



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

The Wayne Smith Medal

*Honoring Exceptional Service and Leadership
In Advancing the Mission of Friendship Force International*

The Friendship Force International Board of Directors has established a special award, the **Wayne Smith Medal**, to recognize those who have shown exceptional leadership in advancing the Friendship Force mission in their communities. This award is a tribute to the memory of Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith, whose boundless energy and optimism and untiring commitment to the cause of world friendship made this organization the global force for good that it is today.

Wayne Smith believed that **a world of friends is a world of peace**. The medal that bears his name is the instrument through which Friendship Force clubs honor those who share that belief and who advance the organization's values of mutual respect, cultural diversity and humanitarian service. The **Wayne Smith Medal** recognizes the leaders of today who make it possible to maintain the founder's vision of promoting understanding across the barriers that separate people.

The honor of awarding the **Wayne Smith Medal** is reserved for the FFI Board of Directors and Friendship Force clubs (acting individually or as a group). This recognizes the vital role played by the global network of local clubs, each of which carries forward the Friendship Force mission in more than 350 communities on six continents. The medal may recognize exceptional leadership from within the club, or it may be presented to those in the broader community whose lives reflect the Friendship Force mission. Those who receive the award join a distinguished group of exemplary leaders around the world.

Each presentation of the **Wayne Smith Medal** will be accompanied by a donation of US \$500 to the Friendship Force Annual Fund, given by the presenting club(s) in honor of the recipient. The donation and others like it will help advance the work of FFI by expanding its global reach.



The **Wayne Smith Medal** is a specially-inscribed medallion 2¼ inches in diameter, attached to a blue silken neck ribbon, that can be ornamentally displayed and worn on appropriate occasions. Accompanying the medal is a certificate honoring the recipient. Each recipient's name will be recorded on the Friendship Force website on a special page devoted to the honorees. Each medal is to be awarded at a ceremony organized by the presenting club, which may include media as appropriate.

Wayne Smith Medal Recipients

Kazuo Aichi

FFI Board of Directors

Dorothy Anderson

The Friendship Force of New Plymouth, New Zealand

Dorothy Anderson has served the Friendship Force of New Plymouth with dedication and enthusiasm since 1984.

Jeraldine “Jerry” Bailey

The Friendship Force of Olympia, Washington, USA

Friendship Force Olympia was the vision and inspiration of Jeraldine (Jerry) Bailey, a Washington state social worker, who was the 1977 President of Altrusa, an organization that emphasizes helping women and children and supports worldwide literacy. In 1984, with the help of many to get the by-laws, state registration, etc, set into place, Jerry was elected President of FF Olympia. Now 30 years stronger, we are a club who hosts many international and domestic clubs yearning to see and feel the Pacific Northwest and is one of the most remembered highlights for many travelers. We lost Jerry suddenly in June 2014 and it was a tremendous loss for all who knew her. We carry forth and honor her memory with the Wayne Smith Medal.

Donna Baldwin-Haut

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee, USA


- 100th Wayne Smith Medal Recipient -

The board of Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee nominates Donna Baldwin Haut to receive the Wayne Smith Medal for her outstanding leadership. Donna Baldwin Haut has played an integral part in the ongoing success of FFGM for over twelve years. In 2010, she was a strong leader in planning the 20th Anniversary Gala Celebration for our club and has helped lead several fundraising efforts. As President in 2011 and 2012, Donna did much to further the causes of increasing our understanding of cultural diversity within our own community. She also has been a strong proponent of building service into our inbound Journeys. In 2014 and 2016, Donna presented extensive leadership training for leaders of new and developing clubs. In 2016, she helped lead the board in Strategic Goal planning and the outcome was a focused, living document that helps to steer our club in the right direction. Donna has been an ED or Journey Coordinator for outbound Journeys to Japan, Nepal, Costa Rica, Mexico and Birmingham, Alabama. She was also a Journey Coordinator for inbound Journeys such as Montreal and the FFGM Leadership Exchange. In addition to hosting many ambassadors, she has been an ambassador for many FFGM outbound Journeys including Nepal, Morocco, Ireland, and Olympia, WA. She was a presenter at the International Conference in Vancouver, CAN in 2015. As a member of the FFGM board, she continues to guide us. She has been active in club leadership and development and budget planning and is always available to support current and new leaders. Donna is eminently qualified to be a recipient of this award with the dedication she has shown in word and deed towards promoting world peace through advancing the organization's values of mutual respect, cultural diversity and humanitarian service.

Charles Bennett

The Friendship Force of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

An active member of FF Baton Rouge since 1990, Charles has served as the club's president, vice



president, and member at large. As an exchange director he introduced the concept of humanitarian exchanges to the club, leading an exchange to Costa Rica in 2007 which brought donated computers to a remote mountain school. He and his wife, Frances, have spearheaded efforts to reach out into the community and initiated several annual community service projects, including a yearly party at the local veterans home. These projects have been funded largely by grants that were given through Charles and Frances's efforts.

Frances Bennett

The Friendship Force of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

A member since 1990, Frances has used her connections with over 30 nonprofit organizations to benefit the club and FFI. Thanks to Frances, the city mayor meets with every ambassador delegation with the club hosts, giving them a key to the city. For the FFI world conference in New Orleans, she garnered participation from the lieutenant governor and the Danseurs de Capitale de Baton Rouge. She and her husband have obtained \$12,500 in grants over the years, which have supported club projects and events. She has served as president and member at large, chaired the 25th anniversary celebration, and co-chaired the publicity committee.

William "Bill" Blaine

The Friendship Force of Dayton, Ohio, USA

Bill joined the FFI Board at a time when FFI was having severe financial difficulties. He went to Atlanta when Suzy Smith was CEO, went to the local bank and obtained an extension of credit that enabled FFI to continue operations and eventually pay off the debt. His skills as an experienced banker played a large part in the continued existence of the organization. Bill organized the initial trip to Solothurn, Switzerland that founded and established the club there in 2010, the very first club in that country. As a local board member, Bill has always been at the forefront of leadership of the FF of Dayton. As an ED, he provided expertise into organizing very successful and expertly directed inbound or outbound exchanges.

Jocie Blight


The Friendship Force of Adelaide, Australia

Jocie Blight and her husband, George, were among the original group of Adelaide people who were approached by Wayne Smith way back in 1984 to establish a club here and accept an inbound group of 78 from Dubuque, Iowa, USA. Since then she has served the club as president, social secretary, membership development officer, and most especially as club historian, keeping thorough records of the club's history. She was one of the first Australian field representatives appointed by FFI and has probably been on more exchanges than any other FF Adelaide member.

Nancy & Ed Brigden

The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, USA

Nancy and Ed have participated in at least 22 exchanges in their 20+ years with Friendship Force. They hosted nearly 70 FF members for a catered dinner in their home for an annual holiday celebration. Ed has an acumen for technology, serving as FF Northern Colorado's self-taught webmaster and technical equipment operator, as well as being an editor and photographer for a monthly newsletter and producer of the Club Directory. Nancy uses her organizational talents to drive FFNC's successful exchanges. She served as a mentor to newer EDs and is always willing to share her expertise and tips. The Bridgens have been (and remain!) highly active, enthusiastic members of the Friendship Force.





