

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING LEADERSHIP FORUM

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Opening Plenary

9:15 a.m.

Washington, D.C.

**SPEAKERS:**

DAVID CAPRARA  
Brookings Institution

DAPHNE CASEY  
United Nations Volunteers

DESIREE SAYLE  
USA Freedom Corps

KIMBERLY PRIEBE  
World Teach Volunteer

JEFF FLUG  
Millennium Promise

RICHARD BLUM  
Blum Capital Partners, LP

ANNE HAMILTON  
Peace Corps Volunteer

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RONALD TSCHETTER

United States Peace Corps

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. CAPRARA: Good morning and welcome. Is everybody awake?

My name is David Caprara. I'm director of the Brookings International Volunteering Project.

We're very happy you've come here. This feels like a reunion. We had a great kickoff in June to this project with Colin Powell, and a lot of work has been done since we came together.

We're now gathered here on the UN Volunteer Day to launch a very important coalition around international service called the Building Bridges Coalition. We have an exciting number of announcements and actions that will take place throughout the day.

Assembled with us today are America's leading NGOs and faith based international volunteering

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organizations, the Peace Corps, government, the Administration and Congress, trendsetting corporations.

We have a whole group of university leaders, faculty, students, administrators from around the region, and, most importantly, volunteers, fresh from their experiences on the front lines of service from abroad.

This initiative is part of the larger Brookings Global Economy and Development Program, and we're delighted that you could join and give shape to it and give shape to our nation's priority on this important matter of international service and volunteering.

Today's launch builds on each of your efforts in this room. Everyone here has been a building block for this coalition in the last year. We've had a working group that's worked for over two years and is now coming out and coming to bloom in a full set of projects and actions we're taking here today.

I want to credit my predecessor, Lex Rieffel, for his hard work. For Kristie Latulippe -- we have a

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number of current and former Peace Corps Volunteers that are staffing this project out. She is one of them. And the outstanding student volunteers have really helped produced today's event.

Can we give them a round of applause?

(Applause)

MR. CAPRARA: I particularly want to thank their midnight oil.

We invite each of you to be full partners. Everyone in this room today was invited as an owner, your leaders. It's a gathering of leaders in the field of international service, so we thank you.

And we also invite you - I think many of you have; but if you have not, please register your global pledge. If you go to the website for the project - [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu) is our Brookings site - [www.brookings.edu/global/volunteer](http://www.brookings.edu/global/volunteer), you will see a global commitment pledge. And we're launching a three year campaign.

You'll hear about the scaling of volunteerism

throughout the world with American support and also working multilaterally, working on quality, capacity, and impact. And each group is coming to this campaign and its pledge with different types of initiatives. And we hope that you will register creatively your commitment and your ideas for the coming three years.

I now have the honor of introducing a dear friend, collaborator in this cause, who I've worked with for several months now, but come to know and appreciate greatly, Daphne Casey, who is the UN Volunteers Director in New York.

She's chief of the UN mission there for UN volunteers. She hails from Ghana. She has a long history with UNDP at the UN. Most of all, we're thrilled that Daphne and her leadership that flew in from Bonn and met us and gave us ideas about this project could be officially a cohost of today's event.

I remember meeting with our colleague, Robert Lee, from Bonn, and he talked about the importance of things like capacity in different countries and

advising policy systems, as well as fielding the volunteers. He talked about learning. That it's not only about sending, but learning in a reciprocal basis with other countries. And I really wanted to thank Daphne and her colleagues for giving us that perspective.

She joined UNDP in 1979 and served in a range of positions in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Malawi.

Please join me in welcoming Daphne.

(Applause)

MS. CASEY: I'm not as tall as David.

Good morning, colleagues, partners, volunteers.

David, in your introduction, you gave such a long list of very eminent people who are here in this room, and I do apologize that time won't allow me to acknowledge each, but I could at least recognize the presence of the First Lady from Ecuador and to also thank you, David, for the enthusiasm that you brought

to getting this event together.

In my few minutes, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to speak a little bit about IVD through the eyes of three of the leaders of the UN, who are charged with responsibility for promoting and advocating on volunteerism for development. And given that we have a very exciting program ahead, I will use my three minutes and be as brief as possible.

So, since I cannot acknowledge each, allow me to save all courtesies duly observed, and I will address you as distinguished delegates and participants. Thank you.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, fellow participants, on behalf of the executive coordinator of the UN Volunteers, Mr. Ad de Raad, I would like to join David Caprara in extending a warm and cordial welcome to each of you as a participant in today's International Volunteering Leadership Forum.

We in the United Volunteers are honored to be

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with you today, the fifth of December, International Volunteer Day and to have been invited by David and the Brookings Institution to cohost this event. We are very much aware that it is not a mere coincidence that has brought us all together on this particular day to dialogue on the theme of building bridges through international service.

International Volunteer Day is very special because it offers a unique opportunity for governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups, the private sector, and volunteer involving organizations to make visible their contributions at local, national, and international levels and to reflect on their shared efforts in support of common goals.

It is a day for reflection, for acknowledgement, perhaps even for celebration, because as you know, it is seldom that volunteers have a chance to take stock and stand back and applaud themselves, so we must endlessly applaud their efforts.

It was no surprise, therefore, when we

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learned that it was the intention of the organizers to host this event on International Volunteer Day. I would say that it is a fitting tribute to the millions of volunteers world wide that you have dedicated this day to launching a national campaign to double the number of US nationals who choose to volunteer in international service, the first goal of today's forum.

Those responding to this call will join the company of millions who have committed to improving our world by their selfless dedication to service. This theme was picked up in the UN Secretary General's message for IVD 2006. And I quote, "Each day millions of volunteers make a statement that despite everything, despite poverty and hatred, despite apathy and the seeming intractability of some of the challenges we face, people can change the world for the better." Continuing with the Secretary General's statement, "Their efforts make volunteerism one of the most visible and most welcome attributes of global citizenship.

In ways both big and small, volunteers are transforming their communities in our world. And in this era of growing problems with our passports, from HIV AIDS, to trafficking in people and contraband, volunteers are providing grassroots solutions to humanity's most pressing needs," end of quote.

It is a theme that has been repeated in the messages of all of the three leaders in the UN who are directly accountable for the promotion of volunteerism globally. And these are the Secretary General himself, the Administrator of the UN Development Program, which administers the UNV, and to the Executive Coordinator of UNV.

My task this morning, in addition to welcoming you, was to share their various messages. But as you can appreciate, it wouldn't be very nice if I just sat here and read messages. I think it's healthier if you read them yourselves, and also, you're more likely to remember them.

So what I tried to do is to modify this task

a little bit. And instead, I would like to relay parts of their messages for the goals set for today's forum as a way of assuring you, if you will, of the relevance of today's deliberations, and to share with you that your concerns, your challenges, your commitments are very much in the minds of those in the UN who have been trusted with the task of advocacy and promotional volunteerism for development. And that is why I started with a quotation from the Secretary General's message earlier when reflecting on the forum's first goal.

