

Do you know that Friendship Force International is celebrating its 35th birthday this year?

Yes. Friendship force is now 35 years old and we are launching a new effort to increase our worldwide membership. How? There are five initiatives to the Global Expansion Plan:

- 1) Establish 45 new clubs in all regions of the world, bringing the total to over 400 for the first time and opening new countries and communities to our global exchange program.
- 2) Expand themed exchanges and new programs. From wine tasting and gardening to language learning and history, expand themed exchanges to attract a new generation of participants.
- 3) Make sure we have leadership for tomorrow by recruiting, training and supporting volunteer leaders for tomorrow, with materials and techniques designed for a new generation of leaders.
- 4) Promote the Friendship Force globally by increasing regional, national and global recognition of the Friendship Force through the Internet, social media and global communications.
- 5) Raise \$275,000 to pay for the Global Expansion by challenge clubs, members and friends to step forward with financial donations to secure the future of the Friendship Force.

Should I be part of this Global expansion? How can I be a part of this? What is our club doing?

Well yes, you should be! Yes, you can be! And yes, our club is already involved. Leadership and our new club committee have been communicating with FFI leadership for the past two years seeking out how we can mentor a new club (see 8-11 & 9-11 newsletters). Our members have been communicating with some of our Open World Russian friends, who are interested in starting a club. Along with this, Past President Connie Williams' communication with FFI's Mary Mwambay for a 2012 exchange eventually resulted in a February surprise offer from FFI to Dianne Karl, our Co-Exchange Coordinator, that our club be a mentor to clubs in Kalunga and Kampala, Uganda. George Brown, President of FFI drew up an agreement between our clubs asking Dianne to act as Exchange Director to mentor these clubs during their first exchange. Our board voted in favor of the agreement and I signed it. George said, *"While we know that Dianne has been identified as the Exchange Director (ED) who will be handling the exchange, in working with our new leaders in Africa we think it is important for them to see the role of the club as well as exchange leadership. That is why we identify Dianne as the ED but set up the document to be signed by me and the*

club presidents.” Since then Dianne has worked with the clubs and set up a “once in a lifetime” exchange with the clubs and two optional tours in Uganda and Kenya. So, yes, you can still participate in establishing 2 new clubs in Uganda and come home, or spend an additional 4 days in Uganda and then come home or continue an additional 5 days to visit Kenya before returning home. You can choose your amount of participation on the exchange. Join us –make a difference. But membership also can be helping from home before and after the exchange. Ask How.

Come to our May 6 meeting and hear our Regional Representative, Pat Meyer talk about how our club’s Theme Exchange Committee, leadership and FF Central Iowa have been working on possible themed exchanges. Our club is already involved – are you?

Dianne Karl & Tressa Youngbear have just completed Exchange Directors (ED) training for inbound or outbound Domestic and International Exchanges. This is recruiting, training and supporting volunteer leaders for tomorrow, with materials and techniques. Yes if you haven’t signed up for the next classes? Do it – they are excellent. Get involved.

Have you been to Friendship Force International’s web site?

Go to <http://www.friendshipforce.org/> and check it out. There are a number of great things to click on. In the center of the page click on find a club. Then click on the World Region box and select United States. Then click on the sub region box and select Iowa. Scroll down to the first listing (our club) and click on Cedar Rapids/Iowa City for more information. That is what we look like as hosts. Now you can select a country you wish to go to, find a club and read about it. After that go to the catalog button on the FFI home page or <http://catalog.thefriendshipforce.org/> and see if there is an exchange going there. Let us know what club and where you selected.

We now have a match for a 2013 Inbound International Exchange from Fortaleza, Brazil in October.

From Dave Detwiler, president

Calendar

May 6 General Meeting 2:00 PM— Heritage Center, 590 10th St., Marion. Pat Meyer, Friendship Force Regional Representative will be speaking on “Themed Exchanges.”

June 21-July 4: Freedom Festival: Volunteer work groups to be sought.

June 22-25: Incoming Mystery Exchange. Exchange director, Phyllis Seidl.

July 15 – General Meeting 2:00 PM: At the Marion Heritage Center, 590 10th St., Marion. Program to be announced.

Mid-Late August –Incoming Cincinnati. Tressa Youngbear, exchange director. Alice Wilkerson, assistant exchange director

September 28-Oct 1 Outgoing St. Louis, Missouri, Exchange: Tressa Youngbear (ityoungbear@windstream.net or 319-350-4143) will be the exchange director. St. Louis exchange director will be Milton Z

Sept. 15-Oct. 1 (approx.), Outbound International Exchange to Uganda: This is our new club initiative with Kalunga and Kampula clubs. Dianne Karal will be exchange director.