Dan Brown

The Friendship Force of Long Island, New York, USA

Dan and his wife Marilyn were founding members of FF Long Island. He served for several years as president and has been instrumental in recruiting new members. Having learned Japanese during his service in World War II, Dan enthusiastically put his language skills to use in furthering the Friendship Force. On an early exchange to Japan, he made presentations to local dignitaries in their native language, fostering friendship and goodwill between the ambassadors and their host city. Dan has truly lived the mission of the Friendship Force.

George Brown

Friendship Force International, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Dr. George T. Brown Jr., PhD, was awarded the Wayne Smith Medal at his final board meeting in March 2013 by current and previous Board Members. George retired as president and CEO of Friendship Force International in 2013, having served in the position since 2004. George was appointed to the staff by Wayne Smith in 1983, initially as the director of administration, followed by a variety of roles before becoming executive director. As Wayne Smith said at the time of this latter appointment, "His past knowledge of the evolution of the Friendship Force and of the functions of all departments at FFI are only some of the invaluable assets he brings to the job and to our entire organization." Having left the organization in 1997, he was invited back in 2004 as president and CEO. Since then he has continued to inspire club members, exchange directors and club leaders with his enthusiasm, commitment, and good humor. Board members over the years have especially benefitted from George's depth of FFI corporate knowledge, his commitment to Wayne Smith's vision, his ability to lead and direct consideration of difficult matters before the meetings, and his personal friendship and support.

Mary Bryant

The Friendship Force of Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Mary has served FF Lincoln in many capacities since 1993, when she joined after moving from St. Louis, where she had been a member since 1986. She is a valued a mentor to new exchange directors and new club leaders. Mary currently serves on the club board as a membership representative. Through her and her committee's diligent efforts, the club has grown to be the largest in the world with over 200 members. The club largely attributes this success to Mary's diligence in following up with new and continuing members and the emails she sends out to keep everyone informed and engaged in club activities.

Margaret Burke


The Friendship Force of Kempsey, Australia


Margaret Burke and her husband Neil joined Kempsey Friendship Force in 1991. She has been an active and dedicated member of our club since that time. She has held the executive positions of Club Secretary, Vice President and President (four years). She has also served as exchange director for more than ten exchanges. Margaret's active involvement in the Kempsey Friendship Force Club over many years has been instrumental in the continued success of our club. Our members are strongly in support of Margaret being the first member of our club to receive the prestigious award of the Wayne Smith Medal.

Cinda & Larry Clark

The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, USA

Cinda and Larry have held a variety of leadership roles since the inception of FF Northern Colorado in





1986. Both serving at least one term as Vice President, the couple has hosted numerous ambassadors in their home. Larry helps the club with finances as well as providing musical entertainment at monthly meetings on the piano. Cinda is currently serving on the FFI Board of Directors and played a pivotal role in getting FF Northern Colorado to adopt a large garden in Benson Sculpture Park. The Clarks' spirit of friendship and volunteering have made them ideal candidates for this award.

Tom & Sally Coyle

The Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA

Working together is a major concept of the Friendship Force, and this husband-and-wife team exemplifies this goal. Each has served as club president, but beyond that, their willingness to “pitch in” for any aspect of club activity is amazing. They have each dedicated 17 years of service to the club. Repeatedly they have opened their home beyond the organized exchanges to welcome as personal guests those whom they previously hosted as ambassadors. This reflects their conviction that the firm friendships they establish through this organization truly make a difference in the world.

Helen & Charlie Crihfield

The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, USA

Both Helen and Charlie have served terms as president, vice president and other board positions for FF Northern Colorado. Helen has volunteered many times to drive vans of ambassadors to and from the Denver airport and to various venues. For many years the club has relied on Charlie's IRS and financial expertise in regard to club business, and he helped to secure the club's nonprofit status with the state of Colorado. Both Helen and Charlie have generously volunteered their time and talents to the betterment of FFNC and the greater mission of FFI. They have served as exchange directors, on committees, and as ambassadors and hosts.

Dutler Dauwalder

The Friendship Force of Kern County, USA

Douglas Dean

The Friendship Force of Marlborough, New Zealand

Betty Jean DeMersseman


The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, USA

As an exchange director in 2011, Betty Jean orchestrated the successful “Renewable Energy Festival Exchange,” which included a 25th anniversary celebration and brought ambassadors from multiple countries and states for an enjoyable week of learning about alternative energy resources in Colorado. As club president and vice president over 2008 and 2009, Betty Jean devoted herself to membership growth initiatives that resulted in 25 new members. She has also been a highly effective and creative fundraiser. She often treats ambassadors and club members to her delicious home-cooked meals. Additionally, she served for three years as a regional field representative.

Graeme Donaldson

The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast, Australia

Since joining the club in 1995, Graeme has offered his leadership in many different roles, including as president, vice president and exchange director. At the national level, he assisted with the formulation of the FF Australia Constitution, and has led numerous developments at for the Northern District. Perhaps most special among his contributions are the establishment of the Friendship Park and the proposal of the 2013 “spring break” exchange for teenage victims of the Japanese tsunami.



Hildie Elges

The Friendship Force of Kern County, California, USA

Hildie Elges is an active and supportive member of the Friendship Force of Kern County. She most recently served as co-exchange director for the inbound program from Tuxtla-Gutierrez with the Friendship Force of Mundo Maya in March of 2012. Hildie is a retired German and Spanish language teacher. She has been a member since 1991 when she was recruited as a German speaker to home host for an exchange from Jena, Germany. She immediately became a very active member. She has served as exchange director, inbound and outbound, numerous times. She is in charge of our supply cabinet at the veterans hall where we hold our meetings, and dedicates many uncounted hours to this project. Hildie can always be counted on to bring a cheerful, cooperative, positive and appreciative attitude to every venture.

Bonnie Evans

The Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, Georgia, USA

The Wayne Smith medal is a tribute to Friendship Force founder Wayne Smith in recognition of his "boundless energy and optimism and untiring commitment to the cause of world friendship", as the nomination form states. In the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, we have someone who fits this description perfectly, and that is Bonnie Evans. In the nine years since she joined our club, Bonnie has served as treasurer for two years and two years as webmaster and will now be our vice president. In the last three months alone, she has led an "epic journey" to Tanzania and was the Host Coordinator for the Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley Journey to Atlanta. Bonnie has traveled to several countries with our club and other clubs and has hosted ambassadors from around the globe. Bonnie's home has always been open for dinners and other club activities. We would like to thank her sincerely for her continued support of our club and the Friendship Force in general by presenting to her the Wayne Smith medal, of which she is so deserving.

Charlene and George Foster

The Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA

Charlene and George are charter members of FF Northern Illinois, serving the club since its inception in 1984. Both have held numerous leadership roles over the years. Charlene served as club president for two years, George as vice president for two years, and both have been exchange directors. They have traveled to 7 countries with the Friendship Force and have hosted ambassadors from 11 different countries. Their warmth and openness has led to many friendships that have lasted years beyond the exchange. They truly exemplify the Friendship Force conviction that we can create a world of friends that becomes a world of peace. Their fellow club members say they set a high standard of leadership and participation, and that their contributions over the years are too numerous to list.


Nedra Gilfillan

The Friendship Force of Kern County, California, USA

Nedra was one of the early members of FF Kern County and one of the most effective recruiters of new members. She served on the club board for many years, including two years as president. She has lent her leadership to many different committees and exchanges, and she proposed and coordinated the club's 20th anniversary celebration. Her fellow club members say her unflagging enthusiasm has led the way for the club, and they are proud to award her this medal.

