



# Columbia River Peace Corps Association

Serving our community.  
Engaging the world.

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**February 2017 Newsletter - Volume 37, Issue 2**

**CRPCA cares about refugees**



At our January 15 potluck gathering, we listened as CRPCA's Hannah Macfarlane of Catholic Charities educated us on the refugee welcoming process that then existed. A team of CRPCA members met afterwards to talk about sponsoring a Muslim refugee family in the near future. Less than two weeks later, our country became a lot less welcoming toward refugees and Muslims. Our community reacts in this newsletter. Read on...

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## February's program is on services to the financially underserved

*See our calendar of events below for the full plan for February 12.*

### **Point West Credit Union: A Declaration of Service & Beliefs**

Point West is carving a niche in the Portland-Metro market for serving unbanked and marginalized community members, and doing so in true cooperative spirit: both the member and the member's credit union prosper. Learn about Point West's history of inclusiveness, having merged-in the NAACP CU in 1991 and Hacienda CU in 2005; and how the credit union is building access to underserved markets present-day through values-based storytelling, sharing resources with community partners, technology (of course) and by keeping a keen eye to data. Your homework: check out our Declaration of Beliefs: [www.citizensofpointwest.com](http://www.citizensofpointwest.com). This will be an informal facilitation with the PowerPoint acting merely as a roadmap for our conversation.



**Amy Nelson** serves as President and CEO of \$103 million Point West Credit Union, headquartered in Portland, OR. The community credit union serves four Oregon counties, with a focus on microenterprise businesses, immigrants and underserved markets.

*During the Great Recession, Amy progressed through several key leadership roles, helping restore the credit union's net worth and creating a strong and revitalized member-owned institution. Navigating those challenging waters as a Co-CEO, she was promoted to CEO in 2014 and has championed a number of transformative milestones since. Point West received its Low Income Designation (LID) from the NCUA, and its Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Certification from the US Treasury. In 2016, Point West was honored as the first 'Juntos Avanzamos' (Together We Stand) credit union in Oregon – a prestigious designation earned through dedicated service to the Latino/Hispanic Community. In 2016-2017, Point West and Amy were recognized by credit unions for four industry awards focused on innovation and service: the Innovation and Impact Award (Northwest); and the CU Heroes, Trailblazer, and Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Awards (National).*

*Amy's service extends beyond Point West. She engages in credit union political advocacy work via the Northwest Credit Union Association, serving on regulatory advocacy and political advocacy committees. At the national level, Amy is a member of the CFPB's Credit Union Advisory Council. Bringing financial literacy to youth is also a passion fulfilled, with service as Board Member and Classroom Educator for Portland-Based financial literacy non-profit, Financial Beginnings.*

*Before starting her career in credit unions, Amy received her B.A. in Journalism and Communication from Pacific University in Forest Grove. Her first credit union job was as an executive assistant for Advantis Credit Union, later specializing in human resources. She received her HR Management Certificate from Linfield College in 2000, and her certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) in 2008.*

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## **Our community reactions to anti-refugee, anti-Muslim executive action**

*From CRPCA President Tom DeMeo (RPCV Ghana 1980-82 and Botswana 1982-84)*

1. Refugees arrive entirely within the law, under the guidance of the UN High Commission for Refugees (HCR) and the US State Department, based on "a well-founded fear of persecution." They are not economic immigrants.
2. It would appear unconstitutional to screen refugees based on religion or national origin.
3. The majority of Syrian refugees coming to the US are women and children fleeing war. It is inhumane to deny them entry.
4. Refugees are already very thoroughly vetted, with extra scrutiny for Syrian refugees.
5. Refugees in the countries affected by the recent executive order include interpreters who have risked their lives and their family members' lives assisting our military. Denying them refugee status now is clearly unfair, and will endanger our military in the future. We have seen multiple statements of support for these refugees by their US military counterparts.
6. The seven countries targeted in the recent order do not include any associated with the 9/11 hijackers.
7. Targeting Muslim-majority countries is an insult to our Muslim allies, such as Jordan, who have taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees and worked on our behalf. It will also endanger their support in the future.
8. Christian refugees in the Middle East have not been discriminated against in the HCR/US refugee program. Significant numbers of Christian refugees from Syrian have been processed, for example.
9. Timothy McVeigh was not a Syrian refugee. Violence is a serious problem in American life, but most of it is caused by the native born.

