



Les Nouvelles

July 2011

Friends of Côte d'Ivoire Newsletter

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Newsletter Info

Please send articles or ideas for articles for inclusion in the next newsletter to:
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Note from the President

Since the last newsletter, Côte d'Ivoire is down to just one President, fighting appears to have stopped, and the beginning of the future is here. I hope that peace stays in place long enough to allow the people of Côte d'Ivoire the chance to rebuild or build to have better, healthier lives.



At FOCI, we provided our first grant last December and we will provide another one this December in the amount of \$1000. This is possible because of generous donations at the end of the year fundraising drive and the calendar sales. We will be doing both again this year. We would like to do other fundraising activities, so if you have ideas, send them in (friendsofcotedivoire@gmail.com).

As this is the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps, many activities are going on throughout the year. The Smithsonian Folklife Festival is just about over. My highlight - I finally have a tattoo thanks to their free 'temporary' Peace Corps tattoos. They said it was temporary, but five days later, it's still there, just like malaria. We are also having our big fete in September on the 23rd right before the big NPCA shindig on the 24th. Ours is going to have Ivoirian food, music, and mapouka, and maybe, a piler foutou contest, but maybe not, as it could get messy.

Hope you are having a wonderful year so far. One more thing, we are hosting a happy hour on July 22nd at the Sculpture Garden in DC with their free jazz, BYOB, and snacks! I will send details separately. Hope to see you there!

— Marianne

Celebrating 50 Years of Peace Corps



President Kennedy at the University of Michigan, the day he proposed a program for youth to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries .

by John McElligott, Côte d'Ivoire 2002

The Peace Corps has been in existence for 50 years. To celebrate its semicentennial, officials at the agency and RPCVs have planned scores of events around the country. Retrospectives and discussions about moving forward began in October of 2010, when Director Aaron Williams led a panel at the John F. Kennedy School of Government to discuss answering President Kennedy's call to service. You or people you know answered that call and both the United States and Côte d'Ivoire were improved because of it.



Various events honoring the legacy of Kennedy, RPCVs and international cooperation will continue throughout 2011. In the first half of July, the Peace Corps was one of three featured programs at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, an annual celebration of American and global cultural heritage. Friends of Côte d'Ivoire was on the National Mall during the afternoon of June 30. It was a reunion for RPCVs and an opportunity to connect with passersby.



The Peace Corps has a special section of its website devoted to the 50th anniversary. At the Peace Corps website <www.peacecorps.gov> you can find information about events in your area, the 50th anniversary fund, an interactive timeline going back to 1961, a digital library and much more.

Take this opportunity to reflect on your service or the impact a volunteer had on your life. Share with FOCI your short stories and photos of people or events that shaped your lives in Côte d'Ivoire. I think we all have something small that touched our hearts or taught us something about the Ivorian culture and ourselves.

Visit www.friendsofcotedivoire or the FOCI facebook page for more information on 50th Anniversary activities.

FOCI Celebrates the 50th on Sept. 23rd

Please join us in **Washington, D.C.** on **Friday, September 23 at 6pm** for a party hosted by FOCI member Bonnie Gottlieb '72-74. This is a great opportunity to enjoy Ivoirian food and music, and swap stories with other Ivoirian RPCVs. Be sure to put this event on your calendars now and make plans to attend.

If you live in the DC area and would be willing to host fellow RPCVs overnight, please let FOCI know, email friendsofcotedivoire@gmail.com. If you plan to travel to DC and would like to stay with an RPCV host, please contact FOCI. Let's make this the biggest and best reunion yet!

Ivory Coast Mothers and Children: An Update from Patricia Mertz



The maternity and the dispensary are finished. They did a beautiful job with tile floors and walls and take great pride in their new healthcare facility. The brakes were put on the project after the election when there was so much

turmoil. All commerce stopped and so did the renovations of two houses for both the nurse and for the midwife. The Ministry of Health will supply the professionals when there is a four room house for each family.

Ivory Coast Mothers and Children won a grant from Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach for medical supplies and equipment. And, a very

generous donor wrote the \$5,000 check to pay for the shipping carton.

The goals we share with the villagers have strengthened; the necessity of completing these goals has only intensified. Ivory Coast Mothers and Children is committed to supporting local efforts intended to protect mothers and their babies before, during and after birth, treating malaria, worms and prevention and treatment of other diseases. ICMC will continue to fundraise this year. Instead of the annual Bastille Day party, there will be an Oktoberfest and auction at the end of September. Donations are accepted on line and are highly, greatly, and deeply appreciated.

Please visit us at www.ivorycoastaid.org



Willy and friends.



Mother and baby visiting the maternity.

Our Favorite Project: The World Map

Who started the World Map Project?

Did you draw a world map in your village? Did you help another PCV with a map? Do you remember the spectacle created in the village when the crazy “toubabs” were painting in the hot sun?

During the 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, I learned the answer to the title question. Barbara Jo White (aka B.J.) that’s who! In the Dominican Republic where she served from 1987-1989, one of her PCV friends wanted to post paper maps in the classrooms, but B.J. knew that the only way it was going to stay was if it was painted on the wall. So B.J. applied the gridding technique to break down a world map into manageable size squares that could easily be drawn and then painted.



What transpired is witnessed on every trip I make to various countries in Africa. An idea that started in the D.R. crossed to other side of the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. Traveling through the remotest of villages, it’s always a pleasant surprise to see the PCV mark – the World Map!

— *Nathalie Gamache*

Drawing the grid for the World Map. RPCVs Vikky Lambert ‘02, Peter Ruggiero ‘01, and Nathalie Gamache ‘02.



FOCI Baby Corner

Julia Gwendolyn Arendt
Birthday: 5-09-11
Parents: Sharon and Greig
Big sister: Leah
Cat: Sir Arthur Mckitty
Home: Gainesville, FL

Congratulations to Sharon Abramowitz and a big welcome to Julia, the newest member of the extended FOCI family!



HAPPY HOUR !

Who: FOCI members

When: July 22nd at 5pm

Where: The National Gallery Sculpture Garden for a concert featuring **Elikeh** from Togo. Wash.,DC

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