

# Employees Keep Mail Moving for Peace Corps

By Michael Olsen and Jim Pimpedly

With some 7,000 volunteers in more than 60 countries, the Peace Corps faces a huge logistical challenge shipping supplies from the United States to all corners of the world. The agency depends on contracted logistics support from Didlake, Inc., to do this efficiently and reliably.

The Peace Corps has been working with Didlake, and, by all accounts, it has been a highly successful relationship. Jim Pimpedly, Chief of Administrative Services for the Peace Corps, said the AbilityOne® Program provides some of the most dedicated employees he has ever seen. He recently gave a special shout-out to two Didlake employees – both of whom are overcoming significant disabilities – who he says exemplify the organization’s work ethic.

“Every day I am inspired by the passion and commitment that Didlake employees such as Ben King and James Carpenter bring to the office on a consistent basis. We depend on Ben, James, and their colleagues to accomplish our mission, and we

are grateful for their service and professionalism,” Jim said.

Ben and James’ dedication and comradery have been staples of Peace Corps operations for years. Ben, a shipping clerk, verifies and accepts shipments of medical supplies for overseas posts. James, a central receiving clerk, inspects incoming packages for damage and accurate labeling before delivering them to agency staff. Both play an important role to ensure supplies are accurately processed for shipment across the globe.

## **BEN KING** ***A Passion for Public Service***

Ben has been working as a shipping clerk in the Peace Corps’ Post Logistics & Support Division since 2007. Not only does he perform his job well, Ben inspires those around him with his

positive attitude and determination to not let his disabilities stand between him and success.

Reflecting back before his work with the Peace Corps, Ben credits his positive attitude to experiences as a participant in the Special Olympics. Ben said that despite his muscular difficulties, he competed in downhill slalom skiing, volleyball, and half-court basketball. Ben appreciated the Special Olympics’ focus on effort over winning, and says this has given him the confidence to try new things whatever the potential challenges. Ben looks forward to coaching in the



Ben King, a Didlake employee, ships critical medical supplies for the Peace Corps worldwide.



James Carpenter, a Didlake employee, manages the flow of the Peace Corps ever-busy mailroom.

Special Olympics one day soon. During his time at the Peace Corps, Ben said he has enjoyed working with a supportive team of colleagues. "The work and responsibilities I have at Peace Corps have given me strong self-esteem," Ben said. He noted that working with the agency also helped him pursue a passion for public service.

In 2010, Ben was invited to attend the SourceAmerica® Grassroots Advocacy program. There, he met with members of Congress and their aides to discuss the positive impact AbilityOne has made on his life. Ben hopes to build

on that experience by finding ways to help younger adults with disabilities realize the potential employment opportunities the AbilityOne Program provides.

**JAMES CARPENTER**  
***Sports Fan and Team Player***

James is quick to tell anyone how much he has enjoyed working at Peace Corps headquarters for the past 14 years. He started in 2000 as a meter clerk, managing the flow of mail for five years before becoming a central receiving clerk. James said that working in a busy mailroom

has taught him how to better communicate with colleagues and work on a team. He especially enjoys communicating with people from different cultures by phone and email, as well as in person.

James is also an avid sports enthusiast. He played football in high school and is a proud fan of the Oakland Raiders and the Los Angeles Lakers. With his sports knowledge, James has found it easy to make friends in the workplace by discussing his favorite pastimes. ■