

## ***PEACE CORPS HOUSE TIMELINE***

### **January 2018**

- January 4, 2016: Received key letter of support from Irma Rodriguez, director of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers. Irma has mentored Peace Corps House since then.
  - February 2, 2016: Peace Corps House Concept Paper binder received by Peace Corps director Carrie Hessler-Radelet.
  - March 11, 2016: Letter of support from Carrie Hessler-Radelet.
  - June 2, 2016: Alana De Joseph, producer of "A Towering Task" introduces us to Kelsey Marsh, "a gifted web designer and more" who has worked with Alana.
  - August 18, 2016: Our fine website went live, [www.peacecorpshouse.org](http://www.peacecorpshouse.org)  
Dealing with an exchange of well over 500 emails Kelsey gets the credit. The result is a site to be proud of.
  - October 27, 2016: Alana De Joseph introduced us to Joe Shaffner who also worked on "A Towering Task." His resume: "Expertise in communications & marketing, community engagement, process & project management, campaigns, events, and team leadership." All of these skills have come into play.
  - June 13, 2017: Peace Corps House received its Washington DC Certificate of Incorporation.
  - October 2, 2017: Peace Corps House received its IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN): 82-2973560.
  - October 27, 2017: The IRS approved Peace Corps House as a 501(c)(3). Received official letter dated November 14, "We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3)... Sincerely, Steven Patrick, Director of Exempt Organizations."
  - November 13, 2017: Finished the Peace Corps House Bylaws.
  - November 14, 2017: Learned that Hannah Savage will be the new Community Service Director for RPCV/W. Her bio: From 2012 to 2014 she served as a PCV in Zambia. There she worked on English education, as well as HIV/AIDS prevention and women's empowerment. Since returning from Peace Corps, she has been employed at the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, a part of NIH. We hope to gain her support; help us recruit volunteers. Her bio suggests this is possible.
  - November 19, 2017: Our small team received a very welcome email from Glenn Blumhorst, president of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA): "First, thanks for your tireless leadership on the PCH. I'm encouraged by the progress already made, and am committed to helping champion the cause. Is our next step to raise the money for a "community assessment" in order to identify a DC neighborhood that might welcome Peace Corps House? If so, I would like to personally put my shoulder into this soon after the first of the year."
- January 2, 2018: Learned from Glenn Blumhorst that NPCA is joining the Peace Corps itself in moving its offices closer to Capitol Hill. But, the NPCA offices won't be a "nice little office suite in a modern building. We're going to provide NPCA an office in close proximity to the Hill and PC headquarters with a facility for serving the local Shaw community." And Peace Corps House will join the NPCA either as a tenant or neighbor. All this is good news and very workable.

**Other contributors in this adventure**

- David Freeman, friend and retired chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), in April 2016 donated \$500 which kick-started our website.
- Ginna Fleming, a friend who had worked in the DC government advised on, and helped edit, the original Concept Paper.
- Erin Segal, an RPCV, introduced us to Catholic University's formal community assessments.
- Debbie and John Hanrahan introduced us to Empower DC and John did some important writing for Peace Corps House.
- Susan Dryfus, Executive Director of the settlement house Alliance for Strong Families and Communities also gave us leads and early encouragement.
- Cassidy Whitson, an RPCV, is helping us set up a fundraising program, which will likely prove effective.
- Craig Schwink introduced us to the concept of a community-based Peace Corps Café like the one he developed as a PCV in Batumi, Georgia. It could be either a full-service restaurant or a "family-friendly" public house providing profit for sustainability while providing events for free expression, learning and development, a place to debate, reflect and support civic change. While it's downstream, the Peace Corps Café is something to be hoped for.

**Tom Hebert**