



Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington D.C.

Annual Report

2025

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2025 Board Members

President: Michael Svetlik

Vice President: Steph Shelton

Secretary: Jack Deboer

Treasurer: Jacob Argue

Knowledge Management & Analytics Director: Hoang Tao

Community Outreach & Engagement Director: Kenneth Goughnour

Mentoring Director: Gabriel Jackson

Professional Development Director: Clarke Birrell

Communications Director: Raisa Alstodt

Community Service Director: Alanna Ryan

Cultural Events Director: Anna Shelley

Social Events Director: Sam Suzuki

Special Events Director: Alana DelVecchio

At-Large: Brian Byrd

Message from the President

Dear RPCV/W Community,

In this my final annual report of my tenure as RPCV/W President, I want to express sincere thanks to our RPCV/W members and our broader community for their engagement over this past year. With your support, commitment and resilience, we continued to nurture a sense of belonging and purpose with regular social activities and cultural events, in our mentoring and professional development efforts, and through community service and community gatherings.

Together we weathered the turbulence of the past several months, finding community in our common experience of Peace Corps service and a belief in the power of global understanding and peace. Thank you for showing up, for standing up, and for making your presence felt in the DMV. As the Peace Corps approaches its 65th anniversary, our shared passion for service and belief in the power of building understanding across cultures is as vital as ever.

I want to express my gratitude to my fellow members of the RPCV/W board of directors for all that they did, individually and collectively, to make this past year a success. It has been a true pleasure to serve with them and to cultivate and curate the opportunities for connection and purpose that make our community so enduring and significant. Their leadership, energy and creativity propelled us forward and ever upward.

While all of our directors served with distinction, I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Steph Shelton, who as Vice President led this year's successful effort to transform our website and membership CRM. Steph's stellar project management and tech skills were invaluable to the success of Project Wildebeast and the entire board (and community) is indebted to her leadership.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve as board president for the past two years and witness the continued evolution of our organization. I look forward to remaining engaged and to ensuring RPCV/W- its history, its traditions, its impact- thrives for years to come. Again, thank you all for your support and involvement.

Warm regards,
Michael Svetlik
RPCV Poland 1992-1994
President, RPCV/W 2024-2025
Secretary, RPCV/W 2022-2023
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Mission

To foster an inclusive network for members to connect through social, professional, and service opportunities. We build upon the skills and experiences of RPCVs to serve our communities and promote a deeper understanding of our world and its cultures.

Bylaws

RPCV/W's bylaws outline the rules which are used to govern the internal affairs of the organization. They can be found [here](#).

Strategic Goals

There are three strategic goals for 2026:

