction (see Resource section). They illustrate several kinds of potential opportunities for international involvement available through professional organizations.

Dr. L. Adams, Doctors of the World

Dr. Adams called upon her Albanian ancestry as a DOW volunteer in Kosovo, an ethnic Albanian province in the former Yugoslavia. As a volunteer, she immunized young children and fought the spread of tuberculosis, and later became the program's director. DOW has volunteers in programs worldwide, and is looking for doctors and nurse practitioners for upcoming assignments. *Phone: (212) 529-1556.*

J. Everson, YMCA

Ms. Everson is a "World Fellow," a new program that sends YMCA professionals overseas to gain experience in youth work and community development — skills they can bring back to their local Ys. The Florida Y where she works has loaned her to a Y in Chile for a year and guarantees her a job when she returns. *Phone: (800) 872-9622 x134.*

G. Meyer, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Mr. Meyer, an electrician with a Midwest co-op, spent a week in Honduras helping three rural communities install electricity in a primary school and feeding centers for mothers and children. Each year, NRECA sends as many as 50 volunteers overseas to train utility workers and install electricity in homes, schools, health clinics and co-op businesses. *Phone: (703) 907-5635.*

**INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE
SERVICE CORPS**

P.O. Box 10005

Stamford, Connecticut 06904-2005

Telephone: 203/967-6000

Fax: 203/324-2531

Website: <http://www.charity.org/iesc.html>

Organization Description: IESC is a global network of people representing all areas of business expertise working to upgrade management skills, improve basic business technologies, and promote better trade relations around the world. Although IESC was originally established to provide managerial and technical assistance to under-developed countries, it has, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, launched a strong effort in spreading the principles of democracy and free enterprise in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

Through short-term assignments of volunteer executives (mainly recently retired business professionals), IESC provides managerial and technical assistance to all types of industries and services. IESC maintains a skills bank of over 13,000 experienced men and women and makes assignments depending on demands for specific skills by specific clients. IESC is funded by a combination of client fees, U.S. government grants, and contributions from U.S. corporations, private foundations, and individuals.

Location: Since 1964, IESC has worked in more than 120 developing countries around the world, successfully completing over 18,000 projects. Assistance has been given to countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Central and Eastern Europe in the areas of agriculture, education, health care administration, transportation, construction and industrial equipment, and textile and apparel manufacturing. In 1994 and 1995, more than 50 percent of their volunteer projects were based in Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

Participation Opportunities: Each year IESC selects over 700 men and women executives from the American business community to share their expertise with people and countries entering into free market economies. Each volunteer is selected on the basis of the specific needs of the client to whom the executive is assigned. The average age of IESC volunteers is 67.

Volunteer consultants must have a combination of management and industry-specific skills and the ability to communicate, as well as to adapt to different cultures. Most of the work done by volunteers is of an advisory nature, though sometimes it is hands-on. Projects normally last for two to three months. Applicants and spouses are subject to rigid screening prior to their first assignment. There is no stipend available, but travel and living expenses are paid for both volunteers and spouses.

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXCHANGE
Linking Communities in Development
*Ghana Fish Curing Project***

In the small community of Bikor on the west coast of Ghana, residents rely on fishing for their livelihood. From August to November, fish are plentiful and families are assured of fresh food in their diet. However, in the off season, there is a lack of protein-rich food and many families suffer from malnutrition during this period.

A group of women have organized themselves into a cooperative and have decided that their first project will be the curing of anchovies which can be eaten throughout the year. This project was chosen not only because it will provide an important nutritional supplement to their diets, but because it is a trade in which all of the women are skilled. A \$3,650 grant through IDEX will provide the women with the netting, wood and working capital to launch their new business.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION: GEOFFREY AND ELDA BARDSLEY
Helping build political and social stability in the world..

When Geoffrey Bardsley retired from Xerox Corporation in 1993, he and his wife, Elda, were agreed that he was not going to become a supermarket husband or even a full-time golfer. Instead, he took a job as an unpaid volunteer with the **International Executive Service Corps (IESC)** of Stamford, Connecticut.

Bardsley has taught bank management in Ukraine and Siberia, foreign exchange techniques in St. Petersburg, and corporate debt restructure in Zambia. And, he has recruited dozens of other retired executives for projects around the world, from Nepal to Nicaragua, Slovakia to Sri Lanka, Russia to Zimbabwe.

Bardsley finds his work demanding and challenging, but immensely rewarding. He and his wife (who is also an **IESC** volunteer) have made new friends, met people from many other countries, and lived in foreign cities. By helping the growth of private enterprise and the creation of wealth in other countries, Bardsley and his **IESC** colleagues are confident they are also helping build political and social stability in the world.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: HELEN CUMMINGS
I'm an adventurer..

When Helen Cummings retired in 1985, she had been the owner of Fashions by Helen, a Los Angeles, California, company that manufactured uniforms for hotels, banks, hospitals, schools and restaurants, for 20 years. She had her own factory for the women's lines and contracted out the men's work.

Cummings, who recently received the **IESC's** David Rockefeller Spirit of Service Award, has successfully completed **IESC** assignments in Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Morocco, Honduras and Zimbabwe. While all of her projects have been challenging, Cummings' six-week tour in Zimbabwe was especially demanding, but very rewarding. Cummings observes, "I really felt good. I was working like a beaver, but I could see there was potential."

Cummings declares: "I'm going to continue to do this sort of work. I don't have any personal concerns. I travel alone, but I've never had any fear. I'm an adventurer. And I've always been an entrepreneurial woman."

LOS NIÑOS

287 G Street
Chula Vista, California 91910-3927

Telephone: 619/426-9110

Fax: 619/426-6664

Website: <http://www.electriciti.com/~losninos>

**LUTHERAN WORLD
MISSION VOLUNTEERS**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4192

Telephone: 800/638-3522 or 773/380-2631

Fax: 773/380-2410

Website: <http://www.elca.org/dgm/index.html>

Organization Description: Los Niños is an organization committed to long-term development along the United States/Mexico border. Founded in 1974, Los Niños, a nonprofit, volunteer organization, is a successful model of partnership between Mexican nationals and North Americans.

Los Niños staff and volunteers work to foster community development and independence for Mexican families and children. They work with Mexican families on nutrition, health, ecology and education programs which emphasize local needs and the importance of transferring skills to residents.

Location: Los Niños programs are located in Mexico in Tijuana, Tecate, and Mexicali.

Participation Opportunities: Participants should have cultural sensitivity, the ability to communicate in Spanish, the ability to work on a team as well as independently, and be in good health.

Los Niños also has an annual Walk from Los Angeles to Tijuana in June. The eight-day, 160-mile trek attracts volunteers from across the United States. The walk has become an excellent opportunity for many active seniors to participate.

"Doing good that will last"

"If you help people to help themselves, you're creating something that is doing good and that will last."

Los Niños volunteer

Organization Description: Lutheran World Mission Volunteers (LWMV) matches potential volunteers with projects or service opportunities that require lay or clergy mission volunteers. LWMV links skilled volunteers who want to serve from two months to two years. Volunteers assist partner churches, institutions and agencies in providing additional human resources in overseas settings.

Location: LWMV has projects in countries such as Cameroon, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania.

Participation Opportunities: Service opportunities are available for professionals such as accountants, administrators, agriculturists, builders, childcare workers, health care providers, librarians, computer programmers, and teachers. Volunteers must be Christian and a church member, although not necessarily Lutheran. Volunteers pay their own transportation and living expenses.

"Habitat is Volunteer Driven"

Millard Fuller, Habitat for Humanity's founder and president, explains that "Habitat is volunteer driven." He invites people from all walks of life to work together to build houses with families in need. Other volunteers include a wide variety of people — from Habitat homeowners to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

MADRE

121 West 27th Street Room 301
New York, New York 10001

Telephone: 212/627-0444
E-mail: madre@igc.apc.org
Website: <http://www.igc.org/beijing/ngo/madre.html>

**MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS
INTERNATIONAL**

1600 Sacramento Inn Way #116
Sacramento, California 95815

Telephone: 916/920-1900
Fax: 916/920-3299
Website: <http://www.maranatha.org>

Organization Description: MADRE is an international women's human rights organization which strives to build bridges between women and children in the U.S. and around the world. Founded in 1983, MADRE supports programs which address both the long-term development needs of women and their communities as well as immediate humanitarian needs with programs that combine technical assistance and skills training, material and humanitarian aid, and advocacy. Efforts have included assistance in the installation of a community potable water system in El Salvador; health care training programs in Guatemala; the provision of a gynecological and health clinic as well as rape counseling in Haiti; and, a community development project in Nicaragua which includes a revolving loan fund, training of local health providers, technical assistance and equipment for a community radio station, and books for the first community library.

