

U.S. PEACE CORPS



PORT VILA, VANUATU

Fifteen Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in Vanuatu on June 11, 2003 to participate in an eleven-week Pre-Service Training program that prepares them for two years of service to Vanuatu starting in August, 2003. They are;

Amanda Russell from Alaska (B.A. in Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising) **Andrew Beltz** from Montana (B.S. in Forest Resource Management),
Eric Tawney from California (B.S. in Civil Engineering),
Jeana Goddard from Iowa (B.S. in Marine Science and Biology),
Jennifer Harris from Arizona (B.S. in Family Studies),
Jeremiah Sawma from New York (B.A. in Biology and Ecology),
Jordan Watson from California (B.S. in Chemistry),
Rika Hayashi from California (B.A. in Biology and Economics),
Luke Drake from North Carolina (B.S. in Business Administration),
Matt Drury from Kentucky (B.A. in Environmental Studies),
Michele Dietrich from Wisconsin (B.S. – School of social Welfare),
Nathaniel Winship from Massachusetts (Masters in Human Services Management),
Nicole Herdina from Minnesota (Master of Science in Recreation Management),
Peter Gingrass from Wisconsin (B.A. in Marketing and Operations management), and
Randall Frink from New Jersey (B.S. in Business Administration).

Group 16A



These fifteen Americans will be working under the Youth, Agriculture, Environment, and Business Project (YAEBP). The Volunteers will work on youth development, small business development, agriculture, and environmental conservation. Youth Volunteers will be assigned to Vanuatu's National Youth Council and non-governmental organizations and communities. Small business Volunteers will work with the Department of Cooperatives and Ni-Vanuatu Business Services, youth and women's groups, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, small businesses and NGOs. Agriculture volunteers will work primarily on the Future

Farmers of Vanuatu (FFV) Initiative, which involves the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Training, and the Ministry of Ni Vanuatu Business' Department of Cooperatives. These Volunteers will be assigned to communities where they will work to enhance food and livelihood security by enhancing the involvement of youth in agriculture. Environmental conservation Volunteers will work with communities, government departments and NGOs. During the course of their service, all Volunteers are also encouraged to actively work on secondary projects with communities and local organizations to help them address their "development" needs.

The first eight days of the training will take place in Port Vila at the new Peace Corps Volunteer Training and Resource Center located in Namba Two. On Thursday 19th June, the Trainees will travel to Epau at North-East Efate to live with host families where they' will continue their training.

Epau Village is the Peace Corps "community based training" site for Year 2003. The Peace Corps' eleven week Pre-Service Training is designed to prepare new Volunteers to communicate effectively in Bislama, relate to Vanuatu's culture, and acquire additional technical skills. Each Volunteer lives with a host family who provide a "real life" experience that compliments Peace Corps formal language and cross-cultural training. This is the first pre-service training this year and the first for Epau village to host Peace Corps' Volunteer training. Previous training sites in North Efate include Emua, Siviri, Saama and Paunangisu.

The fifteen Volunteers will join the 49 Peace Corps Volunteers currently working in communities on sixteen different islands of Vanuatu.

The Peace Corps is a grassroots development organization founded 41 years ago by President John F. Kennedy to promote peace, development and cultural understanding through a people to people assistance program. There are approximately 7,000 Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving in nearly 80 countries around the world. Since the Peace Corps' founding more than 165,000 men and women have joined the Peace Corps and served in 135 countries. Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Vanuatu since 1989.