Distinguished delegates, fellow participants, the second goal of today's forum is to initiate discussions around national policy in the area of international service.

In his message, the Executive Coordinator of UNV addresses this specific issue when he noted, again, I quote, "Every single country has facets of volunteerism ingrained in its culture and tradition. It is a tremendous way for people to participate and

make a difference. That is why many national governments are increasingly building volunteer infrastructures and establishing the appropriate legal framework to support volunteerism.

The power of volunteering for development is in its simplicity. While the concept is a very old one, what is new is the idea that volunteerism can and should be kept and challenged and channeled towards meeting current development challenges. It may be ambitious, but so are volunteers," end of quote.

Our experience in UNV has shown as reported to the UN General Assembly in 2005 that there is a growing appreciation of the need to structure and support volunteers in a more professional way leading to a broader acceptance of the notion of fostering systems of volunteer management. However, this kind of facilitation, through policy support for the establishment of human and physical infrastructure requires greater impetus.

A growing number of developing countries are

seeking assistance from UNV for the building of what we call appropriate volunteer infrastructure. And this would include measures such as the establishment of volunteer centers, the provision of seat funding, tax exemption, special leave for volunteering, including volunteer involved in organizations and discussions, as well as integrating volunteer contributions to international plans. Today both developed and developing countries are looking increasingly into the policy requirements for facilitating volunteerism for development.

The third goal of the forum refers to the broadening of corporate volunteer engagement and the development of private sector philanthropic approaches in support of expanding and sustaining international service initiatives.

In the UN, the kind of public/private partnership implicit in this challenge is an important filler of our collaboration with nontraditional partners. Although not specifically touched on in any

of the three messages from either the SG or the UNDP Administrator or the Executive Coordinator of the UNV, nonetheless, my Executive Coordinator's statement which acknowledges the contributions that philanthropy has and can make to supporting development initiatives in line with the UN's peace and development agenda.

Where corporate engagement and volunteering is more publicly addressed is in the earlier mentioned report of the GA, which acknowledges a private sector involvement in volunteering is a growing phenomenon in industrialized countries and is even gaining some momentum in a number of developing ones as well.

I would like to close by reading from the IVD statements by quoting from the UNDP Administrator on a point that runs throughout the messages of all three. And this refers specifically to the millennium development goals with its overarching aim of halving poverty by the year 2015.

And I quote the Administrator, "If we are to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs and stay

true to the promise the world has made to build a better, fairer life for all, we must increase our efforts to put in place the necessary policies and resources to achieve the MDGs. As demonstrated around the world, volunteers have a unique and important role to play as active participants in the developing process.

Volunteers, volunteering organizations, and volunteer networks are important resources that need to be properly recognized as legitimate development partners, harnessing the energies and creativity of millions of people worldwide who want, as volunteers, to make distinctive contributions to development and peace will be critical in the years ahead as we approach the 2015 deadline for realizing the MGDs."

Before I close, fellow participants, allow me to say a few words about international year of volunteers. You many not be aware, but the theme for IVD 2006 is International Year of Volunteer five years on. Now you may be wondering why I left the mentioning



of this theme towards the end. I assure you there is some method here.

But first, let me recall that in November 1997, United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of the Volunteer. That year provided a unique opportunity to highlight the achievements of millions of volunteers worldwide and encouraged more people to engage in volunteer activity.

Since then, the governments, the UN system and civil society organizations have joined volunteers around the world annually to celebrate on the fifth of December. This year is particularly noteworthy as we mark IYV plus five. The overwhelming message from the report that was presented to the general assembly is that IYV helped put volunteerism on national agendas and in the minds of many more people worldwide. In the years since then, progress has been mixed, although encouraging, with wide variations in trends between countries and regions.

The overwhelming message in the five years is that this unevenness in progress needs to be addressed if volunteerism is to realize its full potential for contributing to many of today's global challenges, many of which are captured in the MDGs.

This brings me to my final point of why I left IYV for the last. The IYV had four goals, which are still relevant today and which must inform any concerted action or any set of actions for that matter to mobilize the power of volunteerism. These goals or objectives were: to increase recognition, facilitation, networking, and promotion of volunteering.

By recognition, we were calling on governments and local authorities to ensure mechanisms for involving the voluntary sector in the consultation processes on national issues.

Facilitation looked at the identification of factors that could inhibit or encourage voluntary action. Networking encouraged and promoted information

sharing about lessons and good practices that demonstrate how volunteerism can contribute for economic and social development. And finally promotion sought to bring volunteerism into the mainstream of national plans and strategies.

Distinguished delegates, as we progress through to date, there is no doubt in my mind that you will find that these four goals from IYV 2001 continue to resonate with the issues that you will be discussing and may well inform many of the recommendations from the various discussions.

You can go forward, however knowing that volunteerism has demonstrated its worth. Volunteers have a unique and important role to play as active participants in the development process. And here, I would like to close by giving the last word to Secretary General Kofi Annan in his final IVD message.

As you know, his term of office comes to an end later on this month.

And the final quotation from the SG is, "Our

world has the wealth and division to make poverty history, to end hunger, and to bring about development for all, yet progress has proven to be uneven, both within and between countries. Volunteer efforts can help fill the gap between declarations and delivery and supplement broader national and international efforts to achieve the millennium development goals."

Thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

MR. CAPRARA: Thank you, Daphne. It's now my pleasure to introduce to you Desiree Sayle, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps at the White House. Prior to leading the President's volunteer initiative, Desiree served as Director of First Lady, Laura Bush's Correspondence Office, Special Assistant to the President, and Director of Presidential Correspondence. She also served with great distinction in America's Promise.

Please welcome another great friend and leader in this cause of national and international

service, Desiree Sayle.

MS. SAYLE: Good morning. It's wonderful to be here at Brookings to celebrate, which I think Daphne appropriately said, International Volunteer Day. I'm also honored to be joined by a wide variety of distinguished guests, including the First Lady of Ecuador, Maria Palacio and of course, Senator Harris Wofford, and the Director of the Peace Corps, Ron Tschetter.

I'd like to thank David Caprara. David has been right at the nexus of international service, faith-based initiatives and national service for many years now. And it's a great pleasure to work with him. He's a dear friend of ours at Freedom Corps.

In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush called on all Americans to volunteer, and he created USA Freedom Corps, an office at the White House to strengthen - an office at the White House as a coordinating council across government to strengthen federal policies and help more Americans

answer his call to volunteer.

Here in the states, we know that volunteer service is strong. There are more than 65 million Americans volunteering, which is more than 28 percent of our adult population. Americans by and large understand we have been blessed with certain freedoms.

And with those freedoms come a responsibility to give back, to love and serve our neighbors like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

And our neighbors are not just those in our neighbors, but our neighbors are throughout the world.

