

El Bochinche

Peace Corps Panama Friends

In This Issue

[2009 Calendars](#)

[Bud Fund Update](#)

[PCPF Projects](#)

[Alumni Corner](#)

[Nonprofit Spotlight](#)

[Panama News](#)

[Events and Fundraising](#)

[Classifieds - Jobs](#)

Quick Links

[PCPF Website](#)

[El Bo Archive](#)

Join El Bochinche Mailing List

Join Our Mailing List!

Issue: 8

Quarter 4/Nov. 2008

Dear Stephen,

Felices Fiestas! I am very excited about the direction of PCPF and hope that you are as well. Since the energy from the reunion we have been able to reshape the Directiva, bring on a project of supporting blind Panamanians, and continue our diligent support of current volunteers through our Peace Corps Partnership donations and calendar sales.

For the Directiva, we are excited to have Dottie Knoedler as Secretary and Hugh Smith as Panama Liaison. Our previous Secretary, Valerie Whiting, as transitioned to become our Database Manager. Sarah Schmidt has taken on the roll of Communications Director and Jaime Holland is our Fund Raising/Social Events Director.

Because of the past president, Bud Keith, a memorial fund has been set up to help support blind Panamanians. As a blind person, he taught us all that you didn't need two eyes to see the world.

Our Peace Corps donations to Partnerships have been able to fund everything from pit latrines to construction of a school library.

2009 Calendars are on sale! All proceeds go to the PCV group VAC that gives out funds for other small volunteer projects.

We hope you continue your support of PCPF in this season of giving.

Jamie Thornberry
La Presidenta

2009 PC Panama Calendars

Buy your 2009 Panama calendars **now** before we sell out... like last year!

The calendars are beautifully designed by VAC, with photos taken by Peace Corps Panama volunteers and printed in Panama.



Our sales of 2009 Panama Calendars benefit volunteer projects in Panama.

Last year we sent to the Volunteer Action Committee (VAC) \$2,400 from calendar sales. This year, with your help, we

expect to sell more.

The calendars cost \$15. Shipping is free for US addresses.

Buy one for home, one for work, and a couple to give as gifts.

- [Click here](#) to preview and order the 2009 Panama Calendar.

PCPF Special Projects: Bud Fund Update

By Jerry Lutes

Thanks to you, blind children are in school.

As reported in the previous issue of El Bo, PCPF has established a memorial fund in honor of former PCPF President [Bud Keith](#). So far, we've collected about \$4,000 and disbursed about \$280. The funds are paying for transportation, books, and other education-related expenses of Yaneth Sanchez and Alejandro Martinez. Both are poor and blind. Yaneth, who is in 10th grade, writes, "Este apoyo me ha permitido un mejor desenvolvimiento académico, ya que no contaba con los recursos suficientes para continuar los estudios y lograr una carrera profesional."



With your help, we will continue assisting Alejandro and Yaneth through their graduations. We also hope to extend assistance to a third student. [Learn more about the program and donate now.](#)

PCPF Supported Projects: Partnership Program

By Hugh Smith

PCPF, through you, contributes to all Peace Corps Partnership Panama projects. Thank you for your continued support!

[Make a Donation](#)

PCPF

Your donations sponsor 30% (up to \$500) of funds needed by Panama volunteers. Here are some of the projects your money has supported in 2007/2008:

Pit Latrines

This project provides latrines to approximately 90% of the local population who uses the jungle or nearby streams and rivers to urinate and defecate, thus contaminating local potable water sources and

significantly increasing incidences of intestinal illness, especially among more vulnerable population groups such as small children, the infirm, and the elderly. This project improves the hygienic conditions of the community and also increases sanitation of local water sources.

Turtle Conservation Hatchery

The project involves constructing a larger, portable hatchery that decreases the risk of exposure to potentially fatal bacteria. Additional space allows for more nests to be collected, thereby reducing the amount of poaching and predation to sea turtle nests that would otherwise remain vulnerable. Protection from land animals and birds will be achieved by using more sturdy materials, and installing a roof.

