

# registered nurses

in the  
**Peace Corps**





## REGISTERED NURSES IN THE PEACE CORPS

*"I feel as though I have accomplished more in the few months I have been here than in all the time I was a nurse at home."*

As she spoke, Priscilla Bauguess locked up her meager supply of drugs and looked around to make sure everything else was in place. The morning's last patient was gone and the small clinic with its earthen floor was empty. Before lunch she had one house call to make. She stepped outside into the dazzling morning sunlight and disappeared up the street.

Priscilla is a 28-year-old nurse from Muscatine, Iowa. She runs an outpatients clinic in Coroico, a market town in the Bolivian Andes. She is one

of 600 nurses who are serving or have served in the Peace Corps.

Before arriving in Coroico, Priscilla helped stem a yellow fever epidemic in eastern Bolivia. In two weeks the red-headed nurse inoculated nearly 4,000 people as she rode a mule from village to village along slippery, muddy roads. At one point her transportation was a balsa canoe on a jungle river.

Priscilla's Peace Corps experience is typical of some, but by no means all, of the Volunteer nurses who are now at work in 21 countries on three continents. For example, six out of every ten Peace Corps nurses are engaged in ward supervision and/or teaching of professional and practical nurses and nursing auxiliaries in urban institutions.

The nursing skills you can bring to the Peace Corps are in critically short supply in the young nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America. In those countries requesting Volunteers, the shortage of nurses is so acute that none has more than one per 10,000 people. By contrast, there are 24 nurses per 10,000 people in the United States. There are more nurses in some of our large hospitals than in some entire Asian countries.

Every year smallpox, malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery and a host of other debilitating diseases make unnecessary inroads on the populations of the developing world.

Human life will go on being squandered on a colossal scale and the fight to raise standards of health on a world-wide basis will not be won until Panama, Ethiopia and India, to name but three of the countries seeking your services, have the doctors and nurses and hospital beds and medicines their people need. As a Volunteer nurse you can play a small but crucial part in this struggle.

The range of work being done by Peace Corps nurses is wide. Consider, for example, these Volunteers.

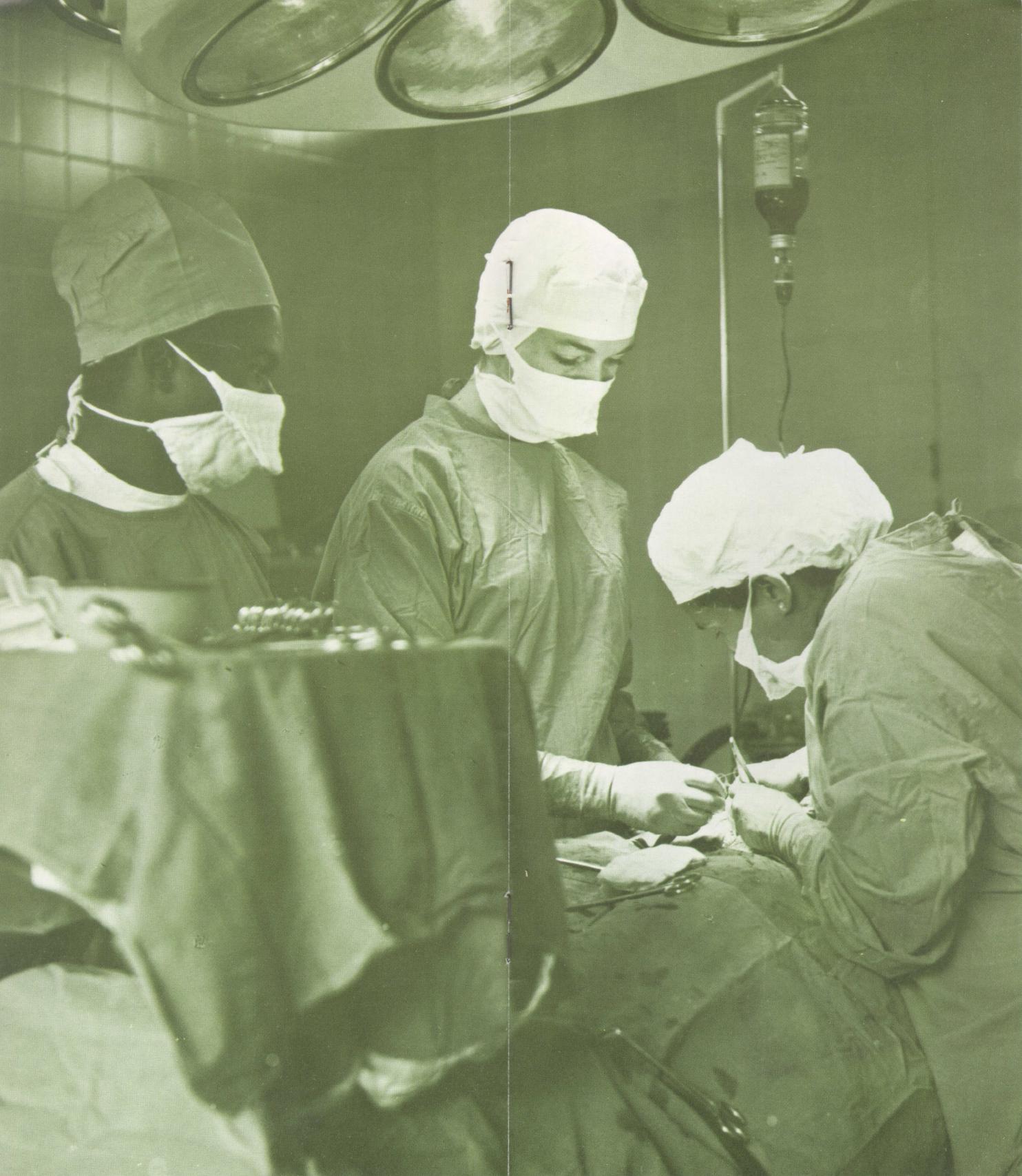
Jewell Peterson, of Stanton, Iowa, helps train auxiliary nurses in Dajabon, Dominican Republic. When the six-month course is finished in Dajabon she will repeat it in another town.