I personally believe we are a strong, generous nation reaching out to the world in good faith. The recent order reflects fear and ignorance, and is not in our best interest. Let's all work hard to correct this mistake through a peaceful democratic process.

*From CRPCA's spring 2016 potluck speaker Peter Bechtold, who teaches courses on Middle East politics at Portland State University*

1. Our embassy personnel in most countries—Muslim and non-Muslim—have been endangered by this policy. And even those who do not feel endangered will have their work made much more difficult because they lose access and sources.
2. American businesses abroad which are easily identifiable, from KFC to Boeing, will lose customers and may become physical targets as used to happen in Latin America.
3. Loyal host country employees in both above categories will face criticism and more from their relatives and friends and pressure to disassociate from anything US American.
4. Visitors from tourists to PCVs will be less welcome and more harassed/scrutinized.

PS:In the [latest issue of the Guardian](#) is an article about my former colleague Thomas Countryman being summarily dismissed after a 35-year career as a Foreign Service Officer, and now serving in a sensitive senior position, without any replacement to cover nuclear safety issues.

*From CRPCA Secretary Erin Getting (RPCV Ukraine 2003-2005)*

There are many reasons to oppose the recently signed ban on refugees. It is unconstitutional. It is economically inadvisable. It will hurt the United States' ability to fight terrorist threats in actual ways. It damages our relationships with allies around the world. More important than all of those reasons, however, is the simple fact that this ban will be a moral stain on our nation's history and runs counter to the highest ideals of the United States. At its best, the United States of America is an idea. An idea that we have often failed to live up to, but an idea of fairness, equality, and generosity that we strive to improve upon. Now is the time when we the people need to stand up and say we are more humane, open-hearted, and empathetic than this. We are more inclusive than this. We are better than this.

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## **Timbers tickets expected to sell out February 1**

In January CRPCA conducted a Portland Timbers outing game selection survey. Of the games selected, the Timbers still had tickets available for the **Friday, June 2, 2017** 8:00 pm game against the San Jose Earthquakes. We purchased 15 general admission tickets in the Timbers Army section (north endzone). Those who took the survey were offered an opportunity to purchase the tickets on January 31. There will likely be a few unsold tickets as of February 1. Please see <http://www.crpca.org/checkout/> if you're interested, but do not purchase any more tickets than we have available.

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## CRPCA financial report for FY2016

This annual report of CRPCA's finances covers the period from **October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016**. View CRPCA's full, illustrated FY2016 annual report at <http://www.crPCA.org/annual-reports/fy2016-annual-report/>

	Income	Expenses
<b>Membership</b>	<b>\$2,200.00</b>	
<b>Individual/corporate donations</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	
<b>Transfer of assets, Citizens for Global Solutions</b>	<b>\$2,433.19</b>	
<b>Events</b>		
Fundraising Event	\$628.00	
Other member events	\$1,609.16	\$945.00
<b>Events Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,237.16</b>	<b>\$945.00</b>
<b>Grants Disbursed</b>		<b>\$3,500.00</b>
<b>Calendar Sales</b>	<b>\$3,264.00</b>	<b>\$1,528.05</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Website, PO box, etc.		\$428.66
Fees (State of Oregon)		\$50.00
<b>Operating Expense Subtotal</b>		<b>\$478.66</b>
<b>Interest Earned</b>	<b>\$0.25</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,394.60</b>	<b>\$6,451.71</b>

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## CRPCA February to April events

### February 2017

**Friday 2/03 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Salon Francophone** - Columbia River Brewing Company, [1728 NE 40th Ave](#) in Portland. *Après notre dîner, nous aurons l'option de traverser la rue pour le film Akounak Tedalat Taha Tazoughai (21:15) et le concert de Mdou Moctar (23:15). Ces deux événements du [Cascade Festival of African Films](#) sont gratuits, dont il faut faire la queue à l'avance.* The dinner is open to French speakers of all levels.