Americans serving overseas extend our nation's compassion and prove that American continues to be one of the most generous nations and countries in our history. Take for example the massive US charitable support after the tsunami in Southeast Asia. President Bush asked two of America's most distinguished private citizens, former Presidents Bush and Clinton to work with USA Freedom Corps and lead a nationwide relief effort.

As you might remember, the American government and people opened their hearts and their wallets and provided close to two billion dollars as well as countless hours of volunteer service. This service deeply touched the Indonesian people. The President of Indonesia delivered remarks at the White House after the tsunami.

He said, "America has every reason to be proud for what your government, your heroism, and your volunteers have done for the tsunami victims. But I want you to know what really mattered was that they all came from the heart. What really mattered was that each of you reached, not so much into your pocket as into the new depth of your conscience, compassion, and solidarity.

What really mattered was that you saw the pain of others and tried to help. And with all of our tears and our words and deeds, what we all did together was to prove that the greatest wrath of nature was no match for the greater force that is the human spirit."

Interestingly, our compassion at the tsunami dramatically influenced the perception of Americans by Indonesians. In fact, America's favorability ratings soared upwards of 65 percent on the streets of the world's largest Muslim nation. Through service, we turned around public opinion.

Indeed, there is power in volunteer service. And individual act of kindness can change a life and collective acts of compassion can move the entire conscience of a country. But herein lies the challenge. According to the bureau of labor and statistics, less than half of one percent of the US population is involved in volunteer service abroad. Knowing the potential impact that service abroad has on overall global diplomacy, it is imperative that all the sectors come together to strengthen international volunteer service.

President Bush often says that the true strength of our country is not in our military might but in the hearts and souls of our citizens. To foster



greater service abroad, this administration has increased Peace Corps every year to record levels, a 30 year high in the number of volunteers. And to foster greater public/private partnerships, President Bush launched Volunteers for Prosperity, a unique model that has mobilized 30,000 skilled Americans in service abroad in the last year alone.

VFP, as it is known, is active in over 100 countries across the globe. And most recently, President Bush announced the upcoming White House Malaria Summit. The summit will bring together representatives from all sectors to discuss the treatment and prevention of malaria in the developing world. The President will challenge the non-governmental organizations to join the US Government in combating malaria in 15 nations where the disease is endemic.

And he will challenge Americans to once again respond to his call to service, to volunteer, to build bridges, and to save lives. And as we all know, the

success of this summit, the implementation of these broad goals, will hinge on individual Americans rolling up their sleeves and volunteering their time to get it done.

As I mentioned before, President Bush called on all Americans to live a life of service. And for those who've answered his call, he offers the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award is for outstanding volunteers who dedicate their lives in service to others.

I can't think of a better way to kick off today's event than by taking a few minutes to recognize three outstanding Americans who've given thousands and thousands of hours in international volunteer service than with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

So if you'll indulge me, I'd like to thank the first person, Mr. Archie Wainright. If you'd like to join me?

I'd also like to ask Jack Hawkins, who is the Executive Director of the program that I mentioned

before, Volunteers for Prosperity.

I want to tell you a little bit about Archie's service. In 2005, Archie spent three months in Nicaragua serving with a nonprofit called Partners Worldwide, which is a Volunteer for Prosperity partner.

While there, Archie helped with school construction and the design of tools for the clean out of a deep water well for a cooperative coffee farm. He also participated in the preliminary site planning for a woman owned cooperative textile mill and helped to develop a training plan from a municipal construction inspectors in Mataguay. I hope I said that right.

Archie, it's my great pleasure to honor you with the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award.

(Applause)

MR. WAINRIGHT: Thank you.

MS. SAYLE: It's exciting. The next person I'd like to award is Ms. Anita Freidman. I'd also like to ask the new director of the Peace Corps, Ron Cheddar, to join Anita and me.

I'll read a little bit about Anita as she's making her way up. She's spent over 20 years working as a professional and a volunteer promoting international and domestic social and economic development programs. She currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer at the Washington, D.C. based Latin American Youth Center, a network of youth centers, charter schools, and social enterprises with a shared commitment to helping youth become successful adults with a noble cause. Her career has included overseas and US based assignments in over 30 countries with the Peace Corps, the Inner-American Foundation, Partners of America.

Today, Anita, it is my great pleasure to also award you with the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award.

MS. FREIDMAN: Thank you.

MS. SAYLE: And finally, I'd like to award Ms. Kimberly Priebe. I'd also like to invite our distinguished guests, the First Lady of Ecuador, Maria

Palacio and the Executive Director of World Teach,  
Helen Claire Sievers to join us.

Let me tell you a little bit about Kimberly.

Kimberly recently spent a year teaching English in a community college in Voc a Vamba -- I told them I was going to have problems with that - Ecuador with World Teach. While in Ecuador, she wrote weekly columns for a Chicago area newspaper.

After being outraged to learn her Ecuadorian friend earned only 28 cents an hour and therefore could not afford the \$100 tuition to learn English at the community college, Kimberly challenged the readers of her weekly column to donate in support of English education in Voc a Vamba. Their donations now total over \$10,000 and have established 100 scholarships for local people to attend community college. Kimberly has volunteered approximately 2,300 hours during her lifetime.

Kimberly, it's with great pleasure that I honor you with the President's Volunteer Service Award.

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(Applause)

MS. PRIEBE: Thank you.

MS. SAYLE: Stay right beside me.

MS. PRIEBE: All right.

MS. SAYLE: Kimberly is going to stay up here because she is actually going to share a few remarks about her service abroad, which I am certainly eager to hear. So I'll conclude by again thanking David Caprara for inviting me to speak and each one of you for your willingness to engage, dialogue, and collaborate on an issue of such profound importance.

Thank you, and I hope you have a very worthwhile meeting.

(Applause)

MS. PRIEBE: Hi. I'm thrilled to be here today. And as she said, I'm just going to talk for a moment about my personal experience in Ecuador with World Teach.

One morning last summer I was sitting in Voc a Vamba in my apartment trying to think about an idea

for a column. I'd been in Ecuador for nearly a year and lived in a town with 2,000 people, so I was struggling to come up with something to write about that week.

As I was sitting there, my friend, Maria, knocked on the door. I opened it to find her visibly upset and tears running down her face. She asked if I could - if she could borrow my bicycle to go and look for a job.

She - all year, she had worked at the restaurant where I ate breakfast and lunch everyday, and so I asked her what had happened. She said that the owner of the restaurant asked her to work at night and that her husband wouldn't allow her to walk the three miles home from work in the dark. We talked at length, and I asked her or I suggested that she apply at a hostel that I knew was looking for help. No, she replied, they only hire English-speakers there.

I asked her why she hadn't joined our English program in Voc a Vamba, and she said that she made

about 25 cents an hour, had 2 children, and that her husband didn't work. There was no way that she could afford a \$10 a month tuition to learn English.

Learning English in Voc a Vamba can double or triple a person's salary, so this was a great detriment to her economic position.

In college, I read about, talked about, and been tested on statistics regarding people in half the world's population living on two dollars a day or less, but it didn't - I didn't recognize until that moment in my apartment how real those people are, that now they're my friends.

