

FRIENDS FOREVER INTERNATIONAL | Newsletter Fall 2019

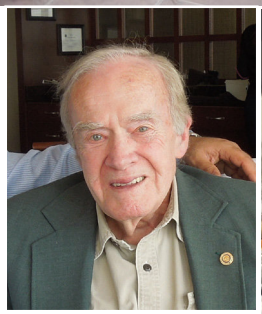
Inside...

- Bob Raiche Day
- Summer Program Photo Gallery
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- and more!

Last fall our young people found out that FFI shirts help you look your best, even when your hands are covered in pumpkin seeds!

#BobRaicheDay

Your chance to represent FFI in your community!



November 4th is Bob Raiche Day! Wear your FFI t-shirt, hoodie, or hat and post a photo on social media with #BobRaicheDay. Let's spread the word about our young leaders and the difference they are making across the globe!

Don't have any FFI gear? We've included two stickers in this newsletter to make things easy! Wear one yourself and give the other away! If you have FFI gear to wear, give your stickers to family members or friends to invite them to share the FFI love!









Get Involved with Friends Forever International!

Upcoming Program Events in Durham, NH

- Oct. 30, 5 pm - 7 pm: **Haunted House**
  Take a break from trick-or-treating to enjoy the annual Haunted House put on by our fall team! Coffee and snacks for parents will be available.
- Oct. 30, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: **Farewell Party**
  Celebrate the end of the fall Skill Building Phase with our youth team from Belfast! Come early and enjoy the Haunted House before hearing from the team.

Recurring

- Monthly on the 2nd Saturday: **Bowen Clinic**
  Bowenwork is a holistic approach to healing and is gentle enough to use on everyone. FREE for all students and kids, $25 for adults. For more info visit www.thebowenteam.org.

Fall Program Dates!

October 18 - November 1

New England Host Community
Northern Ireland Program

November 5 - 15

New England Host Community
Professional Leadership Program: Belfast Women

November 10 - 25

New Orleans Host Community
Alumni Program

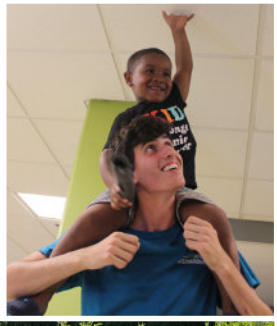
Contact Chelsea@ff.international to suggest a team activity!




















2019 Summer Programs

Thank you for making our summer a success!

Five teams came to the United States this summer for their Skill Building Phase, one from the Northern Ireland program and four from the Israel program. These 50 young people engaged with communities in New England and the Midwest.

We continued to focus on developing our alumni this summer. A dozen joined us to lead teams as alumni trainers, volunteer in the community, and serve as FFI ambassadors everywhere they went.

Join in Fall Programs!

All of the 150 activities from the summer were made possible through the involvement of people like you!

Have a project or activity you want to share with a FFI team? Fill out the Activity Suggestion form at www.ff.international/activity-suggestion or email Chelsea@ff.international with a description.

Resident Artists 2019

Art blossomed in the Farmhouse the entire month of September as our two Artists in Residence worked their magic using found materials. Nechama Levendel (Israel), who was our first artist in residence in 2018, returned with her friend Paz Die Dean (Spain) and developed a joint body of work that was displayed in the Farmhouse for the community to enjoy.

Clockwise from right: Paz discusses her sculptures with community members; a display of Nechama's materials; and several of Nechama's finished pieces.

Bob's Impact

1,800+ alumni. 8 countries. 3 campus locations. 1 person.

Impact. It is one of the fundamental values we integrate into our programs and the work we do with young people. Our collective problems seem too big to even contemplate and many people struggle with figuring out how they can have an impact in a seemingly off-kilter world. We tell the communities we work with, from Rochester, New Hampshire to Belfast, Northern Ireland, that we don't have the specific solutions to the challenges they face. Instead, we tell them that the number of solutions is equal to the number of participants that complete our program.

