

Press Release

Peace Corps Volunteers Swearing In Ceremony in Kanye

United States Ambassador Michelle D. Gavin will preside over the swearing-in ceremony for 35 Peace Corps trainees at the Kanye Education Centre on Wednesday, November 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Speakers will include Richard Matlhare, National Coordinator for the National AIDS Coordinating Agency, the Honorable Kenste Rammidi, MP, Kgosi Malope II, Grace Seitshiro, District Commissioner for Kanye, other government officials, Peace Corps Country Director Tim Hartman, and two new Peace Corps Volunteers.

The 35 trainees have been assigned to sites throughout the country. Twenty-four will work in Government Primary, Junior, or Senior Secondary Schools. For the first time, two Volunteers (a married couple) will concurrently serve at the same school, Good Hope Senior Secondary School in Good Hope, to work with the 2,400 students there. Two Volunteers will work with Non-Governmental Organizations, five will work with clinics or the Social and Community Development Departments (S&CD) around the country, and four will work with the District AIDS Coordinating Offices to help in the coordination of activities related to HIV/AIDS.

The youngest Trainee in this new group is 21-years old and the oldest is 65-years old; 29% are over the age of 40, and 77% are women. All of them bring a wealth of experience and education, which has been augmented by the in-country training which places a heavy emphasis on language learning and cross-cultural understanding. Amongst the group members are lawyers, psychologists, and counselors, and nearly all have at least a university degree. The group includes four married couples.

The majority of the group has been placed in schools to address the need to strengthen the implementation of the Living curriculum in more districts. Volunteers will be placed in Kweneng, as in the past, and added to the two Districts of Southern and Kgalagadi.

Background: More than 2,200 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Botswana from 1966-1997 and 2003 to the present. They have served throughout the country, from villages such as Kachikau and Middlepits to larger ones such as Ghanzi and Maun. With the swearing-in of the 35 Trainees, over 120 Volunteers will be serving in Botswana.

President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, by executive order. Throughout 2011, Peace Corps is commemorating 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world.

Historically, more than 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Today, 8,655 volunteers are working with local communities in 76 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment. Visit www.peacecorps.gov for more information.

For further details, please contact: Public Affairs Officer, John Warner (395-3982 ext. 2468), Laona Segatsho, Information Specialist (395-3982 ext. 2419, fax: 390-6129, SegatshoLJ@state.gov) or Angelinah Matenanga, Public Affairs Secretary, (395-3982 ext. 2415, fax: 390-6129, MatenangaAB@state.gov).