MADRE produces educational materials including newsletters, fact sheets, videos and slide presentations, etc., and is available for presentations at conferences and other gatherings in the U.S.

Location: El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Haiti.

Participation Opportunities: Involvement ranges from forming a local "Friends of MADRE" group to specific volunteer assignments. MADRE's technical assistance program is called Sisters Without Borders and offers opportunities to share skills. Residencies range from two weeks. Fluency in Spanish, Creole or French are highly desirable; skills in the health and education fields are a priority.

Organization Description: Established in 1969, Maranatha Volunteers International was set up as a nonprofit Christian organization that coordinates volunteer labor to help fund and construct urgently needed buildings throughout the world. Emergency relief for natural disasters is also provided occasionally. Projects are intended to meet a wide range of humanitarian needs, primarily through the construction of schools, health clinics, churches, housing and orphanages, but also through various types of outreach activities. In the past 28 years, Maranatha has completed nearly 1,500 projects valued at over \$70 million, mobilizing over 32,000 short-term missionaries.

Location: Maranatha runs approximately 60 projects each year in Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Africa, Dominican Republic, Dominica, India, Belize, Panama, El Salvador, Europe and the United States.

Participation Opportunities: While there is always a need for skilled contractors, masons, plumbers, electricians and carpenters on each project site, the most essential skills are a sincere desire to contribute to others and a willingness to help wherever needed. Nearly 10,000 volunteers from all walks of life choose projects based on where they want to go and the time they have available — from one week to one month.

Volunteers pay their own expenses for travel and food as well as a small daily fee for accident insurance. Most volunteers are Seventh-day Adventists, but this is not a requirement.

MERCY CORPS INTERNATIONAL

3030 SW First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201-4796

Telephone: 503/796-6800
Fax: 503/796-6844
Email: programs@mercycorps.org
Website: <http://www.interaction.org/mb/mci.html>

Organization Description: Mercy Corps, International is a nonprofit, private voluntary agency dedicated to helping the world's suffering, impoverished, and oppressed through emergency relief, self-help projects, and development education. Since its founding in 1979, Mercy Corps has delivered more than \$230 million in assistance to over 40 countries around the world.

Mercy Corps pursues this mission through emergency relief services that assist people afflicted by conflict or disaster; through sustainable community development that focuses on the needs of children and their care-givers; and through civil society initiatives that promote citizen participation, accountability, nonviolent conflict resolution, and the rule of law.

Location: Current programs include Bosnia, Kosova, Lebanon, the West Bank, North Korea, Philippines, Honduras, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Participation Opportunities: Volunteers are required to raise their own funds to pay for the trip and expenses. Mercy Corps will provide volunteers with information on how to do this.

What Global Volunteers Have To Say...

"Listening to the Polish language, eating Polish food, working, laughing and playing with the Polish children helped me understand the life of the people I served. I am so fortunate to have had this wonderful opportunity. I am humbled. I am at peace."

L. Greenlaw, volunteer to Poland

"I gained a tremendous appreciation for the spirit and patience with which villagers face the difficulties of living in a poor country...they face life with such a positive outlook."

N. Wampler, volunteer to Tanzania

"I realized almost immediately that we were there as servants, not to dictate new methods and techniques. At my age, nothing gives me more pleasure than to serve others and share what I have learned. Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve..."

D. Vogel, volunteer to Indonesia

"This experience changed my life completely. Not only did I gain a greater experience of the Russian culture, I gained a deeper understanding of myself and my ability to be a daily light for others. The true friendships that developed...forever fill my heart."

P.J. Thompson, volunteer to Russia

from the Global Volunteer website

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

700 Broadway
New York, New York 10003

Telephone: 212/979-3000
Fax: 212/979-3188
Website: <http://www.audubon.org>

Organization Description: The National Audubon Society (NAS) was incorporated as a national organization in 1905. Its mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. It has over 550,000 members in 508 chapters in the Americas.

Location: The NAS sponsors travel programs around the world led by Audubon senior staff.

Participant Opportunities: The NAS organizes Ecology Camps and Workshops for one to two weeks which provide an overview of natural history and basic ecological issues, principles of environmental preservation, and discussions of environmental concerns. The Society also offers opportunities for local involvement through local chapters which offer lectures, weekend field trips, and other educational activities.

Senior Volunteers

Maranatha Volunteers International has over 10,000 members worldwide, with a great majority of them being retired senior citizens. The other part of our membership is made up of youth. We encourage the youth and the seniors to work together so that both groups can learn from each other. It is amazing to watch the age barriers disintegrate as the two age groups work together.

*from Maranatha Volunteers
International brochure*

NATIONAL FORUM FOUNDATION

AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
511 C Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Telephone: 202/543-3515
Fax: 202/547-4101
E-mail: NFF1@aol.com
Website: <http://www.nff.org>

Organization Description: The National Forum Foundation (NFF), is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization which supports the political and economic transformation of the emerging democracies of Europe and Asia. NFF's program American Volunteers for International Development (AVID) is a demand-driven training initiative which provides highly-qualified American managers and experts in government, public administration, journalism, and finance to requesting host institutions in the former East Bloc. In designing AVID, emphasis was placed on creating a practical, low-cost program that would advance the region's democratic transition by responding directly to individual institutional needs and by solving real problems.

Location: In the past five years, AVID volunteers have served in cities such as Bratislava, Bucharest, Budapest, Kiev, Krakow, Moscow, Minsk, Prague, Sofia, St. Petersburg, Uman, Vilnius, and Warsaw.

Participation Opportunities: Americans with managerial experience in non-governmental organizations, public administration, economic development, and journalism are needed to volunteer to work with their professional counterparts in the emerging democracies. The foundation provides volunteers most of their transportation and housing costs as well as a living expense stipend based on local standards. Volunteers must be able to commit 3-12 months service in the host country. Local language skills are desired but not always required. Since its inception in 1992, AVID has placed over 80 volunteers in 90 host organizations.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

1815 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Telephone: 800/628-6860 or 703/841-4850

Fax: 703/841-5373

Website: <http://www.tnc.org>

Organization Description: The Nature Conservancy is a national organization which offers intensive and exciting international and domestic nature expeditions led by a Conservancy representative and a local expert naturalist. They include field trips to study the flora, fauna, geology, and history of a particular region. The Nature Conservancy also works with partner organizations throughout the world soliciting funds to buy up and maintain wild areas to safeguard them from development.

Location: The Nature Conservancy organizes tours in the United States as well as Belize, Costa Rica, Yucatan, Galapagos, Indonesia, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Peru, the Virgin Islands, the Amazon and other areas.

Participation Opportunities: The Nature Conservancy tours are designed for those who enjoy the diversity and adventure of natural history travel and exposure to a variety of cultures. They last from 4 to 21 days, and cost between \$450 and \$4,500. All trip participants should enjoy group travel and must be flexible regarding time schedules, occasional changes, weather and mechanical breakdowns that are a part of any travel.

While these trips are not designed to be physically demanding, travelers should enjoy good mental and physical health and be able to walk several miles comfortably. A discussion with your physician of the physical demands is strongly recommended. All participants will be asked to sign a medical and liability release form.

Membership in The Nature Conservancy includes a subscription to their bi-monthly magazine which lists upcoming programs and tours.

OCEANIC SOCIETY EXPEDITIONS

Fort Mason Center, Building E #230
San Francisco, California 94123

Telephone: 800/326-7491 or 415/441-1106

Fax: 415/474-3395

Website: <http://www.oceanic-society.org>

Organization Description: Oceanic Society Expeditions (OSE) is the travel affiliate for Friends of the Earth and the Environmental Policy Institute. OSE is committed to the environment and practices ethical tourism.

Location: OSE sponsors tours all around the world — in the South Pacific Islands, Siberia, Mongolia, Africa, the British Isles, South America, the Caribbean Islands, and the U.S.

Participation Opportunities: OSE offers natural history programs which focus on conservation, issues and pleasurable learning experiences. Groups average 14 to 18 participants. Professional (U.S.) naturalists lead all trips and local guides join the group whenever possible to offer a resident's valuable perspective.