Margaret Gallen, of Philadelphia, is part of a German, Bulgarian, Yugoslavian, Scotch, Tunisian and American medical team at a WHO clinic for children on the outskirts of Tunis, the capital of Tunisia.

Susanne Van Wyke, of Denver, is a "clinical instructor" on the staff of Jinnah Memorial Hospital, in Karachi, West Pakistan, where she teaches student nurses in the classroom as well as through ward demonstrations.

Mary McLaughlin, of Minneapolis, is a provincial health nurse in the Ethiopian province of Tigre, where she makes her rounds over dirt roads in a Land Rover visiting outlying first aid stations.







Ellen Agenbroad, of Dayton, Ohio, is taking part in a rural health program in the East Pakistan city of Comilla. She helps train women inspectors who go into surrounding villages to teach the rudiments of nutrition and maternal and child care to mothers.

Louise Gegenbach, of Bristol, Conn., is helping to improve the care given patients at the Central Mental Hospital, Malaysia's largest hospital located in the town of Rambutan.

Volunteer nurses range in age from 21 to 69 and vary in experience from the new graduate to those who have retired.

The oldest Volunteer nurse is Merry C. Harber, 69, of Los Angeles. She is introducing health education classes into the secondary schools of Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanzania. Mary W. Duncan, of Monticello, N.Y., who is 67, teaches public health nursing to male nurses in Trabzon on the Black Sea coast of Turkey.

Every field of nursing is represented in the Peace Corps. Two-thirds are graduates of diploma programs, and nearly a third of baccalaureate programs. A small percentage holds master's degrees. Nurses with specialized training in operating room techniques, anesthesia, public health, pediatrics, midwifery, industrial nursing, psychiatric care and physical therapy *can* find a place in the Peace Corps to put their skills to good use.

Nurses, like other Volunteers, use their free time to become involved in such extra-curricular projects as vegetable gardens, recreation programs, classes in first aid, sewing classes, adult literacy classes, and radio programs on health subjects, to name but a few. The list of opportunities is endlessly varied.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Who may apply for registered nurse assignments: Any Registered Professional Nurse or Student Nurse in her last year of nursing school, regardless of age, who is a U.S. citizen may apply



for service as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Volunteers must be in excellent physical and mental health.

Note: Nurses will not be assigned to an overseas position until they are licensed to practice in one of the states. However, newly graduated nurses who have taken the licensing exam may be allowed to enter the Peace Corps training program prior to receiving a license to practice. In these cases, assignment overseas following the training program would not be made until the Volunteers receive licenses.

The newly graduated nurse or senior nursing student should indicate a date following the licensing exam as the date of availability for Peace Corps service.

## PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER REGISTERED NURSES ARE SERVING IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES

<b>LATIN AMERICA</b>	<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>NEAR EAST— SOUTH EAST &amp; SOUTH WEST ASIA</b>
Bolivia	Tanzania	West Pakistan
Brazil	Togo	Afghanistan
Chile	Ethiopia	Malaya
Honduras	Tunisia	Sabah
Jamaica	Niger	Sarawak
St. Lucia		India
Peru		Turkey
Colombia		
El Salvador		
Costa Rica		
Panama		
Dominican Republic		

Additional registered nurses are needed **now** for new projects in **these** and **other** countries

## TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit. Good health is a necessary prerequisite but Peace Corps physical standards are flexible.
- Married couples with no dependents under 18 are encouraged to apply. Both must, however, qualify as Volunteers. They will be assigned to the same project.
- You do not have to know a foreign language.
- Don't be deterred because you think you lack necessary skills. Many people tend to underestimate their capabilities.
- Submit a Peace Corps Volunteer application. Submission of an application in no way obligates you. Your final decision will come at the time you are invited to train.
- Take the Peace Corps Placement Test. There is no passing or failing grade. It is a tool to aid the Peace Corps in evaluating your capabilities.

**YOU WILL TRAIN . . .** At an American college or university. Perhaps half of your normal 10 to 12-week training period will be concentrated on the language of the country in which you will serve. Modern laboratory techniques will give you a working fluency in one of 42 different languages, from Amharic to Swahili.

**A NORMAL TOUR . . .** Including training, will last from 24 to 27 months. If you choose, you may extend your service up to one year, or re-enroll for another two years in the same, or a different country.

**YOU WILL BE PAID . . .** An allowance to cover food, clothing, housing and incidentals. Medical care and transportation are provided by Peace Corps. For the duration of your service, you accumulate a readjustment allowance of \$75 monthly. You may allot from this allowance in some instances. The allowance is subject to U.S. taxes only.

**MILITARY OBLIGATION . . .** Is not satisfied by Peace Corps service. However, Volunteers are deferred for the duration of their assignments.

**TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION . . .** Request one from Peace Corps, Washington, D. C. 20525; from the Peace Corps Liaison Officer on your college or university campus; from your Civil Service Commission Office; or from your local post office.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE:**

**Peace Corps**  
**Washington, D.C. 20525**

**ATTN: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**