After she left, I was determined to do something. I wrote my column that week about Maria and asked my readers to send money to help support her English education and education for people like her I Voc a Vamba. I published a goal amount of \$3,000, enough to support 30 people in Voc a Vamba. A few weeks later, World Teach emailed me and congratulated me on raising \$9600 for English education, 96



scholarships for 96 people who can now participate in the program thanks to my readers.

Over the year, I was amazed at the emails and letters that I received from people who read my columns. I come from a place where most people aren't involved in development or developing countries. My emails that I received weren't about where the best hotels in Ecuador were located, where the best beaches were located, but people wanting more information about specific people that I had written about, specific events that I had talked about.

People were genuinely interested in what was happening in Ecuador, and the fact that they had grown to care about my students and friends was demonstrated in their amazing generosity to my scholarship fund. Many scholarship contributions were \$100 exactly, enough to support one student for one year.

In March, the first 20 of the Voc a Vamba scholarships for English study will be awarded to the people of Voc a Vamba. The current volunteers report

great excitement in the town. "If poor people don't have knowledge of English, they cannot get better jobs," says Daisy Reofreyo(?), a Voc a Vamba mother of three who is applying for one of the scholarships. Of course, my friend Maria will also be awarded one of the scholarships.

Throughout my life, I have always admired the brave and creative people around the world who are doing amazing development work. I've also been very intimidated by them, afraid that that work would always be out of my reach. My time in Ecuador taught me that I might not be able to change the world, but that if I try, if anyone tries, we really can make a contribution.

I feel like this is the beginning of what I hope is a lifetime of international public service for me. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. CAPRARA: What a beautiful, moving set of remarks. And I have a confession to make, even though

Brookings is known as the premiere think tank, we believe in the nation's capitol, the ideas for this initiative don't come from the beltway here. They come from Kimberly. They come from people like Helen Claire Sievers and World Teach out of Harvard that developed this impressive one year education program and many others in this room. And we'll hear from that later today when Senator Wofford describes some of our policy ideas. They have come from the grassroots up.

So, thank you. Let's give her another round of applause.

(Applause)

MR. CAPRARA: I would now like to thank Pfizer Corporation for its leadership and generosity, along with Ray Chambers, founder of Millennium Promised Alliance, for serving as sponsors for today's event.

We're pleased to open our plenary session with Millennium Promise CEO, Jeff Flug. For the past few years, Jeff was managing director at JP Morgan's Investment Bank and he prior served as the Managing

Director at Goldman Saks for 12 years.

Jeff and a very dynamic coalition, which includes Jeff Saks and corporations and grassroots, and technicians, and many great doers in the international space are giving critical support to grassroots millennium villages, addressing extreme poverty throughout the continent of Africa. His organization has also played an integral role in the upcoming White House Malaria Summit that Desiree alluded to.

Please welcome a great friend and a key leader in this cause, who I believe will challenge and inspire us all, Jeff Flug.

MR. FLUG: Thank you, David. And I also would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you, David, for really assembling this terrific body of people of here today and this agenda. I'd like to acknowledge our distinguished guests. It's not often you see greatness in the morning, and Archie, Anita, and Kimberly, you really exemplify this greatness of what volunteerism could be. So, I want to just give you one

more round of applause as well.

(Applause)

MR. FLUG: It's truly a privilege for me to be here. I could never have imagined representing Millennium Promise or addressing this group of people one year ago. In fact, I'll share my story with you. A year ago today, I was in the private sector finishing my 18th year on Wall Street. And it was probably around that time where I really started to hear about the Millennium Development Goals and hearing about how one billion people of six billion people survive with under a dollar a day and another billion and a half people survive on under two dollars a day.

So I kind of did the math and I said okay, 43 percent of this planet is surviving or trying to survive on under two dollars a day. As a father of three girls, I just thought that was wrong. And when you think about what Robert Kennedy's comments were about how do you want your legacy to be and how do you want history to judge us, it was time I thought to make

a step and to me, a bold step.

So, I remember coming home, talking to my family, my 10 year-old, 12 year-old, and 14 year-old daughters and saying I was going to make this change from the private sector and go into work with Millennium Promise to really focus on helping end extreme poverty in Africa. My children were so excited for it. They said, you know, it's about time you did something and all this other stuff.

And I said to them, you know, by the way, I'm going to probably have to take almost a volunteer job.

I'm going to take about a 95 percent pay cut to do this. And now the table got all somber and my 10 year-old daughter said to me, well, in all sincerity, she says are we going to have to move. And I said no, we'll be able to stay in our house.

And my middle daughter said am I still going to be able to go to school, and I said yes, you won't have to change schools; that's taken care of. And my eldest daughter who's 14 said to me, well, does that

mean I get to use your Blackberry now, which I said no.

Anyway, it is hard to hear those statistics and not feel moved. And at Millennium Promise, which was - as David said, it was founded by Ray Chambers and Jeffrey Saks about a year ago, September of 2005. It was really building upon the work that the Columbia University's Earth Institute had started.

And they started a project called the Millennium Village Project, which was trying to demonstrate to the world that there is a critical path out of poverty and that if you bring together holistic interventions in agriculture, in water, in education, in malaria, you can together, simultaneously lift communities out of extreme poverty. And you can implement the Millennium Development Goals.

So Columbia University started with 12 sites in 2004. They picked 12 sites within rural Africa. And again, the goal being that they wanted to demonstrate to the world in places that we called hunger spots, where it was virtually impossible to grow

food, we wanted to demonstrate you could actually grow food and have access to water, and introduce some basic medical services and create a school feeding program, and distribute bed nets, so children under five can sleep under a bed net and really reduce the chance of them from contracting malaria. If you do that simultaneously, you could help achieve Millennium Development Goals.

They spent about two and a half years prior trying to cost out that model. And they said for a village of 5,000 people, you can roughly achieve these goals for about \$60 a head per capital. It seems pretty small to us when you think about a life for a year for \$60 a person. And that's what they've done.

So for the first year and a half, Columbia University under the Jeff Saks' leadership at the Earth Institute, implemented 12 villages. We called them 12 research villages in 10 different countries. The countries that we're in today are Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, Ghana, Senegal,



Nigeria, and Mali, and work is underway.

Today, since Millennium Promise has been formed in, as I mentioned September of '05, we're now in 78 villages. And so we scaled up the work from those 12 villages to 78 villages in those same countries, reaching about a half a million people. The results have been extraordinary thus far. It's challenging, but they've been extraordinary.

When you go to a place like Sari, Kenya, our first Millennium Village, and you compare the food yields from year over year, you're getting about a four-fold increase year over year. Because guess what? It's very hard to grow food unless there's nitrogen in the ground. Well, fertilizer provides that nitrogen. So, if farmers cannot afford fertilizer, they have very little chance of growing crop. But if you give them a 50 pound bag of fertilizer, guess what? You start them on their way.

