

# Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association:

## 2018 Annual Report

### Finance

HoTPCA finances are in great standing thanks to continued fundraising efforts such as t-shirt sales, dues, and generous donations to our grants program, including over \$500 raised by our HoTPCA Grants Chair, Glenn Holzer, on his Camino Real hike this year.

Beginning cash balance (11/1/17):	\$4,723.35
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues:	\$905
Sales (calendars/t-shirts/raffle tickets)	\$1,072.21
Donations	\$765.65
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Grants	\$3,485.73
Misc operational fees/website maintenance	\$449.68
Current Balance (10/31/18):	<b>\$3,530.80</b>

### Events

#### Total Events to Date: 24

Average Number of Attendees per event: 10

This year we have been branching out of our traditional happy hours and trying new activities, such as climbing at Austin Bouldering Project and family game day at Punch Bowl Social. One of our most entertaining events was dinner at UZEats, a locally owned Central Asian restaurant. We had a great turnout and enjoyed LOTS of dancing!

We want your feedback, so we will be sending out an online member survey (there's a paper version of this survey on your tables now!) to gather your opinions about our events and communications. Please help us by completing this short survey! We hope to see you at our last event of the year: **Russia House dinner on December 14th at 7pm.**

### Grants

#### Total grant dollars to date: \$3,485.73

Since last year's meeting, HoTPCA has awarded funding to 9 grant projects in the following countries: Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Albania, Liberia, Ukraine, Uganda, and Lesotho.

These grants supported the following initiatives: education access, safe cooking stoves, STEM and literacy programs, sanitary latrines, and primary school computers.

The HoTPCA Grants Committee prioritizes funding for currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers who are from the state of Texas. Learn more at [www.hotpca.org/grants](http://www.hotpca.org/grants).

### Membership

#### 2018 dues-paying HoTPCA members: 77

Total database membership (informal members): 440

HoTPCA's informal membership is growing (up from 408 last Nov), but our dues-paying members have declined slightly (down from 94). Remember: your dues matter! We fund ongoing PCV projects and our operating expenses through memberships. So if you enjoy HoTPCA, support our work by becoming an official member!

Also, look out for a spiffy new website platform and user-friendly membership database, to be launched early in the new year!

### Volunteerism

We all know that service doesn't stop at COS, and we have an amazing HoTPCA volunteer base! In the last year, we have hosted **6 volunteer opportunities** in our local communities, including:

- Dog walking at Austin Animal Center
- Getting our hands dirty at Urban Roots Farm
- Making toys for kids in need with AVANCE
- Park clean-up with Shoal Creek Conservancy

Join us for our upcoming volunteer opportunity:

**Coats for Kids distribution on Saturday, December 8th at 9am.** Email Mariel for details and to sign up: [marielstotts@gmail.com](mailto:marielstotts@gmail.com)

## *Updates from the President*

Congratulations, HoTPCA! Our community has been selected to host the National Peace Corps Association's annual Peace Corps Connect Conference from June 20-22, 2019. The conference theme is Innovation for Good, and we have already begun the planning process in partnership with NPCA. Interested in helping out? We'd love to have you on a committee!

Additionally, during our summer meeting the board held a visioning session where we identified several short- and long-term goals for HoTPCA. We determined that our group's strengths include an active membership base (illustrated by event attendance), strong leadership and ability to move the organization forward, and an openness to change and innovation in operations. We identified several opportunities for growth in the next year, including planning different events that will engage a more diverse attendance base, and reaching more of the Austin RPCVs who currently do not participate in HoTPCA. We also hope to elevate HoTPCA's profile by connecting with local partners to contribute the Peace Corps perspective in community conversations. To help fulfill this goal, the board redistributed the responsibilities of the "Outreach" chair position between two new board positions: Communications and Partnerships.

In all, 2019 is going to be a fun and busy year for HoTPCA, filled with engaging new events, lots of opportunities to serve our local community, and a conference where we can showcase all that Austin - and our Central Texas RPCV family - has to offer!

## *Mission of the Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association:*

HoTPCA aims to promote world peace and friendship by:  
Engaging, uniting, and supporting the Peace Corps community in Central Texas.  
Organizing and supporting activities that cultivate cultural understanding.  
Supporting sustainable community-building projects both locally and overseas.