Our founder, Bob Raiche, believed in the power of one person to make an impact greater than they ever imagined. Especially if they were a young person working with others as a team. His belief in the power of everyone to create a positive impact is what brought volunteers, donors, and young people to FFI for decades and continues to inspire us all today.

It's because of Bob's unrelenting optimism that each year we celebrate his birthday on November 4th as "Bob Raiche Day". This is a day when we ask every one of you to wear your FFI gear (or put a sticker on your shirt). Use this day as an opportunity to share your belief, via social media and/or in-person, that together we can solve the challenges that we face both locally and globally.

There are 4,000 of you receiving this newsletter. On November 4th, join me in sharing the impact of FFI. Let's show all of our communities that we carry on Bob's optimism and faith in the power of young people (and the young person inside all of us) to make a difference in the world. #BobRaicheDay







Alumni Spotlight: Natalie

Eileen D. Foley Fellow to FFI Intern



Natalie ('19 Foley Fellow) planning the alumni program with Amelia.

Natalie Gauthier hasn't stopped impressing us since her team joined FFI in 2018. After completing the FFI Program with the first-ever Spaulding High School team (based in Rochester, NH), Natalie emerged as an outstanding alumna. In March 2019, she took the podium at our Annual Eileen D. Foley Dinner & Roast and gave a speech that brought all 200 guests to their feet.

Now, she is beginning the next phase of her FFI journey as an intern at the FFI Headquarters in Durham, NH. Natalie is working with FFI's AmeriCorps VISTA, Amelia, to revamp our New Orleans-based alumni training program. This program is part of FFI's commitment to strengthen the Alumni Movement and connect and serve the New Orleans community. Natalie's unique perspective as an alumna and fellow is invaluable in planning a program that will give her and other alumni the opportunity to dive into the complex and important issues that matter most to them.

Impact after FFI

Social action projects in Rochester, NH

Our teams from Spaulding High School have been impacting their community since their FFI programs.

Top: Raiders for Change ('18) designed a program to promote school pride. Hard working kids from Rochester's elementary schools are nominated by their teachers to become a "Raider for a Day" and join a Spaulding student for a fun activity like a football game or jewelry club. The program has resulted in rising grades and engagement among dozens of kids.

Bottom: International Sisterhood ('19) chose the environment as their focus and have implemented a composting station in their lunchroom. Each lunch period the team works the station to teach students about the importance of composting.











An Annalong Update

Our European hub is already in action!

The FFI Center at Annalong in Northern Ireland is fast becoming a second home for FFI programs! At the end of September, alumni lead a Team Building Seminar for this fall's youth and adult women's teams from Belfast. These two teams got a taste of the FFI program by staying together on the 70-bed campus, enjoying team building activities on the quad, and participating in workshops lead by FFI alumni and staff in the meeting spaces.

The Center at Annalong has also been hosting nonprofit groups at discounted rates from across Northern Ireland and beyond! School, faith, and civic organizations have made the campus their home while allowing FFI to earn income that supports our programs. Individuals have also stayed in the cottages and enjoyed the beautiful seaside and mountain views. To learn more about the FFI Center at Annalong, visit www.ff.international/annalong.

Autumn is a Time for Thanks

We're growing fast and it's all because of you

Over the past five years, FFI has gone through a major transformation. We out-grew the small office in Portsmouth, NH and now have three locations around the world: the Global Headquarters in Durham, NH, the FFI Center at Annalong in Northern Ireland, and the FFI Rainforest Academy in Belize. We've added one part-time and two full-time staff positions and partners from the United States, Cyprus, Tajikistan, and Ukraine. In that time, over 500 young people have completed the FFI program.

This is all possible because of donations, large and small, from people like you. Whether it's gifts of stock, monthly recurring donations, or spontaneous one-time gifts, your support allows us to keep empowering young leaders with the skills they need to realize their dreams of changing the world for the better. So, thank you!

To give today or learn more, visit www.ff.international/ways-to-support or call 603.397.5301. Thank you!



Several youth from the Israel Program on a boat in NH in summer 2019.

Did you raise a pint for peace?

Check out photos from the event on our website and Facebook page and start training for next year!

PINTS FOR PEACE™
October 12, 2019