Dear BARPCV Community,

As we close out 2022, I want to thank each of you for your continued support and participation in our projects and activities. Over the past couple years, BARPCV has proven itself to be a resilient community, whether we gather remote or in-person or hybrid, whether we are grabbing a beer together or volunteering at a local shelter, whether you play softball or cheer with us at a baseball game, from grants to camping trips to photo contests, from the summer picnic to the New Members Party – you keep showing up, and as I learned during my Peace Corps Service, sometimes just showing up is the most important thing. It hasn’t been an easy couple of years for any of us. Thank you for all you do to keep this community going.

Over the past six months, several countries have started re-deploying Peace Corps Volunteers after an unprecedented two-year hiatus. I am already looking forward to 2024, when the first batch of newly-Returned Peace Corps Volunteers return from their overseas homes and begin showing up at our events, searching for that sense of community you only get from your fellow RPCVs. Until that time, there’s the Boston Marathon to look forward to, Peace Corps Week in March, our next round of grants in April, and a TGIF gathering every last Friday of the month. I’ll see you out there.

Yours in Service,

Elise Simons
BARPCV President
RPCV Zambia 2010-2013
Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Inc. (BARPCV) is a non-profit, membership-based organization, founded by Carol Ball, Marjorie Harrison and Nancy Tiedeman in 1978, that serves as a support network for newly returned & prospective volunteers, and for those who have served or worked for the US Peace Corps. BARPCV also serves as an educational resource by connecting local communities with the unique experiences of members who gained important insight from living and working abroad. As BARPCV members, we share our skills and knowledge gained through Peace Corps life and professional experiences with our friends, families, and the greater community, in hopes of promoting a better understanding of each other and the world.
BARPCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Madden-Sturges  
*Photos*

Brain McBride  
*Community Service*

Andrew Mello  
*Events*

Erin Meade  
*Secretary*

Johanna Meyer  
*Website*

John Moriarty  
*Sports*

Sara Pipe-Mazo  
*Vice President*

Elise Simons  
*President*

Matt Walsh  
*Treasurer*
2022 OUTGOING CHAIRS

We thank the following board members, who stepped down from the BARPCV Board of Directors during 2022, for their service to the organization:

Becca Anderson
TGIF

Megan Compaine
Vice President

Charlie Klemmer
Careers

Holden Mills
Sports

Kasey Pendexter
Community Grants

Caitlyn Winders
Third Goal

For full BARPCV Board Information, please visit: https://www.barpcv.org/cpages/board-of-directors
CAREERS

Like the Peace Corps Volunteers returning to service, more RPCV are looking for new opportunities as COVID abates. As always, BARPCV is building more local connections in the greater Boston Area community. This year we had jobs posted from Adult and Community Learning Services and Azara Healthcare. We made connections with Jumpstart Careers. We continue to search for more connections to support our community. We are interested in helping match BARPCV with like-minded businesses and organizations. Let us know if there are opportunities with your organization, in the region or remote.

COMMUNICATIONS

BARPCV communicates with its members and the larger community about upcoming events through emails and newsletters, social media, and the BARPCV website (barpcv.org). In 2022, BARPCV updated 15 pages on its website and advertised over 45 events, with 610 attendees. The average website views over the course of the year are graphed below:

BARPCV also distributed 85 electronic newsletters and mailings promoting upcoming BARPCV events to 150+ active members and the broader network of 1500+ BARPCV contacts. BARPCV continued to promote events and foster community engagement through Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and the Facebook Forum, a member-led private group for the BARPCV community to share job opportunities, apartment listings, and upcoming events of interest. The Facebook Forum is BARPCV’s most active group, with 900 members as of December 2022.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

2022 was a productive year for BARPCV community service. We held 9 events with 7 partner organizations and engaged over 120 volunteers. Through these activities, we connected RPCVs with fun events, promoted a positive image of the Peace Corps, and continued the satisfying work of helping those in need.

