



DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

Jordan Marie Dye

100543637

Swaziland, Africa

[Full official name]

[HQ Volunteer ID #]

[Country of service]

After a competitive application process stressing applicant skills, adaptability and cross-cultural understanding, Jordan Dye was invited to serve as a Volunteer with Peace Corps. Jordan was assigned to be a Community HIV/AIDS Education Volunteer in the rural community of eMhlangeni in the Manzini region of Swaziland.

Jordan entered pre-service training on June 29, 2009, participating in an intensive nine-week homestay-based training program, while living with a Swazi family in the community of Vuvusweni in the Hhohho region of Swaziland. Jordan completed 80 hours of siSwati language training (spoken and written), 15.5 hours of cross culture training in the history, economics and cultural norms of Swaziland, 149 hours of technical training, 63 hours of medical training, 11 hours of safety and security training and 12 hours of diversity training. She successfully completed training and was sworn-in as a Peace Corps Volunteer on August 27, 2009.

Jordan was a member of the seventh group of Peace Corps volunteers in Swaziland whose mandate, by the invitation of King Mswati III, was to help with the mitigation of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Swaziland has the world's highest adult HIV/AIDS prevalence with approximately 26 percent of persons aged 15-49 years being infected with the virus and one of the lowest life expectancy rates, approximately 33 years. Within the next five years, it is expected that ten percent of Swazi children will be orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Working in an environment such as this is extremely difficult, particularly in rural communities, such as Jordan's, which are characterized by severe poverty and inadequate health and educational services. The HIV/AIDS pandemic provided unique challenges for Peace Corps Volunteers, in a relatively new program, in which the volunteer's roles and project responsibilities are defined by community-specific needs and to a large degree, self-directed by the Volunteer. Jordan's Peace Corps service was extremely valuable as it allowed her to live on a traditional homestead in an isolated rural community while serving some of the most underserved and vulnerable members of Swazi society.

Jordan's Peace Corps service as a Community Health Educator was diverse and addressed various aspects of prevention, mitigation and care related to the HIV pandemic. While a primary consideration was strengthening prevention and treatment efforts, her overarching goal was capacity building of key leaders and the empowerment of individual community members to address some of their most pressing needs.

Her involvement extended beyond her own community of 2,400 residents to include key community leaders and groups from two nearby communities. While perhaps a few hundred individuals were directly supported through her work, many others experienced a positive impact indirectly through the enhanced effectiveness of their community's leadership. Jordan's interventions can be grouped into six areas:

- **HIV Prevention and Life-Skills Education:** Jordan provided information both in didactic and interactive formats on topics related to HIV prevention, voluntary counseling and testing, anti-retroviral treatment and life skills. These training sessions were conducted through collaborative, capacity-building

presentations with counterparts. These counterparts included a peer counselor from the NGO, Population Services International, inmate co-facilitators at a women's correctional institution, and sewing cooperative members, who taught sewing skills to 26 vulnerable children, many of whom had lost parents to HIV. Through her mentorship, Jordan helped empower young women, who themselves gained self-confidence as they taught and provided a positive role model to others.

Jordan also assisted children and caregivers in obtaining medical attention, including services related HIV. She walked with them through the cumbersome process of diagnosis and treatment in over-crowded government hospitals. Using her siSwati language skills she also assisted individual community members during a mobile clinic visit from an American NGO.

• **Supporting Community Development Projects:** Jordan was instrumental in empowering key community leaders through training in development project design and funding, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. She assisted in preparing successful grant applications totaling US\$10,000, drawing from three funding sources: Peace Corps Volunteer Activities Support and Training (VAST) and the U.S. Embassy's Self-Help Fund (SHF) and, through the US Embassy, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These grants allowed two on-going community development projects, noted below, to reach a level of sustainability that will help ensure the projects' longevity and overall effectiveness.

- A sewing center project, a key part of a women's cooperative, received a VAST grant of US\$4,832. The grant allowed for the completion of a sewing center building and also provided sewing machines, tables and chairs. This center provides a safe and stable physical environment for a sewing classroom in which cooperative members now teach sewing skills to 26 children, age 8 to 18.
- An HIV support group's sewing project received a USAID grant of \$5,820, which provided two industrial-grade and eight regular straight-line sewing machines, cloth and business skills training to members. In addition to generating income through sewing, members educate their communities on HIV at churches, schools and community centers. The support group also provides care to community members who are sick from HIV.

• **Income Generation Activities:** Jordan, working with a fellow PCV, assisted community members in obtaining skills training and support for a variety of income generation projects.

- TechnoServe, an American NGO, provided training and support for beekeeping, small-scale dairy and truck farming as well as handcraft marketing.
- Women in Development, a Swazi government organization, provided training in sewing skills, clothing and household item design, and small business management.
- Lizzie's Fresh, a local produce packaging company, provided a one-day workshop to area farmers with the intention of buying their locally grown produce to sale on international markets.
- Jordan worked with individual community members to create concise and clear resumes and cover letters and coached them in all aspects of a successful employment application process.

