

Ethiopia and Eritrea Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2019-20 Annual Report

Submitted by

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Rebuilding and Reinvigorating the Board

The E&E RPCV Board is an all-volunteer board and as such underwent a series of life events (marriages, births, deaths, job changes, extended leaves) that disrupted the normal flow of activities for the past two years. In January 2020, the board decided to recharge, reinvigorate, and examine our roles and mission. We invited all recent board members to consider remaining on the board and self-select their appointments to the board. See board membership (<https://ethiopia-eritrea-rpcvs-npca.silkstart.com/team>).

We started by having regularized Zoom meetings (prior to the popularity of Zoom brought about by Covid-19) to enable board members on both coasts and regions in between to participate. During these meetings we reassigned roles and officers, set up a web committee to update the NPCA/Silkstart website that was initiated in 2017, and examined policies and procedures. We imported a database of email addresses of RPCVs gathered throughout the years to be used as a future communication tool. We are discussing expanding the board and the roles that each member would play. Our treasurer, Randy Marcus, has diligently been keeping the books, writing checks, and completing the required IRS documents necessary for our non-profit status. Stephan Cristofar is the liaison with the Ethiopian and the Eritrean Embassies and reached out to both. We are looking forward to launching the new website and serving our membership.

During the rebuilding of the board, we were informed that one of our board members had passed away in November 2019. Karen Preskey Glover was a valued member of the board and we are grateful for her service.

Updating webpage

We began migrating content from the old webpage in 2017, but took a hiatus and began again in earnest in January. The webpage will continuously to be modified as we receive feedback from the membership.

In 2017, all early print issues of *The Herald* (our newsletter) were scanned, optimized, and uploaded. The current electronic issues were formatted into .pdf files and also uploaded. The newsletter provides the history of our organization.

We reached out to Volunteers for photos and replaced the SilkStart photos with photos that were relevant to Peace Corps Ethiopia/Eritrea.

We uploaded recent IRS 990s and will upload this annual report. In prior years, annual reports were part of *The Herald*.

We assembled a lengthy bibliography of books by E&E RPCVs that will be used as the core for a request for publications from all Volunteers.

Facebook

Facebook is popular among the majority of our members with 686 who have joined our community. Posters contribute original content, announcements, and news from Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Revisiting Documents, Policies, and Procedures

As we migrated content, we examined all policies and procedures for currency, relevance, and accuracy, including links to the current webpage.

A major consideration was finding a vehicle for e-commerce. After examining bank applications and non-profit applications such as JustGive, we settled upon PayPal. The widgets were uploaded, configured, and tested. PayPal charges a nominal processing fee recognizing our non-profit status.

Legacy Projects

Our non-profit status enables our membership to raise funds for a special project benefiting our countries of service. Currently there are four active projects for which fundraising is occurring. A “champion” submits a proposal, which is approved for fundraising and implementation. After the fundraising goal is accomplished, the funds are transferred to the organization(s) for implementation of the project and reports are monitored and accepted by the board. In 2019, the board received \$24,085.00 in donations and \$21,500.00 was disbursed.

Guidelines for project submission and approval were reviewed and updated. A donation button was created for each updated Legacy Project page. Since this has been a successful program, the board will make the membership aware of this opportunity for fundraising. All donors will receive receipts for tax deductions.

Membership

With the launch of the new website, we hope to attract new board members, general membership, and contributors to our communication tools, be they Facebook, a newsletter, blog or combination of all. First year membership for recently returned RPCVs will be free and renewals and reinstatements will be a suggested \$15.00 per year.

Budget

During the past year, we have had approximately 50 paid memberships of \$15.00 per year. Expenses are modest and include webservices and banking fees including wire transfers for the Legacy Program. In the future, expenses will also cover administrative charges for PayPal. In past years, funds have contributed to donations to Peace Corps Partnership grants and also expenses related to Peace Corps Connect conferences (room rental, refreshments, and printing).

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Profit & Loss
January through December 2019

Jan - Dec 2019

Ordinary Income/Expenses

Income

Donations	\$ 465.00
Amazon Smile	<u>16.98</u>
Total Ordinary Income	\$ 481.98

Total Income \$ 481.98

Expenses

Software	\$ 29.99
Web hosting	257.53
Bank fees/charges	<u>136.00</u>

Total expense \$ 423.52

Net ordinary Income \$ 58.46

Net Income \$ 58.46

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Balance Sheet of Dec. 31, 2019

Dec 31, 2019

Assets

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

PNC checking account

Borana Students	\$ 0.00
ITC Lab Mettu	3,017.17
Axum Library	882.50
Health Guides	2,068.00
Let Girls Learn	2,300.00
PNC operating	<u>2,420.85</u>

Total assets **10,688.52**

Liabilities & Equity

Equity

Restricted net assets	\$ 8,267.67
Unrestricted net assets	2,362.39
Net Income	<u>58.46</u>
Total Equity	10,688.52

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$10,688.52**