

# Estamos Juntos



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## World Press Freedom Day - May 2

“Journalism is a calling of everyday heroes. Of brave souls who speak out where silence and fear are the allies of tyrants. Of dedicated citizens who insist that there is more to an issue that others overlook as insignificant. Of dogged advocates who will not rest until the truth is exposed and injustice righted.”

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## Peace Corps Turns 50

Peace Corps Mozambique celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 12th with a reception at the official residence of U.S. Ambassador Leslie Rowe. Ambassador Rowe hosted the event for current and former Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs), the Minister of Science and Technology, Venâncio Massingue, representatives from the Mozambican government, and civil society engaged in volunteerism. The event also featured digital photographic and art exhibitions that honored young Mozambican artists who won the nationwide “World Peace and Friendship” art contest, organized by the Peace Corps’ 50th Anniversary Committee.



Volunteers celebrating Peace Corps 50th anniversary

The Peace Corps in Mozambique has grown rapidly and transformed since its establishment in 1999 with the first small group of education volunteers. There are currently 148 PCVs working in education, community health, and increasingly on food security and the environmental issues, with another 30 volunteers scheduled to arrive in Mozambique this June. Volunteers are located in every province and receive support from regional Peace Corps offices in Namaacha, Chimoio, and Nampula. Since 1999, Peace Corps Mozambique has been committed to building edu-

cational and healthcare capacity and has exciting new partnerships with Gorongosa National Park and the Ministry of Fisheries.

U.S. President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961 hoping to have 500 volunteers in the field by the end of the year. Fifty years later, over 200,000 Americans have served in 139 countries contributing to development and to greater mutual understanding between the U.S. and the world. Peace Corps Mozambique will continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary with community service events from Rovuma to Maputo to encourage citizens, especially youth, to assume a social responsibility for their community's development. The US Mission, the Peace Corps’ 50th Anniversary Committee and Maputo City Government are jointly planning a Volunteerism and Leadership Workshop for Maputo youth slated to take place later this year. Other Volunteers are simply performing their primary assignments in the field, all the while fostering relationships, promoting the culture of volunteerism and making a difference.

(continues on page 4)

## Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

March of 2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Peace Corps by President John F. Kennedy. Over the years since then, it has become one of my favorite programs, and I have seen first-hand how the experience transforms all those whom it touches, and builds bridges of understanding and connection. Peace Corps volunteers develop deep personal ties with the people that they serve, as well as the country and culture that they grow to admire and love. The Peace Corps helps other people understand Americans, and to help Americans understand other people. Peace Corps Volunteers and their host country counterparts come to realize that change happens one person at a time, each one making a difference and spreading from one person to the next. I have watched Volunteers

in areas of Mozambique from Nampula and Tete to Sofala to Namaacha working with girls groups, teaching English, running science fairs, teaching micro-entrepreneurs, teaching youth about how to avoid high-risk behaviors that lead to HIV infection, and conducting many other remarkable projects. I hope many of you have the chance to meet and watch as the Peace Corps works in your community, and am very proud to celebrate this anniversary together. In the words of former President Bill Clinton, “When President Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1961, he saw it as a bold experiment in public service that would unite our nation's highest ideals with a pragmatic approach to bettering the lives of ordinary people around the world. He also saw it as an investment in our own future, in an increasingly interdependent world. In the years since, it's paid off many times over.”

Leslie Rowe

## Jazz Legend Ronny Jordan with Zoco in Maputo!



Ronny Jordan here playing with Zoco Dimande

American jazz legend Ronny Jordan participated in a two-day U.S. Embassy-sponsored program in Maputo April 1 – 2, with a workshop at Escola Nacional de Musica, a television interview and a free concert at Ambiente Jazz Bar in Bairro 25 de Junho. Born in London, England and widely recognized as the father of “acid jazz” in the 1990s, the guitar virtuoso played what many Americans and Mozambicans considered one of the best jazz concerts ever in Maputo at Ambiente Jazz Bar. During the show, Ronny joined Mozambican guitarist Zoco Dimande and several other musicians from South Africa and Mozambique for an incredible blend of jazz and soul that included hip-hop and samba rhythms. The packed audience was treated to a diverse selection of music from his 7 album career and from Zoco Dimande’s new CD “My Life.” After several hours of incredible music, the show ended with a jam session with several other artists taking the stage. The show was attended by Maputo jazz lovers and also U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique Leslie V. Rowe.

Before the show, Ronny conducted a workshop at the Escola Nacional de Música, where he talked about his music career and answered questions about how he became a guitarist, the importance of hard work and study, and the life of a successful recording musician. Ronny Jordan started playing guitar at the age of 5 and has won prestigious awards including *The MOBO Best Jazz Act Award* and *Gibson Guitar Best Jazz Guitarist Award*. His album “Brighter Day” was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2000. The U.S. Embassy partnered with Zoco Dimande for this incredible two-day program, which was the latest in a series of American jazz offerings that has included the quartet Nasar Abadey and Supernova, Jeff Gardner, two U.S. Navy Bands, and a U.S. Marine Corps Band.

## PEPFAR Supports Junior Farmer Clubs

In the U.S., junior farmer associations such as Future Farmers of America and 4-H report having over seven million members, supporting their involvement in diverse interests in the food, fiber and natural resource industries, encompassing science, business and technology in addition to production agriculture. These organizations also teach youth about citizenship, healthy living, science, engineering, and technology, and are among the largest youth associations in the country. These organizations prepare the youth for careers in these fields which are central in the overall economic development of their nation. In a similar vein, Junior Farmer Clubs are now being introduced in Mozambique with support from PEPFAR to provide livelihood training to orphans and vulnerable children in rural communities. In September of 2010, 73 youth, ages 8-17, of the Caiaia community in Alto Molócuè District of Zambézia Province convened and formed the Association of Maruoni, the district’s first of four Junior Farmer Associations, with a similar objective to teach and support those interested in a future in

agriculture. Since then the group, 64% of which are orphans, has met weekly to learn and practice conservation agriculture skills, participate in nutrition and health activities, and have fun too. Each meeting begins with songs, dances, games, and chants of ‘Força!’