Dee & Dave Gustavson

The Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA



Since 1984, Dee and Dave have been valuable members and volunteers for FF San Francisco Bay Area. They have participated in many exchanges and are always helpful and supportive of other members in the club. Dee has served as president, vice president and secretary of the club as well as exchange director. Dave is the club's technology expert: he created and maintains a database for the membership committee, and he assists with the audiovisual needs at club meetings. Together, Dee and Dave publish the club newsletter.

Mary Goeks

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Mary Goeks has been a member of the Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee for several decades, since the early years of the organization. Always willing to lead a program or plan an activity, she has served as chair of the Activities and Public Relations Committees, developed the FFGM board manual and the club bylaws, served on the Fundraising Committee, Open World, the Midwest Conference Committee and numerous other ad hoc committees. Mary has traveled to six continents with Friendship Force and on medical mission trips. Always willing to help with whatever needs to get done, Mary is the epitome of dedication. Mary gives selflessly of her time and talent and we are proud of all of her efforts to advance the mission of Friendship Force and to make the world a more peaceful place!

Kay Graves

The Friendship Force of Southern Sydney, Australia

Kay Graves was instrumental in building up the Friendship Force of Southern Sydney as its first president and first inbound exchange director. She would go on to serve as club president for a total of four years, and in addition, has done much to promote the club by talking on the local radio and visiting local venues to advertise the club. Kay also took on the vital role of convenor of the 2013 Australian National Conference, which her club hosted. The conference was considered a monumental success under her leadership.

William "Bill" Hagan

The Friendship Force of Dayton, Ohio, USA

Bill is a founding member of FF Dayton and has been valuable to the organization at the local and international level. He has served on the club board and was elected president many times. He has also mentored many new exchange directors based on his own years of experience. Bill also served on FFI's International Board of Directors, where he was instrumental in forming several new clubs around the world. He was named FFI's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in 1996.

Brian Hallam


The Friendship Force of Gold Coast, Australia


Brian (and his wife Beth) has been a member of the Friendship Force since 1984. They first joined the Mt. Gambier club in South Australia and later the Tweed Valley Club in NSW before Brian becoming inaugural President of the Friendship Force of Currumbin-Gold Coast (later known as The Friendship Force of the Gold Coast Inc). Since then he has held numerous leadership positions spanning two decades. He also served positions at the regional level including Northern District Administrator, Field Representative and Coordinator. He became the voice of the club in the early days, giving many interviews to local radio stations.

Norma Hampton

The Friendship Force of Christchurch, New Zealand

Upon joining FF Christchurch in 1999, Norma Hampton was quickly appointed treasurer. Since then





she has been vice president, president and a board member. She served a four-year term as New Zealand field rep coordinator, helping to develop two new clubs. She has attended every New Zealand conference since 2003, and this year she organised a pre-conference tour for 29 people. In her community she has been honored for her leadership in the Rangers section of Girl Guides (“Girl Scouts” in the US). Additionally, she crochets blankets for the poor in India, volunteers for the local theatre, and helps at a foot clinic for the elderly. Current FF Christchurch President Eric Scott said, “We believe that Norma very much epitomises the model set by Wayne Smith; we are proud to have her as a member of FF Christchurch.”

Elaine and Jerry Harms

The Friendship Force of Central Iowa, USA

Elaine Harms had a yearning to see the world, learn about other cultures, and seek adventure... and husband Jerry Harms accompanied her in her quest to make these dreams a reality from 1980 to the present! The couple were ambassadors on the 1980 Pusan, Korea exchange with the second trip organized by the newly created organization known as Friendship Force International. Elaine’s leadership and Jerry’s support have continued over the years, with Elaine serving several years as club president, newsletter editor, Marshalltown representative, and the FFI logo cake baker supreme! Elaine and Jerry truly represent Wayne Smith’s vision of Friendship Force International.

Shirley (Sue) Harnett


The Friendship Force of Marlborough, New Zealand

Sue joined the Marlborough Friendship Force with her husband in 1994. From the first day, she has thrown herself into club activities, holding many leadership positions as well as being a frequent exchange director. Sue has also been the club magazine editor for the last 10 years, creating a bi-monthly publication that keeps members in touch with the proposed activities of the club, other general news and the publicizing of proposed exchanges. Sue has always been an enthusiastic member of the Marlborough Friendship Force, attending most activities and hosting many visitors from overseas.

Paul and Charliene Havixbeck

The Friendship Force of Winnipeg, Canada

For Friendship Force Winnipeg, Paul and Charliene Havixbeck are truly the faces of Friendship Force. They are genuinely friendly, welcoming, and highly committed to the mission of making friends around the world. Paul and Charliene became members of our club in 2002 and, for the past 15 years, they have been valued and active members. As avid travellers, they have been ambassadors on almost all of our club’s outbound exchanges including being Exchange Directors or Assistants on numerous exchanges to Australia, Brazil, Germany, Romania, Turkey and Peru. They have also joined exchanges of other Friendship Force clubs and have attended World Conferences in New Orleans and Washington. As home hosts, they have welcomed ambassadors on most of our inbound exchanges both at their Winnipeg home and their lake cottage. Both have been wonderful representatives for our club and continue to maintain contacts with Friendship Force friends around the world. Both Charliene and Paul have devoted their time and energy to leadership roles in the club. Individually, they have both served as Vice-President, President and Past-President. Additionally, Charliene has been the Club Secretary and Paul acted as Newsletter Editor for four years. They have been enthusiastic supporters of our club in many ways by serving on Fundraising Committees such as card parties, garage and book sales, by chairing Nominating Committees, and by working on numerous Exchange Committees. Paul has devoted time to the Orientation Booklet and Bylaws revisions and been a valued resource for computer related questions and audio-visual support for our meetings over the years. In their enthusiasm for Friendship Force they have recruited and supported new members to our club. The



members of Friendship Force Winnipeg feel Paul and Charliene are truly deserving of the Wayne Smith Medal.

Jim Haxton

The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast, Australia

Jim is considered the “go-to” person of FF Sunshine Coast, generously sharing his extensive knowledge with other volunteers. He has served in countless capacities, including as president and vice president, exchange director, and newsletter editor. He provides the valuable service of maintaining the club’s database and personally designed and built the club’s website. Since joining the club there has not been one year that Jim has not been involved in contributing extra ordinary service to the club. He is the epitome of a good club member.

Heather Haythorpe

The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast, Australia

Heather Haythorpe has served the Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast as both president and vice president in the past. She also served as a district field representative for three years and as the Australian Field Representatives Coordinator. She has led both inbound and outbound exchanges, attended national and international conferences and is always eager to host visiting ambassadors. Heather is well known internationally in Friendship Force. She has assisted with development of Friendship Force in Africa. Her support and assistance throughout all Australia clubs is outstanding and highly regarded. She is a font of knowledge on all matters regarding Friendship Force. The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast is very proud to have Heather as a member.

Ludwina Homer

The Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA

Ludwina has been a valuable member of FF Northern Illinois for over 20 years. She served on the club board for several years, including as vice president, and has sat on club committees for seven years. She has led seven exchanges and participated in many more as both an ambassador and host.

