



# *Peace Corps Macedonia*

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## **TWELFTH GROUP OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS BEGIN SERVICE IN MACEDONIA**

### **Forty-Two New Volunteers Take Oath at Ceremony in Veles**

December 14, 2007

VELES, Macedonia -- The twelfth group of U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia has completed its pre-service training.



U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic swear-in the 42 new Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia

On December 14, forty-two new Volunteers marked the conclusion of twelve weeks of pre-service training in the training center in Veles and the training communities Chashka, Negotino, Kavadarci, Sveti Nikole, Demir Kapija, Romanovce and Kumanovo.

After being sworn in by U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic in a ceremony attended by government and other dignitaries, the Volunteers officially began their two-year service assignments which will take place in thirty-four communities throughout the Republic of Macedonia. The Peace Corps program has grown steadily since its inception in Macedonia and the 42 new Peace Corps Volunteers will bring the total number of Volunteers serving in Macedonia to 91.

Peace Corps Macedonia Director Lucianne Phillips said, "Mayor Ace Kocevski, the people of Veles, and the staff at the training center have been very helpful and gracious. The communities of Chashka, Kumanovo, Negotino, Kavadarci, Demir Kapija Romanovce and Sveti Nikole, which hosted the Volunteers during training, have been wonderfully hospitable in welcoming and working with the Peace Corps Volunteers."

The new Volunteers received intensive Macedonian language training, and for those who will work in western parts of the country, instruction was provided in both Macedonian and Albanian. The Volunteers also received information about the Macedonian educational system, economic and business issues, governmental and non-governmental organizations and programs, and organizations involved with environmental issues.

Volunteers received practical hands-on training by teaching at local schools, working in municipal and non-governmental organizations, and implementing small community development projects in the Veles area. Each U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer lived with a host family to gain better understanding of the community and culture in Macedonia, and to facilitate the development of their language skills.

The Volunteers will move to their assignments throughout Macedonia within the next few days. Twenty-two will work in English language education, while twenty will help non-governmental and local government organizations.

The Peace Corps was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. To this day, the three original goals of the Peace Corps remain the same: 1) to assist countries requesting skilled individuals to provide technical assistance; 2) to help promote a better understanding of the American people through the individual Volunteers; and 3) to share with American communities and families information about the communities and countries where Volunteers live and work. Through these efforts, Peace Corps Volunteers work to foster peace in the international community and better understanding among peoples of different cultures and heritages.

While maintaining its original goals, the Peace Corps also has grown over the years and extended its services in many ways. For example, the Peace Corps has been active in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and has assisted in disaster recovery efforts in several countries.

For more information about the Peace Corps program, please contact the office at Oslo 6, 1000 Skopje, or telephone 02/3090-012.