A Valuable Contribution

"The democratic transition requires new knowledge and skills, and one of the best ways for us to develop those skills and acquire that knowledge is to dramatically increase the number and range of contacts between our citizens and Americans from all walks of life... **The National Forum Foundation** and the AVID program have made a valuable contribution to that process."

President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, AVID's Honorary Chairman

**OPERATION CROSSROADS
AFRICA, INC.**

475 Riverside Drive Suite 830
New York, New York 10011

Telephone: 212/870-2106
Fax: 212/870-2055
E-mail: ocainc@aol.com
Website: [http://nagps.varesearch.com/
NAGPS/intl-page/jp-3.html](http://nagps.varesearch.com/NAGPS/intl-page/jp-3.html)

Organization Description: Operation Crossroads Africa is nongovernmental and nonpolitical. It is about getting people involved in learning about and from a free Africa. Since 1958, it has sent 10,000 volunteers to work with grassroots NGO's in Africa to promote self-help endeavors. Crossroads takes great care to ensure that the benefits of its programs go, in fact, to African people. Participation is not for tourist or recreational purposes, but rather to provide a challenging experience. Summer work camps, designed to provide maximum interaction, learning opportunities and cultural awareness, address problems of enormous consequence in areas ranging from construction of schools and hospitals to public health education, from wildlife to fisheries management, from farming to reforestation.

Location: Africa

Participation Opportunities: The fee for participation is \$3,500. The requirements for involvement are strong communication skills, a sincere desire to establish contact with people of other cultures, and a willingness to contribute to the communal life of the group.

I learned more about myself...

"I learned more about myself in the short time we were there than I have my whole life."

Global Volunteer to Jamaica

OUR DEVELOPING WORLD

13004 Paseo Presada
Saratoga, California 95070-4125

Telephone: 408/379-4431
Fax: 408/376-0755
E-mail: vic_ulmer@vval.com

Organization Description: Our Developing World (ODW) was founded in 1974. It is designed to bring realities of the Third World to North Americans through programs in schools, church and community groups, teacher training, a lending resource library, material aid and study tours.

Location: ODW's study tours to Central America, Southeast Asia, and Southern Africa visit grassroots, evolved, successful development projects to heighten their participants' awareness of what constitutes successful development. Participants are encouraged to bring medicines, sewing and school supplies.

Participation Opportunities: Older Americans participate in ODW's study tours around the world. Some have then returned to these areas to engage in development work in health, education, and agriculture. People living in the Saratoga area are also encouraged to work locally in a wide variety of tasks and projects related to development education.

*While others just look at the world,
you can change it*

The mission of **Earthwatch** is to improve human understanding of the planet, the diversity of its inhabitants, and the processes that affect the quality of life on Earth. While others just look at the world, you can change it.

from their brochure

**OUR LITTLE BROTHERS
AND SISTERS**

1210 Hillside Terrace
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Telephone: 703/836-1233
Fax: 703/836-3554
E-mail: 102610,2022@compuserve.com

**OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK**

333 Valencia Street Suite 330
San Francisco, California 94103

Telephone: 415/431-4204
Fax: 415/431-5953
Website: <http://www.igc.apc.org/odn>

Organization Description: Our Little Brothers and Sisters provides homes for orphaned and abandoned children. One-year missions are available which provide the opportunity to carry out the philosophy of the founder, Fr. William B. Wasson, to give each child love, support and security within conditions conducive for personal growth and education in a joyful family atmosphere.

Location: Programs are available in Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, and Arizona.

Participation Opportunities: Placements are available for a broad range of occupations, from business administrators to veterinarians to health care providers, to life guards and teachers. Room and board, medical expenses, and stipends (at some mission sites) are provided. Volunteers live in community with other volunteers.

EARTHWATCH VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION:

Hal and Reynotta Hoberecht

...It was my idea of heaven.

Hal and Reynotta Hoberecht, of Suisun, California, participated on a recent Earthwatch scientific research team digging up mastodon bones in a remote province in northwestern China. The two-week dig searching for the ancient skeletons the Chinese call dragon bones, was "my idea of heaven," declared Hal Hoberecht, 73. It was his 17th Earthwatch expedition, an experience which he reports is richer and more rewarding than ordinary tourism.

Organization Description: The Overseas Development Network (ODN) is a national organization which strives to involve students, volunteers and communities in addressing global problems by providing opportunities for activism and first-hand experience. ODN's Development Opportunities Program offers internships with nongovernmental organizations throughout the world to learn about the day-to-day realities of grassroots development. ODN organizes local, regional, national and international seminars, workshops and speaking tours and conferences.

ODN's Partnership Program links student groups with community organizations which are implementing self-help development projects. ODN's Bike-Aid is an annual, summer cross-country cycling trip which generates awareness and support for community-based solutions to global poverty. Since its beginning in 1986, over 800 individuals from 25 countries have "pedaled for the planet" and raised over \$1.3 million for international grassroots development.

Location: ODN internships are available in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Appalachia (U.S.).

Participation Opportunities: While internships are primarily awarded to college age youth, ODN welcomes older Americans as volunteers. It is ODN's opinion that their perspectives and experiences are of great value to their organization. Older Americans can also volunteer as participants of Bike-Aid or as hosts for other Bike-Aid cyclists.

PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

1424 K Street, NW Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: 202/628-3300
Fax: 202/628-3305
E-mail: info@partners.poa.com
Website: <http://www.partners.net>

Organization Description: Partners of the Americas, initiated in 1964, is a network of citizens from Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States who volunteer to work together to improve the lives of people across the region through nonpolitical, community-based activities. Besides providing technical assistance and training to communities in Latin America, the Caribbean and the U.S., Partners' network of volunteers promotes collaboration in the region's social and economic development through working relationships among professionals and institutions across the hemisphere.

Location: Each of the organization's 60 "partnerships" links a state or region of the U.S. with an area in Latin America or the Caribbean and represents an indigenous bilateral organization.

Participation Opportunities: To become a "Partner Volunteer" in your local community or with the national office, telephone the Washington office for the name of your local leader.

PBI – Personal Risks

There are clearly certain personal risks involved with working on a PBI team. Potential volunteers need to contemplate whether it is worth taking such risks. However, to minimize the risks, PBI has developed strict local safety guidelines, maintains regular contacts with the diplomatic corps, and has created a wide international network of many supporters.

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

PBI/United States
2642 College Avenue
Berkeley, California 94704

Telephone: 510/540-0749
Fax: 510/849-1247
Email: pbiusa@igc.apc.org
Website: <http://www.igc.apc.org/pbi>

Organization Description: Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a unique grassroots organization exploring and implementing nonviolent approaches to peacekeeping and support for basic human rights. By invitation, PBI sends teams of volunteers into areas of political repression and conflict. PBI provides protective international accompaniment for individuals and organizations who have been threatened by political violence or who are otherwise at risk. PBI also produces publications and organizes speaking tours which provide a unique nonpartisan analysis of the conflicts and nonviolent action in countries where PBI maintains projects.

Location: Currently, PBI has long-term projects in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, North America, Colombia, and Haiti, as well as joint projects with other organizations in Chiapas and the Balkans.

Participation Opportunities: The volunteers of Peace Brigades International come from many different backgrounds, countries, and philosophical and religious perspectives. What they share is a strong commitment to nonviolence and a belief in the power of ordinary people to create a more peaceful and just world. Volunteers in Latin America must be fluent in Spanish, and those in Haiti must speak French. English is the team language for the North America, Sri Lanka and Balkans Projects.

While there is a lower age limit (25 years), there is no upper one, and the oldest team member was a 78 year old woman from California. There has been a slight majority of women.

PLENTY INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 394
Summertown, Tennessee 38483

Telephone: 615/964-4864
Website: <http://www.public.usit.net/plenty1>

Organization Description: PLENTY International is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, nonsectarian organization which was founded in 1974 on the premise that there is more than enough to go around if we all share. It was started by a group of Americans who simply wanted to put their time, efforts and money into doing something for the less privileged of this world.

Location: PLENTY supports projects around the world — in North, South and Central America as well as in Africa.

Participation Opportunities: PLENTY offers opportunities for volunteers to commit themselves to a wide variety of projects in the U.S. and abroad. Most assignments are from one to three months. Projects involve sustainable agriculture, indigenous crafts, primary health care, and ecotourism. Volunteers pay their own expenses. PLENTY may assist with fundraising activities. Thousands of people from all over the world have joined in their efforts, giving whatever they were able.