Terry Hopkins


The Friendship Force of Devon, UK

An active member and leader of FF Devon, Terry Hopkins has attended all the European regional conferences, most of the UK conferences and many international conferences. Many times he has been invited to give presentations. Terry has participated in many exchanges and has been an inbound and outbound exchange director 12 times each. Terry served as president of FF Devon for four years, in addition to many more years serving the club in other roles. Terry served on the FFI Board of Directors for four years, and he was a member of the European Advisory Committee for over nine years. It was with great pride in Terry’s commitment to the Friendship Force and accomplishments as a volunteer leader that the members of FF Devon decided to award him a Wayne Smith Medal.

Tom and Rosemary Hopp

The Friendship Force of Greater Lansing, Michigan, USA

Tom and Rosemary Hopp have been stalwart supporters of the Friendship Force philosophy. They have been on many exchanges, hosted ambassadors many times, and both have served as exchange directors. Tom has served as club president and Rosemary has served as club secretary. Both actively recruit new members and have given presentations on the Friendship Force to other local organizations. Tom served on the committee to rewrite the club bylaws. They are generous contributors of time, money and resources, frequently picking up a tab or making a donation during an



exchange. Rosemary assisted in the development of the club website and Tom uses his woodworking skills making Michigan cheese boards to be given as gifts to ambassadors. Their contributions exemplify the mission of the Friendship Force.

Bunkichi Itoh

The Friendship Force of Niigata, Japan

Esther and Dick Johnsen

The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, USA

Esther & Dick Johnsen, charter members of FFNC, have been active leaders since the inception of FF Northern Colorado in 1986. Both have served in a variety of leadership roles in our club over the years. Dick served as club treasurer and club president, and has headed the Ways and Means Committee for the past several years. Esther served as club Vice President and has done an amazing job bringing highly interesting and educational programs to the club's monthly meetings as the Program Chairperson. Dick and Esther have frequently hosted inbound international and domestic ambassadors in their home, and have participated as outbound ambassadors on numerous exchanges over the past 30 years. They have each served as Exchange Directors for inbound and outbound exchanges. Embracing the true spirit of "providing global understanding across the barriers that separate people," the Johnsens have extended their hand in friendship and have made many lifelong friends throughout the USA and the world during their exchange experiences. Their cheerful smiles and friendly attitudes bring joy to all guests and club members.

Jean Newhart Johnson

The Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

In 1977, Jean Newhart Johnson was a member of the first Friendship Force exchange to Mexico. The trip impressed her so much that she joined the Lancaster Club of Pennsylvania and later the Friendship Force of Greater Harrisburg. Since then, Jean has been on many exchanges, international and domestic. She has served on the Board of Directors and participated in the Open World Programs. She initiated and coordinated a fundraising event for her club at the Hershey Amusement Park, and funds collected were used to provide special activities for inbound ambassadors. Jean has been a valuable Friendship Force member for over 35 years.

Rob Joyes

The Friendship Force of Taupo, New Zealand

In 1986, Rob (and Bev) Joyes were asked to host some Florida ambassadors who belonged to an organisation known as Friendship Force. He was so struck with the values of the organisation that he immediately joined up as a foundation member of Friendship Force Taupo and has remained a board member for the intervening 26 years. From 1997 to 2001, Rob served as club president, and in recent years he has been foremost in guiding and informing new members and acting as a valued mentor to fellow members. Rob has served many times as exchange director, and in 2006 he was appointed to a four-year term as a New Zealand field representative. See the news article from the Taupo Times: Rob dedicated to friendship , March 23, 2012.


David Kalan

FFI Board Alum, The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Jan Kennedy

The Friendship Force of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA





Jan has been a faithful member of FF Las Vegas since its first exchange to Newcastle, United Kingdom, when she served on the Special Advisory Board. She hosted ambassadors on the club's first inbound exchange from Italy, and since then she has hosted nearly every inbound exchange and traveled on more than half of the outbound exchanges. She has welcomed club members and their guests to her family cabin every summer and sometimes for exchange events including barbecues and potluck dinners. Her fellow club members say Jan has friends all over the world and is a lovely, warm and fun-loving traveler and host.

June Kenworthy

The Friendship Force of Christchurch, New Zealand

June Kenworthy joined Friendship Force Christchurch in 1988 and was elected to the club Board in 1991. She served continuously on the Board until 1998, during which time she was elected Vice President in 1994 and was President for 2 years in 1995 and 1996. She was made an Honorary Life member of the club in 2001. June was appointed by Friendship Force International as New Zealand's first ever Field Rep in 1998, then a position which involved being the sole advisor to all New Zealand clubs. June (along with her husband Cyril) home-hosted for 22 inbound Journeys, being on the organizing committee for 5 of these and was Journey Coordinator for 3. She has been on 5 outbound Journeys and was a Journey Coordinator to the USA in 1994. June still takes an active interest in both FF club and national matters, exemplified by her involvement in the organization of the National Conference in Christchurch in 2017. June was an active member of her tramping club, from which she recruited many new members for Friendship Force. Nowadays, she is very involved in the organizing of social activities for the retirement village in which she resides.

Dieter Klagge

The Friendship Force of Chicago, Illinois, USA

Dieter was instrumental in building up the Friendship Force club in Chicago. He served in a wide variety of roles, including president, vice president, and ED, as well as devoting himself to membership growth initiatives during his time as membership chair. Although he is no longer able to travel or host, Dieter continues to promote Friendship Force via radio talk show interviews and other local promotion opportunities. Dieter's leadership and dedication to the FF mission in Chicago makes him a model for new members.

Vic & Pat Klopfenstein


The Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City, USA


Vic and Pat have both served as club president and have been leaders in the club for many years, often presenting programs on Friendship Force to Rotary and other civic groups. Vic has been involved with more than 10 Open World programs, and together they have led exchanges to Japan and Costa Rica. They host nearly every inbound exchange and dinner hosted countless times. FF Cedar Rapids-Iowa City calls Vic and Pat their "go-to" people.

Larry Kluck

Friendship Force Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Larry Kluck has served a wide variety of leadership roles in the Friendship Force of Lincoln. He is a charter member of the club that was founded in 1981. In his 35-year membership he has been president for several two-year terms and served as club Treasurer for countless years. He also has volunteered as treasurer for many inbound and outbound exchanges throughout the years. He has been an outbound Exchange Director for four international and one domestic exchange. In addition, he has served as Exchange Director for two inbound international exchanges. Larry has set high





standards in both management and administration of exchanges. He strongly supports and exhibits the Friendship Force conviction that we can create a world of friends that can become a world of peace. As a result he has helped the club grow many friendships around the world. His willingness to pitch in where needed in our club has been exceptional. Larry was administrative treasurer for the innovative theme exchange of “Taming A Harsh Land” which four clubs in the Midwest carried out in 2013. Larry’s devotion to the ideals of The Friendship Force and his exceptional leadership in promoting the Friendship Force mission has resulted in him being a worthy recipient of the Wayne Smith Medal.

Darwin Knochenmus

The Friendship Force of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA

Darwin has been a key member of FF Baton Rouge since its inception 30 years ago. Together with his wife Linda, they have held almost every office in the club including numerous terms as club president. He has led exchanges all over the world and was instrumental in FF Baton Rouge receiving FFI’s Club of the Year award for its humanitarian efforts following Hurricane Katrina. Darwin was also responsible for an environmental concept in Baton Rouge that resulted in a section of a park being designated as the Friendship Forest. The club plants a tree there to represent each inbound delegation.