So a lot of our interventions - people ask me all the time, what do you do. Are you giving out cash?

We don't give any - there isn't any money transfers to the villagers. We're not giving any money to the government. What we're trying to do is work with the communities in a very community lead interventions, working with them to provide scientific and technical assistance in both creating bore wells, so children and particularly young girls don't have to walk three or four miles a day to get there daily water. They can walk instead 100 meters and tap into a bore well. That will enable them to go to school.

We created school feeding programs as I mentioned. In virtually all the places that we operate, there is hardly any school attendance because the children themselves had to go out and tend for firewood and water. By introducing, working with the farmers to say in conjunction with getting a 50 pound bag of fertilizer, you're going to donate 10 percent of your harvest to a school feeding program. In fact, in many cases, they actually donate more. Now there's a nutrition hot meal a day at these schools. School

attendance has gone up almost 100 percent in almost every village that we're in. Because if you're a parent and you know your child is going to have a clean glass of water and a safe glass of water and a hot meal, you're going to send your child to school.

So, we're now in our second year of this program. I want to kind of now translate over to volunteerism and what the role is volunteers can play.

I think about three organizations thus far, I'll highlight three, both in the private and public and then I'm also going to turn it specifically to volunteers.

This past year, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Bennett College all got together and they heard about this and they want to do something. And they came to us and they implored a couple of their trustees to say help us sponsor a village. We'll raise the money that's required to sponsor a village, but give us some leadership around this.

So they just announced the first sponsorship of a village in Kenya at three universities and they're going to create an internship program so they can see firsthand how world development, how world poverty in Africa is transforming itself for their students. And so, that to me, is a great sign of leadership and it was completely driven by the students at those universities.

Another example is two companies, Careerbuilder.com and Spinmaster, they had heard about this. Both CEOs wanted to get involved and make a statement for their employees. They felt as a corporate leader, their culture would be enhanced by getting involved in something completely unrelated to their line of business, that their community and their culture would be improved upon by sponsoring a village in Africa and getting their employees to partake in that process as well.

We had volunteers last summer and about a dozen volunteers who really contributed in a very

meaningful way. When I talk about our initiatives, whether it be agriculture, whether it be in water, whether it be in healthcare, whether it be in internet connectivity, whether it be in business enterprise or micro finance, there's so many areas and aspects that need to be addressed in these villages.

And, you know, when I think about the role that these volunteers have played, everything from technical assistance to training people in the villages, it made an enormous impact. And quite honestly, I don't think we would have gotten or seen the results that we did unless those volunteers were in place.

Millennium Promise, because of that, became very excited about the results and we're now partnering with Volunteers for Prosperity. It was great to meet Jack and now we've become an official - we have an official contact. We want to be on their system and part of their organization so people can access through VFP.

So, if there's going to be a call to action, I can't think of a greater call than what Kimberly described today, but just to try to augment that is when you see how you can transform thousands of lives by just volunteering and getting involved, I can't think of a more enriching way to spend your time and thoughts.

So, when I think about - I'll leave you with a famous line of Nelson Mandela because I really think it holds true today when he said, "Thank you for choosing to care." Caring is a choice. You can ignore the fact that 43 percent of the people on this planet live on under 2 dollars a day or you can get involved.

So, please get involved. Thank you, David.

MR. CAPRARA: Thank you, Jeff. I see Dr. Sherraden and we have a partnership with Washington University measuring impact. And this kind of real impact in the villages is what this Brookings project is all about. We look for and I see Dr. Lenaghan. I know you've worked with the President in Dominican

Republic for Miami Dade College. Service of Peace, Dr. Charles Phillips, who brought the MDGs down to the real impact level in the Dominican Republic and we want to see many other such models flourish off the support of this initiative.

Thank you, again. Let's give Jeff one other round of applause for that impact that they're making.

(Applause)

MR. CAPRARA: I'm now pleased to introduce Richard Blum, a Brookings trustee and founding benefactor of this International Volunteering Initiative. Dick is founder and chairman of Blum Capital and the American Himalaya Foundation and Honorary Counsel for the Kingdoms of Nepal and Mongolia.

He is a close friend and collaborator with the Dali Lama on humanitarian projects in the Himalayan region, along with President Jimmy Carter at the Carter Center in Atlanta. This year Dick endowed another great project, the Blum Poverty Center at UC Berkeley,

which we plan through this initiative to collaborate with through the university service consortium being launched today with the leadership of Bob Pastor at American University and many of our great colleges and universities throughout this region, Miami Dade College, Washington University, and around the country.

Immediately following Mr. Blum, you will an introduction to the final speaker in this morning's plenary and testimonial to the Peace Corps by Ann Hamilton, a grad student in the School of International Service at American. Ann volunteered with the Peace Corps in Thailand from 2003 until the current year.

But first, please join me in welcoming Dick Blum.

MR. BLUM: Thank you, David, for organizing this. And well, let me start off by saying I'm another one of those private equity guys that, I guess, saw the light, but since I'm older than you, I saw it before you - at least I think. Anyhow, I really like, Jeff, what you had to say and I enjoyed meeting with Ray



Chambers, and I think you guys are off to a great start.

Well, let me go back a little bit in history if I may. The whole concept of having Brookings take an interest in global poverty really started with the discussion I had with Strobe Talbot, who is president of Brookings and Lael Bernard, who has run the program, about five years ago. And a key part of it was really the Peace Corps and volunteerism. Well, why did we want to do this?

I went to places like Nepal and Afghanistan as a climber back in the late sixties, early seventies, and I guess it was the first night out in my first trip to Nepal. I stayed in a Tibetan refugee camp and these little kids sat on your lap, spoke to you in English. This was a remote camp. They were either born in Tibet and carried over the mountains or were born there. And so I was kind of a goner on day one as far as that was concerned.

And so over the years, thanks to a number of

people including Hemanta Mishra, who you'll hear from later, who is - works for - part-time for the American Himalayan Foundation, works for my private foundation, and helps coordinate or connect the dots between Berkeley and Brookings and Carter and whatever else. And Hemanta has been in the last two months to Bhutan; he's been to Mongolia; he's going to Mali in January; and he came back last night from Argentina, and I have no idea why he was there.

But, in any event, today the American Himalayan Foundation, in a way, you can look at it as a big volunteer group. It has 170 projects throughout the Himalayan region. We started with Sir Edmund Hillary and the Sherpa. And if any of you have trekked in Nepal and you've had a Sherpa go with you, you know the main reason they do that and climb mountains is because they want to educate their children.

And we've seen over the period of - well, in my case, almost 40 years now, just what the benefit has been. We've even had people who were porters 20 years

ago and they had no shoes, carrying loads up and down the mountains without education for a dollar or 2 dollars a day, their children go on to receive MD degrees in the United States. They become pilots. They become foresters. There's no question that a little money for education can make a huge difference.