One person...

One person is all it takes to begin the chain of life...one person who believes that something can be done about the problem of hunger faced by many in our world today.

from Heifer Project International's brochure.

PLOWSHARES INSTITUTE

809 Hopmeadow Street
P.O. Box 243
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

Telephone: 860/651-4304
Fax: 860/651-4305
E-mail: evansr@mstr.hgc.edu

Organization Description: Plowshares Institute is a nonprofit organization promoting a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world community. Plowshares work encompasses service, education and research, with a special emphasis on community conflict resolution, transforming education for the non-poor, and partnership programs in education, health, and development in countries of the developing world.

Convinced that one of the most effective means of initiating new levels of global understanding for North Americans is cross-cultural experience, Plowshares conducts two-week immersion seminars in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Central Europe. The seminars empower individuals to develop more creative and responsible approaches to local problems by "thinking globally and acting locally."

Location: Plowshares programs are located in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central Europe, and the United States.

Participation Opportunities: Participants in Plowshares traveling seminars are guests of religious, political, civic, business, cultural, and grassroots leaders who are partner-hosts in each country. The Plowshares model includes the expectation that each participant will have opportunities for visits in individual homes and for developing personal contacts. Costs for the seminars include tuition, room, board, and travel from New York or the West Coast.

PROJECT CONCERN INTERNATIONAL

3550 Afton Road
San Diego, California 92123

Telephone: 619/279-9690

Fax: 619/694-0294

PROJECT MERCY, INC.

7011 Ardmore Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46809

Telephone: 219/747-2559

Fax: 219/478-1361

Organization Description: Project Concern International's (PCI) program focuses on child survival, maternal health care, disease prevention, as well as curative and basic health care for underserved populations worldwide. Founded in 1961, PCI's service network provides long- and short-term assistance to U.S. government agencies, ministries of health in developing countries, clinics, hospitals, and shelters for the homeless. PCI's Options Services recruits and places volunteer medical professionals for assignments in health facilities around the globe.

Location: PCI's service network currently covers countries in North, Central and South America and in Africa, Asia, Micronesia, the South Pacific, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

Participation Opportunities: Although most volunteers are medical professionals, development specialists are also placed throughout the world to share their knowledge in areas where such expertise is otherwise unavailable or unaffordable. Assignments range from several weeks to several years, depending on the time volunteers have available and the needs of the country, hospital or clinic.

Organization Description: Project Mercy was founded in 1977 to help refugees in Africa. Material assistance of food and clothing are provided to refugees, along with financial support of refugee education and churches.

Community development in Ethiopia enables people of rural areas to become self-sufficient in health care, education, agriculture, and skills training.

Location: Project Mercy works in Africa among refugees in Sudan, Djibouti, and Cote d'Ivoire and partners with people in rural Ethiopia in community development.

Participation Opportunities: Free patterns produced by McCalls for African-style clothing are available to sew simple clothes for refugees in Africa. Volunteers are needed to sew clothes which are shipped by Project Mercy to Africa. In addition, school kits are needed for children in refugee schools. Locally, volunteers are needed for packing and other activities.

Interested readers are requested to call for details.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: PHYLLIS MATTSON, U.S. PEACE CORPS

She decided to pursue her dream

Phyllis Mattson, a retired public health professor from California, is presently volunteering with the Peace Corps in Nepal. For her entire life, she wished to teach health practices to citizens of a Third World country, but in the midst of raising a family, she was unable to find the time. Recently, Mattson discovered a Peace Corps ad which claimed the organization was seeking volunteer candidates with master's degrees in public health. Thus, Ms. Mattson decided to pursue her dream. She is now teaching women volunteers in Nepal health education practices which they may pass on to residents of their home villages.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Telephone: 708/866-3000
Fax: 708/328-8554
Website: <http://www.rotary.org>

Organization Description: Rotary International, founded in 1905, is an international humanitarian service organization of more than one million business and professional leaders from around the world. Rotarians focus on service and fellowship as they plan projects to improve both local and international communities. Rotary projects include primary health care and health education; maternal and child health; treatment and rehabilitation; food projects, preservation, and distribution; community development; water/sanitation; literacy; and vocational training. All projects include local Rotary participation and originate through local clubs.

Location: There are over 28,000 Rotary clubs in over 155 countries around the world.

Participation Opportunities: The Rotary Volunteers program offers an information resource of volunteers, of Rotary-sponsored project sites seeking volunteers, and of other resource organizations which place, train, fund or provide equipment for volunteers. This information is provided to assist volunteers in locating a place to serve and to assist project contacts in locating a volunteer to meet their project's needs.

Possible funding may be available for Rotarians through Grants for Rotary Volunteers of The Rotary Foundation. Non-Rotarians can be registered with the Rotary Volunteers program; however, they are not eligible for funding assistance from Grants for Rotary Volunteers and are encouraged to seek other sources of funding.

Those wishing further information should contact their local Rotary leaders or Rotary International.

**VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION:
JOHN AND CAROL ACETI**

One definition of "retire" is to give up one's work; but not so for the Acetis.

When John Aceti retired from his position as an elementary school principal, he and his wife Carol continued to be active in volunteering. They recently served in Alaska working as volunteer camp hosts. Prior to their time in Alaska, John and Carol served through VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a program of ACTION, the National Volunteer Agency. John served as a volunteer coordinator for the Partners in Parenting Education Program, while Carol volunteered in VISTA's literacy program.

Prior to their service term with VISTA, John and Carol served their community in several different capacities, volunteering through Rotary, as well as through the Mental Health Association, a youth leadership program, the YMCA and Jaycees. John, a past Rotary club president, was also a Rotary Group Study Exchange team leader to Argentina in early 1993.

The Acetis both continue their active participation in local Rotary club projects such as the International University Student Exchange Program and "Adopt a Highway." John and Carol, who have been accepted as U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, plan to continue volunteering wherever opportunities present themselves.

John and Carol believe that "having an active mind and body provides the opportunity to remain productive and gives purpose to life."

*The Rotary International motto
is "Service Above Self"*

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

11 John Street Suite 407
New York, New York 10038

Telephone: 212/267-0252
E-mail: usservas@igc.apc.org

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL

Route 2 Box 506
Crozet, Virginia 22932

Telephone: 804/823-1826
Fax: 804/823-5027

Organization Description: Servas is an international cooperative system of hosts and travelers established to help build world peace by providing opportunities for personal contact among people of diverse cultures and backgrounds. Hosts offer international travelers housing, meals or company (terms are set by each individual), and U.S. travelers receive the same when traveling abroad. Members may be either hosts, travelers, or both.

Location: Servas, established in 1948, has 14,000 host members throughout the United States and Europe and in dozens of Third World countries, from Antigua to Zimbabwe.

Participation Opportunities: Servas is for the thoughtful traveler who wants to know individuals by entering their homes and sharing experiences, ideas and activities. For those who can't travel, Servas brings the world into their living rooms through the visits of people from every continent. Those who can't open their homes to overnight visitors can share understanding by becoming "day hosts." Travelers must pay a \$55 annual fee; to be a host, Servas requests a \$25 annual contribution.

Organization Description: Service Civil International, International Voluntary Service (SCI/IVS), founded in 1920, promotes international understanding and peace through voluntary community work in the U.S. and around the world. SCI/IVS organizes multi-cultural voluntary workcamps of 10-15 people, generally for two to three weeks.

Location: Several hundred short-term (2-3 weeks) SCI/IVS workcamps are located in Western and Eastern Europe, Greenland, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S.A. Some medium-term (3-6 months) and long-term (1-2 years) opportunities are also available in Asia, Africa, Europe and the U.S.A.

Participation Opportunities: SCI/IVS encourages older Americans to become a part of their international and intergenerational voluntary workforce at a workcamp. SCI/IVS provides room and board and insurance during camps; volunteers pay a registration fee (\$50 for a U.S. camp; \$100 for a European camp; \$150-\$250 for an Eastern European camp), their own transportation and pocket expenses.

PARTICIPANT IN ACTION: KATHERINE LAZARUS*The rewards of being a Servas traveler...*

"The rewards of being a Servas traveler are many. First of all, if you are traveling alone, you will not be lonely while there are Servas hosts to stay with. The host will be able to answer the many questions that come to you as you travel. Often you will be able to visit local schools, hospitals, and religious institutions and understand how they function and their importance to the country. It's what you gain when you forsake the air-conditioned tour bus which isolates the tourist from all but a surface glance at a foreign country."

**VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
U.S. Peace Corps**

*"Now I'm learning
what life's really about."*

Bill Ludwig was a successful lawyer and certified public accountant who represented a public corporation in Colorado in trade on the New York Stock Exchange. Then, at age 57, he unexpectedly lost his job in a corporate downsizing layoff. For Ludwig, the end of employment precipitated the end of a 30-year marriage, as well. Thus, he suddenly found himself divorced and looking for a job.

These earth-shattering events splintered Ludwig's life philosophy. After months of mailing resumes and receiving reply letters stating "Sorry, you're too qualified," Mr. Ludwig decided to dedicate his life to helping others.

For four months he worked as a night manager at a homeless shelter in Everett, Washington. Then he answered a call from the U.S. Peace Corps. He had responded to an ad in which the Peace Corps requested the services of a small business advisor. The corps needed Ludwig's experience and expertise and, therefore, sent him to Bulgaria.

Bill Ludwig is now 64 and will serve for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer. Freed from Communist rule, Bulgaria must now adjust to a free marketplace. Ludwig is helping the Eastern-European country meet this challenge.

As Ludwig says, "Now I'm learning what life's really about." (From *The Herald*, Everett, Washington)

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

120 South Payne Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: 703/836-3535

Fax: 703/836-4815

E-mail: info@sister-cities.org

Website: <http://www.sister-cities.org/sci.html>

Organization Description: Sister Cities International (SCI), is the national nonprofit, volunteer membership organization of U.S. communities linked globally to promote lasting friendship through a variety of programs. SCI sponsors workshops, conferences, training and professional programs and publishes a wide variety of information to educate and support the sister city movement. Programs are planned and implemented at the local community level by Sister Cities committees of city officials and citizen volunteers.

Location: SCI has assisted more than 1,200 U.S. cities in linking with 1,900 foreign cities in 120 nations.

Participation Opportunities: The Sister Cities Program allows individuals and communities to participate on local, national and international levels to make an impact on our ever-changing world. Exchanges range from education to culture, medicine to municipal training, business and trade to sports. SCI acts to support grassroots, volunteer organizations to develop new affiliations, establish community-based organizations, create exchange projects, involve youth and young adults, and involve business and local elected officials.

"The Sister Cities program is an important resource to the negotiations of governments in letting the people themselves give expression of their common desire for friendship, goodwill and cooperation for a better world for all."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

SUSTAIN

**SHARING U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO AID
IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF NUTRITION**
1400 16th Street, NW Box 25
Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: 202/328-5180
Fax: 202/328-5175
E-mail: 7198045@mcimail.com

Organization Description: SUSTAIN provides access to U.S. expertise in food processing, preservation, safety, and storage to help improve nutrition and strengthen local economies in developing countries. Training and technical assistance is provided by volunteers with food/nutrition experience. By sharing expertise and elevating technological capacity, SUSTAIN volunteers help overcome the causes of malnutrition and poverty.

Location: SUSTAIN provides access to U.S. business and scientific expertise to improve the quality, safety, and availability of food in developing countries around the world.

Participation Opportunities: Opportunities are available for volunteers who have worked for U.S. food companies and universities. SUSTAIN covers international travel, hotel, and meal costs and arranges local logistics. Assignments are typically two to four weeks long.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: PEDRO SOLE

Pedro Sole retired from a major fruit company as Vice President of Quality Assurance and Control. As a SUSTAIN volunteer, Dr. Sole has taught hands-on workshops in Guatemala and Honduras on fruit and vegetable processing, including a review of processing techniques, canning regulations, quality control, and laboratory procedures.

TREES FOR THE FUTURE

P.O. Box 1786
Silver Spring, Maryland 20915-1786

Telephone: 301/929-0238
E-mail: TreesFTF@aol.com
Website: <http://wwwa.com/trees>

Organization Description: Trees for the Future is a nonprofit, people-to-people organization dedicated to stopping the destruction of the Earth's forests and other natural resources while assisting the poorest people of developing communities to meet their pressing needs and improve the quality of their lives — by planting trees. TREES provides seeds of useful, fast-growing trees, as well as training materials, planning assistance and on-site technical training. Additionally, TREES educates people here in the U.S. about these great environmental concerns.

Location: Most of TREES' work is in the developing countries of the tropics/subtropics where the threat of deforestation is so great. Millions of trees have been planted in hundreds of villages in over 40 countries around the world.

Participation Opportunities: Trees for the Future has many older volunteers who travel to tropical villages to learn of the problems people face and to let them know that TREES is willing to help them. Older volunteers can also provide awareness-raising and education about global environment issues in their local communities. The organization also needs volunteers to assist in business management as its program continues to grow.

Lessons learned..

"I treasure the lessons of courage, caring, hope and perseverance that I have learned through the Overseas Development Network."

An ODN participant

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
TREES FOR THE FUTURE

Bill and Miriam Cable of Syracuse, Indiana, have traveled the globe telling local organizations why it is crucial to bring trees and forests back to devastated lands. Most recently, they traveled throughout southern India where they were able to start 140 village tree-planting projects.

Don Steinbauer of Muskegon, Michigan, has seen the deforested mountains of Thailand and the disastrous effect this has had on local communities. He spends six months each year working with village groups. He has convinced business leaders in Thailand to assist local groups in starting tree projects and has been able to have technical books and papers translated and published in the local language.

At age 76, **Syamsul Arafin** of Madura in Indonesia decided to "make his islands green again." For over two years he traveled to 84 villages, telling people about the fast-growing trees of Trees of the Future. His efforts resulted in more than 20 million trees being planted on those islands.

Janet Rauls of Garden Grove, California, is greatly concerned about the plight of the people of Bangladesh and shares the belief that the solution is planting trees on the barren lands of India and Nepal — the Ganges River system which so often floods the lowlands of Bangladesh. She works in India for several months each year starting village tree-planting projects.

Jorge Blacud, originally from Bolivia, is a local retiree from Maryland who will be heading home soon and will be starting several village projects in the Tarija Valley, where deforestation has caused an unbelievable tragedy.

TRICKLE UP PROGRAM

54 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10024

Telephone: 212/362-7958
Fax: 212/877-7464
E-mail: 73444.557@compuserve.com
Website: <http://www.vita.org/trickle>

Organization Description: The mission of Trickle Up is to reduce poverty by helping the poorest and most disadvantaged people start or expand a small business of their choice. Trickle Up provides families or groups of three or more people with conditional grants of \$100 and business training material to develop business skills.

Since 1979, the program has helped over a quarter of a million impoverished people start or expand 58,000 businesses in 114 countries. The program is implemented by locally-based "coordinators" — people already in development organizations who volunteer their service to Trickle Up.

Location: Trickle Up operates in Asia, Africa and Europe, and is conducting a pilot program involving a larger grant in the United States.

Participation Opportunities: Older Americans can support the work of Trickle Up through financial contributions. Contact Trickle Up for more information about the program or opportunities for volunteer service in the New York office.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
Glen and Millie Leet — Trickle Up

During distinguished careers in international development, Glen and Millie Leet had seen that billions of dollars pouring into Third World welfare programs were not reaching those who needed help. Corrupt officials took their cut, then bureaucracies devoured the rest. What money the poor did get only made them more dependent. The Leets concluded that there must be a better way. Wouldn't it make more sense to offer small grants to start cottage industries and services and let the dollars "trickle up"? Then they could step aside as individuals used their own skills and initiative to pull themselves out of poverty.

The Leets put their theory to the test on the Caribbean island of Dominica. Starting with \$1,000 of their own money, they decided to offer grants of \$100 to any group of three or more. To qualify, members of the group would have to show they could produce and market a particular product if only they had access to the initial capital. The group would have to work an initial 1,000 hours within three months to show their commitment, and they would also have to re-invest at least 20% of their profits and file an occasional report with their local Trickle Up coordinator.

Soon the Leets, who take no salary, moved on to Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Barbados. They set up an office in their New York apartment, filling file cabinets with Trickle Up business plans and reports. By 1981, Trickle Up was incorporated. Inspired by the couple's successes, government and social development agencies, corporations, philanthropic foundations and friends began sending contributions. With the money came volunteers — nearly 3,000 individuals have participated in overseas project monitoring since the program began.