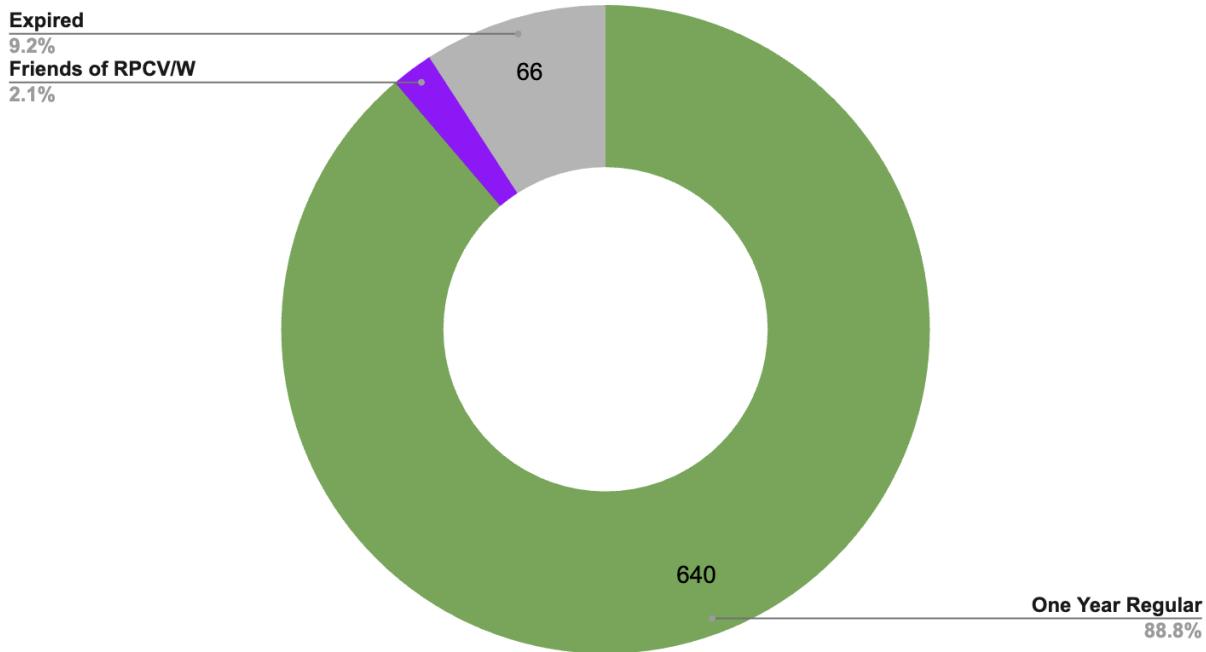
1. **Diversify Events and Engagement:** Focus on increasing inclusivity and participation by offering diverse events, targeting broader audiences, and tracking participant satisfaction through feedback.
2. **Strengthen Community Partnerships:** Build meaningful relationships with historically marginalized communities, consolidate partnerships, and prioritize their perspectives in planning and execution.
3. **Ensure Organizational Sustainability:** Maintain and grow membership, assess engagement levels through feedback, and secure resources to support RPCV/W's long-term mission.

As we increase the number of events, we remain mindful of the type of community we are creating. We continue to review our community guidelines to ensure our events are safe spaces for everyone to have fun, engage on challenging topics, and move the needle on the impact we deliver within the DMV. We have also issued a community survey that has garnered over 100 responses in order to get more input on the type of programming members would like to see.

Financial Report

- **Investment:** YTD saw \$2,846 in investment gains and dividends (12.88%) from a balanced all-weather portfolio, with all asset classes performing well. The current invested assets are \$25,000.08.
- **Cash:** The cash balance is \$13,083.60.
- **Total Assets:** Including cash and investments, the total asset balance is \$38,083.68. This is a net reduction in assets from the same period in 2024 of \$432.41, a significant improvement over the \$2,214.76 net loss in 2023.
- **Rationalization:**
 - This year RPCV/W decided not to have an annual gala, which had a history of losing money due to an imbalance between what our community demanded in terms of quality of venues and the unit cost to break even, which too few were willing to pay, resulting in losses. Ultimately, this single Board decision had a greater impact on our financial health than the combination of all other activities given the low-risk nature of our other operating expenses.
 - This year also saw an increase in expenses to migrate our website and payments infrastructure to modern alternatives to Nationbuilder, the bespoke system that was challenging to operate on the back-end and offered a poor customer experience for our membership.
 - Furthermore, after maintaining \$15 annual membership dues since the 1980s, despite the change in inflation over that period, we adjusted our annual dues to \$30 mid-year. With a full year of higher membership dues, we should expect to be closer to revenue neutral in 2026, with investment returns making up the shortfall.
 - The financial breakdown can be found in the appendix.

2025 Membership by Type



Membership & Engagement

Newsletter and Social Media

In 2025, the weekly RPCV/W newsletter reached 4,531 subscribers, with an average open rate of 54.2%. The newsletter highlights upcoming events including partner-led and member-led events. A link to subscribe can be found [here](#).

The [RPCV/W Facebook group](#) reached 9,689 people, with 3.3K [RPCV/W Facebook Page](#) followers. [RPCV/W's Instagram](#) reached 787 followers. 45.8% of Instagram followers were between 35-44 years of age. 67.1% identifying as female.

In August, we relaunched the [RPCV/W LinkedIn page](#), which has 4,838 followers. The [RPCV/W LinkedIn group](#) has 1,624 members. We also revamped the [Linktr.ee](#) to make it easier to RSVP for events and to find event details.

Programming

Community & Cultural Connection

This year, RPCV/W showcased the energy of our community through events that fostered camaraderie and storytelling.

