

2024-2025

SUMMARY

IMPACT THROUGH ACTION

DEDICATED TO SERVING COMMUNITIES WITH COMPASSION, ACTION,
AND LASTING IMPACT

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THANK YOU!

Our Journey of Service and Gratitude

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are PJ and Neda Jahangiri, a couple deeply committed to supporting our community in Tropoje, Albania. Our journey began in 2019 when we joined the Peace Corps with a shared desire to make a positive difference. Even after the Peace Corps had to leave due to COVID-19, our commitment to this mission remained strong, and we've been fortunate to return to Tropoje every year since. With the help of our own resources and the generosity of kind-hearted donors and partners, we've been able to keep working to improve the lives of those in our community.

What truly drives us is the joy of serving and working alongside such wonderful people. We are deeply grateful to our partners and donors who have made it possible to bring lasting hope and support to Tropoje. Together, we've built stronger foundations, offered new opportunities, and created positive change. We feel incredibly blessed to be part of this journey and humbled by the chance to make a difference, one step at a time.



Honorary Citizens of Tropoje

**Committed to
lasting
impact and
community
growth in
Tropoje**



Summer Camp 2021

Service Commitment

3 Months Pre-Service Training

Language, culture, and technical training

Sector Training

2 years of Service

Community Integration

*"We felt a deeper calling:
to give back"*

Our Peace Corps Story...

For 35 years, we built a successful real estate business, living the American dream as immigrants. The U.S. had given us opportunity, stability, and success—but as retirement approached, we felt a deeper calling: to give back.

After a lengthy application process, we received our Peace Corps invitation to serve in Albania—a country of resilience and potential. From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with warmth, and we saw firsthand the power of education, mentorship, and opportunity in shaping young lives.

We were assigned to Tropoje, a region tucked in the rugged beauty of Albania's north, often overlooked but rich in tradition, resilience, and pride. Despite facing economic challenges and limited resources, the people of Tropoje stood out for their strength of character, generosity, and unwavering sense of community.

Serving in Albania wasn't just about giving back; it's about completing a circle—honoring our own journey by helping others create theirs. The people here have given us more than we ever expected: purpose, friendship, and the reminder that true success lies in service.

Service Impact

HEALTH EDUCATION VOLUNTEER

Neda taught health education, organized workshops, and promoted healthy habits, empowering students to make informed choices.

KEY ENGAGMENTS

- **Empowered Young Girls:** Founded a GLOW Club (Girls Leading Our World) to mentor and inspire young women through leadership, education, and community service.
- **Health Advocacy & Collaboration:** Partnered with the local public health department and hospital to promote health education and wellness initiatives.
- **Community Development:** Worked alongside her husband on projects improving local infrastructure, education, and economic opportunities.