It generally costs \$20,000 to create one formal job using traditional foreign aid methods; for the same money, Trickle Up can create 1,000 grassroots jobs. And its success cannot be measured just in money, but in the new-found self-confidence of Trickle Up's beneficiaries. Indeed, it is this sense of helping people find their dignity that seems to make the Leets most happy. "We tell people: Don't wait for someone to give you a job; make one yourself."

**UNITED METHODIST
VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION**
159 Ralph McGill Blvd., NE Room 305
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Telephone: 404/659-5060
Fax: 404/659-2977
Website: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org>

Organization Description: The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), founded in 1976, is an official channel through which persons may offer themselves for work on short-term

mission projects both in the U.S.A. and abroad. UMVIM receives offers of service and provides individuals and teams of volunteers with placement and training. It also receives invitations for volunteers from host churches and agencies.

Location: UMVIM projects are located in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the U.S.

Participation Opportunities: Retired persons can be involved in UMVIM in a variety of capacities, both as individuals and members of teams, as builders, medical personnel, technicians, teachers, clerks, repair persons, consultants, etc.

**VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
HARRY AND PEGGY BENNITT**

Harry and Peggy Bennitt, from Alabama, started short-term missions in 1975 doing work camps in the United States and in Africa — building churches, daycare centers and education buildings, and repairing homes. Now, at ages 72 and 67, they have recently completed a three-month mission with **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission** in Russia to organize Bible classes. Mr. and Mrs. Bennitt found that while their Russian students did not speak easily in class, they knew that they were listening closely. The students seldom asked questions except about the Bennitt's personally, but they always showed love and understanding and seldom missed a class, despite temperatures of 20 degrees below zero.

At the end of their assignment, the Bennitts were faced with the dilemma of how to continue the Bible study classes. They were able to make arrangements with the Board of Global Ministries to develop and provide Bible study outlines in Russian, and they suggested that their students continue to meet in their homes. The Bennitts are hopeful that they can return to Russia next year, and they expect to continue their service as long as they are able.

**U.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
WORLD FOOD DAY**

1001 22nd Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20437

Telephone: 202/653-2404

Fax: 202/643-5760

Organization Description: The U.S. National Committee for World Food Day, founded in 1981, coordinates activities for World Food Day, October 16. The purpose of World Food Day is to increase awareness, understanding, and informed year-round action to help ensure food security for all.

The Committee sponsors an Annual World Food Day Teleconference, available at scores of viewer sites and features a "call-in" hour during which viewers may pose questions to expert panelists. The Committee also provides information and study packets.

Location: The U.S. National Committee for World Food Day works throughout the United States. It also provides information worldwide.

Participation Opportunities: Volunteers can plan and participate in activities for World Food Day in their local communities.

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS STORY?

It's the story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody didn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Nobody will ever make a difference, but Anybody can try...and must!

World Food Day is a worldwide opportunity for Everybody to catch the spirit and work together for food security for all.

(From U.S. Committee for World Food Day newsletter)

U.S. PEACE CORPS

1990 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20526

Telephone: 800/424-8580 or 202/606-3010

Website: <http://www.peacecorps.gov>

Organization Description: The U.S. Peace Corps was created in 1961 to promote world peace and friendship. In the past 35 years, 140,000 volunteers have served more than 14 million people in over 100 countries worldwide. The three goals of the Peace Corps are to help people of interested countries and areas in meeting their need for trained men and women; to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and to help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

Location: Almost 6,500 volunteers are currently serving in over 90 countries around the world. Since 1990 alone, 34 new countries have been added — more than in the previous two decades combined.

Participation Opportunities: Peace Corps volunteers are currently working on projects in education, environment, health, agriculture, forestry, engineering, skilled trades and business. Most Peace Corps assignments are for two years and begin after the successful completion of training. You can also get involved with a Peace Corps Partnership project from your community.

Senior Peace Corps Volunteers

More than seven percent of all Peace Corps volunteers are aged 50 and over. These older Americans represent an enormous resource to the Peace Corps. Host country governments want more older volunteers because of their experience, maturity and demonstrated ability.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION U.S. PEACE CORPS

*She stuffed her travel bags
with garden seed..*

Lois Ham, 78, of Sterling, Colorado, is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Jamaica where she assists natives in devising and implementing plans to improve their living conditions. Previously, she resided in the Philippines and in Bangladesh with her late husband and worked closely with the local people. She is, therefore, a connoisseur in establishing functional relationships with Third World nations' citizens. Ms. Ham is a grandmother and an avid gardener. In an attempt to feel more "at home," Ham stuffed her travel bags with garden seed and hopes to interest Jamaican children in cultivating their own garden plots.

I feel as young now as I did at 25."

Martha Thomas, 69, of Strongsville, Ohio, serves in Jamaica as a Peace Corps volunteer. Bored with working as an accountant for a local realtor and disoriented after ending a 26-year marriage, Ms. Thomas applied for a position with the Peace Corps in 1993. After awaiting a response for 14 months, Thomas received notification of her acceptance to her post in the beautiful tropical island. She will help the locals establish successful small business operations. Enthusiastic to commence her new life, Thomas exclaims, "I'm so excited. I feel as young now as I did at 25." (from *The Sun Star*, Berea, Ohio)

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
U.S. PEACE CORPS

"It would be nice to just experience their life, their culture, their way."

Carol and Bob Bender of Middleville, Michigan, recently embarked upon Peace Corps service in Saratov, Russia. Mr. Bender was a former Michigan State Representative. He will, therefore, utilize his political skills to work with the Saratovian government. Furthermore, Mr. Bender will help the natives establish and practice skills to facilitate small business development within the community. Mrs. Bender was a school teacher for 27 years. She will implement her knowledge and skills to teach the English language to local residents. She says, "It's exciting to share someone else's culture. I will obviously never be a native, but it would be nice to just experience their life, their culture, their way." (from *Sun and News*, Middleville, Michigan)

*His skills are rare
and much appreciated*

After retiring from the New York State Forest Rangers, **Captain Hamilton Topping** joined the Peace Corps and now serves as a volunteer with the Parks and Wildlife program in Guatemala. Topping has spent his life saving people stranded in blizzards and fighting forest fires for the state of New York. Furthermore, he has extensive experience in environmental law enforcement and conservationist movements. These skills are rare and much appreciated in his host country, Guatemala.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
EXPEDITIONS PROGRAM

University of California
2223 Fulton Street
Berkeley, California 94720-7050

Telephone: 510/642-6586
Fax: 510/642-6791
Website: <http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/urep>

Organization Description: University Research Expeditions Program (UREP) organizes research teams to investigate issues of human and environmental concern around the world. Headed by University of California scientists and teachers, with labor and money provided by students and other volunteers, the expeditions study and try to solve problems in animal studies, archaeology, arts and culture, earth sciences, environmental studies, people and their natural resources, etc.

Location of Programs: 1997 UREP expeditions are located in Baja California, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Bolivia, East Africa, Ireland, Germany, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, Wyoming, and Hawaii.

Participation Opportunities: Each participant on a UREP expedition is an active member of the team and contributes an equal share to cover the project's cost. While no special academic or field experience is necessary, some projects require photography, scuba diving, observational skills or wilderness experience. Expeditions are of two- to three-week duration. Costs, which are tax deductible, range from \$795 to \$1,685 and include meals, lodging, transportation during the expedition, camping and field gear, research equipment and supplies, and preparatory information.

"If you want a different summer adventure, join a UREP expedition - you'll expand your horizons, meet interesting people, and support valuable UC research."

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: PHIL STACK
19 Expeditions Going on 20?

Phil Stack, a retired Air Force Officer from California wins the title of UREPer with the most expeditions. In his own words:

“Just as Tom Sawyer was able to get his fence whitewashed by explaining how rewarding it was (and fun besides), UREP (**University Research Expeditions Program**) has been able to get me to fork over cash to dig in the dirt and sleep in hammocks! Since my first trip in 1980 to the Marine Lakes of Palau to my 19th expedition last year to the dinosaur-strewn formations of the Judith River basin in Montana, I’ve always looked forward to my annual UREP catalog – my gateway to adventure! It’s been a wonderful experience. I especially like the idea that I am contributing to the world’s knowledge, making new friends and having fun!”