The year started a bit slow due to the COVID Omicron variant surge, but the second quarter launched with the huge annual Boston Marathon water station event, featuring 80 volunteers handing out water and Gatorade at Marathon Mile 23 in Brookline. Other spring volunteering events included Cradles to Crayons packaging work, invasive species removal in Arlington public spaces, and landscaping at Jamaica Pond with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. Over the summer we prepared meals with Community Servings. We visited ReVision Farm in Dorchester twice, first in the spring to help with the gardening and again in September to assist with the harvest.

These events were successful and easy to organize, but some only drew 3 or 4 people. This pattern of low attendance led to a strategic shift in community service event planning, which included:

1) Building an advance schedule for events to give volunteers more notice and predictability, and

2) Broadening the geography of events for those not in the city of Boston to nearby cities such as Quincy and Reading.

So far, this new approach seems to be effective. In November, 8 people joined a meal preparation activity at Community Servings in Jamaica Plain, compared with only 4 people at a similar event in July. A volunteer event in December with the Prison Book Program in Quincy drew 9 volunteers. We are already looking forward to events that have been scheduled in 2023, including volunteering with Cradles to Crayons (January), Mission of Deeds (February), and the Boston Marathon (April). Hope you can join us (sign up on our website).
COMMUNITY GRANTS

BARPCV funds community grants as part of its mission to support Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, the larger Peace Corps community, and the communities at home and abroad of which Boston-area RPCVs are a part. BARPCV accepts grant submissions during the Spring and Fall and funds up to two submissions per cycle for up to $500. Grant recipients can be domestic or international, so long as the recipient is in some way affiliated with a Boston-area RPCV.

Spring Grant Cycle

Two grants were awarded during the Spring of 2022:

Anastasia Bannikova, an RPCV who served in Armenia, Ukraine, and Ghana, submitted a grant on behalf of UNITUS, an organization in Ukraine. UNITUS works with people with HIV who need transportation in cases when they require first aid. UNITUS is providing support to these individuals during the Russian war in Ukraine. The grant supports their work.

Gail B. Gall, an RPCV who served in Honduras, submitted a grant on behalf of the Beverly Female Charity Society. The Beverly Female Charity Society used the grant funds to help support a recently resettled Afghan refugee family in Beverly, MA. The organization supported the father in securing interpretation services while attending an Automotive Technician Program and earning workforce credentials, among other forms of support.

Fall Grant Cycle

BARPCV received one application during the Fall of 2022. Rachel Weinstein, who served in St. Vincent, submitted a grant to support implementation of a “Barbershop Books” project on Moody Street in Waltham, MA. Under this program, boys between the ages of 7-14 will receive free hair cuts in return for reading a book aloud at a local barbershop. The goal of the project is to support local businesses and get fun, relatable, engaging books into the hands of children.

Due to the sudden departure of BARPCV’s Grants Chair from the Board, the awards process this cycle was delayed. The Board will vote on this application in January 2023.
EVENTS

2022 marked the first full year of in-person events since the onslaught of COVID-19. Peace Corps recruiters from Boston and Rhode Island led our first Welcome Back/Send Off event since 2019.

Peace Corps Week (February 27 – March 6)

Each year, BARPCV celebrates Peace Corps Week – the anniversary of Peace Corps’ founding – with a variety of events. Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, most events for Peace Corps Week were held online. We had about 30 BARPCV members participate in the events, including:

- Georgian Cooking Class
- Peace Corps Trivia
- Women of Peace Corps Legacy: Continuing Connection through Virtual Service
- Clothing Swap

Red Sox Game

On Thursday, August 11th, 25 BARPCV members went to the Red Sox vs. Orioles game at Fenway Park. We had a great evening of baseball, salty snacks and reconnecting with members of the BARPCV community.

New Members Party

The New Members Party, hosted each September by RPCV David Sears, is an opportunity for BARPCV to formally welcome many RPCVs new to the area and catch up with existing members of the community.

Apple Picking

We had 13 BARPCV members attend apple picking at Shelburne Farms in Stowe, MA on October 22, 2022. We picked apples, drank hot cider, ate delicious apple cider donuts and took a hayride through the farm. This was a fun family-friendly event, and we hope to repeat it in future years.
HARASSMENT RESPONSE EFFORT

In the Fall of 2021, in response to an April 2021 USA Today Article highlighting reports of sexual harassment and assault of RPCVs during Peace Corps service, the BARPCV Board conducted a survey to assess the BARPCV community’s experiences and emotions regarding sexual assault and harassment during service. The survey received 20 total responses. While the data will be kept confidential for privacy reasons, the board is deeply grateful for the candor and thoughtfulness of the respondents.