**Tuesday 2/07, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club** - [1946 SE 22nd Ave](#) in Portland. The book to read is ***Even Silence Has an End: My Six Years of Captivity in the Colombian Jungle*** (2010) by Ingrid Betancourt. Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details. Hosted by Mari Levesque, 503-858-0621.

**Thursday 2/09, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm – Service Event** - Oregon Food Bank, [7900 NE 33rd Dr](#) in Portland. RSVP to president AT crpca.org. Kids at least age 6 welcome with parent.

**Sunday 2/12, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering** - [4609 SE Mitchell St](#) in Portland. Please bring a dish to share to the 6pm potluck dinner. After dinner, starting at 7pm, there will be a program: **Credit Union Services to Underserved Populations**. Point West Credit Union CEO **Amy Nelson** will talk about PWCU's dedication to Oregonians who historically lack access to banking services. Hosted by Cate Wilcox, 503-777-3578.

**Monday 2/13, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede** - Teote Areperia, [1615 SE 12th Ave](#) in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles*.

**Monday 2/20, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night** - Migration Brewing, [2828 NE Glisan St](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a drink and a bite to eat among good company.

**Tuesday 2/21, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Writers Workshop** - [6220 SW Seymour St](#) in Portland. Hosted by Patricia Hoff-Clement. RSVP to 415-306-2453. Bring something to read (memoir, poem, non-fiction) and a snack and drink to share.

**Wednesday 2/22, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Job Search Support Group and welcome to CRPCA** - [Lloyd Center](#) in Portland. This is an informal gathering of RPCVs, CRPCA members and friends who are seeking new networking opportunities and contacts. Meet at 7pm in the Lloyd Center Food Court (3rd floor west end overlooking ice rink); exit the elevator to the left side of the food court and look for a CRPCA sign plate table overlooking the ice rink edge, or call Gordon Young at [206-351-6465](#) for the location as you arrive. Contact Gordon at networking AT crpca.org for more info.

**Monday 2/27, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Peace Corps Week Celebration** - HI Portland Northwest Hostel, [425 NW 18th Ave](#) in Portland, Travel the world through the eyes and experiences of international Volunteers during Peace Corps Week. Enjoy a collection of short films from current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have served around the globe. Socialize and celebrate together! Have your questions answered and talk with local Peace Corps staff about the application process. We will celebrate in the new space at a Portland NW Hostel, with food and beverages. Please feel free to enjoy and share a food from another country, or just something you enjoy! This event is great for Returned Volunteers and for anyone wanting to learn more about Peace Corps service.

## March 2017

**Tuesday 3/07, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club** - [3737 NE Marine Dr](#) in Portland. The book to read is ***China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in Africa*** (2014) by Howard W French. Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details. Hosted by Liz Samuels in a floating home. Someone will be there to let people in the gate from 6:15 to 6:30. Park anywhere in the Rose City Yacht Club parking lot. At 6:30 we will walk together to the venue. Call [503-701-6218](#) if you arrive later. Feel free to bring snacks to share.

**Thursday 3/09, 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm - OPB Fundraiser** - [7140 SW Macadam Ave](#) in Portland  
CRPCA has been invited to participate in the OPB Fundraising Drive. OPB requires that all volunteers participate in a one time separate training offered February 15 & 16. There is a maximum of 8 volunteers for the March date. Please contact Mitch Auerbach at mauerbachso at yahoo.com no later than February 12 to confirm your spot.