Highlights and Accomplishments of UREP's 20 Years in the Field

- Discovered a 17th century West African palace
- Surveyed the flora of one of the last remaining cloud forests of Ecuador
- Excavated dinosaur and other fossils from the plains of North America to Russia’s White Sea
- Completed long-term behavioral studies of African monkeys
- Assessed the impact of pesticides on California’s White Pelicans
- Excavated archaeological sites from colonial Virginia to camps of Ice Age reindeer hunters in Europe
- Replanted and studied over 8,000 native trees in Central America

VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE

43 Tiffany Road
Belmont, Vermont 05730-0202

Telephone: 802/259-2759

Website: <http://www.vfp.org>

Organization Description: Volunteers for Peace (VFP) is a nonprofit membership corporation that is part of a sizable international network of workcamp organizations operating under the aegis of UNESCO. VFP works in cooperation with Service Civil International, The Alliance of West European Voluntary Service Organizations, and the International Youth Action for Peace.

Location: VFP operates 2-3 week workcamps in over 60 countries around the world.

Participation Opportunities: Through the challenges of “hands-on” work projects and group living, volunteers can create a more positive vision for the future. VFP publishes its International Workcamp Directory each year in April. It contains over 1,000 program announcements for summer and fall. Last year VFP placed over 1,200 workcampers in a very wide range of experiences. Costs are generally around \$175 and include room, board, insurance, and travel expenses.

VFP Workcamp Participants Comment...

GHANA: “...an incredible experience! We worked alongside both the villagers and volunteers from the larger cities in Ghana. I know that if I had only been traveling in Ghana, I wouldn’t have experienced the “real” village life or developed the wonderful friendships.”

RUSSIA: “The Yekaterinburg workcamp was an incredible experience. Seeing and experiencing how the Russians live day to day made me take a hard look at American cultural and value systems. The experience helped me define the important things in my life.”

**VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY
MOVEMENT**

5980 W. Loomis Road
Greendale, Wisconsin 53129

Telephone: 414/423-8660
Fax: 414/423-8964
E-mail: vmm@execpc.com

Organization Description: The Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM), founded in England in 1969, is an ecumenical movement rooted in the Catholic tradition, formed by women and men of many nationalities. VMM was started and is run by lay people.

Location: VMM sponsors programs in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Central America and the United States.

Participation Opportunities: Two-year placements are available for accountants, business and clerical personnel, health care professionals, parish/pastoral ministers, religious educators, teachers, and in the building trades and agriculture/animal husbandry. Room and board, a stipend, transportation from the mission site, and health insurance are provided. Volunteers live in community with other volunteers. Other ways to participate in VMM include "adopting" a missionary (as an individual or through a parish/school/group) to help pay expenses; providing funds for general operating expenses, training and missionary preparation; or referring possible candidates to VMM.

**VOLUNTEERS IN OVERSEAS
COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE**

50 F Street, NW Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: 202/383-4961
Fax: 202/783-7204
Website: <http://www.interaction.org/mb/voca>

Organization Description: Founded in 1970, Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) is an international people-to-people volunteer organization committed to enhancing the development and economic opportunities of cooperatives and agriculturally-based enterprises, strengthening democratic institutions, and promoting the sound management and conservation of the environment and natural resource base

Location: VOCA works in the developing world — Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean — as well as in emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

Participation Opportunities: Last year VOCA volunteers carried out over 1,000 assignments in over 50 countries. Typical assignments last 30-90 days. Volunteers incur no costs in connection with their assignments. Individuals with expertise and at least five years of professional experience in some area of cooperative development, agriculture, or environmental and natural resources are encouraged to apply for VOCA volunteer assignments.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: ROGER D. LANDRY, U.S. PEACE CORPS

At age 54, Roger D. Landry is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia, Africa. He serves as a field trooper by improving water and sanitation methods in hopes of stagnating a cholera epidemic. Throughout his life, Landry has worked as a surveyor, a plumber, a carpenter, an electrician, a mason, a fireman, a millwright and an iron worker. Joining the Peace Corps was a lifelong dream for Landry and, therefore, he was persistent in applying. As Landry says, "It's a very tight club and I'm tickled to death to be in it." Mr. Landry hopes that his stint as a Peace Corps Volunteer will extend his career options upon his return to the United States.

**VOLUNTEERS IN
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

1600 Wilson Blvd, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22209-8483

Telephone: 703/276-1800
Fax: 703/243-1865
Website: <http://www.vita.org>

Organization Description: Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA) is a nonprofit private voluntary organization founded in 1959 by scientists and engineers eager to share their knowledge, skills and experience with people in developing countries. Services are provided free of charge, mostly through the mail, by a worldwide corps of 5,000 volunteer experts and a small central staff. VITA gives appropriate technological information and assistance in virtually any technical area but places emphasis on small enterprise development, renewable energy applications, agriculture, reforestation, water supply and sanitation, and low-cost housing construction.

Location: Since 1959, over 50,000 experts have worked on projects in 114 countries around the world.

Participation Opportunities: VITA volunteers include scientists, engineers, sociologists, carpenters, agriculturists, architects, information systems specialists, educators, electricians and farmers. Most have language skills, and nearly all have worked in developing countries. Volunteer opportunities are extremely flexible, and many volunteers can work from home. Volunteers reply to requests for technical advice from people in developing countries, participating with them in the search for local solutions to local problems. Occasionally a volunteer may be asked to travel to a developing country for two to three weeks (all trip expenses are reimbursed) to provide on-the-spot advice, sometimes free and sometimes as a paid consultant. VITA volunteers also serve on technical panels, write and review publications, brainstorm policy issues, and formulate promotional strategies, etc.

VOLUNTEER IN ACTION: BYRON GEUY

As he was preparing to retire from his position as executive director of a trade association, Byron Geuy read about the **WorldTeach** program, which has sent over 1,000 teachers of all ages on overseas assignments in the last seven years. After careful consideration, Mr. Geuy decided that WorldTeach was a program he could commit to, and he spent a year preparing for what was to be his new career.

Mr. Geuy successfully completed WorldTeach's rigorous screening process: a physical examination, written essays, teaching demonstrations, and interviews with individuals having overseas experience who could provide him with letters of recommendation. He also completed a certification program for teaching English as a Second Language and performed several tutoring assignments in order to gain expertise and experience in teaching.

After a three-week orientation, which included accelerated language study and cultural sensitivity training, Mr. Geuy spent a year in Thailand teaching English at the Royal Institute, along with 17 other volunteer teachers from other countries, including France, Korea and Japan. He also spent three months in Vietnam as part of a pilot program at the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies teaching English to executives being trained on the sensitive issues of sustainable environmental development.

Mr. Geuy maintains that although his experiences in Thailand and Vietnam were harder than anticipated, they were absolutely delightful and very rewarding. He said that the people he worked with were wonderful and that he learned as much from them as he was able to teach them. He anticipates returning to Asia, possibly as a participant in another WorldTeach program.

THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Telephone: 202/293-4800
Website: <http://www.wwf.org>

Organization Description: The World Life Fund (WWF) is a nonprofit organization which offers thoughtfully planned trips to view wildlife in spectacular natural settings in exotic and intriguing destinations in an effort to educate individuals about what needs to be preserved and how to go about it. The tours have a wildlife focus along with cultural highlights.

Location: WWF tours include whale watching in the Dominican Republic, the natural wonders of the Caribbean, the underwater world of the Red Sea, penguins in the Antarctic, and sea birds in Baja. Other locations include Dominica, Argentina, Brazil, Galapagos, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, India, Nepal and Thailand.

Participation Opportunities: WWF has sponsored more than 2,000 conservation projects and is a leading force in rescuing endangered animals from extinction and establishing and protecting national parks and reserves. WWF also offers a wide variety of informative environmental publications.

WORLDTEACH, INC.

Harvard Institute for International Development
One Eliot Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-5705

Telephone: 617/495-5527
Fax: 617/495-1599
Website: <http://www.igc.org/worldteach>

Organization Description: WorldTeach is a private, nonprofit organization based at Harvard University which sends volunteers overseas to teach English, math, science, and environmental education to students ranging from primary school to university and beyond. As volunteers, the teachers pay or fundraise a fee to cover the cost of airfare, health insurance, field support, training, and administration. Deadlines for applications vary depending on the country. Volunteers are provided with housing and a modest stipend in most cases.

Location: WorldTeach has full-year programs in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Lithuania, Namibia, Poland, Thailand, and Vietnam and short-term programs (8 weeks to 6 months) in China and Mexico.

Participation Opportunities: WorldTeach actively recruits older Americans to participate in its programs. It is not necessary to be able to speak another language or have teaching experience to be a WorldTeach volunteer.