One of our programs now encompasses 3,000 young women from western Nepal that we have in school. These young women, by and large, would have been in the brothels of Bombay if it wasn't for a young doctor by the name of Runa Upreti, who we found six, seven years ago and had 25 young women that she was trying to save and by March, we'll have 3500.

And these girls came basically from the very poorest part of a very poor country. They came from an untouchable caste by and large and their graduation rate from high school is double that of the nation. We were in Katmandu about a month and a half ago, had lunch with - now that it's been going long enough - about 50 of them who are now in college. And because

that number will grow astronomically, we will expect to have 400 to 500 of them in college next - in the next 24 months.

I think it's fair to say that most of these girls wouldn't be alive today because just the indignity of lining up in a place like Bombay, the fact is it's a death sentence because 90 percent of the young women that go there wind up being HIV positive within 2 years.

We've taken places like Mustang - maybe some of you know where it is; most of you probably don't and that's okay. But it's a remote part of Nepal that the Nepalese government basically left alone. It was the last of the Tibetan Kingdoms, Western Tibetan Kingdoms, and it wasn't devastated by the Chinese simply because of a war 300 years ago that it wound up being in Nepal.

And one of the things we have done there and elsewhere, which I think really applies almost anywhere in the world and we're going to start this thing - program in Mali, is building daycare centers, which in

effect are preschools. And you can run these very effectively. By the way, these young women that we have in the high school probably don't cost us more than about \$150 a year per capita.

Often, in rural economies, you have women in the fields with young children. And part of the issue is to keep them out of harm's way. We found one village up in Mustang where a river ran through it. The village only has 250 people in it. The year before we built a daycare center, five of them had drowned in the river. Women thought it was evil spirits. Evil spirits have left the children alone since the daycare center was there.

Because what you simply do is you have one daycare provider. You have - which doesn't cost you a lot of money to find some good enough building with a schoolyard. You can put in some chairs and a blackboard. And we find with these little children that they learn to socialize. They learn sanitation. You know, you show them toothbrushes, they often go

home and show their parents how to use them. They get one good meal a day, which is so important in so many of these places.

And at 14,000 feet in a village called Charang in Mustang, we saw 5 and 6 year-olds learning three scripts at one time, three very different scripts, English, Tibetan, and Nepalese. So, just as we heard from Kimberly, there are a lot of opportunities to really be on the ground and get things done for very little money. And I think this is where volunteerism comes in.

One of our goals that Strobe and Lael and I had from the very beginning was to revitalize the Peace Corps. When Jack Kennedy was president, I think the Peace Corps went from 7,000 - Harris Wofford would know these numbers, and thank you for being here, Harris. I think it one time went up to 15,000 and then it's back to 7,000. But I think thanks to the current administration's effort that it's starting to go back up again. But Kennedy's goal in his lifetime if he had

served two terms was to have the Peace Corps at 100,000 volunteers. You know, I think budget constraints are not going to allow us to get there, so they have corporations that are willing to step in and fill this gap, I think is very important.

What we learned in the last meeting was that it's really inexpensive to do this. Volunteers - I think to send a Peace Corps volunteer overseas for a year - and Ron, tell me if I'm wrong - I think it's about \$35,000. The equivalent to the Peace Corps in places like the UK and elsewhere in Holland and Germany is somewhat less than that. It's probably, you know, maybe \$5,000-\$10,000 less. But whether it's \$25,000 or \$35,000 and you all know the stories, that it can just make a huge difference.

And the other thing that I would suggest that we found in having these meetings before is particularly with the sort of official Peace Corps types, is you'd often find that you'd have two or three of them working in the same country and never talk to

each other. And everybody thought that that was kind of dumb. So, one thing I would do is encourage if you're working in a country to find out who else has volunteers that are there and figure out how you can work together.

And I'll conclude by just telling you about one story. In about the mid-1970's, I went climbing in a remote part of Afghanistan, a place called Nuristan in the northeast, along the Pakistan border. If you ever saw the movie, The Man Who Would Be King, it was really about what was then called Kafiristan(?) or the Land of the Infidels and then the Muslims took it over.

It became called Nuristan, the Land of the Enlightened. I'm not quite sure. But in any event, if you saw the movie - know one thing, it wasn't filmed there. But it's Sean Connery and it's a good story.

But the key story I want to tell is that a couple of us were walking through a village and somebody came up and grabbed me by the shirt and yelled at me rather excitedly. And I said, what is he saying?



He said, "We heard Americans were coming through the village." He said, "We've never met Americans before. We love Americans. Please come sit down and have tea with us."

At that time, there were Peace Corps kids all over Afghanistan. There were decent AID projects and you know, we can only surmise that if that had continued and continued to grow, then maybe the Taliban and Al-Qaeda never would have been there.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. HAMILTON: Distinguished guests, it's truly an honor to be here. I have been back in the United States since February and still very fresh my Peace Corps experience of three years in Thailand and hearing Kimberly's story, for instance, really helps me to remember a lot of the images from my rural life there.

In August of 2003, I landed in Bangkok with 21 other Americans to usher in a new community based

organizational development project for Peace Corps Thailand. After two years, our lives were altered in ways we had not anticipated. I joined the Peace Corps in response to the diplomatic chasm I perceived between my country and other nations.

My strong sense of patriotism and my equally strong belief in my own abilities lead me to research ways through which I could know and engage communities vastly different from my own in language, religious tradition, and culture. I strongly believe that only through such intellectual and emotional exercise can we as Americans be effective leaders on the world's stage.

Peace Corps is one of the few opportunities to work as a grassroots diplomat at the local level. As the elected chairwoman of the Global Initiative Group, I spearheaded the first US Aid Funded Peace Corps Thailand Gender and Development Conference. This initiative consisted of culturally sensitive sessions on breast cancer, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, gender, and HIV/AIDS. This is ongoing two years later.

I also organized workshops which educated farmers on the benefits of traditional Thai organic farming methods. Later we were recognized by district leaders as the subdistrict with the highest number of organic farmers. Building on this, my counterpart, myself, and community leaders successfully applied for Peace Corps partnership funds to construct the first community agricultural technology center.

As a Master's candidate at American School of International Service at AU, I employ these cross cultural and leadership skills as founder and president of the Council on Middle East Studies, as a member of the Dialogue Development Group and the International Women's Group. My research interest is comparative democracy studies with a focus on Middle Eastern regimes, and this summer, I will intern in Haifa, Israel for Mosawa(?) Center, an NGO that works to promote equality for Arab citizens. Last year or next year, I will apply for a Borin(?) Fellowship to intensively study Arabic while researching my Master's

thesis.

Peace Corps revolutionized my --the way I see myself, my country, and the world. When I meet American University seniors considering Peace Corps service, the usual concern is the required time spent overseas, which is two years. I emphasize the strength of will a volunteer must develop to get through the discouraging moments and the relationships hard won through a sustained presence and an ongoing open mind.

Such abilities are vital for relations between people worldwide.

