

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Yours in Friendship July 2011

This is a newsletter of updates, many thank-yous and new events!!! The list of accomplishments this past month is staggering, the Wayne Smith Legacy Award presented to Robert and Billie Ray, our representation at Farmers Market and Freedom Festival and hosting a successful exchange from Tokyo. Thanks to all who participated in these wonderful events...you are the heart and soul of Friendship Force.

Although we have received some disappointing news, we are continuing to make good things happen. We have been notified that the 2012 exchange to Devon, UK, was not possible due to limited availability. That left us without an incoming or an outgoing exchange, so we continued to follow up with FFI. There are other possible outgoing exchange destinations, the New Club Mentoring projects and the Indonesian Teacher Exchange for 2012. Both the mentoring and teacher exchange ideas were presented to our board, we all agreed to explore these new concept exchanges.

Soon after, we were asked if FF of CR/IC could step up for a teacher exchange from Indonesia in early October 2011. We may be hosting 20 teachers providing educational experiences during the day and Iowa hospitality all week. Our club would host one week and FF of Milwaukee would host another week. When this kind of opportunity happens, why not embrace it?

Regarding a 2012 outgoing exchange, we are now looking into a Brazil exchange in May-July or Tanzania/Burundi exchange in September-October. Feel free to email me ASAP if you have a preference for either, cmw1226@yahoo.com

Thanks again to the wonderful support of our members. Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City is vibrant and lively, living up to the resolution to Explore, Understand & Serve. *from Connie Williams, president*

Calendar of Events:

July 28, Thursday at 5:45pm Let's Eat Out at The Lighthouse Inn
6905 Mt Vernon Road SE, Cedar Rapids. RSVP to John Haack at 366-3365 or john.haack@mschsi.com before Monday, July 25. Bring a friend!

August 26-30: 2011 FFI World Conference, Hamburg, Germany
Join David & Patty Detwiler for the conference and tour afterwards. If interested in attending contact them at daviddetwiler@msn.com.

August 28, Sunday at 12:30pm – FF Tri-Club Picnic in Dubuque IA

The Dubuque Friendship Force club invites CR/IC and the Quad Cities FF clubs to enjoy the view while spending time with friends at the Riverfront Pavilion's East Porch in Eagle Point Park. Cost per person is \$10 for the catered picnic lunch and \$1 per carload for entrance into the park. Reservations can be made by sending your check (pay to Friendship Force) to Connie Williams at 3960 Johnson Ave NW; Cedar Rapids IA, 52405 or call 396-4747 before August 19. A group reservation will be sent to Dubuque.

Directions to Eagle Point Park: Stay on Hwy 151/61 until the Kerper exit – right before crossing the bridge to Wisconsin. Turn left on Kerper; continue to Shiras Ave, then turn left again. Stay on Shiras until you see the sign for Eagle Point Park on your left. Drive into the park. Riverfront Pavilion is at the top of the drive overlooking the Mississippi. It will be on your left and has adequate parking. Watch for balloons and signs. Picnic lunch of 2 meats, 3 sides, dessert and beverage is included.

Kirkwood Community College Hosting Opportunity

At our general meeting in May, Gayle Glick from Kirkwood Community College talked about mentoring and hosting opportunities with Kirkwood students. The college has been awarded a SEED grant (Scholarships for Education and Economic Development) and will be receiving 19 students from Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and El Salvador to study Agribusiness for Export at Kirkwood for two years. Host families will house these students in their home for one year, beginning this August. The second year of their studies they will live in apartments near the campus. If you are interested or have questions regarding this host family opportunity, please contact **Gayle Glick**, at ext. 5293 or **Jane Ann Rix** at ext. 5293.

September 11, Sunday at 2 - 4pm: Meeting to be held at Iowa City Library, 123 S. Linn. Jane Cranston, from the U of Iowa College of Education, will speak about her 2009 journey to a girls' school in Pasrur, Pakistan. This event is open to the public, refreshments included.

October – first week: Indonesian Teacher Exchange – Exact dates yet to be determined. Home hosting and committee opportunities, Co-Exchange Directors are needed, one each for the education & the social duties involved. Please contact Steve Williams at swill1234@q.com by July 15th if interested in ED positions.