"It's Not What Happened to Me; It's What Happened in Me!"

A **Habitat for Humanity** volunteer reports on the lessons learned at a workcamp in Mexico:

...While I learned important lessons about leveling dirt floors and pouring cement roofs, I think I learned far more important lessons about the similarities of people everywhere and the value of community. The Buena Vistans taught me so much about true hospitality.

...When I was hot and tired they picked "limas" from their trees to make me lemonade. When I needed to wash my clothes, a woman took me down to the river and taught me how to scrub clothes clean on rocks. They gave me the gift of their time and they allowed me into their lives.

...I went to serve them, but they never stopped serving me. I was amazed at how difficult it was to say good-bye. A bond had developed between those people's hearts and mine — a bond that transcended the differences in our language and backgrounds.

RESOURCES

The following list provides a sampling of resources available to individuals interested in learning more about opportunities for involvement in international development. Many of the organizations listed in this guide also publish materials on international development and ways to be involved. Inquire at your local library and book stores for more.

The internet also provides access to a vast array of information and to organizations working in the field of international development. By visiting the websites listed at the end of this list and throughout this guide, you can not only learn more about international development, but you can often access related sites.

1997 Directory of International Volunteer Projects. Published by the Council on International Educational Exchange, 205 E. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017, phone: 888-COUNCIL (888-268-6245). Cost: \$15.00. *(See the listing in this guide on CIEE for more information.)*

Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Directory of Third World and U.S. Volunteer Opportunities. This book lists religious and secular organizations with domestic and international volunteer opportunities. Published by Food First Institute for Food and Development Policy, 145 9th St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 1-800-888-3314. Cost: \$6.95 plus \$2 postage & handling.

Connections. This quarterly newsletter about international development is published by the Alliance for a Global Community, a program of InterAction *(see below)*.

EcoTours and Nature Getaways: A Guide to Environmental Vacations Around the World. This book, by Carole Berglie and Alice M. Geffen, provides descriptions of environmentally responsible tours and the organizations which provide them. It also includes information on selecting a tour operator, preparing for a trip, health and safety factors, travel in developing countries, etc. Published by Clarkson Potter, New York. Cost: \$15.00

Golden Opportunities: A Volunteer Guide for Americans Over 50. This book, written by Andrew Carroll, lists hundreds of ways to make a difference in your own community and around the world. It also includes profiles of older volunteers who have made a change for the better – in the lives of others and in their own. Published by Peterson's, Princeton, New Jersey. Cost: \$14.95

The Green Travel Sourcebook: A Guide for the Physically Active, the Intellectually Curious, or the Socially Aware. Written by Daniel and Sally Wiener Grotta, this guidebook includes detailed information on hundreds of groups that organize and run vacations and travel adventures. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, NY. Cost: \$16.95.

The Guide To Volunteering Overseas. Published by Health Volunteers Overseas. Topics covered in the guide include: how to be an effective volunteer; getting ready to go; taking care of your personal health needs, etc. *(See the listing in this guide on HVO for more information.)* Health Volunteers Overseas, P.O. Box 65157, Washington, DC 20035. Cost: \$10.00

InterAction Member Profiles 1995-1996. **InterAction** is a coalition of more than 150 non-profit organizations working worldwide for humanitarian assistance to the world's poor. This 350-page directory gives detailed information about those members – including names of top personnel; addresses; telephone, fax, telex, cable and e-mail numbers; summaries of the organization's purpose, philosophy, and types of programs; countries where it works; and budget information. Available from InterAction, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036, phone: (202) 667-8227, fax: (202) 483-7624, e-mail: alliance@interaction.org. Cost: \$40 plus \$3 shipping.

Monday Developments. A bi-weekly newsletter published by InterAction which lists dozens of job opportunities at international relief and development agencies in each issue. *Monday Developments* also contains in-depth articles, commentary and organizational background information. *Monday Developments* is available to the public by subscription from InterAction (*see above*).

The Response. This document lists Catholic and some ecumenical organizations with opportunities for domestic and international volunteer positions. It is published by the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, 4121 Harewood Road, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20017, 1-800-543-5046. Free.

Volunteer! The Comprehensive Guide to Voluntary Service in the U.S. and Abroad. This book provides descriptions of nearly 200 organizations with service positions available in the U.S. and abroad. It also contains a section on the basics of volunteering and essays from past volunteers. Available from the Council on International Educational Exchange, Publications Dept., 205 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017, (212) 661-1414. Cost: \$12.95, plus tax & postage.

WEBSITES. The following listing illustrates just a few website addresses which can provide information about and links to information about development efforts and organizations.

<http://www.charity.org> International Service Agencies (ISA) – whose mission is to help millions of people overseas and in the United States who suffer from hunger, poverty and disease or from the ravages of war, oppression and natural disasters – maintains a website with a listing of and links to its 54 member agencies. International Service Agencies, 66 Canal Center Plaza Suite 310, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, phone: 703-548-2200, toll free: 800-638-8079, fax: 703-548-0786, e-mail: isa@charity.org.

<http://www.igc.apc.org> The Institute for Global Communication maintains five online communities of activists and organizations – PeaceNet, EcoNet, LaborNet, ConflictNet, and WomensNet – which are gateways to articles, headlines, features, and weblinks on progressive international issues. Its Members Directory links to its community of members – individuals and organizations working towards peace, a better environment, and social justice.

<http://www.interaction.org> InterAction (*see above*) maintains a website with information about and links to its 156 member organizations as well as its publications and volunteer opportunities.

<http://www.oneworld.org> OneWorld is a meeting place on the net for people who care about the earth and its people. It is a partnership of 91 organizations from 99 countries around the world working together for global change.

<http://www.reliefweb.int> ReliefWeb is a project of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). The purpose of this effort is to strengthen the response capacity of the humanitarian relief community through the timely dissemination of reliable information on prevention, preparedness and disaster response.

The American Association for International Aging An Affiliate of the University of New Mexico

The American Association for International Aging is a private, voluntary, non-profit organization which was established in 1983 as a private sector response to the challenges set forth in the International Plan of Action on Aging (IPAA) developed at the 1982 United Nations World Assembly on Aging. In keeping with IPAA, AAIA actively participates in efforts which promote the exchange, across national boundaries, of information on innovations for the aging, particularly related to productive aging. It is the only US-based non-profit organization which has as its mission providing information, developing resources, and providing technical and financial resources for the aging both at home and abroad. It is registered as an approved Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

In recent years, AAIA has:

- prepared demographic information and country fact sheets on aging;
- supported and organized senior enterprises;
- participated in country studies in aging;
- initiated successful country-wide efforts to encourage the development of policies, programs and demonstration efforts in productive aging;
- undertaken contract efforts with corporations, foundations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies and the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to better understand opinions of America's older population on issues such as health care, computer learning, curriculum design, retirement planning, consumer product marketing; and
- implemented a national education program which targets retired Americans for education about global issues and foreign assistance.

AAIA is the only internationally-focused member of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations in the US. AAIA also works with national aging organizations such as the National Council on the Aging, the National Retired Teacher Association, the American Association of Retired Persons, the Shepherd Centers of America, the American Society on Aging, and the Older Adult Service and Information System. AAIA also works with a wide range of international development organizations, including Partners of the Americas, Sister Cities, Society for International Development, the National Association of Social Workers, Heifer International, Florida International Volunteer Corps, and Interaction.

In addition to its membership on the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, AAIA is an active participant on the Boards of Directors of RSVP International, the International Senior Citizens Association, and the International Development Council. AAIA also is an active participant with the International Federation on Aging and the International Congress of Gerontology.

In 1992, AAIA developed an affiliate relationship with the University of New Mexico. This affiliation with the University and the UNM Center on Aging has enhanced AAIA's ability to work domestically on research and demonstration activities in areas of retiree education, senior volunteerism, older worker programs, and other activities which promote productivity on the part of older adults. It also has enabled AAIA to develop innovative community-based education/service projects for AAIA's Development Education for Retired Americans Program.

For more information about the Older Adult Education and Service Program
and the Development Education for Retired Americans Project
please contact

The American Association for International Aging

1900 L Street, NW Suite 510

Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: 202/833-8893 Fax: 202/833-8762

WorldAging@aol.com

or

The UNM Center on Aging

1836 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87131

Telephone: 505/277-0911 Fax: 505/277-6878

hkersch@unm.edu