Neda During Lesson Plan

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

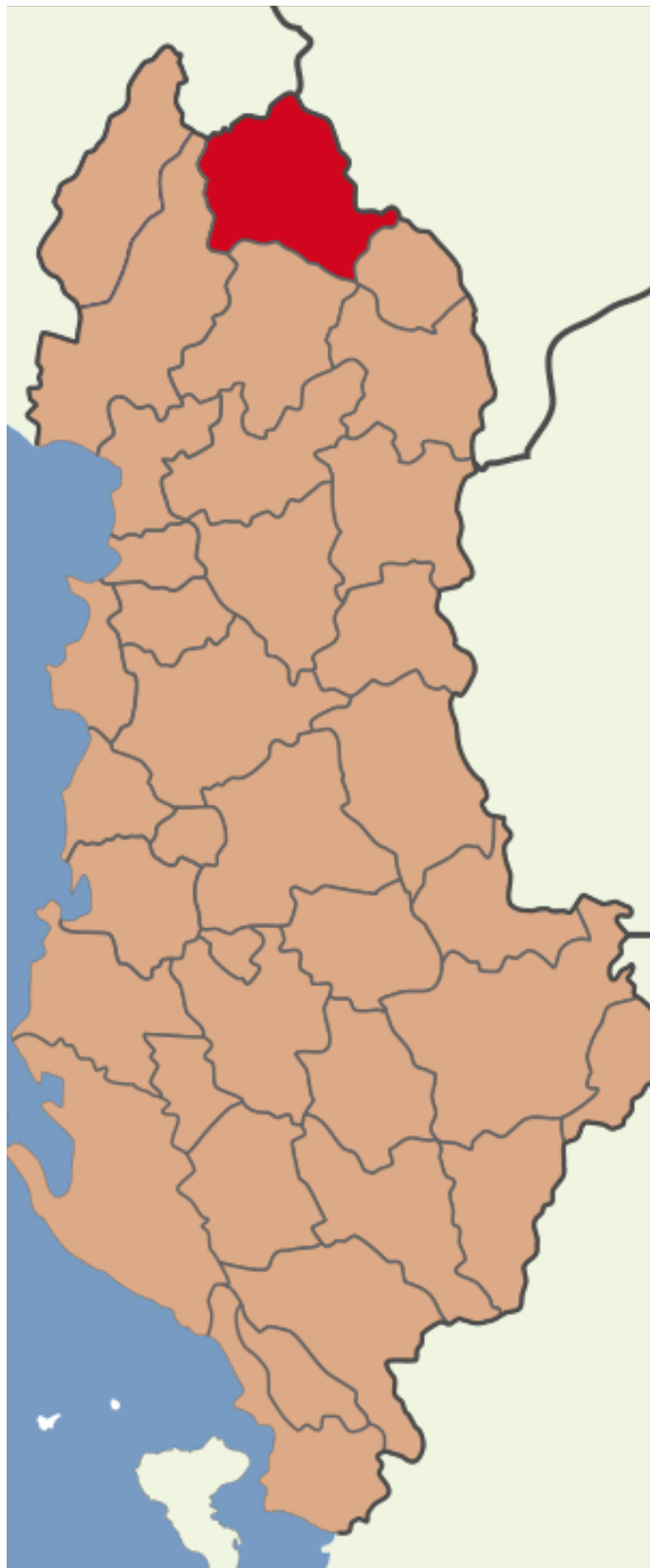
PJ supported multiple NGOs and the municipality, strengthening leadership, improving operations, and developing sustainable community projects in youth empowerment, education, and economic growth.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS

- **Municipality & EU Desk:** Support local development and EU integration.
- **Mary Ward Loreto Foundation:** Advocating for women's empowerment and anti-trafficking initiatives.
- **Youth & Education:** Enhances leadership and career opportunities.
- **Economic Development:** Promoted entrepreneurship and sustainable job growth in youth and tourism sectors



PJ at Service Project



TROPOJE, ALBANIA

Tropoje Region

The District of Tropoje is part of the Kukesi Region in Northeastern Albania. It borders Montenegro (North) and Kosovo (East). Tropoje County consists of 8 administrative units, with the seat of the government located in the city of Bajram Curri. The district of Tropoje is Albania's second largest territory, about 1050 square km. Bajram Curri is around 262 km away from the capital of Albania (Tirana). Tropoje is mountainous, and most of the territory comprises high mountains. Tropoje has a population of approximately 20,000 (while declining rapidly), with about 75% of the population living in rural areas.

Economic Conditions

Though the area is rich in natural resources, limited investments and a lack of hope have forced many people to migrate toward the capital city or foreign countries. Unemployment remains around **35%, especially among youth**, and the most significant income for local families comes from emigration and economic assistance. The state of Kukës has the lowest Gross Domestic Product in the country. Tropoje remains the most underdeveloped area in Albania.

Community Outreach



District of Tropojë

Administrative Units

- Bajram Curri
- Bujan
- Bytyç
- Fierzë
- Lekbibaj
- Llugaj
- Margegaj
- Tropojë e Vjeter

OUR PRIORITIES

At the heart of our work in Tropoje is a deep commitment to empowering youth, fostering thriving communities, and creating lasting change. We focus on underprivileged communities, providing opportunities in education, healthcare, and economic growth to break down barriers and build a brighter future for all.

01

Youth Empowerment

We focus on providing opportunities for young people through programs like the annual Summer Camp, GLOW, Scouts, mentoring, career counseling, and workshops. These initiatives aim to develop leadership, build skills, and guide youth toward sustainable futures.

02

Educational Support

Through the generous support of our donors, we've enhanced education in Tropoje by providing digital literacy training, computer supplies, and bridging the digital divide for rural students. We've also improved school infrastructure, including upgrading running water and rehabilitating classrooms, creating a better learning environment for all.

03

Health and Well-being

We support the health and well-being of the community by supporting medical equipment donations to hospitals and rural clinics alongside infrastructure improvements. These efforts help improve healthcare access and conditions in Tropoje.