- **Signature Events:** We hosted the Annual Cherry Blossom Picnic, the Annual Summer BBQ, a Peanut Stew Cook-Off, the Annual Holiday Party, and Peace Corps Night at the Nationals with Peace Corps HQ.



- **Culture & History:** Members enjoyed private tours of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Postal Museum. We also partnered with the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience to celebrate its pop-up at the MLK Library.



- **Social Gatherings:** From trivia at The Muni and comedy at Hotbed to camping trips and happy hours at the Library of Congress, we provided diverse ways to connect.



- **Tradition:** In partnership with NOVA RPCV, we continued the JFK Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, presided over by Peace Corps leadership including CEO Paul Shea.



Mentorship

Meeting the Moment with Mentoring- The RPCV/W Mentoring Program expanded in 2025 through a new partnership with RPCVnexus.

- **Growth:** We successfully matched nine pairs across spring and fall cohorts—an increase from 2024.
- **Resilience:** The program provided vital support during a volatile year for the federal government, specifically assisting five participants whose careers were impacted by instability at USAID.

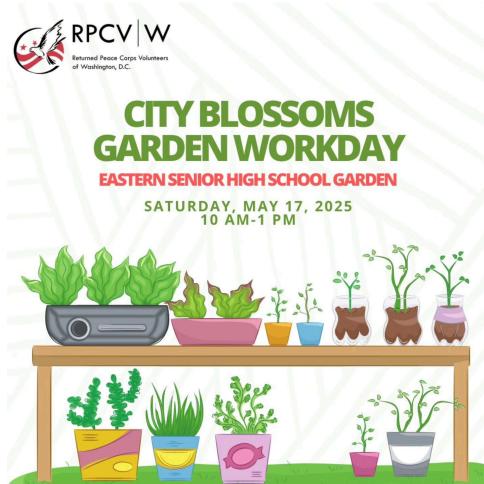
- **Collaboration:** We strengthened ties with groups like Friends of Eswatini and the National Peace Corps Association, and shared our success at the 2025 Peace Corps Connect Conference.



Community Service

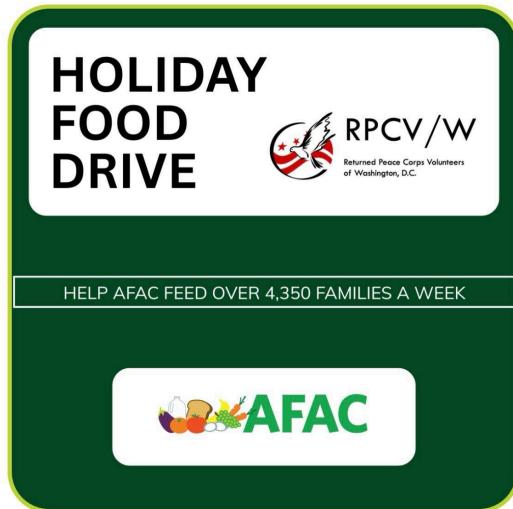
Volunteering Locally- We reaffirmed our commitment to service through hands-on local partnerships and supporting member organized fundraisers:

- **City Blossoms:** Members helped care for neighborhood gardens, supporting accessible green spaces for youth.



- **Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation:** Volunteers served as dog handlers to help rescued pets find homes.
- **AmeriCorps:** Supporting fundraisers and partnered service opportunities.

- **Holiday Toy Drive:** Members donated new stuffed animals for DC Safe Children in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill and the DC Bar Foundation Young Lawyers Network for Leadership Council.
- **Holiday Food Drive:** Members donated funds and goods at the Annual Holiday Party and online to benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) with RPCV/W matching up to \$150. Together we donated over \$300, plus 64 lbs in food items to AFAC.



- **Member Lead Mutual Aid Fundraisers**

Professional Development

Career support remained a top priority driven by member demand.

- **Direct Support:** We hosted career brainstorming sessions with resume reviews for 11 RPCVs.
- **Resources:** We provided virtual informational presentations and spearheaded a strategic partnership with RPCVnexus for post-service resources and counseling.
- **Networking Happy Hours:** We hosted networking happy hours including partnering with other organizations in the DMV to expand our reach.