Rice Peeling Machine

This project will support the purchase of a mechanical rice peeler for the use by members of a rural agricultural cooperative. The rice peeler will drastically reduce the time it takes for an average family to prepare rice, the principal staple of the community. This affordable service is aimed at improving the quality of lives of local families as well as providing an additional income stream to the cooperative.

Alumni Corner

RPCV Gary Romnes

Llano Nopo, Chiriqui, 1965-1968, shares his experience revisiting Panama and his community 40 years after serving. [Click here](#) to read Gary's story.



RPCV Bonnie Birker

Bonnie recounts the 20 something RPCV visits to her B&B in Guarare de Los Santos. [Click here](#) to read Bonnie's RPCV stories.



Send us your news to: editorelbo@gmail.com

Non-Profit Spotlight

By Chris Meyer

Chris Meyer (RPCV Panama 2003 - 2005) updates us on Planting Empowerment.



An update on last year's Friends and Family project. We could barely believe our eyes as we passed through the plantations, as Teak trees nearly twenty feet tall stood out above the undergrowth; and mahogany & cocobolo had begun to develop nice trunk density. Careful management of the trees and plantations is critical to their long term development, and we are ensuring that they receive great care."

- Read [Planting Empowerment's yearly update](#)

Panamá News

From El Bo readers:

- [6.5 Earthquake hits Chiriqui region, Panama](#)
- [James Bond in Panama](#)
Visit Bond's hang-outs from Quantum of Solace.
- [MTV arrives in Ipeti Puru](#)
Reality hits teenager Cher as she is sent off to live with the Embera Tribe in the deep jungles of Panama.



Events and Fundraising

By Jamie Holland

Annual Drive

2008 was an active year for PCPF. During the last year the organization

has:

- Hosted a "45 Years in Panama - 25 Years of Service" celebration in Panama attended by INSERT # OF PANAMA RPCVs and their families
- Donated more than \$3600 to nine PC Partnerships
- Kept you updated on RPCV and PC activities with "El Bochinche" and "La Vaina"
- Supported Panama PCV's Super-Small Project Fund through annual sales of Panama Calendars
- Contributed \$500 to the "Bud Keith Fund" to help blind youth in Panama
- Grew our PCPF social network with Happy Hours, Picnics, and Facebook and MySpace Pages.

All of this is thanks to contributions from you, our members. In light of all that we've accomplished in 2008, we hope that during this time of giving you will keep Peace Corps Panama Friends in mind.

Watch your mailboxes for PCPF's annual mailing with more information about how we have been serving you or visit our webpage at <http://www.panamapcv.net/>

PCPF DC Holiday Happy Hour

El Paraiso Restaurant

1916 14th St NW,

Washington, DC 20009 US

On Thursday, December 4th the PCPF directiva invites all DC area Panama-RPCVs and their friends to celebrate the holidays Panamanian style. There will be Drink Specials for PCPFers and... beautiful Peace Corps Panama 2009 Calendars will be available. Makes the perfect Holiday gift!

PCPF Potluck Picnic photos

Click on photo for larger view.



Classifieds

Jobs



- [Hotline](#)
The Peace Corps on-line bulletin of employment and educational opportunities for returned Peace Corps Volunteers.
- [RPCV Network](#)
The listserv for RPCVs interested in discussing and posting career related information.

Tú Opinión

Feedback and Articles Ideas for El Bochinche

- Write an opinion piece or article for El Bochinche.
- Promote a non-profit you work for or support to PCPF members.
- Share an update about yourself with Peace Corps Panama alumni.
- Publish photos on www.panamapcv.net or link to an on-line photo album.



Email tú opinión to: editorelbo@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading El Bochinche.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schmidt
Peace Corps Panama Friends

[Forward email](#)

Peace Corps Panama Friends | 3858 N. Tazewell Street | Arlington | VA | 22207