

# Friends of Guinea

## 2016 Activity Report

2016 was a productive year for Friends of Guinea (FOG). Much planning and paperwork was accomplished by its leadership team to make headway in its application for 501c3 status. FOG is very happy to report it is now an officially licensed non-profit in Washington, D.C., and IRS approval of its 501c3 status is anticipated by the end of 2017.

For the second year, FOG was represented at the Peace Corps Connect Conference in September. During the conference, FOG was very proud to be a recipient of the NPCA Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service, for its leadership -- along with the Friends of Liberia and Friends of Sierra Leone -- in funding and operating the Ebola Relief Fund in 2014. FOG framed its award and gifted it to Peace Corps Guinea in Conakry, as a symbol of solidarity and gratitude.

2016 was also a milestone year for Peace Corps Guinea, which saw the return of dozens of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) in-country, after the 2014 evacuation due to the Ebola outbreak. To ensure its communication with PCVs as well as all friends of Guinea, FOG continues to publish a strong quarterly newsletter. This publication features topics about Guinea including environmental concerns and projects, the status of female genital mutilation (FGM), current events, updates from the Peace Corps office in Conakry, and much more.

FOG is represented on social media via LinkedIn, Twitter, a blog, and Facebook. For the latter, FOG has revamped its Facebook presence to allow for improved dialogue. In addition, FOG gave its website an update with fresh photos and content. Indeed, FOG recently published its bylaws and posted them to its website.

FOG happy hours were conducted in Washington, D.C. and Denver to give regional FOG members an opportunity to connect in person and raise funds for FOG-supported projects.

With approval of its 501c3 status on the horizon, and a small-grant application process being established, FOG is poised for growth and greater impact in Guinea.

Prepared by Teresa Pope, Friends of Guinea, June 15, 2017