- **2025 Peace Corps Connect Conference in DC:** We partnered with RPCVnexus at the career fair held by NPCA at Peace Corps Connect on Friday, July 18. We also hosted a RPCV mixer happy hour on Saturday, July 19 for conference attendees and local RPCV/W members.



Your Dues in Action

How does RPCV/W utilize member dues and event fees?

- **Upkeeping Our Website** for organization info including events.
- **Maintaining Mailchimp** for newsletters and other community emails.
- **Storage Locker** where organization items are kept for events including event supplies, our flag, banner, etc.
- **Honoring History:** The wreath for Arlington National Cemetery cost over **\$400**. Member dues allowed us to split this cost with NOVA RPCV to maintain the JFK Wreath Laying tradition.
- **Community Reinvestment:** Proceeds from holiday party ticket sales allowed us to donate **\$150** to the Arlington Food Assistance Program.
- **Member Investment:** We're able to collaborate to offer professional development opportunities including resume review and mentorship for members.
- **Providing Food and Beverage:** Most events that have a cost allow us to provide food and beverage options for our members, like the Summer BBQ and holiday party.

To connect with RPCV/W on any of these topics, please contact info@rpcvw.org.

More information and current events are accessible through our website, www.rpcvw.org.

Financial Annex

INCOME STATEMENT			
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington D.C. (RPCV/W)			
Income Statement			
1/2/25			
	Projection	Actual	Projection
	CY 2024	CY 2024	CY 2025
REVENUES			
Membership Dues			
Direct via RPCVW.ORG	\$4,000.00	\$3,135.00	\$3,981.45
Indirect via NPCA	\$1,000.00	\$5,985.00	\$7,600.95
membership total	\$5,000.00	\$9,120.00	\$11,582.40
General Event Fees (est.)	\$5,500.00	\$5,525.00	\$6,000.00
Gala			
Ticket Sales	\$13,040.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
In-Kind Donations	\$500.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Silent Auction Sales	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Development/Fundraising			
Corporate Sponsorships	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$1,000.00
Corporate Revenue Sharing (MOAs)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Individual Contributions	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Donated Goods and Services Revenue (est)	\$ -	\$400.00	\$500.00
Other Revenue	\$ -		\$200.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$24,340.00	\$23,695.00	\$19,882.40

	\$ -		
EXPENSES	\$ -		
General Event Costs (est.)	\$5,000.00	\$4,545.96	\$5,400.00
Gala		\$18,332.46	\$0.00
	\$ -		
Grants to Partnerships for Peace	\$800.00	\$0.00	TBD
Grants to Friends of ____ Groups	\$480.00	\$0.00	TBD
Website Hosting	1,147.19	1,147.19	\$1,200.00
Email Marketing: MailChimp	\$292.56	1010.4	\$1,170.24
Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software			\$400.00
Facility Expenses			
Permanent Office/Mailbox: OSI	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00
Reserved Conference Room for Board Meetings	\$96.00	\$237.00	\$0.00
Storage Unit Rental: Uhaul	\$1,335.00	\$1,335.00	\$1,335.00
Board Retreat Expenses			\$0.00
Transportation			\$0.00
Meals			\$0.00
Hotels & Lodging	\$1,036.00	\$1,036.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses	\$214.00	\$214.00	\$0.00
Other Expenses			
Non-profit D&O Insurance - Miller and Shook Cos vs. Affinity Nonprofits	\$623.00	\$623.00	\$505.00
Board Training			
Bank Fees - PNC		\$35.00	
Merchant Fees - Paypal (3%) FOR AWARENESS ONLY	\$1,113.00		
Advertising Expenses			

Simple 990 Tax filing		\$50.00	\$50.00
Uncategorized Expense (est.)		\$361.74	\$400.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$12,856.75	\$29,647.75	\$11,180.24
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)	\$11,483.25	-\$5,952.75	\$8,702.16
INTEREST (INCOME), EXPENSE & TAXES			
Dividends		\$638	\$896.00
Realized gain/loss (short-term)		\$757	
Realized gain/loss (long-term)		\$2,343	
total	\$6,972.00	\$3,738	
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$11,483.25	-\$2,214.76	\$9,598.16