

**Statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
of Carolyn Hessler Radelet  
Nominee for Deputy Director of the Peace Corps  
Thursday, March 11, 2010**

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am deeply honored to appear before you to seek your confirmation of my nomination by President Obama to serve as the Deputy Director of Peace Corps. I am grateful to the President and Peace Corps Director Williams for placing their trust and confidence in me by nominating me to serve in this important role.

I cannot think of a greater honor than to be asked to serve my country through the Peace Corps – an agency that spreads hope, fights poverty and nurtures peace around the world. In many ways, I have been preparing for this position my whole life, for Peace Corps is in my DNA. When my husband and I became Peace Corps Volunteers in 1981 in Western Samoa, we became the first three generation Peace Corps family. We followed in the footsteps of my aunt, Ginny Kirkwood, who served in Turkey in the early sixties, and my grandmother, Ruth Pearsall, who served in Malaysia after she retired in the early seventies. I believe my grandmother, now nearly 99, is the oldest living Returned Peace Corps Volunteer today. She had hoped to be able to attend this hearing, but her health does not permit it. And in December, my nephew, Jimmy Schneidewind, completed his Peace Corps service in Mozambique – so we are now a four generation Peace Corps family.

I am especially proud to be here today with my husband, Steve Radelet, who has made tremendous contributions to the field of economic development and US foreign assistance, and my children, Meghan and Sam. I am also very pleased to have my parents, Pat and Hugh Hessler, and my aunt, Ginny Kirkwood, here in attendance today.

Our Peace Corps volunteer experience transformed our lives. It shaped our passion for international development and defined our careers. As Volunteers, my husband Steve and I taught nearly every subject at an all-girls Catholic high school in rural Western Samoa from 1981-1983. Peace Corps was the beginning of my public health career. I worked on a secondary project with the Samoa Red Cross, helping develop and run a national public awareness campaign on disaster preparedness Samoa is prone to hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Sadly, my Peace Corps training village, Saleapaga, was completely destroyed in the Samoan tsunami last October.

After Peace Corps, I returned to Boston, where I worked for two years as the Public Affairs Manager for the Peace Corps recruitment office in New England. There I had the great privilege of helping to plan the agency's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We're now coming up on the 50<sup>th</sup>, and, if confirmed, I look forward to active engagement in activities to both commemorate and plan strategically for the future of Peace Corps.

From there, in the mid eighties, my family and I moved to The Gambia, where I started Special Olympics -- another Shriver legacy -- a program that is still very active today. I also worked at

the Gambia Family Planning Association, teaching traditional birth attendants about a new disease wreaking havoc in Africa – HIV/AIDS. Together we developed non-literate counseling materials to help them teach their clients about how to prevent HIV infection and where to go for help if they were exposed.

In 1989, I completed my Master's in Health Policy and Planning at the Harvard School of Public Health -- a choice shaped by my Peace Corps experience and a desire to work more closely with underserved communities. It was there that I met Joel Lamstein, President of John Snow, Inc., one of America's premier public health organizations. JSI's mission is to improve the delivery of health services to underserved people in the US and around the world. I began working with JSI as a graduate student, and have been with them for the past 20 years. I worked my way up through the ranks, beginning as an intern and a project coordinator, later serving as a technical advisor and country director in Indonesia – and eventually became Vice President and Director of JSI's Office in the Washington DC area.

For the past 15 years, I have been responsible for overseeing JSI's global programs, with offices in 45 countries around the world, and nearly 850 staff persons – 330 here in the DC area and an additional 520 mostly host country staff overseas. In this role, I work with others to lead JSI's international strategic planning, communications, program development, monitoring and evaluation initiatives to continually improve the management and quality of our work. I have helped to develop and implement health, safety and security polices to protect our staff, and have managed our share of the emergencies that go hand in hand with working in some of the most remote areas in the world.

My technical expertise is in public health, and HIV/AIDS in particular, but I have assisted in managing integrated programs that address other sectoral needs as well, including environment, education, agriculture, democracy and governance and private sector development.

If confirmed to be Peace Corps Deputy Director, it will be the realization of a life's dream. If confirmed, I pledge my commitment to working with Director Williams to carry out his vision of an effective, innovative and revitalized Peace Corps -- one that will make a difference in the lives of Americans and host country citizens alike.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and members of this Committee, thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination. If I am confirmed, I look forward to working with you to ensure that Peace Corps continues to represent America's generosity and legacy of service abroad.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

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