• **Leadership and Organizational Capacity Building:**

- One of Jordan's counterparts was the community Counselor, the elected official who is the liaison between community members and two levels of local government. Activities were conducted in an effort to build this key community leader's capacity. Through this work a government outreach-training program linked with the community to train 31 women in sewing in a full-time, three-month program. The program strengthened skills of one sewing cooperative while another two cooperatives formed following the class. Also, Jordan worked closely with this counterpart and five committee members from a group of people with disabilities to build capacity, particularly through writing and administering a survey to assess strengths and needs for people with disabilities; identifying goals; targeting NGOs and service providers; and organizing site

visit interviews and debriefing. As a result the group linked with a number of service providers that included the Ministry of Education special needs unit, the government office for people with disabilities, advocacy groups, vocational training programs, and a mobile clinic. The free mobile clinic subsequently provided mobility aids to members with physical disabilities.

- Jordan built capacity in a Save the Children agent and counterpart who establishes saving groups with women in local chiefdoms. Jordan linked this agent with women in her community, describing the needs of these women and possible uses of savings in their income generating activities. Two savings groups of over 20 members each were formed. Jordan and the STC agent also collaborated on a pricing session for the 26 children in the community sewing class. This program teaches children to sew their own clothing while preparing them to generate income in the future.

• **Providing Support to Fellow Volunteers:**

- Jordan was elected with six other PCVs in her group of 33 PCVs to serve in the Peer Support Network. She provided her fellow Group 7 PCVs with emotional support and assisted in the pre-service training of Group 8 PCVs. Jordan, two other PSN members, and the PC medical officer co-led a three-day workshop on coping with grief and loss, a common experience for volunteers in this country impacted by HIV.
- She worked with the PC Language and Culture Facilitators to improve their sensitivity to cross-cultural issues, for them as Swazis and for the Americans they would train during pre-service training. She wrote articles for the PC newsletter in Swaziland that addressed cultural adjustment and grief and loss issues. With another PCV she co-edited the Group 8 PSN Handbook.
- For her work with the sewing cooperative and VAST project, she participated on a Best Practices panel discussion during the training of Group 9 PCVs.
- She was selected as a PC safety and security warden, serving as a contact person between area PCVs and the safety and security coordinator when PC was on alert during political protests.

• **Peace Corps Third Goal Activities:** Peace Corps has three over-arching goals. The first is to provide host countries with technical assistance. The second is to promote understanding of America on the part of host country nationals. Peace Corps' third goal is to promote understanding of the host country by Americans back home. Jordan was active in educating Americans about Swaziland, exposing them to the beauty of its landscape and culture as well as the harsh reality of its many challenges. These activities included creative activities that reached not only her friends and family, but also the blog-browsing public and some Americans who were visiting or studying in Swaziland.


- Jordan posted informative blogs on the Internet. These were written stories drawn from her experiences in her rural community.
- She hosted American friends for visits and shared her Swazi community with them, providing an up-close-and-personal glimpse of life in this corner of the world.
- Engaging two American high school students from a local boarding school, Jordan shared her experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer and hosted the students at her rural homestead, touring the community and on-going development projects. By engaging in conversation with some of her neighbors, the students were able to practice the siSwati they were studying at school. The American family members of one of the girls visited and shared in conversation and games with the Swazi family on Jordan's homestead.
- Jordan participated in the World Wise Schools Program where she corresponded and shared photographs with a fourth-grade teacher and her students. Sharing highlights of her Peace Corps service provided these students with a glimpse of the lives and challenges faced by many of those living in Swaziland.

Representing the United States Peace Corps, Jordan was a model of professionalism and dedication to her work. During her thirty-nine months of service, she was a valuable asset to her rural Swazi community and to other PCVs. She consistently demonstrated sensitivity, flexibility and appreciation for the cultural contexts in which she lived and worked. She used this sensitivity to successfully integrate and to work effectively in her community. Having an encouraging and peaceful manner, she will be a welcomed asset to whatever organization she joins in the future.

Pursuant to Section 5(f) of the Peace Corps Act, 22 U.S.C. 2504(f), as amended, any former Volunteer employed by the United States Government following his/her Peace Corps Volunteer Service is entitled to have any period of satisfactory Peace Corps service credited for purposes of retirement, seniority, reduction in force, leave, and other privileges based on length of federal government service. Peace Corps service shall not be credited toward completion of the probationary or trial period of any service requirement for career appointment.

This is to certify in accordance with Executive Order 11103 of April 10, 1963, that Jordan Marie Dye served satisfactorily as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Her service ended on Sept. 20, 2012. She is therefore eligible to be appointed as a career-conditional employee in the competitive civil service on a non-competitive basis. This benefit under the Executive Order extends for a period of one year after termination of the Volunteer's service, except that the employing agency may extend the period for up to three years for a former volunteer who enters military service, pursues studies at a recognized institution of higher learning, or engages in other activities that, in the view of the appointing agency, warrant extension of the period.

Volunteer:
Jordan Dye

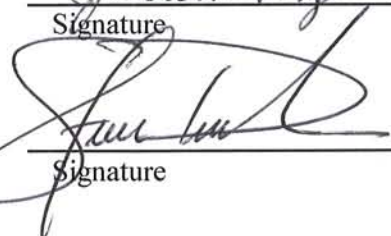


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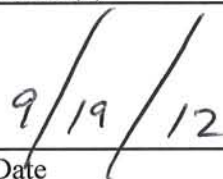
Group

Seven (7)

Reviewed by
Country Director:
Steve Driehaus



Signature



Date