04

Economic Development

Through initiatives like Digital Roots, we focus on reducing unemployment and stemming outward migration by equipping youth with skills in digital content creation, marketing, and other key areas. By training youth in essential skills, we empower them to build sustainable careers, contributing to the economic growth and prosperity of the community.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The Heart of Community Growth and Collaboration



Summer Camp 2024

The youth of Tropoje possess the passion, strength, and vision to lead positive change in their community and Albania. By empowering them through development programs and leadership opportunities, they, in turn, inspire their families and community to grow and thrive together.

For over 5 years, our Summer Camp has served as the cornerstone of this youth development effort, offering 150-200 underprivileged children the chance to access transformative education and social engagement each year. Local community volunteers and educators now run the camp.

The camp's success has catalyzed a broader range of youth initiatives, including the GLOW Club and Scouts groups, which focus on leadership, personal development, and community service. These programs are built on the foundation of strong volunteerism, with both local and international volunteers contributing their time and expertise to create a lasting impact.

Through volunteerism and service-based projects, we've created a network of young leaders who are committed to uplifting their communities. Volunteers from around the world have come to Tropoje, fostering cross-cultural exchanges and strengthening the collective drive for positive change. Together, we are not only building a brighter future for youth but also inspiring them to give back through meaningful community service initiatives.

By prioritizing youth development, we are nurturing the next generation of leaders who will continue to shape Tropoje's future. The success of the Summer Camp and its related programs has proven that with the right resources, mentorship, and opportunities, youth can become powerful agents of change, bringing their vision to life for the betterment of their community.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

GLOW Club

Neda started Girls Leading Our World to empower young girls in Tropoje through leadership development, mentorship, and community service. The club provides a supportive space for girls to grow, learn, and build confidence while positively impacting their community.



Scouts

The Scouts program was created to include younger kids and boys. It focuses on developing leadership skills, teamwork, and outdoor knowledge. Through hands-on experiences and community service, Scouts engage in activities like camping, hiking, and environmental education, all of which promote responsibility and personal growth.

Volunteering

The Tropojan Corps of Volunteers was created to support community service and development initiatives. Volunteers assist with youth programs, education, and local projects, promoting civic responsibility and strengthening the community through active participation.



English Proficiency

The US Embassy-sponsored program empowered over 200 young people for 2 years by enhancing their communication skills and opening doors to global opportunities. It improved their education, career prospects, and ability to connect with international networks, providing valuable personal and professional growth tools.

Engaging young people in organized activities, volunteering, and education is essential for building leadership skills, fostering a sense of responsibility, and improving their career prospects, ultimately empowering them to contribute positively to their communities.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Community service projects for youth foster leadership, responsibility, and a sense of purpose. They contribute to the community while helping young people develop valuable skills. These projects empower the next generation to become engaged, compassionate leaders.



International Volunteers

In the past two years, two cohorts of American volunteers from California have worked on service projects with local peers, fostering cross-cultural understanding and providing valuable skills. Their collaboration has strengthened local initiatives.

Youth Impact

Young volunteers assist with local infrastructure projects and awareness campaigns, building leadership skills. They play a key role in renovating schools and hospitals and improving community facilities, making a positive impact on their surroundings while developing valuable skills.



Campaign for Cause

Young volunteers organized bake sales to raise funds for various causes and community needs. They engaged peers and residents through teamwork and creativity, positively impacting the community.

Caring for Others

The Scouts and GLOW members raised funds for over three years to purchase backpacks and school supplies for underprivileged children, supporting education initiatives. This was their initiative, proudly supported by their community and parents.



Murals of Hope

Youth volunteers painted inspirational murals in schools, kindergartens, and hospital bringing hope and smiles to children and teachers.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



We are dedicated to providing every student with a safe, nurturing, and well-equipped learning environment regardless of financial status.

Our support spans comprehensive school rehabilitation to ensure essential infrastructure like running water, electricity, and technology. Whenever possible, we utilize local resources and labor. The renovation of Kindergarten No. 1 (see photo below) exemplifies our recent school infrastructure initiative.

This project has created a safe and nurturing environment for more than 110 students to learn and play. It is a testament to successful collaboration among various stakeholders, including the community and international donors.

We also promote after-school and extracurricular activities that foster holistic development.

Additionally, we empower educators through training and collaboration with school directors, ensuring all children receive the education and care they deserve.