Young members of the Maruoni Association celebrate their first peanut crop

and then includes a daily lesson and activity. Before the end of 2010 they had prepared a 300m2 field following the same conservation agriculture standards and techniques that the local adult association is learning. With much excitement, in late March, the group harvested their 3 plots of peanuts and proudly became the owners of 15 kilograms of fresh peanuts that belonged entirely to them. The leaders of the association decided that half of the harvest would be consumed and the remaining kilos would be dried and stored as seed. Moving forward from this success, the members are

now eagerly planting a field with cabbage, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, and carrots, all of which once again will belong to them and further reinforce their own ‘Força!’

# From Hawker to Shop Owner



Diogo at his table in Tica market in 2001

inputs in 2000, he worked as a hawker. Without a permanent location from which to sell, he was only able to sell seeds and pesticides. Finding sources of supply was difficult, and local farmers did not understand the benefits of using agri-inputs. Despite the challenges, after one year of business, in 2001 he earned enough to be able to establish a small table-top location in Tica market. Having an established location allowed

him to begin selling fertilizer to his customers. In 2007, the Agricultural Input Market Strengthening (AIMS) project began organizing training for agro dealers in Sofala Province. Diogo attended the training in 2008 and successfully completed the course to become certified as a trained agro dealer. After Diogo completed the training program, the AIMS project was able to link him with the local government to access finance under the Local Initiative Development Fund. He qualified to receive 25,000 meticaiss (\$800 USD) through this facility,

Diogo Lucas Luis Pascoal is an agro dealer living in Tica, an administrative post of Nhamatanda district in Sofala Province, Mozambique. When he began selling agri-

which he used to build the small shop in which he now sells a wide range of agri-inputs. Today, Diogo is an established agro dealer who has opened a second shop in Nhamatanda village and owns his own vehicle. He is able to deliver agri-inputs to his customers in Tete, Manica, Sofala and Zambézia provinces and import crop protection products from Malawi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. He is also able to supply other agro dealer companies such as Dengo Commercial in Chimoio and Bonimar in Tete. He has developed good business relationships in the agricultural sector and buys products in the local market from such companies as Savon Trading, Semoc, Pannar and others. Facilitated by the AIMS project, Diogo received credit from Banco Oportunidade de Moçambique (BOM) in 2010 to improve his agri-inputs business. He expects to repay the credit in full and then qualify to receive a second, larger amount



Diogo inside the shop he built in Nhamatanda village in 2008.

of credit. Diogo is an excellent example of a small-scale agro dealer who successfully expanded his business through USAID assis-



A view of Diogo's storefront

## Golden Basket Clinic Final Hosted at Matola Secondary School



Cesto de Ouro participants gathered at the Matola Secondary School

On April 01, the U.S Embassy in Maputo collaborated with ProSport for the fifth and final basketball clinics as part of the "Cesto de Ouro" (Golden Basket) basketball program. The clinic took place at the Matola Secondary School in Maputo and involved 54 students aged 12 to 15.

The sporting activity began with a series of basketball drills led by Coach Nazir Salé and Mozambican basketball stars Anabela Cossa and Fernando Mandate (Nandinho), followed by a half-court match, with the girls playing on one-side of the court and boys students on the other. Throughout the clinic's exercises and games, participants showed us their eagerness to learn and the great potential they have to become future qualified basketball players.

This program, designed to promote a bright future free from HIV and a healthy lifestyle through sport, included HIV information and prevention talk from a local activist trained by Geração Biz, as well as a positive message from Fernando Dias, a representative working at the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Maputo. The two young basketball play-

ers also provided positive messages to the students emphasizing the role that education has played in reaching their goals as professional athletes and stressing the importance of keeping healthy. The players also opened the floor for questions, giving the youngsters opportunity to ask as many questions as they wanted.

Like previous clinics, each participant received a uniform, an autographed poster with a picture of the two athletes, which included an HIV prevention message, a certificate of participation signed by the Embassy, an information sheet on the history of basketball and Magic Johnson activism against HIV/AIDS and a PEPFAR 2011 pocket calendar. The Embassy also donated 10 basketballs to the school thanking them for their participation in this basketball program, and to encourage their continuing effort to make basketball and other sports a more important part of the school curriculum.

(continues on page 4)

# Golden Basket Clinic Final Hosted at Matola Secondary School

(continued from page 3)

Being part of the “Cesto de Ouro” program has meant for the participants acquiring new basketball techniques and skills and learning from professional athletes, as well as from their life experiences. This initiative funded and supported by the U.S President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Public Affairs Section has, over the course of six months, reached nearly 250 Mozambican secondary students in the Provinces of Tete, Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Maputo bringing them new hopes and aspirations for the future.



# Peace Corps Turns 50

(continued from page 1)

For many, turning 50 can be a traumatic experience. But for an organization, 50 years can be considered a coming of age. Peace Corps has endured and prospered over the past 50 years because of its vitally important mission of peace and friendship. Here is to another 50!



PC Country Director Ruben Hernandez & PC Volunteer Caitlin Krutsinger



PC Volunteer Lauren Fox & Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe



Winning artist from Central Mozambique

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