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**50 Years of Peace Corps: A Photographic Exhibition
Opens at Latino Cultural Center March 10, 2011**

Dallas (February 16, 2011) – In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, the North Texas Peace Corps Association and the Latino Cultural Center are pleased to present *50 Years of Peace Corps: A Photographic Exhibition*. The exhibition opens on March 10, 2011 and will be on view through April 29, 2011. An opening reception with the photographers is scheduled for March 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Over 35 former Peace Corps volunteers from North Texas and beyond have submitted photographs representing 26 countries from Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa and Eastern Europe. These compelling images represent life overseas as experienced by volunteers from the early 1960s to the present. The photographs were selected for the exhibition to represent everyday life and cultural diversity as well as artistic merit.

In 1961 President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship. Since then, over 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. The Peace Corps' mission has three simple goals:

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

This exhibition fulfills the third goal of the Peace Corps through the sharing of photographs and narratives documenting the experiences of the volunteers in 26 countries.

"We are thankful to the North Texas Peace Corps Association and the volunteers for sharing their images and memories of their service in the Peace Corps," said María Muñoz-Blanco, Dallas' Director of Cultural Affairs. "This compelling exhibition honors their commitment to service as well as the places and people they encountered in their journey."

In conjunction with the exhibition, the LCC will screen the documentary *Niger '66* directed by Judy Irola. The documentary is a homage to the young men and women who as volunteers in the Peace Corps went to Niger in 1966. In present-day interviews, they reflect upon the work they did and how living in Africa for two years changed their lives. In 2008, five of the volunteers returned to Niger to witness how their work

influenced the people there. The film will be screened on Thursday, March 10 @ 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 12 @ 3 p.m.; and Thursday, April 21 @ 7 p.m.

50 Years of Peace Corps: A Photographic Exhibition is made possible with the support of the City of Dallas through the Office of Cultural Affairs; North Texas Peace Corps Association; Texas Commission on the Arts; BBVA Compass and the Friends of the LCC.

The Latino Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The mission of the Latino Cultural Center is to serve as a catalyst for the preservation, development and promotion of Latino arts and culture in Dallas.

The **North Texas Peace Corps Association** is a group of former volunteers who undertake community service projects, host social gatherings, and raise funds to support the Peace Corps partnership program.

LCC hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and evenings for performing arts events. For additional information please call (214) 671-0045 or visit our web site at www.dallasculture.org/latinocc.

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