Kindergarten No 1 Reconstruction, Bajram Curri 2024

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

School Reconstruction

We advocated for the reconstruction of the rural Llugaj School, securing financial support from the Albanian central government. The school serves over 120 students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

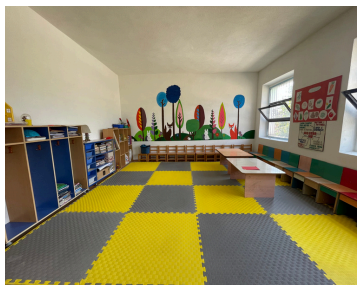


Gym Rehab

The School of Fierze's gymnasium, which serves over 150 students, had been unsafe for 20 years. With a generous donation from LDS Charities, the gym has been fully rehabilitated and is now safe for use.

Sanitation

Thanks to a generous donation from LDS Charities, we improved sanitary conditions at the rural School of Cerrince by rehabilitating its dysfunctional bathrooms. This project benefits over 110 students from kindergarten through 9th grade.



Kindergarten Rehabilitation

The kindergarten room at the School of Cerrince was rehabilitated, creating a safe and nurturing environment for over 25 children. Supported by LDS Charities.

School infrastructure improvements ensure that all children, especially those in rural villages and underserved communities, can access safe, conducive learning environments. Proper facilities like functioning classrooms, reliable sanitation, and access to technology are fundamental for students' physical well-being and educational success.

CONTINUED...

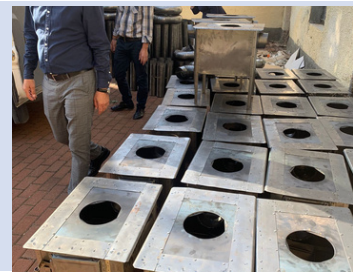


Playground

Several unserved schools in rural villages have benefited from installing playgrounds, providing children with a safe space for physical activity and social interaction. This enhances their health, fosters creativity, and supports emotional and cognitive development.

Heating

Hundreds of heating stoves installed in rural village schools provide a warm learning environment, improving focus, health, and well-being during cold weather.

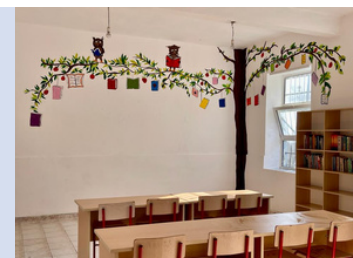


Dormitory Supplies

Provided logistical aid and project support for procuring, transporting, and delivering essential items—such as dishware, appliances, computers, and bedding—to a dormitory for boys and girls from disadvantaged villages in Kukes County. LDS Charities Supported

Libraries

Rehabilitating school libraries and multi-function rooms in Bajram Curri and Cerrince enhances learning environments, fostering creativity and critical thinking. These improvements provide valuable spaces for students and teachers to collaborate and grow.



By supporting these improvements, we help create spaces where children can thrive, engage in their studies, and develop essential skills for their future. Such investments not only enhance the quality of education but also empower entire communities, fostering long-term growth and opportunity.

EDUCATION

Supporting education is crucial as it empowers individuals to reach their potential and drive positive change in their communities. Through Neda's experience as a Health Education volunteer in the Peace Corps, we learned that education not only improves lives but also fosters growth, well-being, and lasting impact.

Technology

Over 80 Chromebooks were lent to underprivileged community-based schools, enhancing access to digital learning. This initiative helps bridge the digital divide, improving students' education and preparing them for future opportunities in an increasingly technology-driven world.



First Aid Kit

First aid kits were provided to over 28 schools in the Tropoje district, ensuring students and staff access to essential medical supplies. California Friends of Albania supported these kits to enhance safety, promote quick responses to injuries, and contribute to a healthier, more secure learning environment.

Teacher Training

Teachers undergo ongoing training on topics such as extracurricular activities, teaching methods, classroom management, and student well-being. These workshops improve teaching skills, boost student engagement, and foster long-term educational success.



Environmental Education

The school installed a greenhouse to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and teachers. This initiative promotes environmental education, enhances practical skills in agriculture, and fosters a deeper connection to nature and sustainability. New Perspective Supported

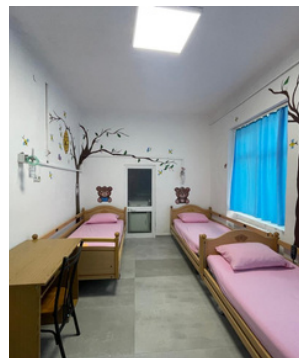
Athletic Support

All schools in Tropojë received over 1,500 donated sports jerseys, thanks to our son Coach Shion, a dedicated soccer coach who collected them from universities, high schools, and club teams. His efforts gave local students quality sports gear, fostering school spirit and encouraging youth participation in athletics.