The Board conducted a follow-up survey in the summer of 2022 to gauge interest in establishing a community-based support group for RPCVs in the Boston Area. This concept was fleshed out by partnering with a local therapist, who provided key insights for the structure and content of the group. However, due to delays and difficulties obtaining RSVPs, coupled with the departure of both the board members leading the effort, the idea for the group has been indefinitely tabled. An email was sent to those who expressed interest in the group indicating that if there is interest in the future, the Board will fully support the revival of the idea.

Despite the lack of a physical manifestation of the results of the survey, the two Chairs involved in this work believe that it provided an invaluable opportunity for BARPCV community members to feel heard around an often fraught and taboo topic. We both hope that these conversations continue so that one day, sexual assault and harassment no longer occur during PC service.

TGIF

Gathering the last Friday of the month has been a coveted BARPCV tradition that had been greatly missed during the pandemic. In 2022, BARPCV hosted TGIF gatherings almost every month at locations all across the Boston Area, including Tall Ships East Boston, Aeronaut Brewing, Cisco Brewing in the Seaport, The Anchor in Charlestown, and Nightshift Brewing in Allston. During Peace Corps Week, TGIF was paired with an ice skating activity at Trillium Brewery in Fenway.

This monthly event provides a great opportunity for RPCVs in the Boston area to gather, meet new people, and enjoy a casual evening together.
SPORTS

After a multi-year hiatus, the Peace Corps Softball team played on Monday nights at Hoyt Field in Cambridge from the middle of May until the end of August. Initially 20 returned volunteers signed up to play, and there were 8-12 players that consistently played every Monday. Although they didn’t win a game, they grew together as a team. As one team member said at the end of the season, ‘John we didn’t win a game, but we had a lot of fun.”

At the end of July, eight people joined a kayaking event at Spot Pond in Stoneham. The day was beautiful, but the lake was very choppy. A couple of the participants had never been kayaking before, but they had a great time.

Over Labor Day weekend a camping/canoe trip was held at the River Run Canoe & Campground in Brownfield, Maine. It was a beautiful site on the Saco River. Thirteen volunteers and their family and friends went on the trip. The main activity was canoeing on the river. While canoeing some of the participants stopped when they saw a rope swing and spent some time winging on the rope and falling into the river.

At night there were fun activities such as cooking on a campfire, telling ghost stories and talking about our Peace Corps experiences.

For the final sports event of the year, on November 12th, five members got together for a fun evening of candlepin bowling at Sacco’s Bowl Haven in Somerville.

PHOTO CONTEST

The 2022 Photo Contest Finalists were displayed at Simon’s Café in Somerville for the month of December. The first place winner was Adventure is Out There by Melanie Witman. Second place was Strong Women Raise Strong Girls by Samantha Kunz. The winners will receive cash prizes in the new year.
## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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<th>Joins</th>
<th>Renewals</th>
<th>Expiries</th>
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## TREASURER’S REPORT

BARPCV ended the 2022 fiscal year with a cash equivalent balance of $15,691.39. For fiscal year 2022, BARPCV's expenses were $4,191.72, and the organization's income was $5,406.01, leaving BARPCV with a $1,214.29 positive cash flow for the year. A detailed profit and loss statement has been provided in the table below.

### Profit and Loss Statement
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

### Revenue

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<td>Gross Revenue</td>
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Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Inc. (BARPCV) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 with approximately 400 members concentrated in Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. BARPCV seeks to connect with and support Returned Peace Corps Volunteers as well as those thinking of serving and to carry out the third goal of the Peace Corps, as stated in the 1961 Peace Corps Act: “to promote a better understanding of other people on the part of American people.”

BARPCV is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with employer identification number 04-2716236. All charitable contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law. Proceeds support our small grants program and programming for members.
Contact us at info@barpcv.org.

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