**Saturday 3/11, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm - Salon Francophone** - Park Place Cafe, [1288 SE 182nd Ave](#) in Portland. Salon Francophone is a gathering of French speakers. *Tous les niveaux sont bienvenus.* Park Place Cafe serves a delicious variety of crêpes.

**Sunday 3/12, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering** - [4261 SE Alder St](#) in Portland. Program to be announced in February newsletter. Hosted by Anne Kimberly, 503-234-4094.

**Monday 3/13, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede** - Portland Mercado, [7238 SE Foster Rd](#) in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles.*

**Monday 3/27, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Pub Night** - Migration Brewing, [2828 NE Glisan St](#) in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a drink and a bite to eat among good company.

**Wednesday 3/29, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Job Search Support Group and welcome to CRPCA - Lloyd Center** in Portland. This is an informal gathering of RPCVs, CRPCA members and friends who are seeking new networking opportunities and contacts. Meet at 7pm in the Lloyd Center Food Court (3rd floor west end overlooking ice rink); exit the elevator to the left side of the food court and look for a CRPCA sign plate table overlooking the ice rink edge, or call Gordon Young at [206-351-6465](#) for the location as you arrive. Contact Gordon at networking AT crpca.org for more info.

## April 2017

**Thursday 4/06, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Book Club** - [1500 SW Park Ave](#) in Portland. The book to read is *Phobos & Deimos: Two Moons, Two Worlds* (2016) by John Moehl (RPCV Cameroon 1974-1980). **Participating in our discussion—in person—will be John Moehl, the book's author!** On-street parking in downtown Portland is free beginning at 7:00 pm. Upon arrival, call host Carole Beauclerk at 503-780-2722 to be buzzed in, then turn right into the building's lobby and then take an immediate left into the community room. Feel free to bring snacks to share. See our [Book Club page](#) for more details.

**Saturday 4/08, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering** - [2090 NW Overton Ct](#) in Beaverton. Please bring a dish to share to the 6pm potluck dinner. After dinner, starting at 7pm, all are welcome to participate in our business meeting, at which we'll elect our 2017-2018 officers and award up to \$1,500 in grants. Hosted by Lesly Sanocki, 503-690-3391. Note that this particular potluck gathering takes place on a Saturday.

**Tuesday 4/11, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Sí, se puede** - Las Primas, [3971 N Williams Ave, Suite 103](#) in Portland. Practice your Spanish with other RPCVs. *Se aceptan todos los niveles.*

**Tuesday 4/18, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Salon Francophone** - Petite Provence, [1824 NE Alberta St](#) in Portland. Salon Francophone is a gathering of French speakers. *Tous les niveaux sont bienvenus.* Petite Provence serves French cuisine and delicious pastries.

**Monday 4/24, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm - International Development Happy Hour** - Lucky Labrador Tap Room, [1700 N Killingsworth St](#) in Portland. Co-hosted by CRPCA, IRCO, Jubilee Oregon, RESULTS-Portland, and Women's International Leadership and Learning. An informal gathering to share information, resources and network and just plain chat over food and drink.

**Wednesday 4/26, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Job Search Support Group and welcome to CRPCA - [Lloyd Center](#)** in Portland. This is an informal gathering of RPCVs, CRPCA members and friends who are seeking new networking opportunities and contacts. Meet at 7pm in the Lloyd Center Food Court (3rd floor west end overlooking ice rink); exit the elevator to the left side of the food court and look for a CRPCA sign plate table overlooking the ice rink edge, or call Gordon Young at [206-351-6465](tel:206-351-6465) for the location as you arrive. Contact Gordon at networking AT crpca.org for more info.

**Saturday 4/29, morning (times TBA) - 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade** - For the second year in a row, CRPCA will march proudly carrying the flags of our countries of service through Portland's international district. Stay tuned for more information.