October 21-28 Incoming Niagara Exchange: Exchange director to be determined, Niagara exchange director Martha Abra

October 30, 31, and November 1, 2: World Conference in Hiroshima, Japan. Home stays available

2013

February 2013 – Outgoing to Houston, TX

Early May, 2013: Incoming Sacramento

October 1, 2013: Confirmed incoming from Brazil.

October 2013: Outgoing to Virginia

Updates

St. Louis Here We Come! Our club will be doing a return exchange to St. Louis leaving Friday, September 28, 2012 and returning Monday, October 1, 2012. We will be given the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. It should be a fun-filled weekend for all.

If there is enough interest, we will take a detour and spend part of a day at the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

If you are interested in signing up for this exchange please email Tressa Youngbear at ityoungbear@windstream.net or call her at 319-350-4143.



We need a Co-ED for this exchange so let Tressa know if you are willing to help out and learn while on the job. If you participated in the exchange director training in April, this would be a great exchange to sign up for.

Houston, TX

For all who ever dreamed of being a cowboy or cowgirl, here is the exchange for you! The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be going on in February, 2013, while we are in Houston. It is the world's largest live entertainment and livestock exhibition. Check this out at www.hlsr.com and www.wikipedia.org.

Midwest Leadership Conference: Themed Exchanges = Growth

The conference was held in Ames the weekend of April 26-28 and was attended by David Detwiler, Dick and Veta Hildebrand, Tressa Youngbear and Dianne Karal. The entire conference focused on growing Friendship Force through the use of Themed Exchanges.

Q: Why are Themed Exchanges being promoted?

A: Statistics show that club to club exchanges, special exchanges, and domestic exchanges are down. Also, the number of members traveling is down. Themed Exchanges are seen as a way to invigorate the organization.

Q: What is a Themed Exchange?

A: Themed Exchange can be organized by 1-3 clubs working together on a specific topic. Example: Frank Lloyd Wright – in Chicago, Wisconsin and Iowa. The Mississippi Exchange recently explored the impact of the Mississippi River. It filled in two weeks and had 30 participants. Lincoln, NE is working on one that involves Nebraska and Kansas clubs doing “Westward Ho.” Talk to Tressa and Diane to learn more about the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City initiative.

Q: How would it work?

A: To illustrate how a “Themed Exchange” might work, participants were taken on one of two tours: 1) “Surprising Discoveries in Art” where participants toured the Iowa State campus art works. Did you know ISU has the largest public collection of art on a university campus in the world? 2) “Exploring Agriculture with a New Views” participants toured ISU labs/farms where they learned about wine making in Iowa. Wineries in Iowa have increased from 53 in 2005 to 100 in 2012. Donning hardhats and safety glasses, participants toured Lincolnway Energy, a gasohol plant that processes 156,000 bushel a day. Surprisingly, all by-products are used up including the ashes from the coal-fired plant which then go into road surfacing.

Friendship Force International representative Kathy Thomas from Atlanta presented both the “FFI’s Expansion Plan” and FFI’s “Commitment to Themed Exchanges” as a way to accomplish and grow Friendship Force International. FFI plans to add 45 clubs in the next three years and will develop leadership, materials, and technology to support clubs.

Become a Member: annual dues are \$25 per person –Please send your check to Marian Wetjen, Membership Chair, at 2009 Linmar Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Note that upon the 2011 Board’s recommendation and membership vote at the

December 4 meeting, the CR/IC club dues are now \$25 per person for 2012. Dues need to be paid by **July 1** according to the Bylaws.

New Item: Green Tote Bags (great hostess gifts), Polo Shirts, Notebooks, Luggage Tags, Table Blessings and Note Cards. Invite a friend or acquaintance to our meetings with a distinctive hand-written note card displaying the friendship force logo. Contact Richard & Veta Hildebrand rvhilde1@juno.com or 319-373-0917.

Board Members 2012

Dave Detwiler, President

Richard & Veta Hildebrand, Co-President-Elect

Steve Williams, Secretary

Dale Moore, Treasurer

Connie Williams, Past President

Dianne Karal & Tressa Youngbear, Co-Exchange Coordinators

Marian Wetjen, Membership

Vic Klopfenstein, Communications

Will & Karen Mickelson, Meeting Hosts

Lynette Nuehring, & John Sauer, Directors At Large

In friendship

Dave Detwiler & Richard & Veta Hildebrand