



Peace Corps

June 13, 2005

Dear Mr. von Reyn:

Christina Granberg, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Swaziland, suggested that I write to you because you might be interested in her efforts overseas. Each day more than 7,000 Peace Corps Volunteers like Christina work to help people in the developing world fight hunger and disease, acquire basic education and establish economic security.

While Peace Corps activities extend to some of the world's most remote areas, many of our efforts begin at home with the Partnership Program. The Partnership Program is the link between U.S. contributors (partners) and requests for assistance from overseas communities in which Peace Corps Volunteers serve. Within the last year alone, the Partnership Program improved the lives of thousands of people through direct assistance. Partnership projects help build schools, expand HIV/AIDS education, and bring information technology to places where it was previously out of reach.

Like her fellow Peace Corps Volunteers, Christina represents the finest characteristics of the American people: a strong work ethic, a generous spirit, a commitment to serve, and an approach to problems that is both optimistic and pragmatic. These Volunteers also rely on support from people like you who know or know of the coordinating Volunteers and are interested in supporting projects. For her project Christina has requested a total of \$986 from Partners like you. I have included a more detailed description of Christina's World Map Project project in Swaziland and the Peace Corps Partnership Program for your consideration.

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to the Peace Corps Partnership Program and be sure to include the project number on the check's notation line or provide the appropriate credit card information on the enclosed form. Gifts can also be made by credit card on our secure website at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/contribute>. If you are interested in increasing the value of your contribution, we invite you to inquire with your company or an organization with which you are affiliated about a Matching Gifts program. There is no better way to promote Peace Corps' goal of sustainable development than to make your own contribution increase in value! Should a project become fully funded, any additional gifts will be directed to our Global Fund. This fund allows us to respond more rapidly to requests from other communities in need.

Thank you for consideration. I look forward to working with you in support of Peace Corps Volunteer efforts overseas.

Sincerely,

Partnership Program Specialist

Project #: 645-045

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The Swaziland World Map Project

Creating a valuable resource for both formal and informal education

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Project Background:

The Swaziland World Map Project is a collaboration between Peace Corps volunteers and their communities in the planning, drawing, painting, and application of a world map mural. The majority of schools in rural Swaziland lack up-to-date textbooks and effective teaching aids. It remains difficult for children to relate their studies – whether they involve geography, history, or a deeper understanding of the pervasiveness of HIV and AIDS – within a greater global context without these essential visuals.

Proposal:

The Swaziland World Map Project is a low-cost method of not only promoting geography literacy within a community, but also provides a sense of partnership between the Peace Corps volunteer and youth involved, as well as a source of accomplishment and pride for all map-makers. Two copies of the entire world map have been drawn to scale on several pre-gridded pages and color-coded for easy painting. Using this grid method, any community member can learn to reconstruct the map onto a flat surface. World maps may be painted on any number of public spaces within a village: school classrooms or exterior walls, clinics, community meeting halls, neighborhood feeding centers, informal school structures, and church buildings. The construction of the map may involve a Peace Corps volunteer or group of volunteers themselves, or may also include a concerted effort with local youth groups or school clubs. Once drawn and painted, structured enrichment activities (collected in a handbook for volunteers to share with local educators) ensures the world map mural is fully utilized as a hands-on visual aid in a variety of subjects and audiences.

An essential aspect of the sustainability of this project rests on the collaboration of Peace Corps volunteers and host country national (HCN) counterparts. Mr. Hebron Ndlovu, Dean of Humanities at the University of Swaziland, is assisting with the identification of motivated arts and education students to partner with volunteers in the planning and implementation of the world map murals. Training and collaboration of the HCN counterpart (a team of 3-4 students to begin the rotational schedule of mural painting) will serve several purposes: volunteer-counterpart teams will allow for more efficient construction of the maps and collaboration with community groups. Counterparts will gain valuable training and hands-on experience that will prepare them for a future in arts education. They may also serve as the facilitators for on-going training and map-related instruction and activities. Acknowledging the financial constraints HCN

counterparts may face, a section of the proposed project costs allows for the reimbursement of roundtrip travel expenses to and from the project sites. Additional HCN counterparts may be identified within volunteer communities for informal training and assistance in the creation of the map, which will further buttress the understanding, impact, and sustainability of the project.