Walter Kummetz

The Friendship Force of Orange County, California, USA

Together with his wife Josine, Walter Kummetz joined the Friendship Force of Orange County in 1992. As active members, Walter and Josine have traveled the world, made many friends across borders, and welcomed many new friends into their home. Walter accepted his club’s nomination to serve as vice president in 2002 and 2003. In 2004 he was elected club president. For eight consecutive years he continued to lead as president, with the enthusiastic support of the members. With great sadness the members accepted his resignation as club president in 2012. With the presentation of the Wayne Smith Medal, FF Orange County honors Walter’s many years of exceptional leadership.

Helen Kwong

The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast, Australia

Over the years, as an ED, Helen set a very high standard in the management and administration of exchanges. She has served on numerous exchange organising committees, and always volunteers to either host, co-host or be a dinner host. She has also served as the club’s president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. For many years now she has been the club’s “raffle queen” raising many hundreds and hundreds of dollars by organising and selling the tickets club meetings a valued source of income for the club.

David L. and Judith K. Lambert

The Friendship Force of Huntsville Area, Alabama, USA

Members of FF Huntsville Area say David and Judy have been the “backbone” of the club for many years. Both have held offices of club leadership, and they have served as exchange directors on at least seven exchanges. They are always ready to take on a challenging task, and they often mentor new members and officers. Visiting ambassadors are always enthralled with the tours David leads around the US Space and Rocket Center, sharing the stories of his personal experiences. He was also instrumental in the club’s year-long process to gain 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Judy has served as club treasurer and was successful in the challenging task of establishing a new, well-organized bookkeeping system for the club.

Cecile Latour





FFI Board of Directors, The Friendship Force of Canadian Capital Region, Canada

Cecile has a well-honed international outlook developed over a 30-year career in the Foreign Service when she served at Canadian embassies abroad in Europe and Asia. She and her husband David have been active members of the Friendship Force of Canadian Capital Region in Ottawa for twelve years. Recently, Cecile served on the FFI Board of Directors, including one year as chair when fellow Board Members nominated her for the Wayne Smith Medal. To those who know her work, she is a tireless leader who has shaped and articulated policies and initiatives, challenged others to think outside the box, coached new members, as well as offered workshops and keynote addresses at international conferences. She will be remembered for championing fundraising in Vancouver to replace our website and database and give FFI a new lease on life.

Dr. Jeanne Tchong Koei Li

The Friendship Force of Taiwan

Ken & Hope Marland

The Friendship Force of Queanbeyan/Canberra, Australia

Ken and Marland are founding members of FF Queanbeyan/Canberra, and the club's success is largely attributed to their determined efforts in recruiting a core group of members. In the 15 years since, they have been enthusiastic members, serving in every facet of the club and mentoring new members. The club has said, "Ken and Hope are generous with their time and use of their home and they constantly exemplify the undertaking of the Friendship Force."

Glenys Marsh

The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast, Australia

Glenys was a founding member and the first vice president of FF Cairns. To this day she maintains friendships from the club's earliest exchanges. When she moved to Sunshine Coast, she took it upon herself to start a new club there. Glenys was the ED for the first two exchanges and has been an active member for the past 16 years. She has been a host, a co-host and from time to time - a dinner host. Over the years she has travelled privately in the US, staying and keeping in contact with many of the ambassadors from those first exchanges, initially with FF Cairns and then FF Sunshine Coast.

Boya Marshall


FFI Board of Directors, Bavaria, Germany


Boya Marshall is a very International person, having lived in Kuwait, Iran, Indonesia, and Germany. She is a past president of the Friendship Force of Bavaria and served four years on the Friendship Force International Board of Directors. When the Australian Adelaide club arrived at Munich and were unable to proceed to their exchange to Tbilisi, Georgia, due to war, Boya, within three days, made all the arrangements for them to be hosted with a full week's program by her club at no extra cost. She arranged the German conference held in Nurnberg and she encouraged and assisted in the formation of the new club in Kolhapur, India, with an exchange from her club. These are only a few of Boya's contributions to the Friendship Force.

Gloria Dawn McEwan

The Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast, Australia

Gloria Dawn McEwan is currently the longest serving member of the Friendship Force of Sunshine Coast. She has served as club president, vice president and field representative in the past. For many years she volunteered as the club membership director and hosted social events in her home to provide a warm welcome to new members. She has hosted and traveled numerous times and has led





both inbound and outbound exchanges. Gloria is an inspiration to all the members of her club. She sits in the front row at meetings and is always very positive with her comments. She is known Australia-wide and is highly respected by other clubs throughout Australia. The Friendship Force photographs she has taken and memorabilia she has gathered are an invaluable treasure to her club.

John and Marjorie McSwain

The Friendship Force of Huntsville Area, Alabama, USA

John and Marjorie McSwain were instrumental in forming the Huntsville Area Friendship Force Club. After learning of FFI from the Birmingham, AL Club, they pursued information, recruited members, and established the club in 1991. The club was chartered September 10, 1991 and will have a 25th Anniversary Gala on that day in 2016. John and Marjorie have been very active members, each serving as vice-president, president, and together directing 12 exchanges. They have provided ED training, served on nominating committees, and hosted many FF guests from the US and around the world. They have maintained friendships and communicate and revisit many of the friends they have met through FF, thus embodying the true meaning of the FFI mission to foster friendships that cut through barriers that separate people.

Lorna Mears

The Friendship Force of Sydney, Australia

Lorna Mears was a founding member of FF Sydney 23 years ago, and has been devoted to the club ever since. She and her husband Len are known as exceptionally gracious hosts. They have opened their homes to many ambassadors and for many fundraising and social events for the club. Lorna is especially devoted to the club's membership, greeting and mentoring new members, sending out greeting cards on behalf of the club, and keeping in touch with all members personally. Her kindness is cherished by all. She has served in many club leadership roles over the years, and her knowledge of the club's history is a valuable asset to new members and leaders.

Alan Melkerson


The Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA

Alan Melkerson contributions to Friendship Force during his 17 years as a member are matched by the outreach that he exhibited to other clubs and organizations in his zeal for membership into the Friendship Force. He has held multiple roles on the local board, served as an ED for four exchanges, and participated in numerous exchanges both as a host and an ambassador. Al's outreach to gain attention for and to publicize Friendship Force was a force to be recognized.

Patricia and David Meyer

Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA

FF Northern Illinois is proud to nominate Pat and Dave Meyer for the Wayne Smith Award. This couple, both individually and as a team, have provided enormous service to our club and to Friendship Force International. Since joining the club in 1999, they have worked tirelessly on its behalf. Each has served as President and they have been board members for many years. They have been Exchange Directors for many incoming and outgoing exchanges over many years, and have also led various global exchanges. They have been instrumental in opening new clubs in several different countries. Pat is a past regional rep, has chaired our mentoring committee and is currently the Exchange Coordinator and member of our Strategic Plan committee. Dave is a past member of the FFI Board. It would be difficult to find any two individuals who have been more dedicated to Friendship Force; together they are a formidable team.