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## Summer campouts - save the dates

Each summer CRPCA organizes a Family Campout in our region and the Northwest RPCV groups rotate hosting of the Northwest Regional Campout. Please mark your calendars for the 2017 campouts, and stay tuned for registration info in the spring.

- CRPCA's Family Campout 2017 will be **Friday, June 23 to Sunday, June 25** at Pine Point on Timothy Lake near Mt Hood.
- The 2017 Northwest Regional Campout will be **Friday, July 14 to Sunday, July 16** at South Beach State Park near Newport, Oregon. The organizers this year are the West Cascade Peace Corps Association of Eugene, who will be welcoming the Peace Corps communities of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

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## Cascade Festival of African Films

CRPCA is a longtime sponsor of the [Cascade Festival of African Films](#), a **free** celebration of African cultures in the Third Goal of Peace Corps tradition. Here are some highlights of the 27th annual festival, which happens on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays between February 3 and March 4.

- Opening night (this Friday at Hollywood Theater) will include the local director of a Tuareg remake of [Purple Rain](#) ("rain the color blue with a little red in it") and conclude with a concert by the film's star musician **Mdou Moctar**. CRPCA's French speakers will gather across the street beforehand; see our events calendar above.
- There will be staged readings of African plays on the afternoon of Saturday, February 11.
- This year's Family Film Day will offer a film from Uganda on the afternoon of Saturday, February 25. (Most other films are not intended for pre-teens.)
- Visit the CRPCA table before three of the films (stay tuned to our e-updates for our tabling dates).

Most films will screen at Portland Community College's Cascade campus, Moriarty Arts and Humanities building, at North Killingsworth and Albina. Note that PCC campus parking is now free only on Saturdays. Pay on campus or park off site on Thursdays and Fridays.



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## CRPCA membership report

*by Bill Stein, Membership Coordinator*

On January 31, 2017 CRPCA has 257 members in 221 households, of which 11 members are currently serving PCVs and 71 members are in their free first year.

On January 31, 2016, we had 244 members in 214 households, of which 12 members were currently serving PCVs and 93 members were in their free first year.

In January 2017 we gained 11 new members: Adam Creighton, Beth Essex (Cameroon 1989-1991), Dawn Farr (Chile 1993-1996), Andrea Franke (Nicaragua 2016-2018), Sandra Hahn (Vanuatu 2007-2010), Victoria Knutson (Nicaragua 2007-2009), Hannah Macfarlane (Senegal 2013-2015), Alanna Miel (Ghana 1999-2001), Cathryn Poff (Niger 1990-1993), Valdemar Schultz (Iran 1967-1969), and Colleen Young (Indonesia 2010-2012). Welcome!

In January 2017 the following 18 members renewed: Lauren Brown (Ecuador 1971-1973), Linda Erickson (Liberia 1971-1974), Paul Erickson (Liberia 1971-1974), Jerry Gabay (Malawi 1984-1986), John Gogins (Thailand 1973-1975, Fiji 1975-1977, and South Korea 1977-1978), Corie Hinton (Madagascar 2008-2010), Charles Howard, Gita Howard (Jamaica 1988-1990 and Ecuador 1990-1992), Kristen Jackson (Peru 2012-2015), Gabriella Maertens (Niger 1964-1966), Chuck McConnell (Ukraine 2008-2011), Ann Pfungsten (Peru 1962-1964), Paul Robillard (Peru 1962-1964), Susie Robillard (Peru 1962-1964), Bill Stein (Niger 1990-1993), Jenny Stein, Norman Turrill (Somalia 1967-1969), and Elizabeth Wartluft (Morocco 1988-1990). Thank you!

In January 2017 CRPCA was sorry to say goodbye to 6 members. Of these, 5 had been in their free first year, and 1 was a PCV member who COS-ed but who has not rejoined as an RPCV.