Ron Tschetter is the 17th director of the Peace Corps and only the 3rd director in Peace Corps history to have served as a volunteer. He was nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the US Senate on September 13. Growing up in South Dakota, Director Tschetter acquired that spirit of helping others, which lead him and his wife, Nancy to become Peace Corps volunteers in India in 1966. They served as community health workers.

Upon their return from India, Mr. Tschetter worked in the financial securities industry for more than 30 years, gaining strong management and leadership skills through his distinguished career. Director Tschetter is an active public servant and has received numerous awards for leadership and community service. Notably, he served as chairman of the National Peace Corps Association.

Among other roles, he has served on the New York Stock Exchange's Regional Firms Advisory Committee and the Securities Industry Association Sales and Marketing Committee. He's served as the chairman of the board of trustees of Bethel College and Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota and as chairman of the board of Daystar US, an affiliate of Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya. Director Cheddar holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Social Studies from Bethel University.

Please join me in welcoming Peace Corps Director, Ron Tschetter.

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(Applause)

MR. Tschetter: Thank you, Ann, for that wonderful introduction. And I was sitting here thinking, what else can I say about volunteerism after all that's been said already. It's really a pleasure to be here, to see the recognition that Archie and Anita and Kimberly have received. Congratulations again. Much deserved and you're great models for all of us in various ways to contribute and to volunteer in your skill sets.

Jeff and Dick, it's a pleasure to share the (off mike) with you. I don't know how three guys from the financial service industry can all end up speaking one right after the other. There's something behind this. I'm not sure what it is.

SPEAKER: (Off mike)

MR. Tschetter: I think so. I was going to say that. I'm glad you said it. Well, we're getting - we're working through that; are we not? Well, it is indeed an honor to be a part of it. I can tell you

that. And I want to thank the Brookings Institution for the work that you've done to put this program together. It's awesome. And I can see potential great results and great benefits coming from the various NGOs, faith-based organizations, governmental, and in other organizations in pulling on the same work quite frankly.

And Madame First Lady, it's an honor to have you in the audience. The Peace Corps' activities in Ecuador go back to 1962, very early in our history. And I think we've had over 5,000 volunteers serve in your country. We've had - today, I think we have around 150 as we speak here. So it's an honor to be a part of what we're trying to accomplish in the interest of poverty and improving lifestyles and improving living conditions for people in your country, as well as, the Peace Corps is doing in about 75 other countries at this current time.

Right now we have 7,800 volunteers approximately. It changes daily as you can imagine.

But it is a 30 year high and we're working hard to continue that growth. And we do have exactly the challenges that Dick alluded to. If you can help me figure out how to get more money, we can produce more volunteers. I can assure you of that.

This, as Ann mentioned, started in Nancy and my life many years ago. We became volunteers in India in 1966, went to a remote village in Maharatz Kerstate.

And it was a life changing experience for us. We've had the opportunity to go back to India five times since then. We've gone to our village at least three of those times. It's amazing. I don't know if all that progress that we observed there we had anything to do with, but it's amazing to see what's been happening in even a small village like Bhorì.

We still have friends there. And it's just terrific to - we're making plans to go back again actually to see our friends. Every time we go, we say well, this will probably be the last time, but when we get on the airplane to come home, we say well, we're



coming back; in about five years, we'll be back. And that kind of goes on and on and on.

But it's just one of those life's experiences when you work and live at the grassroots level. And you have a task - we were community health volunteers.

But you know, we did many other things as well, including everyday, building relationships and that's one of the goals of the Peace Corps is to take an understanding of who we are as Americans to the countries that we're serving in. And you do that over the - in the tea stalls drinking tea. We had endless, endless, endless cups of Indian tea every morning as a matter of fact about three times on the way to the primary health center and many other ways as well.

We've had the honor and the privilege to attend just about every type of wedding that India could produce. And that, in and of itself, warranted a book, which I haven't gotten around to write yet. But it's just one of those rich experiences that's life-changing. It's been full circle for Nancy and myself.

Little did I think that I was going to be receiving a call from the White House to ask if I would consider being director of the Peace Corps. It took me about 30 seconds to decide, by the way. The financial services industry was wonderful. I took only a 75 percent pay cut, Jeff.

But anyway, it's an honor to be a part of what we're trying to accomplish here. And, I look at this opportunity and this challenge as - it's humbling, but it certainly is honoring to be able to serve in this very, very unique way.

I have stayed in touch. I worked closely with the National Peace Corps Association primarily through the decade of the nineties. It's good to see Kevin Quigley here, the current president of that association. And through that, I was involved with a variety of Peace Corps activities but never thinking that it would lead to be the director. I can tell you that. But it certainly is an honor for Nancy and myself to be serving in this way.

I've been asked several times what's going to be your legacy. What are the initiatives you, as director of the Peace Corps, are going to do. I've been saying and still I'm saying it's a little early. Give me two to three months to kind of figure this all out. I'm two and a half months into it now, so very soon I have to come out, right? And we're making plans to do that.

But I will tell you that in an early news conference somewhere along the way, I mentioned the fact that I thought the baby boomer generation was ripe for volunteerism in general, and the Peace Corps should be one of those options. When you think about the wealth of experience, there's about 75 million Americans born '46 to '54 that are now starting to retire. They've been in every profession imaginable. They're well educated. They have good retirement benefits for the most part. And they have a desire to serve.

And so that's an initiative that I thought we

would launch into. We're working on that, and I'd encourage all of you to think about how do you attract that group. They have a wealth of experience, certainly expertise, and they could take a lot to the needs that we've been hearing about here this morning and bring a lot back, which is another thing that the Peace Corps is so intent on doing.

Our third goal is to bring back to America an understanding of what the people are like in the various countries we serve in, what are the impacts of the culture, and you know, all of those aspects, bringing the world back home. The Peace Corps does an okay job of that. I think we can do better. And that's another initiative that we're certainly going to work on. But we are looking to attract the baby boomers.

We have about 6 percent of the volunteers today are over 50 already. So it's not something that we haven't done. But I think it should be larger than that. Not to replace the bright, young energetic

people right out of the colleges and universities, that will always be our core attraction, always be. But just think if we can add six, seven, eight percent of the baby boomers to it. I just think that mix will make a difference in both directions with regards to what we're doing. And I encourage you all to think about that as we move forward.

Many of you are probably familiar with our Master's International Program. This allows individuals to serve in the Peace Corps and work on their Master's degree in conjunction with that. Right now we have more than 50 institutions and colleges and universities in America that are using that program. And it's been very successful. We have about 500 students currently that are in that program.

The success of this has led us to look at other options, and just last month, I was in Saint Paul, Minnesota and I announced something called the Baccalaureate Program in partnership with Metropolitan State University of Minnesota. This program will let

students who have finished their community college degree, which is two years, okay, to join the Peace Corps. And as a part of that Peace Corps experience, they will receive some credits towards their Bachelor's degree. I think that this is a gem that will have a great impact on what we do and what you can possibly do in the world of volunteerism.