Dorothy Milburn

The Friendship Force of Melbourne, Australia

Dorothy Milburn and her husband joined the Friendship Force of Melbourne at its very first meeting in 1997. She immediately became an active host, ambassador and exchange director. She served on the club's board from 1999 to 2004, including two years as club president. In 2003 she took the initiative to get the club incorporated under Victorian law, and she has served as the club's public office since then. The club's current board gave this statement: "For 15 years Dorothy has served the club in a careful and conscientious manner. She is a worthy recipient of the Wayne Smith Medal."

Alan Milne

FFI Board of Directors, The Friendship Force of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand

Alan Milne first became involved in the Friendship Force in 1986 and was instrumental in organising the first FF exchange to Kapiti Coast, and in the resultant formation of the Kapiti Coast Friendship Force Club. Alan has been Patron of the Kapiti Coast Club for as long as anyone can remember, and he and his wife Mary have held a number of offices over the years. Alan also actively supported and promoted the Friendship Force in his capacity as Mayor of Kapiti for eight years. His club was very proud when Alan was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2010, recognising his contribution to the Kapiti Coast community. His services to the Friendship Force were included in the citation for this award. Alan was appointed to the FFI Board of Directors for a four-year term and served as Chairman of the Board for two years. During this time he oversaw the implementation of the Global Expansion Plan. Alan's medal was presented to him by all the Friendship Force clubs of New Zealand in recognition of his excellent leadership on the local, national and international levels.

Mary Milne

The Friendship Force of Kapiti Coast, New Zealand

Mary and her husband Alan were founding members of the Kapiti Coast Friendship Force in 1987 and were instrumental in organizing the club's first exchange. Mary has provided leadership to the club in multiple roles on the club board over the years, including serving as club president. She has led both inbound and outbound exchanges over the years and has welcomed many new international friends into her home. For many years she also served as the club's newsletter editor. The club's current president gave this statement: "Mary has always given a guiding hand to our board, and her extensive knowledge of the Friendship Force has been of great benefit to us. She is a stalwart of our club."

Adrienne Moen

The Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines, Iowa, USA


Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines is honored to nominate Adrienne Moen for the Wayne Smith Award. Adrienne joined the club at a time when it was without a president and had lost direction. In her three years as President, she, among other things, increased the success of the club by reintroducing Board structure, formalizing annual planning meetings, and communicating with other local international organizations. Adrienne has been an outstanding Midwest Field Representative for 4 years, during which time she initiated better communication among the clubs and served as our best cheerleader. She never hesitated to visit the clubs in the region to share their successes and served as a sounding board for their ideas. Adrienne has been a devoted and tireless advocate for Friendship Force and is a worthy recipient for the Wayne Smith Award.

Helen Morgan

The Friendship Force of Southern Oregon, USA

Helen Morgan first became active in the Friendship Force while she was living in Asheville, North





Carolina in 1987. She and her husband both served as exchange directors and club presidents. In 1997 they moved to Medford, Oregon and found there was no local Friendship Force club. Together with another couple, they founded the Friendship Force of Southern Oregon. Helen remained active in club leadership and led many exchanges. Her club officers say, "She has been the mentor to every exchange director and president. Whenever a question arises in a board meeting, she is the one with the answers."

Doris Mueller

The Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

As a member of the Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee for over 20 years, Doris Mueller has been an outstanding contributor to the smooth running of our organization. She has served as our technology guru for most of those years, producing our newsletter, managing our website and Facebook page and delivering communications to our members on a regular basis. Additionally, as a member of our Board of Directors, she has served in a variety of capacities including President, Vice-President, Membership Chair and Communications Chair. She has been a Journey Coordinator numerous times as well as a gracious host for a great many of our Inbound Journeys. Always willing to help, Doris works tirelessly to take our club to new heights. She has been an integral part of the numerous committees she has served on including Bylaws/501(c)3, Strategic Planning, Fundraising and many more. Through the years, she has been an active participant in club activities. She has traveled extensively and has made and maintained friendships the world over. Her dedication and commitment to Friendship Force is indeed inspiring to all and we are forever grateful to her for the years of outstanding service she has given to our club.

John F. Mullen

The Friendship Force of Western North Carolina, USA

John, known by his friends around the world as Jack, joined FF Western North Carolina with his wife in 2001. He served as club treasurer for five years, and his fellow club members attribute much of their club's success to Jack's leadership. Known as a dynamic exchange director, he has led exchanges to seven countries. His vision prompted a club donation of \$2,000 to a fledgling school in the poorest section of Trujillo, Peru. In 2011 he was elected to the FFI Board of Directors, where he was subsequently elected treasurer, working closely with the FFI staff to upgrade accounting and records management practices. He went on to serve as Chairman of the Board for two years.

Bruce Murray


The Friendship Force of Sydney, Australia

A founding member of FF Sydney, Bruce has served as club president, a field representative for Central District, FF Australia Finance Representative, and an exchange director for several inbound and outbound exchanges. He is a host extraordinaire - Bruce & Patricia hosted over 80 ambassadors in their home. He was also in close contact with the Korean Community in Sydney and subsequently has involved the Sydney club socially with the community.

Cindy Paulson

The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado, USA

Cindy joined FF Northern Colorado in 2006 and has truly devoted herself. She serves as one of the monthly newsletter editor and photographer. She frequently assists with the development of exchange booklets and is currently the club's "Special Projects" coordinator. Cindy is currently the Assistant Membership Director, organizing annual New Member Orientation Training sessions and pairing new members with trained mentors. At any given meeting, Cindy can be found setting up the sound system,



conducting business with mentors, welcoming new members, helping to organize the purchase of jackets or shirts, participating in a sub-committee, or helping with setup and cleanup!

Tom and Cathy Peter

The Friendship Force of Medicine Hat, Canada

Tom and Cathy Peter are founding members of FF Medicine Hat. After learning about Friendship Force from a friend, they organized a founding committee and obtained a club charter in 2003. Both have held numerous club leadership roles over the past decade. Tom served as the first club President and Cathy followed him as President for the next two years. Both have served on club committees and as exchange directors. Cathy is known for organizing unique exchange programs, and Tom was instrumental in rewriting the club's bylaws. Much of the club's success is attributed to the drive and energy that Cathy and Tom have brought as leaders.

Marge Pettinato

The Friendship Force of Missoula-Western Montana, USA

Marge helped to establish the club newsletter system for FF Missoula-Western Montana and served as the editor and mailer of the newsletter for nearly ten years. Additionally she served the club in other capacities, including as president, exchange director and club treasurer for more than four years. She and her husband traveled extensively with the club. She is described as a hard-working, dependable and value asset to the club.

Dr. Rita Kirk Powell

The Friendship Force of Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA

Modeling friendship in action wherever she goes, Dr. Rita Kirk Powell continues to be the "go-to gal" in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley Friendship Force. A member since 1993, Rita brings history and continuity to our club with her active participation in a variety of capacities at the local, regional and national levels. In 2000, she was selected as one of the first US Field Reps; and from 2005 to 2008, Rita served on the FFI Board of Directors. In 2002 she was awarded the FFI Volunteer of the Year Award for Outstanding Achievement. In our Mid-Willamette Valley Club, Rita has served as co-president with her husband Ted, and has taken the leadership role of Exchange Director to many countries.

