

CEDAR RAPIDS / IOWA CITY FRIENDSHIP FORCE

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 9 -11-2011 **Time:** 2:00 **Location:** Iowa City Public Library

President Connie Williams opened the meeting with a welcome to members and their guests along with non-members / general public in attendance at the library.

Connie shared comments about the day's anniversary of 9-11 and a moment of silence was observed.

Meeting Program:

Jane Cranston, a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, spoke about the Christian Girl's School in Pasrur, Pakistan and shared a video program about the school, its students and Jane and Ed Cranston's visit to Pasrur and the school. A brief fundraising clip that Jane created for the school was also shown.

The First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City (FPC) has been a partner with Pasrur for 8 years. During this time FPC has committed itself to the development of new building construction on the Pasrur school campus. FPC has helped build a multipurpose hall that includes labs and a library. The latest construction was a dorm or hostel built in 2007 which allows poor Christian girls selected from the Pasrur area to live on the schools campus.

Why Pakistan? With the highest concentration of the world's poor (the majority of whom are women); poverty in South Asia is staggering and increasingly female. About twice the physical size of California, Pakistan's population makes it the sixth most populated country in the world. While the majority of Pakistanis are Muslim (95%), there is a strong faithful presence of Christians in some rural communities.

Primary education (the first five years) is available in Pakistan, but education beyond that was privatized several years ago by the government. As such, education of the poor – particularly girls – is nearly inaccessible in rural Pakistan. Private efforts, such as this partnership, are necessary to provide education to rural Pakistani girls. The education of rural Pakistanis has been a commitment of the Presbyterian Church since 1856.

For more information about the Christian Girls' School in Pasrur, Pakistan contact Jane Cranston at jane-cranston@mchsi.com or 319-339-1102.

Treasurer's Report:

Dale shared details about the club's treasury balances as of 8-19-2011.

General Fund Balance:	<u>\$12,303</u>
Exchange Fund Balance:	<u>\$4,976</u>
Total Cash Bank Accounts	<u>\$17,280</u>
Total Net worth	<u>\$16,989</u>

Friendship Force Legacy Fund Update

The Legacy Fund, created in 2005, honors Friendship Force founder, Wayne Smith. The Legacy Fund has been successful in launching 25 new clubs around the world. It has helped to expand the impact of Friendship Force with new themed exchanges in education, humanitarian and cultural fields in addition to providing training for new Friendship Force leaders.

Our club's recent Legacy fund contributions have been \$250 annual contribution for the 2010 year, plus the additional \$500 (approved in December, paid to FFI in January) for the FF International Wayne Smith Award nomination of Robert and Billie Ray. Within the last 12 months, our Club's total contribution to the Legacy Fund is \$750. This had been misstated in the September newsletter as a total of \$1000 for 2010 contributions. Connie offered her apologies for this incorrect information.

EXCHANGES:

Our Club will be hosting an international exchange for 15–18 Indonesian educators from October 17 – 23. On the 23rd we will take our Indonesian guests to Dodgeville, Wisconsin to meet members from the Milwaukee Club where they will spend another week. The educators are junior high English teachers, curriculum directors and middle school principals.

This Indonesian educator exchange evolved from discussions with George Brown at the spring Midwest regional meeting and a request made to our club by the international office in Atlanta. We originally thought this Indonesian educator exchange would be planned for 2012. After some of the original clubs were not able to host the Indonesian educators this year, the CR/IC FF Club was contacted, and the board decided we could try to accommodate them in Cedar Rapids this October.

In addition to some of the traditional international exchange activities, our Club will facilitate 12 hours of training which will provide our Indonesian guests with some additional certification in English curriculum instruction. The instructor for this training is from the Council for Global Education and will be provided by Friendship Force International.

The training will take place in a computer lab at the Cedar Rapids Public Library at Westdale Mall. Other activities are planned at Kirkwood Community College with English as a Second Language (ESL) faculty, the International Education Dept. a meeting with Kirkwood president Mick Starceвич and possibly some Kirkwood international students.

We will visit the Cedar Rapids Islamic Center for a tour and program by Akif Shaikh who is an Islamic Center board member. We are also invited to an inexpensive meal that will be catered by the Aladdin restaurant.

Work continues on the outgoing international exchange to Costa Rica with Vic and Pat.

Several of our members are in contact with other clubs to see if a possible exchange can be organized in the future.

Dave and Patty Detwiler attended the annual International Friendship Force conference in Hamburg, Germany. There were 285 delegates in attendance from 22 countries. There are currently 355 Friendship Force Clubs through-out the world.

They mentioned that much of their time was used to make contacts with other club members at the conference to help establish opportunities for future exchanges. Only 50 international clubs submitted requests for exchanges to clubs in the United States. There are 92 clubs in the United States. Italy has only one club and received 30 requests to host international exchanges. So the availability of international exchanges is one of the issues facing most United States Friendship Force clubs.

Future international exchanges in the Midwest are likely to be theme exchanges such as a visit to the Heartland of the USA and the Mighty Mississippi River, to be hosted by more than one club for 10 -14 days. Canada is currently offering a Winter Wonderland exchange.

The next international Friendship Force conference will be held October 30th – November 2nd in Hiroshima, Japan.

ACTIVITIES:

All the people who gave us their name and e-mails at the summer Friendship Force - Farmers Market booth, will be invited to an informational meeting to be held this fall. To date, they have received at least one of our Clubs newsletter and a welcome note from Connie.

October

17 – 23 Hosting a Legacy Fund exchange for 15 – 18 Indonesian educators

November

Outgoing exchange to Costa Rica – Vic Klopfenstein is exchange director

December

Sunday the 4th Annual Dinner Meeting at the Clarion Hotel

The general membership meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

John Haack – Secretary