



2024

MPCA

ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I took the role of President two years ago, there was great uncertainty around the Peace Corps, our local organization, and the world in general. While the uncertainty in the world has moved to instability, it proves the need for the Peace Corps more than ever.

The beauty of Peace Corps service is the interactions you are able to have with people who otherwise have limited experiences with an American. We are able to break down stereotypes, bias, and misunderstandings through direct interactions of how we live our lives in service. These experiences help us develop bonds which last a lifetime.

We are continually moving through a period of time where our country is becoming more divided, and where we interact less with our neighbors. I believe the community of RPCVs can fight against this tide and work to build a stronger community which supports and builds up its members. Now that volunteers are starting to return from the field, we want to be a strong community for them to be welcomed back to the U.S. and Milwaukee. We have also been working on growing our visibility with non volunteers to make them aware of the Peace Corps and the value it continues to bring to our society and world.

We are very grateful for our members and the community they create; and excited for the impact we will have in 2025 for building the Beloved Community in which we desire to live!

Yours in Service,
Peter Hulbert
Dominican Republic 2012-14

OUR BOARD



Peter Hulbert
President



Anne Leplae
Treasurer



Bobbie Zervas
Secretary



Jodi St. Charles
Membership



**Catharine Swan
Buccowich**
Outreach



Emily Wild
Grants and
Giving

OUR MISSION

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MPCA is a community of former and future Peace Corps Volunteers and families who continue to promote Peace Corps ideals through cultural education and the support of both local and international development organizations. It also provides social activities and emotional support for RPCVs and for those returning from abroad.

