

# 2020 *Virtual Impact*

*Also, our evolving programs, alumni reconnections, and successful virtual events!*

**85**

GLOBAL ALUMNI  
ENGAGED

**180**

COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS ENGAGED

**150**

ALUMNI  
WORKSHOPS

**54**

WORKSHOPS WITH  
SENIOR CITIZENS

**620**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**7**

REGIONS OF THE  
WORLD

## Countless *Moments Shared*



# A Time for Action

## Bringing FFI programs to the next level

By Steve Martineau, Executive Director

There is a multitude of crises in our country today. The polarizing division, the extreme isolation of senior citizens, and the severe negative impact that shutdowns have had on the education and the mental health of youth from all backgrounds (especially those from at-risk populations), to name a few.

For the last nine months, FFI has recognized these challenges. We noticed how little was being done and have focused on mobilizing our resources to directly address them wherever and however we can. But beyond the scope of addressing them ourselves, we hope to inspire other institutions and policy makers to start to work on them, as well.

This is not the time for paralysis. This is the time for action. This is the time for all of us to think of bold new ways we can have a positive impact on our communities, our neighbors, and ourselves. With that in mind, although all international travel has been shut down for the last nine months, this time has given the staff of FFI the unique opportunity to focus on formally establishing our curriculum into one complete Course Catalog.

This catalog is the cornerstone of our new curriculum which will allow us to virtually provide programs to individuals and organizations across the United States, and to regions of the world that we had not been able to work with before. This catalog has been significantly adapted so that FFI can now provide our programs not only to youth in middle and high schools, but also to universities, professional, civic, faith based organizations, and to seniors in assisted living communities.

The catalog is broken down into six Concentrations: Leadership, Multiculturalism, Creativity & Arts, Ecology, Healthy Living, and Adventure Education. Each concentration is comprised of several courses, with each course consisting of a dozen sessions. The recent innovation behind this catalog is just one more powerful example of the pioneering work FFI has accomplished in the field of empathetic leadership development and conflict transformation. **There is nothing else like this out there.**

We are now asking our supporters (be they individuals or foundations) to join us in recognizing the crises of this country, to assist us in continuing this necessary and innovative work, and to consider investing in it. To date, over 1,000 hours of staff time has been invested into this project. Yet, we imagine this will be just a small fraction of the work that will be required to address the challenges our country faces, and to complete and deliver our programs.

As FFI enters our 35th year of work, in many ways, we feel as if these new developments are the beginning of a different journey and we could not be more excited to invite all of you to join us. Let us all become unified not solely for the sake of unity, but logically, because that is what our country needs to build a better world.

Thank you,  
Steve

More information can be found at [www.ffinternational.com/programs](http://www.ffinternational.com/programs)

Pages from our new Course Catalog, from top down: Cover, Table of Contents, Leadership Course Introduction page.

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Leadership Courses

TEAM BUILDING

- TB 1.0: Team Building Intro
- TB 2.0: Team Foundations
- TB 3.0: Team Impact

COMMUNICATION

- COMM 1.0: Opening Conversation
- COMM 2.0: Digging Deeper
- COMM 3.0: Conversations With Other Practicum

PUBLIC SPEAKING

- PS 1.0: Getting Past The Nerves
- PS 2.0: What's Your Story?
- PS 3.0: Delivering Your Speech

IDENTITY

- ID 1.0: Who Am I?
- ID 2.0: Learning About You
- ID 3.0: Identity & Society

GOAL SETTING

- GS 1.0: What Are Goals?
- GS 2.0: Organizing Your Vision
- GS 3.0: Habits

REFLECTION

- REF 1.0: Unpacking

**LEADERSHIP**

Our leadership method

FFI focuses on teaching social, communication, and goal setting skills through rigorous practice. We build empathic leaders by combining their passion to build a better world with the skills required to make it a reality.



# Making the Most of Your Time

Join the Legacy Society to support FFI this year and beyond

By Jameson French, FFI Board Chair

While I have supported FFI modestly for many years, in the last eight, I have become very aware of the impact this organization has on the lives of youth, their families, and their communities...and also the impact FFI has had on me.

This great impact became clear to me primarily through reflecting on the deep connections that I [and others I know] have made with alumni. These connections are part of what makes FFI so special. Because of my deep belief in our programs and alumni, I have included FFI as a bequest in my will.

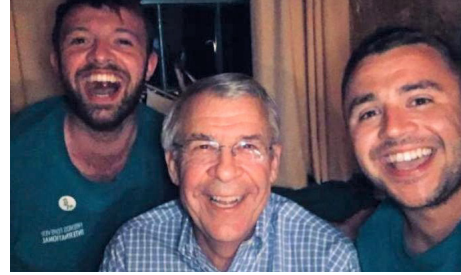
Gifts like these are fundamental for lean organizations in the best of times. In years like 2020, they provide essential sustainability to not only survive but thrive. Although some of us may not be at the stage of life where that is the right thing for our estate planning, we can make additional decisions now to make sure Friends Forever International will continue to make an impact for generations to come. There are many vehicles for this via:

- A specific bequest as part of your will
- Making FFI a beneficiary of all or a part of your IRA
- Designating FFI as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy
- Creating a Charitable Remainder Trust
- Donating real estate or assets
- Underwriting groups from specific regions

You can also create a named alumni fellowship fund to honor a loved one or add to one of our existing funds that honor Maxine Morse, Bob Raiche, Guy Buesing, or Eileen Foley. By the end of 2020, we would like to launch our Legacy Society and publish a list of its charter members.