Kay Price


The Friendship Force of Blue Mountains, Australia

Kay has served the Friendship Force at multiple levels, as club president, regional field representative and field representative coordinator, as well as serving as exchange director. Kay has been a member of Friendship Force for eighteen years. She was previously a member of the Tamworth and Sydney clubs before becoming a founding member of the Blue Mountains Club. Being a tireless worker she is an inspiration to other club members and is very generous in making her home available for meetings and hosting. Kay is highly respected for her ongoing service to all clubs and her knowledge and commitment is outstanding.

Robert and Billie Ray

The Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City, Iowa, USA

The participation of Governor Robert Ray and his wife Billie in the Friendship Force goes all the way back to the beginning of the organization. Governor Ray brought the Friendship Force message to Iowa after President Jimmy Carter's first presentation of the idea to a governors' meeting meeting in 1977. By November of the same year, Billie was leading an exchange of 250 ambassadors, including President



Carter's mother Lillian, to Dublin, Ireland. The Rays were instrumental in starting the five Friendship Force clubs in Iowa. Billie Ray led exchanges to Ireland, Venezuela, the Soviet Union and China. Governor Ray has served on the Friendship Force International Board of Trustees and is a past chair of Friendship Force International.

Don & Betty Rea

The Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA

Betty and Don are charter members of the Friendship Force of Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley. In 1993, they served as host exchange directors for a delegation of 73 from Varel, Germany, that included a Shanty Chor and a troupe of folk dancers. A lasting relationship between the two clubs followed, with FF Varel returning to visit twice more. In 2000, the Mid-Valley club was named Club of the Year by FFI. Current club president John Wyse credits this achievement to "such strong members as the Reas." Don and Betty served as club presidents for two years, have traveled and hosted countless times, and have attended regional and international conferences.

Inger Rice

The Friendship Force of Richmond, Virginia, USA

When the Friendship Force was founded in 1977, US President Jimmy Carter ask each State Governor to appoint a State Director for the organization. Inger Rice was appointed to be the Friendship Force State Director for Virginia, and under her leadership, three clubs were formed. She has also worked with international leaders to establish clubs in the Philippines and Poland. In addition to having served on the FFI Board of Trustees and the International Advisory Council, Inger was also awarded the FFI Volunteer of the Year award in 1984. As a leader of the Friendship Force of Richmond, she has funded volunteer awards for the club and endowed a special scholarship fund for young ambassadors.

Colin Ridge


The Friendship Force of Taupo, New Zealand

Colin Ridge joined FF Taupo in 2003 and has served 8 years as secretary and was the president in 2012. He has been the exchange director for 10 exchanges and, together with his wife, has hosted some 15 times. Colin co-organized of the successful Taupo Membership Drive in 2011 which resulted in Taupo winning the Outstanding Club of the Year in 2012. Colin was presented the "Explore, Understand and Serve Award" at 37th World Conference in Auckland and has attended World Conferences in Brisbane and Hiroshima. He led a Pioneer Exchange to the Philippines in 2014, the result of which is leading to the establishment of Friendship Force of Baguio and Friendship Force Naga, Philippines. Colin was also co-Chair at NZ National Conference in New Plymouth attended by new CEO/President Jeremi Snook. Throughout he has been wonderfully supported by his wife, Janet. Colin continues to serve on the Board of Taupo Friendship Force.

Linda Rimmington

The Friendship Force of Bundaberg, Australia

Linda Rimmington was the inaugural president of the Friendship Force of Bundaberg in 1991. Since then, she has served as president on seven other occasions and as treasurer for a total of nine years. She has also led many exchanges and contributed to the organization of many regional events and a national conference. The club's current board gave this statement: "Linda has the unique ability to embrace a wide range of friends from all walks of life and her circle of friends stretches globally. She is a real contributor to the Bundaberg community and is regularly seen visiting the elderly in nursing homes with her accordion band."



Diana Sanders

The Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA

Diana Sanders has been a member of Friendship Force of Northern Illinois for 20 years. Along with her late husband, Ted, she has contributed to the club's success in many ways. She served on the board as Secretary for many years, and is currently the Social chair. She has also been a member of exchange planning, mentoring, by-laws, and 30th anniversary committees. She has been Exchange director for at least eight outgoing exchanges, and an ambassador on several others. She has home-hosted and dinner-hosted numerous times. In addition, Diana has been part of the Trailblazer project, co-hosted a Passover Seder, and planned annual nominating dinner meetings. Her special contribution has been the crafting of Friendship Force earrings that members have purchased for their own use and as gifts. Throughout all of the years, Diana has been devoted to the spirit and principles of Friendship Force and to the cohesion and friendship within our group.

Mary Ann Schipf

The Friendship Force of Missoula-Western Montana, USA

Mary Ann has served FF Missoula-Western Montana in a wide variety of roles from the 1980s to the present day, including as club president for a total of four years. She has been the main promoter of the club through advertising and networking with other local organizations. Her knowledge of the club's history is a valuable asset to new members and leaders, and her enthusiasm in expanding the club's membership is an inspiration to all.

Robert and Dolores Schwagerl

The Friendship Force of Central Virginia, USA

Bob and Dee joined FF Central Virginia (then known as FF Charlottesville) in 1996 and have been committed to the Friendship Force mission ever since. Bob served as club president in 2001, and both he and Dee have held board positions over the years. They have served as exchange directors for six exchanges and have hosted 14 times over 15 years. Since 2000, the Schwagerls have represented FFCV at regional conferences. Bob served as regional field representative for the Mid-Atlantic from 2003-2006, during which time he began the Presidents Round Table for clubs in that region. At the FFI 30th Anniversary Gala in 2007, he received an Outstanding Achievement award.

Eric Scott

The Friendship Force of Christchurch, New Zealand

Eric Scott joined Friendship Force Christchurch in 2004, became a club Board member in 2007, and has served continuously on the Board to the present day. He was elected Vice President for 2011 and 2012, following on to be club President in 2013 and 2014. He has been editor and compiler of the club newsletter for the last 11 years. In both 2011 and 2016, he received the club's Wings of Seattle Award which is given each year by the club's President to the member who has done most to further Friendship Force ideals. Eric (along with his wife Margaret) has home-hosted for 24 inbound Journeys and has also been a Journey Coordinator. As a couple, Eric and Margaret have been on many outward Journeys and jointly were Journey Coordinators in 2010 to USA and Europe. At the New Zealand level, Eric has been National FF Webmaster since 2006, resigning in 2016. Eric's service to the wider community makes one wonder how he ever had time for Friendship Force. Most notably, he was on the Rangi Ruru Girls' School Board of Governors for 9 years, a stalwart member of his church having been a parish councillor, elder, treasurer and youth group leader and a member of many professional organizations.

Tom Sharp

The Friendship Force of Howick, New Zealand

Tom and his wife Bev joined the Friendship Force of Howick in its early days, and since then he has filled a wide range of supportive roles during exchanges and club activities. He has served as club president, club treasurer and exchange director over the years. He also played an invaluable part in planning the two New Zealand conferences held in Howick in 1995 and 2011 as well as the Asia-Pacific conference in 2003. In addition, he has done great work in promoting the club with local newspaper coverage. His friends describe him as “a loved and respected member who only ever has a good word to say.”

Erle Smith

The Friendship Force of Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Erle Smith was elected the first president of the Birmingham Friendship Force Club in 1984. There were seventy-nine members present for the first meeting. Erle was also the first outbound exchange director for the club when thirty-three of its members traveled as ambassadors to Shanghai, China. Erle and his wife, Virginia, have participated in most of the Birmingham exchanges, international and domestic. Now in their 80s, they continue to host incoming ambassadors and have kept in contact with people they have met around the world through Friendship Force. Erle truly exemplifies the concept of world peace through friendship.