It's complex as these things can be, but Metropolitan State has done a wonderful job. And they've been working on this for about a year and a half, so it was not my brainchild. I was just the one that was able to take all the credit. But programs such as that, I think will make a difference for volunteerism.

I think appealing to college students is something that we always have to work on. And we certainly do that through a number of different recruiting efforts. And I know that many of your organizations do that as well.

Right now the Peace Corps operates in 15

predominantly Muslim countries. Over 20 percent of our volunteers are serving in those types of posts. I had the privilege - I just returned from Morocco and Jordan two weeks ago. I had the - it was just an awesome trip. In Jordan, I had the privilege of meeting with King Abdula and Queen Reni. They love the Peace Corps. They are so appreciative of the work we're doing with the youth in their country.

We're working with physically disadvantaged young people. We're working with of different natures. We're working with small business development. And they've encouraged us to not just be there, but to be there more. And those are initiatives in places that we would love to serve more in and will do.

I met with a young lady by the name of Jessica from Michigan. Jessica works at a school for special needs children. The minute we arrived, we could tell the impact that she was having in that community. There was warmth. There was love. There was understanding. And we were so welcomed. We were

given a big traditional feast of Jordan called Mancef(?). If some of you have ever had that, it's wild. I'll tell you that.

In Morocco, I met with a young lady, Tia, from Louisiana and Nam from California, both doing phenomenal work with youth programs and small business development. Tia is African-American. Nam is Asian-American. These two volunteers are really dispelling myths that folks overseas have about Americans. Their presence in Morocco is changing the perception of America in that country in a very, very unique way.

Peace Corps volunteers model behavior and the young people they serve in these villages take notice of that behavior. They make friends. And we saw that in spades in many different environments. And real change can occur from this. Many of these countries don't have volunteerism as a part of their make-up, as a part of their ilk. They are seeing this, observing this in our volunteers and the types of volunteers you send abroad as well. I think that will make a



difference in those countries as well.

It's kind of interesting as I speak with other fellow volunteer sending organizations, some of that has been eluded to here this morning already, such as the German development service and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, both of which we have actually signed memorandums of agreement with and memorandums of understanding with. And all of these are - this is quite new.

These organizations have gone to more of a development model than a volunteer model, but they're beginning to see the benefits of close involvement within their respective communities and are doing that more so than ever.

Now, in these various nations - as these various nations evaluate their volunteer programs, I think they see a bit of a difference working at the grassroots level as opposed to from up above.

I've said many times that for the US taxpayer, the Peace Corps cost - you're pretty close

there on that dollar amount, by the way - is the best bang for the tax dollar that exists in America.

Volunteers are passionate. They work for virtually nothing other than some living expenses. They do it for two years, plus three years of training.

And they're richly rewarded. Their lives are changed as it has been alluded to here by many of us. But they also leave something behind. Helping to build friendships, create opportunities for others, promote healthier longer living, sanitary conditions, you know, whatever it might be and helping to show the world who we really are as people, as Americans.

Ladies and gentlemen, building lasting peace and friendship around the world is what we have to do.

And as I said, we have about 7,800 volunteers doing that today. There's 24/7 as I see it. They don't just have a job. They are there living, breathing 24/7, sharing who we are what we do.

I know that everyone can't make a two year commitment. That's one of the hurdles with the baby

boomers by the way. They have grandchildren back home. They have travel needs, you know, and so on and so forth. We'll solve those issues as we work through this problem.

But I also realize that the Peace Corps is not the only way. Forums such as this are so important. I think we're on to something here, all of us. I think the interest and the need to serve by Americans is deeper and broader today than it probably has ever been. So I encourage all of us to take our initiatives and work in teams in partnership but also independently to make it work, to make a difference.

And we heard about the leverage of the dollar. You know, \$100 for a year's tuition, and those numbers resonate on and on. And we have a showcase of choices present here today. So I encourage all of you to work hard to accomplish the tasks that we have in front of us.

Increasing US volunteers in international service is a worthy and noble goal, a critically

important goal. It'll make a difference and have a significant impact for world peace, towards understanding, towards friendship, and ultimately towards peace. All ingredients that our world is in need of are here doing what we are doing here today.

So, I applaud you for pulling together all of these various initiatives. I applaud you for the emphasis for the importance and I thank you for the opportunity to share just one other way of doing it.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MR. CAPRARA: Thank you, Ron, for your outstanding leadership and partnership that's expanding our nation's service opportunities. We heard this morning two questions. One question that Ron gave at the beginning was how to get the money. Senator Wofford is going to lead us in a discussion at 2:00 today as we begin to discuss increasing national commitment to this issue.

We have US Senator Coleman from Minnesota.

We have former Peace Corps Congressman Sam Far. We have former Peace Corps Congressman Walsh from New York. We've met with Senator Obama's team. I know, Jeff, your team brought Senator Obama into the Millennium Villages and educated him.

And we are seeing post-election in a divided government, perhaps the opportunity for a unique and uncanny bipartisanship across party lines around an agenda that will be further answered at 3:00 by the Building Bridges Coalition. They will be advocating and going to bat for many of these ideas. And also, in our election day, let us not forget the critical role as Bobby Kennedy taught us of the private sector. We have 25 leading corporations and foundation leaders here today who will join with us at lunch to begin to look at and plot the proper role for corporate engagement in this initiative.

We heard another question today or challenge from Dick Blum who mentioned President Kennedy's original vision of 100,000 in service. And it is

beginning to strike back upward with this Administration's commitment. That too will be answered by the policy workings of this group.

We noted in our earlier research by Lex Rieffel, 50,000 volunteers serving not only in Peace Corps and the corporate programs and NGOs represented and researched by - real programs that were assessed as a far even larger universe than that. But we have 50,000 real programs and volunteers and we surveyed them and then put on the website a global pledge commitment. And they have already achieved or exceeded that as a goal over the next three years to get to that 100,000.

So the ladies and gentlemen in this room, thank you for being part of this fabric of NGO, faith-based, corporate, and government working together to put that vision forward in a very aggressive way in this new century.

At this point, I'd like to invite yet another former Peace Corps member, our project coordinator,

Kristie Latulippe, who has done such a great job. Hemanta from American Himalayan Foundation enjoyed meeting her and hearing stories about her work in Nepal.

Please welcome her. She will give us instructions for the rest of the morning. While Kristie is coming, I'd like to invite the podium, if we could give them one more round of applause for their speeches.

MS. LATULIPPE: As the panel departs, I would like to direct you to the working session segment of the forum. If you turn to the second page of your agenda, you will see six distinct working sessions and their corresponding meeting rooms. For example, the corporate engagement session will gather corporate participants in the Stein Room on the second floor.

Some of you have been assigned certain working sessions and if you haven't been assigned one, please feel free to choose the working session that interests you the most. A map is also provided in the

folder that you've received.

If you have any questions about where to go or where that room is, there are signs throughout the building labeled each working session and there's also Brookings staff available to answer any questions if you have them.

Thank you very much.

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