Please be in touch with me ([Jameyf@northlandforest.com](mailto:Jameyf@northlandforest.com)) or Steve Martineau ([Steve@ff.international](mailto:Steve@ff.international)) if you have questions or would like to talk about all the options for planned giving. Of course, you should be in touch with your legal and financial advisors, as well.

Best wishes for the year ahead,



Jameson with Josh and Paul, FFI alumni and Raiche Fellows.

## Time After Time

Time after time, we see that the impact of FFI doesn't end with the program. Whether you're a volunteer high school student from down the street, a first-generation American college applicant, or one of our senior alumni who continues to find inspiration in the story of our founder, you never know when you'll need to draw upon your FFI experience.

*Excerpt from Hans Xu's (Exchange student from China and FFI Volunteer) application to Boston University*

"Volunteering at FFI, I gained unique experience of communication and had a deeper understanding of what diversity and inclusivity mean...I got the opportunity to work with others who I have never met before. The community service brought me into a group where everyone held the same desire to make this community better."



*Excerpt from Tati Azouri's ('19) application to Boston University*

"My favorite part of being a member of Friends Forever is being able to build relationships with people from a multitude of backgrounds, and gaining new perspectives from getting to know them. I'm always enthusiastic when FFI offers something community related for me to do in this way, because of my passion for learning about the world and its people."



*Excerpt from Natalie Gauthier's ('18, '19 Foley Fellow) Public Speech Course - UNH*

"The movement for the organization that Bob started only continues to grow as we push for change and utilize the same ideas and plans that he did so many years ago. He was a true gift to this world, and I will leave you with a final message from him: *If you want to get to know someone, take the seat next to them on a life raft.*"







## One Heck of a Time!

### Pints For Peace a success

By Nora Faith, FFI Staff

2019 provided the reemergence of our infamous fundraiser Pints For Peace, setting the precedent for what we thought would be years to come. However, when the uncertainty of 2020 rolled around, along with it came the need to reimagine this event. The question quickly became: How can we hold a virtual event and would people actually show up? The answer was a resounding YES!. Once again, we were lucky to be able to utilize our most valuable asset: our Global Alumni. Alumni were essential in driving attendance to the event and helping it become our most successful Pints fundraiser to date. More importantly, the event flourished into a much-needed respite from the isolation and confinement we've all been feeling. This past October, a new tradition was born in which neighborhoods from all over the world toasted together in the name of Peace.

While 2020 is coming to an end (YES!), it has helped us imagine many possibilities for how we can grow this event to be even bigger and bolder in the future. For more details visit [www.pintsforpeace.org](http://www.pintsforpeace.org).

## Rediscovery in a Strange Time

### Alumnae Steph on her reconnection with FFI

By Steph Magee, '05

I participated in Friends Forever in 2005 and was planning a trip to New England this year, which got me reminiscing about my experience. I found the old scrapbook that I made with pictures, tickets, etc., and discovered business cards of FFI volunteers Craig Kelleher and Kris Rand, who were a huge part of my skill-building phase in NH. I reached out to them, and we reconnected in such a beautiful way. This experience encouraged me to re-engage with FFI, and that's how I discovered the alumni movement. Lockdown gave me the opportunity to join alumni workshops where I met so many other alumni from all over the world, and was welcomed back into the FFI family.

On a recent training day for youth work, I shared my alumni experience with the group and someone asked if I was referring to Friends Forever. As it turns out, the person that had asked, Gary, participated in the programme in 1995 and was eager to re-establish contact after I shared all the amazing opportunities being an alumni has given me. My experience shows that it is never too late to re-engage and give back to the incredible organisation that gives so much to its participants. The opportunities and possibilities are endless with FFI at any age, no matter how many years have passed.



*Steph flying in Craig's plane during her program.*

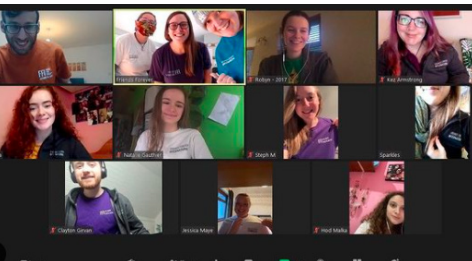
## Joining FFI Just in Time!

### FFI welcomes new AmeriCorps VISTA, Nora

By FFI Staff

FFI is happy to welcome Nora Faith as our new AmeriCorps VISTA! Nora was already part of the FFI Family as she led a team from Northern Ireland last fall as their Program Coordinator. We are very excited to have her join us again with her humor and positivity! Nora has a background in communications and international peace studies. As a VISTA, Nora will focus on program and curriculum development. She also has taken on event planning and headed our Pints For Peace fundraiser to great success!

Nora is the fourth AmeriCorps VISTA that FFI has hosted. VISTAs join us full-time for a year and provide almost 2,000 volunteer hours. If you would like to reach out to Nora, you can contact her at [nora@ffi.international](mailto:nora@ffi.international).



# Thank you to everyone who celebrated Bob Raiche Day!!!