The Swaziland World Map Project is a fun and profoundly beneficial activity and end product, especially for new Peace Corps volunteers hoping to create lasting relationships with youth clubs, schools, and other community groups. It provides not only a sense of accomplishment for all involved, but a valuable visual in the volunteer's effort to provide a cultural exchange and HIV/AIDS education in a global framework.

In an effort to streamline this project for all volunteers, two reference folders with the gridded map sheets have been diligently designed and compiled. To alleviate the burden of collecting materials and costs for the volunteer and community, it is our goal to procure two sets of the materials needed to be available for loan by volunteers from the Peace Corps office. Volunteers will receive detailed guides to the use and maintenance of all materials, with the expectation that all will be returned upon completion of the world map mural. Certain materials, such as paint brushes, paint, and work pencils, are expected to require periodic replacement, and are this itemized in quantities larger than two on the attached materials list. A specific fund for future purchases of paint, paint tinters, and other materials needing replacement will further aid the longevity of this project, and has been suggested for consideration on the materials list.

Beneficiaries:

Virtually every community member accessing the world map mural may benefit from its usefulness as a visual educational tool. It will enhance the social studies and history curriculum within schools, aid in the necessary schooling of out-of-school and at-risk youth through informal education, and bolster a volunteer's efforts to teach about the true permeation of HIV and AIDS in cultures and countries throughout the world. The colorful display of oceans, continents, and individual nations is a valuable tool reaching even the illiterate of a community, and will give all members a stronger sense of Swaziland and the world.

Conclusion:

The Swaziland World Map Project aims to serve both as an educational tool as well as a means of deepening the working relationship between volunteer and community. A strong sense of pride and accomplishment are lasting byproducts of the collaboration for all involved. *Our sincere appreciation for your consideration in assisting this project!*

Materials:

*All prices based on quotations from
Build-it Hardware, Spar, and SNA stationary stores*

Item	Quantity	Cost
Acrylic PVA paint (White, interior-exterior).....	4 (5L cans)	R249 (62.25 each)
Paint tinters (Red, Blue, Yellow, Green, Orange).....	8 each (25 ml)	R238 (5.95 each)
Plastic Cups/ spoons for mixing paint.....	pkg 12/20	R34
Rollers and tray (225 mm lambswool roller and tray)	2	R24 (12 each)
Roller refills.....	8	R 97.20 (12.15 each)
Paint brushes (Kinghorn pure bristle).....	4 (50mm)	R38 (9.50 each)
	4 (38mm)	R26 (6.50 each)
	4 (25 mm)	R14 (3.50 each)
Rinse water buckets.....	4	R88 (24 each)
Dish soap (for washing brushes).....	8	R96 (12 each)
Sponges.....	10	R45 (4.50 each)
Yard sticks/ meter sticks.....	4	R48 (12 each)
Measuring tape.....	2	R27.90 (13.95 each)
Long level/ straight edge.....	2	R165.30 (42.65 each)
Heavy-duty work pencils (suitable for drawing on concrete).....	20	R39 (1.95 each)
Pencil Sharpeners.....	2	R24 (12 each)
Erasers.....	8	R48 (6 each)
Masking tape.....	8 rolls	R96 (12 each)
Heavy-duty black permanent marker.....	10 (wide tip)	R180 (18 each)
	20 (fine tip)	R160 (16 each)
String (for creating plumb line).....	4	R38 (9.50 each)
Small Plastic buckets for storing excess paint.....	10	R140 (14 each)
Materials replacement fund (for paint and replacement of brushes, etc.).....		R4000
*Value of school wall surfaces used for the display of World Map.....		R1000.00
*Value of Host Country National collaboration and labor.....		R971.85
Total requested.....		R5915.40 (\$1000 USD)
* Total project value, reflecting community contributions.....		R7887.25