

University of New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository

UNH International Educator Newsletter

Global Education Center

Spring 2013

Spring 2013, Florence Reed Honored by U.S. Peace Corps Recipient of the 2012 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service

Center for International Education

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholars.unh.edu/international_news

Recommended Citation

Center for International Education, "Spring 2013, Florence Reed Honored by U.S. Peace Corps Recipient of the 2012 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service" (2013). *International Educator: the Newsletter of the UNH Global Engagement Editorial Board*. 155.

https://scholars.unh.edu/international_news/155

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Global Education Center at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in UNH International Educator Newsletter by an authorized administrator of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact Scholarly.Communication@unh.edu.



University of
New Hampshire

International Educator

[current issue](#)

[archive](#)

[Search](#)

The Newsletter of UNH Global Engagement

Spring 2013

FLORENCE REED HONORED BY U.S. PEACE CORPS *RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 SARGENT SHRIVER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN SERVICE*

[Back to index page](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Center for International
Education Home](#)



Every year the National Peace Corps Association presents The Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service. The award was named to recognize the tremendous contributions of the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, in the founding and development of the Peace Corps. The Shriver Award is given to a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who continues to make a sustained and distinguished contribution to humanitarian causes at home or abroad or is an innovative social entrepreneur whose actions will bring about significant long-term change.

This year's recipient is Florence Reed (International Affairs / Environmental Conservation '90), a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama in the early 90s, for her work in Sustainable Harvest International, a non-profit she founded to help farmers in Latin America make the transition to sustainable farming practices. In her speech accepting the award, Reed reflected, "I have always felt that choosing to join the Peace corps and then serving as a volunteer is an outstanding way to

separate yourself from the chaff and become the wheat that feeds the soul of this country."

Her focus on sustainable farming began early on. At UNH as an International Affairs and Environmental Conservation student, Reed studied abroad in Australia and Guatemala and "came to love the incredible biodiversity and everything else about the world's tropical forests." She was devastated to learn how fast these forests were being chopped or burned down. In Panama, later as a Peace Corps volunteer agroforestry agent, she saw how slash and burn agriculture impoverishes the land and the people who work it, resulting in systemic clearing to keep up with topsoil erosion. She knew farmers were looking for alternatives to this practice, and upon leaving the Peace Corps, founded Sustainable Harvest International, to offer them a permanent solution to this dilemma, and to create a movement for change worldwide. To date, Sustainable Harvest International has helped more than 1,500 families to become self-sufficient stewards of the environment and trainers of more families. They have also planted more than three million trees and converted nearly 20,000 acres of degraded land to sustainable farms thus protecting 100,000 acres of tropical forest from slash and burn.

Reed has received many awards and accolades since her Durham undergraduate days, including the Yves Rocher Women of the

Earth Award and an honorary degree from UNH, in 2011. Recently she returned to campus to engage students on her work and passion for change. When asked what advice she had for today's students, she offered, "...[N]ever let the fact that something seems impossible stop you from doing it. ... [N]o matter how local your work and the rest of your life may be, don't forget the impact that your actions in your own hometown can have on the rest of the world, and vice versa."

To read more about the Shriver award, including Reed's acceptance speech, visit
<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2012/07/2012-shriver-award-winner-florence-reed/>.

Copyright © 2015, [Center for International Education](#) • The University of New Hampshire
223 Hood House • 89 Main Street • Durham, NH 03824
tel: 603-862-2398 • fax: 603-862-0169
study.abroad@unh.edu • international.affairs@unh.edu