Friends of Guinea

2017 Activity Report

In 2017 Friends of Guinea (FOG) made significant progress in formalizing its organization. Having been incorporated in 2016, FOG worked diligently throughout 2017 on the application process for 501c3 status. FOG is happy to report that this status was approved by the IRS in early 2018.

For the 3rd year in a row, a FOG representative attended the Peace Corps Connect Conference. This has been a valuable networking and educational opportunity for FOG. This year it was held in Denver, and FOG also sponsored a happy hour fundraiser there during the conference. A similar happy hour fundraiser was also organized by FOG in New York City later in the year.

FOG was proud to support Hope of Guinea’s STEAM Camp in Conakry in July not only with a financial contribution, but also with the volunteer efforts of one of our officers onsite. The camp was a joint effort between 4 Hope of Guinea staff members, 10 Peace Corps Volunteers, 15 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and 5 Guinean teachers. Fun and engaging experiments/activities in the areas of math, chemistry, biology, physics, and art were conducted. Thirty-two students in grades 7 – 9 were able to take advantage of this camp, with over half of them female. FOG’s officer onsite, Hannah Koeppl, noted that “the sense of curiosity, wonder, and pure potential was electric.”

Much progress was made in 2017 in growing FOG’s advocacy infrastructure by creating a small-grant application. Indeed, FOG plans to launch the process for this small-grant application in 2018. Peace Corps Volunteers and charitable organizations in Guinea will be able to apply for assistance from FOG in a thorough, streamlined manner via our website.

To date, FOG’s membership totals 255 individuals. FOG experienced significant growth in its membership in 2017. Indeed, its total membership has nearly doubled within the last 3 years! FOG maintains its communication efforts with its members via its social media presence, regular publication of its newsletter, and continuous improvements of its information-rich website.

With a growing membership, full 501c3 status, and the upcoming launch of its new small-grant application process, FOG is ready for additional growth and impact in Guinea.

Prepared by Teresa Pope, Friends of Guinea, April 20, 2018