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## February training for OPB Activity in March

*by Mitch Auerbach, Service Coordinator*

OPB is about to launch its spring fundraising drive, and CRPCA has been invited to participate. Please join us on Thursday, March 9 as we repeat our past efforts of a couple of years ago which brought it over \$100,000 for OPB. Please also know that, as of this year, OPB also requires that all volunteers participate in a one-time separate training. Please see OPB's announcement below for more information. We hope to generate an enthusiastic turnout of up to eight CRPCA members.

Reply back to service AT crpca.org no later than February 12. Because of the nature of this fundraising activity, we ask that your commitment to participate be firm, since OPB is counting on us. Thank you and look forward to seeing you there!

### **Application and Training:**

Training sessions will be offered on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 15 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Thursday, February 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

To sign up for training (and be eligible to volunteer for upcoming drives), each person in your group will need to fill out a [volunteer application](#). Please note in the box provided what group you are with and your preferred training date. We'll confirm the receipt of your application and your registration for training.

(Please note: If any of your volunteers have already completed an application and attended a training session after September 2014, they do not need to do so a second time.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [503.293.1939](tel:503.293.1939) or volunteer at [opb.org](http://opb.org).

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## Refugee Resettlement News

*by Tom DeMeo, CRPCA President*

Refugee resettlement was center stage this week with the administration's decision to halt refugee arrivals in the United States for 120 days. On Saturday, January 28 CRPCA members (along with over 3,600 other citizens) attended Sen. Merkeley's Town Hall at Franklin High School. We had intended to speak on behalf of refugees, and drew a ticket to speak, but were not called on before the event ended. Gordon Young did manage to get a brief plug in for the Peace Corps. Comments on national policy can be found elsewhere in this issue.

As for specific CRPCA activities with refugees, Gordon and Baya Young have formed a second refugee mentoring team, including Jeff Davis, Linda Centurion, Ian Ross, and others. With the 120-day hold they will not be able to receive a new family soon, but there is the possibility they may be assigned to a refugee family already arrived in the Portland area, perhaps from Burma (Myanmar).

Our arrived Chinese family, the Lis, are doing well. Serena is working at IRCO (the Immigrant and Refugee Community Center) as an interpreter, and attending ESL classes at Portland Community College. Recently the CRPCA board voted to support Serena's driving lessons at a driving school. CRPCA is matching funds donated by members to cover the cost. The Lis are also contributing \$100 towards the cost of the lessons. They are very grateful for this assistance from CRPCA and its members.

This weekend we had a Lunar New Year's dinner at their home. Lisa prepared a wonderful meal, and there were hong bao (red envelopes with money) for the kids. See photos below.



Lunar New Year (Year of the Rooster) dinner at the Lis. Lisa and Serena Li are flanked by Luke DeMeo and Phyllis Shelton of CRPCA.



Phyllis learns the fine points of making Lisa Li's famous dumplings.

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## CRPCA's new service coordinator

Dear CRPCA members. I am honored to serve as the next CRPCA Service Coordinator. I hope to build on the many successful efforts of previous people who have held this position by continuing with our many fantastic events and also by trying a few new things. We have an active ongoing service program, including helping out at the Oregon Food Bank (usually packing food but also a spring gardening event), assisting at St Andre Bessette meals for the homeless, the Clay Street Table meal for the homeless, doing a Habitat for Humanity build event, staffing an OPB phone bank, and working at the Portland Fruit Tree project, among our many activities. I also would like to explore CRPCA becoming involved with assisting the Portland Mercado, [www.portlandmercado.org](http://www.portlandmercado.org), a non-profit incubator which exists to get local Hispanic businesses up and running. It operates a Mercado style market place on SE Foster Rd, with a number of small Latino owned cafes, shops and other enterprises. The service committee is truly your committee and, therefore, I would like to invite you to help CRPCA to continue giving back to the local community by joining with me on this committee. Whether you would like to take ownership of your own service activity or join others in another project, the possibilities are endless. Thank you, again, for this great opportunity, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Mitch Auerbach

service AT crpca.org