Caring for those in need

Health and Well-being



Healthcare improvements, such as wheelchairs, hospital elevators, and morgue reconstruction, enhance accessibility and infrastructure for communities.

Photos depicting medical equipment donations and renovations at Bajram Curri regional hospital

These are just a few examples of healthcare projects we've partnered on in recent years, aimed at improving facilities and expanding access to quality care in underserved communities.

Medical Supply

- Delivered essential medical resources to rural clinics by LDS Charities.
- Improved treatment for underserved communities.



Hospital Morgue

- Complete rehabilitation supported by CWP to ensure dignity for the deceased and their families.
- Improve hygiene and safety



Rural Clinic

- Improved facilities and medical supplies.
- Quality healthcare and improves outcomes for remote communities.



From Top down: Clinic of Cerrince, Bajram Curri Hospital, Clinic of Llugaj.

More Stories of Impact...



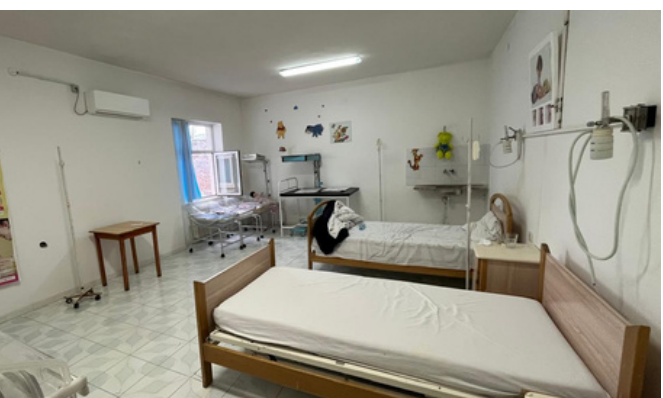
Hospital Room

- Renovation of the pediatric room in a child-friendly environment.
- Improved care and comfort .



Accessibility

- Donated wheelchairs by LDS Charities to the improving mobility.
- Enhances access to healthcare and promotes independence.



Comfort

- Install climate control units in critical hospital areas supported by LDS Charities.
- Enhance patient care and staff productivity.

IMPACT



Supporting the underserved

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

Healthcare and well-being are fundamental rights that should be accessible to all individuals, regardless of their social status, income, or geographic location. Every human being deserves access to basic healthcare services, but particular attention must be given to vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, expectant mothers, and children, who often face heightened health risks due to limited access to resources and care. Adequate healthcare is essential for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals and is key to enabling communities to thrive and prosper.

In our commitment to improving healthcare access and equity, we have partnered with generous donors to address critical needs within the healthcare system. These efforts have included providing modern medical equipment to our under-resourced hospital, restoring and installing elevators to improve accessibility for patients with mobility challenges, and implementing climate control systems to maintain a safe and comfortable environment for both patients and healthcare workers. These upgrades not only ensure that patients receive high-quality care but also foster a positive and supportive environment for healthcare professionals, improving their ability to deliver care effectively.

Our initiatives extend to rural communities, where we have focused on limited infrastructure repairs and improvements in small clinics to ensure they function optimally and provide quality care. By equipping these facilities with a few necessary resources and modern equipment, such as laboratory tools and wheelchairs, we are making healthcare more accessible to even the most remote and underserved populations. These efforts help clinics and hospitals deliver accurate diagnoses, timely treatments, and compassionate care, ensuring fewer people are left behind due to location or financial constraints.



Community Well-being

Our outreach efforts extend beyond healthcare to address the broader well-being of the community, including tackling the issue of stray dogs transmitting diseases to humans and alleviating their suffering. Additionally, through the generous help of donors, we have procured the only functioning fire truck for the largest geographic area outside of Tirana, ensuring critical emergency response services are available to those in need.



Elevator

After 30 years without a functional elevator, the new installation dramatically improves accessibility, especially for those with mobility challenges, and efficiency at Bajram Curri regional hospital. This upgrade enhances patient care and staff operations thanks to LDS Charities' generous support.



Firetruck

The fire truck was generously donated by CWP, significantly enhancing emergency response capabilities in the region. In addition, hundreds of pieces of firefighting equipment were donated by a fire department from California, further strengthening the community's ability to respond to fires and other emergencies effectively.



