



# Neighborhood House

*Helping Neighbors Help Themselves*

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January 21, 2016

Carrie Hessler-Radelet  
Director, Peace Corps  
1111 20th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Ms. Hessler-Radelet

I have reviewed the concept paper for the proposal to the Peace Corp for the development of Peace Corp House in the Ward 8 District of Washington, D.C. and also had the opportunity to discuss the proposal directly with Mr. Tom Hebert. While I am not familiar with the issues and concerns of the Ward 8 community, I am familiar with the valuable role that an organization modeled upon the "Settlement House" can play in helping to revitalize a community and provide valuable services for its residents. I have 35 years of experience working for Settlement House organizations in Chicago and Portland, Oregon including eleven years at Hull House and 22 years of experience as an Executive Director for two organizations. I believe that combining the work of professional staff with a cadre of Returned Peace Corp Volunteers has the potential of developing a dynamic organization that can truly be rooted in the community with engaged neighbors and active services. I believe that mix of programs including the Afterschool Learning Commons, the Peace Corp Adventure Club, the Peace Corp Café can create a solid core of services to build supportive services for the youth and families in the Ward 8 community. With additional opportunities like a library, workshops, concerts and other cultural events, Peace Corp House can emulate the essence of the Settlement as developed by Samuel Barnett at Toynbee Hall in London and furthered by American Settlement leaders like Jane Addams and Graham Taylor.

I always knew I would regret not serving as a Peace Corp Volunteer. I find this project s exciting that it just reinforces that regret. Therefore, I am recommending the Peace Corp House proposal be strongly considered by the Peace Corp as a new US based service center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Nitti  
Executive Director