November: Outgoing Exchange to Costa Rica

Vic Klopfenstein, Exchange Director: vpklopfenstein@msn.com

December 4, Sunday at 5pm: Election of Officers, Silent Auction and Dinner Meeting at the Clarion Hotel

Updates

Robert and Billie Ray received the seventh Wayne Smith Award given by Friendship Force International on June 28, 2011. The award was presented in front of a receptive audience at the Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival during the Balloon Glow event. The Rays were instrumental in starting the five Friendship Force clubs in Iowa. Those of us who attended the pre-award reception at Elmhurst Country Club heard stories about the first exchanges. Billie Ray was the first Iowa exchange director taking 250 people, including Lillian Carter, to Ireland. The cost was \$250 for each person.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Ray tribute such a success. So many helped make this a special event. Thank you to the board, Cheryl Moore, Mary Stull, Darby Winger, Delores Kaiden, Janis Schmitz, JoAnne Smith, Vic & Pat Klopfenstein, Lynette Nuehring, David Detwiler, Kitty Olsen-assistant to the Rays, Dave Meyer-FFI board member and all who attended the events. Robert and Billie Ray were honored to receive the award and recalled fond memories of their years in Cedar Rapids. Kitty reported "We couldn't have had a better day" and the Rays really appreciated our efforts.

*from Audrey Bradford, George & Marlene Milligan
Wayne Smith Award Committee*

Exchange from Tokyo summary On June 30, 16 enthusiastic ambassadors arrived from Tokyo, Japan. A warm Iowa welcome was provided by their hosts: Winston & Marceil Edson, Dick & Dixie Fowler, Joe & Donna Ironside, Trish Kaiser & John Giegerich, Vic & Pat Klopfenstein, Liz & John Sauer, Bernita Walker & Bob Pruess, Steve & Nancy Williams and Frank & Mary Stull, Tressa & Irwin Youngbear. Ask them to tell you about their experiences – they have many stories to share. From our trip to the Mississippi River, 4th of July family activities and visit to a farm to the fun-filled club dinner, it was a week full of exciting experiences for all of us. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a successful exchange: *the exchange committee*: Barbara Cole, Dolores Kaiden, Vic & Pat Klopfenstein, Liz Sauer, Janis Schmitz, Connie Williams and Darby Winder; *dinner hosts*: Pat & Brent Harstad, Janet & Chuck Thulen, Connie & Myron Williams; *day hosts*: Sally Fairchild, Dick & Veryl Hansen, Jack & Jeanne Knopp and all who attended the club dinner. *from Mary Stull, Exchange Director*

Another big thank you to those members who worked at the two Freedom Festival Activities Sunday, June 19 (Patriotic Pops Concert) and Saturday, June 25 (Imagination Square). Our club will receive \$250 for each event worked for Freedom Festival. Next year when we are not involved with an exchange and award presentation event during Freedom Festival, we will plan to work three events again. *from Dave Detwiler, president-elect.*

Hundreds of shoppers stopped by the Friendship Force booth in Green Square Park on Saturday, June 18th during the Farmers Market in downtown

Cedar Rapids. We will send our newsletter to those interested and to invite our new friends to any of the activities listed. Thanks to Lynette Nuehring, John Haack, JoAnne Smith, Connie and Myron Williams, Vic and Pat Klopfenstein, Mary and Frank Stull and Audrey Bradford for helping set up, staff and take down the booth. Working the booth for an hour or two during the Farmers Market is a fun way to promote Friendship Force and meet people. Contact Audrey at audrey.b@mchsi.com if you would like to help at the FF booth on August 6.

Friendship Force Merchandise – Please see Dave Detwiler, daviddetwiler@msn.com for the following items:

Polo Shirts, Notebooks, Luggage Tags, Table Blessings and Note Cards
Consider inviting a friend or acquaintance to our meetings and make the invitation distinctive with a hand written note card displaying the friendship force logo.

Board Members 2011

Connie Williams, President
Dave Detwiler, President-Elect
John Haack, Secretary
Dale Moore, Treasurer
Audrey Bradford, Past President
Steve Williams, Exchange Coordinator
Marty Novak, Membership
Vic Klopfenstein, Communications
Jill Rinkenberger, Activities
Marian Wetjen & Lynette Nuehring, Directors At Large

In friendship,
Connie Williams & Dave Detwiler