Stray Dogs

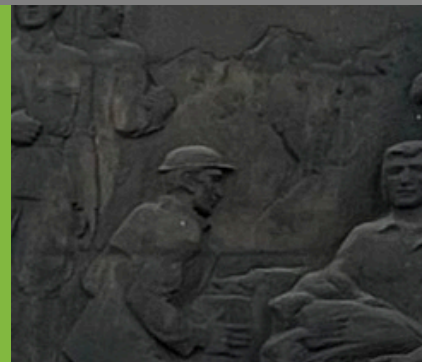
The large number of stray dogs roaming the city has become an epidemic. A pilot project to capture, neuter, vaccinate, medicate, tag, and release them proved successful and received strong community support. As a result, the community is now safer, and the suffering of stray dogs has been greatly reduced. A second pilot program will soon be introduced.

Economic Development

Digital Roots is an initiative designed to empower youth in Tropoje by offering training and job opportunities in digital skills, content creation, and marketing. Through practical learning and mentorship, the program aims to bridge the digital gap, equip young people with essential skills, and foster sustainable employment opportunities for both individuals and the community. Three cohorts have successfully completed the program, with many graduates now working for small enterprises across the EU and the United States.



Second Cohort Graduation Ceremony



Nurture
Innovation
Culture



Digital
Transformation

Local Impact

Digital Roots, now in its third cohort, has trained more than **35 apprentices**, about **80% of whom are women** from the local community. The program focuses on equipping them with practical skills in digital content creation, marketing, and remote work opportunities, helping them compete in the modern job market. Beyond technical skills, Digital Roots has instilled a deep sense of hope and optimism, especially among young women who now see new possibilities for their future.

For many participants, this opportunity has shifted their perspective—they no longer feel that leaving their country is the only path to success. Instead, they are determined to build careers close to home, remaining connected to their families, culture, and community. Digital Roots is creating not just jobs but a movement of young people committed to staying and contributing to the growth of their hometown.



3rd cohort application opening



Besie - Apprentice First Cohort



Suela - Apprentice second Cohort

MISSION IMPACT

Inspired by our roots in the Peace Corps, our organization has evolved into a catalyst for transformative change. Our mission is to deliver maximum impact at minimal cost, ensuring that 100% of every donated dollar supports our causes. We achieve this through strategic partnerships, in-kind donations, and a commitment to transparency.

We've successfully curbed fraud and abuse by engaging local governments, communities, suppliers and fostered lasting change. Our approach has produced impressive results, achieving 4 to 5 times the impact of similar non-profit organizations.

As we look to the future, our goal is to expand our impact on more communities around the world and create a brighter future in desperately needed communities for generations to come.

PARTNERSHIP

Through town hall meetings and community outreach, we bring community members, elected officials, and stakeholders to the table, giving them a voice and helping us better understand their challenges. By listening to their input and ideas, we work together to shape solutions that truly reflect local needs. We believe that lasting impact comes when the community has a real stake in the outcome. We insist on their contribution through labor, materials, and equipment. Their active participation ensures that the project is meaningful and rooted in shared ownership and long-term success.



Neda teaching at a K-9 school



PJ working with local Stakeholders

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our mission is more than delivering resources; it's about creating a lasting impact by transferring skills and offering guidance.

We believe that empowering communities with knowledge and critical thinking tools enables them to achieve their own success and devise more effective, meaningful solutions than any we could provide alone.



Building relationship with civic leaders



Scenes from beautiful District of Tropoje

THANK YOU

As we reflect on the impact of our work, we are deeply humbled by the support we've received from our donors, partners, institutions, the municipality, and most importantly, our community.

We are honored every day by the opportunity to serve and give, and we are inspired by the transformative changes we've witnessed, especially among our youth, over the past few years.

None of these would have been possible without the steadfast support of our families and children, who have allowed us to step away from them and dedicate ourselves to this important work.

Thank you for your continued support in making this journey possible and creating lasting change.

PJ & Neda Jahangiri

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Albania Group A22 2019-2020

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Peace Corps Swearing In Ceremony 2019



Dedicated to the community we have come to Love



Summer Camp 2024, English Program, Camp 2022



Stray Dog Project, Thanksgiving Celebration, Souts



Ambassador Kim , Youth Center, American Volunteer

Dear Bronson and Brinley,

*We dedicate this work to you with all our love and compassion.
May it inspire a future filled with kindness, opportunity, and the
values that will guide you toward making the world a better place.*

Baba and Grandma