Ruth Southgate

The Friendship Force of Brisbane, Australia

Ruth's fellow members see her as “the heart of the club.” She is a founding member of the Friendship Force of Brisbane, which started in 1987. She has served in many club executive positions and has opened up her home for club meetings and social events. Ruth is an inspiration to new club members and always finds the time to talk to them. She is widely known in Australian and overseas clubs. Ruth has gathered many Friendship Force photographs and her home is full of Friendship Force memorabilia. The Brisbane club is honored to have Ruth as a member.

Marj Stanton


The Friendship Force of Bundaberg, Australia

Marj Stanton has been a member of the Bundaberg Friendship Force Club for over 24 years. In her earlier years she travelled extensively on international journeys to Europe, United Kingdom, USA, South America and New Zealand. She has participated in many domestic journeys within Australia. She has attended almost every National Conference in Australia and is widely known and respected within the Australian Friendship Force Community. She has held the office of Merchandise Officer for the club for many years and she has assisted journey coordinators on many occasions. Not able to do overseas travel in recent years she still hosts ambassadors and provides day and dinner hosting. Her home has been used on any occasions throughout the years for various functions-- Melbourne Cup race day activities, Christmas parties and meetings. Through her loving caring nature she epitomises the ideals, goals and vision of Friendship Force. She has been strongly supported by her very close knit family of Susanne, Judith Cheryl and Ian who all live in Bundaberg.

Ken and Betty Tarrant

The Friendship Force of South Taranaki, New Zealand

Ken & Betty Tarrant joined the Friendship Force in 1988 and have been extremely valuable members ever since. They have both been involved in the executive side of club leadership, Ken as president, vice president, secretary, board member and field representative; and Betty as a board member for several terms and also helping Ken in his various roles. They have traveled extensively on eight



outward exchanges and hosted 21 international inward exchanges. Both have acted as exchange directors on inbound and outbound exchanges. Their club committee feels that they both have put the Friendship Force of South Taranaki in a very prominent place in their lives. They are a couple that the club members go to for advice on all aspects of the Friendship Force.

Charlene Terrell

The Friendship Force of Big Canoe-North Georgia, USA

Charlene was an outbound exchange director even before the Friendship Force existed. Founder Wayne Smith recruited her to organize a cultural exchange to demonstrate his concept for an organization devoted to global understanding through people-to-people diplomacy. Charlene did an excellent job with the task, and her work became a model for the beginning of the Friendship Force. Charlene served on the International Board of Directors from 1998 to 2002. At the request of Wayne Smith and the FFI board, Charlene wrote *The Other Side of the Mountain*, a book chronicling the first 20 years of the Friendship Force.

Jocelyn Terry

The Friendship Force of South Taranaki, New Zealand

Jocelyn Terry has been an active, supportive member of the Friendship Force of South Taranaki for the past twenty-six years. During that time she has been an integral part of the club, serving in many roles and taking a full part in all club activities. She has had eighteen years as a Board member and has edited and produced the Bulletin, had responsibility for membership, welcoming many new members to the club, as well as serving as Vice President and President. She has served on inbound and outbound Exchange Committees and been Exchange Director five times. She has also travelled extensively with the club and maintains friendships across the world.

Kent Vickers

The Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Kent accepted the position of membership chair for FF Greater Atlanta in 2001, beginning an active outreach program to identify prospective members. He presented the Friendship Force mission to other local organizations and helped the club retain members by reaching out individually. He served as exchange director numerous time, planning and leading very successful exchanges. He also lends his graphic arts and computer skills to other EDs. Kent has served on the club's board for the past ten years, including as vice president. His fellow club members say he has given selflessly of his time and talent to make our organization a better and more effective entity.

Denice Wheeler


The Friendship Force of Utah, USA


An active member for over 20 years, Denice regularly drives over 85 miles to attend club meetings and exchange activities in Salt Lake City. She chaired the committee to organize the club's 20th anniversary celebration in 1997, with Suzy Smith as keynote speaker. Denice also lead the committee to the host the 2004 Mountain States Regional Conference, and has served as club president, vice president and exchange director on numerous occasions. An accomplished musician and author, Denice has also served the local community through her involvement in the Wyoming Commission for Women, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Young Musicians Inc, and By-Way 150.

John Wilhelm

The Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta, Georgia, USA

John Wilhelm has been instrumental in further the mission and ideals of the Friendship Force at a





multitude of levels. Within his club he has served as both president and vice president as well as exchange director and coordinator for Open World Leadership exchanges. He has also served at the regional level as field representative for the Southeastern US. John co-founded a program to home host military officers from 76 countries for a weekend during their attendance at courses conducted at nearby Fort Benning, which has spread awareness of the Friendship Force and resulted in many international friendships.

Kathryn and David Williams

The Friendship Force of Ottawa, Canada

Kathryn and David are founders of FF Ottawa, having worked diligently to establish the club and recruit members in 1994. In the nineteen years since then, our club has successfully hosted many inbound exchanges and participated in many outbound exchanges. We can proudly take credit for the launch of many new Canadian clubs. The FFO Board and FFO membership believe that David and Kathryn, as founders of our club, are most deserving of this award – their leadership and dedication to FF and to our Club, their many contributions over the years have made our club a success.

Stephen Williams

Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids-Iowa City, Iowa, USA

Steve Williams is an advocate of Friendship Force as an active member of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City club. His “can do” attitude and willingness to take on challenges has been a great asset on the local, regional and global level. He has held several leadership positions, including president-elect, club president, the club’s first exchange coordinator, and secretary. Steve has been an exchange director many times, including leading global exchanges to Azerbaijan and Indonesia. In 2011 Friendship Force of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City hosted its first themed exchange. Arranged by FFI, Indonesian teachers spent a week in Iowa improving their language skills in English and absorbing the culture of the U.S. Midwest. As a result of Steve’s leadership, the club received an invitation to visit Indonesia, leading to a successful global exchange to Indonesia in 2013. As a lifelong educator and retired school superintendent, Steve has used his skills and contacts to plan, organize and lead several Open World programs. Steve has been an outstanding asset to our club and always an advisor and mentor to club members.

Jean Wilson


The Friendship Force of Northern Illinois, USA


Jean’s fellow club members call her “the heart of the Friendship Force of Northern Illinois.” A founding member, she has served the club since its beginning in 1984, and she was the club’s second president. She has been an exchange director on numerous inbound and outbound exchanges, and she has volunteered as secretary, newsletter editor, program chair and social chair over the years. She continues to recruit new members and is on a committee for forming a new member mentoring system. Her friends describe her as “a joy-filled member who listens, laughs, shares, cares, helps and is a dear friend to everyone in the Friendship Force of Northern Illinois.”

Margaret Woollard

The Friendship Force of Tamworth, Australia

Margaret and her late husband Ernie volunteered to host stranded ambassadors from Quad Cities during an airline strike in Australia. She served as inaugural treasurer and president, and took on a lead role as ED working with new and existing members on numerous exchanges and hosting for more than 20 years. Margaret is an inspirational leader and mentor who is respected and loved by all. She always makes sure to include everyone in a chat and a laugh.





Andrew Young
FFI Board of Directors

