



Indonesian teachers welcomed in Hartwell, Ga.



friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

Explore • Understand • Serve

Friendship Force International (FFI) is a worldwide network of clubs (local chapters) and individuals that advance our mission of promoting global understanding across the barriers that separate people. We do this by connecting people from different countries at the personal level. When local hosts open their homes to visitors from other countries and cultures, true understanding can develop through the sharing of meals, conversation and the routines of daily life. Since its founding in 1977, FFI has brought together millions of people. In 2009 alone, 3,877 citizen ambassadors traveled between 59 countries, with thousands more serving as hosts. Our mission, structure and activities are described on our website: www.thefriendshipforce.org.

MISSION

To promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

SLOGAN

Changing the way you see the world.

Explore: We explore new countries and regions. We explore new cultures and new ways to connect across the barriers that separate us.

Understand: By sharing a home, meals, conversation and everyday experiences, people become friends, seeing beyond governments and borders into the heart of a country and its people. By combining home hospitality with cultural exploration, we reach a new level of understanding.

Serve: Exploration leads to understanding. Understanding leads to an acceptance of our common humanity and the desire to serve our global village with words and actions.

PROGRAMS

Our programs are called "exchanges." Exchanges may include a home hospitality component for a duration of a few days, or up to a week. Traveling ambassadors may choose from three primary themes: Cultural Understanding exchanges; Language Learning exchanges; and Special Interest exchanges, for example: hiking, walking tours, quilting, & wine exploration, among others.

FACTS IN BRIEF

244 exchanges were conducted in 2009 with 3,877 ambassadors traveling. More than 2,500 families across the globe served as hosts.

346 chartered clubs and programs in 59 countries on 6 continents with more than 18,000 members worldwide.

Friendship Force is a volunteer-driven organization. More than 1,500 volunteer leaders work more than 30,000 hours each year to promote the Friendship Force mission.

Almost 225,000 ambassadors and 750,000 hosts have participated in Friendship Force programs since 1977.

www.thefriendshipforce.org