Organization Founded: 1968

42 members at the end of 2024

Website: www.milwaukeepeacecorps.org

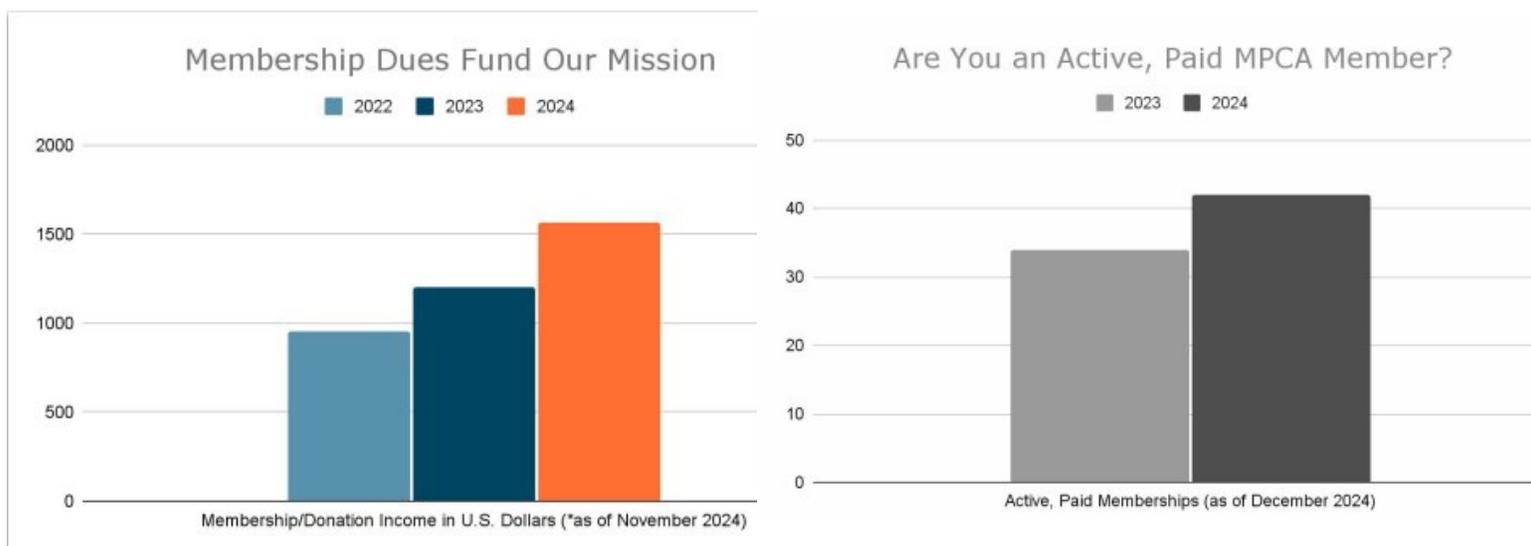


MEMBERSHIP

MPCA Membership in 2024 was a continuation of the database cleanup that began last year and we are happy to announce that it was a successful year for our members! We anticipate even better times ahead with the United States Peace Corps back in action worldwide and we are honored to serve as a homebase to ease reverse culture shock for those returning to the States from their Peace Corps service.

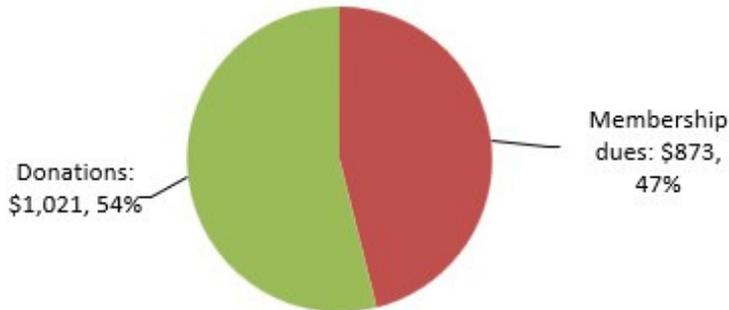
We took YOUR THOUGHTS into account in planning our events throughout the past year and look forward to continuing to do so for our slate of 2025 events to make sure we are offering a mix of events/opportunities that appeal to all of our members!

We hope to see you again soon. Sending wishes for a prosperous and joyful year ahead in 2025!!!

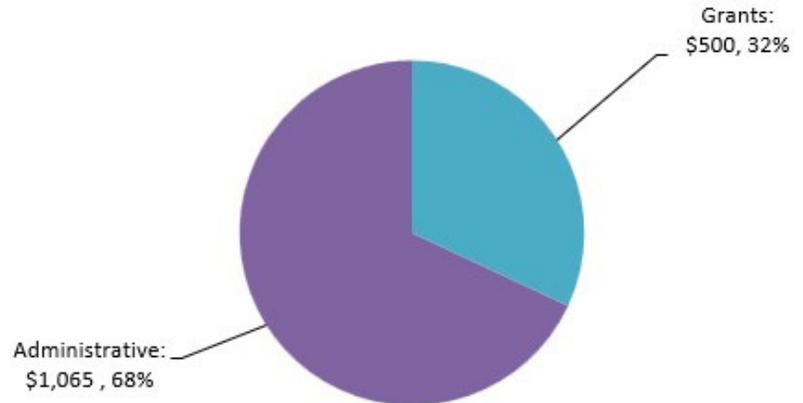


FINANCES

Income: \$1,877



Expenses: \$1,565



OUTREACH

NPCA Advocacy Partnership:

As a result of forming a partnership with NPCA Advocacy, MPCA, with NPCA support, successfully published an article in the The Milwaukee Journal, Opinion Section on Sept. 22nd soliciting legislative support for the 2025 PC Budget. A follow up Letter to the Editor of support was published by a Madison RPCV several weeks later, giving Peace Corps and MPCA double recognition.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for Environmental Action (RPCV for EA) | Citizen Science - Climate Action Team:

Our Outreach Chair gave a presentation to the RPCV for EA on How to Reduce Plastic in our Communities with the team objective to create an educational outreach model for RPCV to adopt in their States and communities.

GRANTS AND GIVING

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Our Grants and Giving Fund distributes small grants to current Peace Corps Volunteers from Wisconsin leading community development projects. Your donations help us support volunteers leading education, community and economic development, agriculture, health and youth development projects and impact lives across the world. This year we supported a youth center project led by Carrie Hoelzer, a Health volunteer serving in Paraguay. Our funds helped pay for classroom supplies and tools used to create a more inviting community space for local youth to learn English and participate in educational opportunities.



