

## The Lillian Carter Award

The Lillian Carter Award honors outstanding senior volunteers who have kept alive President John F. Kennedy's dream of international service. Miss Lillian, President Jimmy Carter's mother, joined the Peace Corps in 1966 at age 68 as a public health volunteer in India. Her commitment to Peace Corps service was an extension of her tireless dedication and support of people and humanitarian organizations at home and abroad.

The award was established in 1986 in Atlanta as a biennial event. It is the largest domestic Peace Corps celebration and attracts a diverse audience from around the United States. Hosted by the Carter Center, the 2009 event is scheduled for May 13, and will emphasize the extraordinary impact age 50+ Peace Corps Volunteers have made around the globe since 1961, as well as the current poignancy of committing our nation to the values of volunteerism and national service. In addition to acknowledging Miss Lillian and the 2009 award recipient, President Carter will commemorate all the senior volunteers who have dedicated themselves since 1961 to promoting the organization's mission of world peace and development.

Nominations for this prestigious award are accepted from Peace Corps staff, returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and RPCV groups. Nominees must have served in Peace Corps as a senior (age 50+) and shown a demonstrated commitment to the Peace Corps' third goal.

The following nominees are members of NorCal:

### June Tolbert

At age 52, June volunteered for the Peace Corps and spent 2 years in Guatemala from 1983-85 teaching in a nutrition program. Following her return from Guatemala, she continued to teach and in her classroom she promoted the importance and enrichment of volunteering. Through photographs, traditional clothing and crafts, she brought her Peace Corps experience to life for her students and helped them to understand a people of another culture.

In the past, June has been active in participating in the Family Nights in San Francisco that Peace Corps arranged for departing PCVs and their families. She also served as a panelist at Foreign



June Tolbert at a 4th of July parade in Santa Rosa

Affairs meetings in Santa Rosa at which she related her experiences, answered questions, and enthusiastically discussed the value of Peace Corps.

June has been a faithful volunteer at Point Reyes National Seashore in working with a group of other RPCVs in clearing trails. She was always eager to inform any user of the trail that this work was done by former PC volunteers. On the Fourth of July in Sonoma, she would be on hand to march in the parade with other RPCVs, proud to wear her Guatemalan garments. Volunteerism has become a focus of her life and her enthusiasm and friendliness in imparting the value of being a Peace Corps Volunteer is constantly seen. June epitomizes the third goal of the PC on a day-to-day basis as a perpetual ambassador for PC by simply sharing her memories and experiences with all who touch her life.

### Beatrice (Bie) Bostrom

Bie has always had a love of photography ever since she was a young girl. This led to her 21-year work with Studio Bostrom, a commercial photo studio on New York City, photographing such prestigious groups as UNICEF and Save the Children. When her husband was dying of cancer in 2001, he asked Bie what she was going to do when he passed on. She responded, "Join the Peace Corps". And she did in 2004, when she was 63 years old.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ahero, Kenya, Bie was assigned to work in Small Enterprise Development and Education Training, which offered training to youth in photography, computer and information technology. However, she also saw the vast need of children whose parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, which led to her also organiz-



Bie Bostrom is the personification of all three Peace Corps goals!!!

ing training in safe water treatment, AIDS awareness, and income-generating activities. With a poverty rate at approximately 67% in Nyando District, most residents live on less than \$1 a day,

Upon her return to the States, she felt the need to expand her assistance to these orphans and their grandmothers. So she founded "Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren," to continue assisting a group of 42 grandmothers who were left to raise a total of 102 grandchildren.

In the two years since Bie has returned to the U.S., another 20 grandchildren have joined the group needing help. During this time, Bie has:

- Formed "Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren, Inc.", a 501(c)(3) non profit organization to market the baskets the grandmothers weave
- Created a brochure and website: [www.grgahero.org](http://www.grgahero.org)
- Sold over 300 baskets in the U.S., Belgium and New Zealand
- Received a NorCal Peace Corps Association grant, which paid for 50 pairs of shoes and 50 school uniforms
- Raised additional funds to pay for 80 goats: 72 female and 8 male--20 of these have already been given to the grandmothers to raise and help generate income
- Spoken at the Commonwealth Club of California on "What Happens to Orphans of AIDS Parents?" The Club is the nation's oldest and largest public affairs forum
- Made additional donations to NADERMO (National Dermatology Organization), which visits Ahero once a month to treat the most common skin diseases free of charge

Indefatigable, Bie's goals for 2009 include:

- Have all kids tested for HIV/AIDS
- Buy mattresses and mosquito nets for those without them
- Provide goats for each family, in order to generate income