EVENTS

Annual Picnic

On August 3rd, we had our annual summer picnic at Humboldt Park, where MPCA members—both familiar faces and newcomers—came together with their furry companions to soak in the perfect summer vibes. The afternoon was alive with laughter, as countless RPCVs swapped Peace Corps stories from across the globe, all while savoring classic summer treats. A highlight of the day was the vibrant gathering around our giant world map, where members proudly shared the unique locations of their service and celebrated the diverse global impact of the Peace Corps community. It was a day to remember—filled with camaraderie, nostalgia, and a sense of connection.



Apple Picking:

On October 5th, we returned to the charming Barthel Fruit Farm for another unforgettable outing. With a larger group this year, we had the perfect opportunity to break off and immerse ourselves in all the farm's delightful activities. From hand-picking crisp, juicy apples and getting lost in the twists and turns of the corn maze, to indulging in fresh cider and warm, sugary donuts, the day was filled with simple pleasures and plenty of laughter. What's quickly becoming a beloved annual tradition, this trip was yet another reminder of the joy in coming together and making memories in the heart of autumn's bounty.

EVENTS

Bonfire

This November, we switched things up and gathered around a cozy bonfire at one of our board member's homes. The evening provided an opportunity for members to unwind in the crisp autumn air, enjoying the warmth of the fire and the comfort of hot apple cider. The event fostered an environment conducive to relaxed, yet meaningful conversation, offering a moment of respite before the onset of colder winter temperatures. It was the ideal evening to unwind, reflect, and savor the simple joys of the season.

Peace Corps week lunch at An Ox cafe

To celebrate National Peace Corps Week, the Milwaukee National Peace Corps Association enjoyed a lunch at an Ox Cafe. New and returning members shared experiences from their country of service, great conversation and wonderful Lao and Thai dishes. This event even led to the recruitment of one new board member! The MPCA is looking forward to continuing this tradition annually to highlight and celebrate the importance of the Peace Corps.



Fall Hike:

To welcome the end of fall and start of our Wisconsin winter we met for a hike at the Mequon Nature Preserve. With dogs in tow we enjoyed a brisk morning exploring around the preserve observing the change of season in action. It is always great to get out of the city and connect back to nature with fellow RPCVs.

EVENTS

Stream Day Clean UP, April 20, 2024 - Earth Day

In partnership with RiverKeeper, MPCA reached out to our members to work together as a team with other RPCVs and their families in support of Earth Day to clean up streams in the Milwaukee watershed area. MPCA identified two of Milwaukee Riverkeeper's clean-up sites and promoted the event on the MPCA website, along with directly reaching out by email to members. At one site, 14 RPCV and their family members participated. It was reported as a great success by the participants. The participants liked being involved in the community and working together to keep the environment clean. Having an outdoor activity was also noted as a good approach, as it allowed RPCVs with young children to participate in an event and spend time in nature.



Story Slam

Our annual Story Slam spoken word event theme this year was "Laughter." Our members gathered at Art Bar in the Riverwest neighborhood to listen, laugh and share memories that brought joy and laughter throughout their Peace Corps service experiences. A common theme shared throughout the night was that despite cultural differences and language barriers, laughter can connect us deeply through this shared human experience.



THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

Allegra Troiano
Ann Diliberti
Anne Leplae
Anneliese Finke
Bobbie Zerfas
Bridget Babcock
Carrie Buccowich
Chris Wilson
David Puhl
Dennis Neuenfeldt
Elaine McDermott
Emily Brown
Emily Rabe
Emily Wild
Fred Waddell
Gerald Emmerich Jr
Jodi St. Charles
John Ruggini
John Young
Judith Larsen

Julia Nawrot
Kaitlin Polacheck
Kathy Reed
Kaylee Beck
Kevin Soucie
Kyle Borley
Lynn Debilzen
M. Jane Moore
Mark Buccowich
Mark Raabe
Mark Zachar
Mary Mueller
Mike Dickerson
Peter Brands
Peter Hulbert
Peter Lee
Phillip Browarsky
Rick Korducki
Robert and Sharon Richardson
Susan Ellsworth
Suzy Michaels
Thomas Nawrot



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