

FFI 35th

A N N I V E R S A R Y

Spring 2021

35 years of "World Peace...Grown Locally!" Help us kick-start our 35th year by revisiting memories from past participants and community members, celebrate new programs, and tee up to have a memorable 12th Annual Golf Fore Peace Tournament!

FFI Celebrates Its 35th Year!

1986: Magnum PI. The Challenger. The Super Bowl Shuffle. Family Ties. The Iran-Contra Affair. Hands Across America. Cheers. Mad Cow Disease. The Color Purple. The Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa. Chernobyl.

Looking at what was happening in the world back then, a lot has changed, but it also seems that a lot has stayed the same. For those who were around in 1986, they may see the similarities in national politics, a fascination with entertainment figures, or how disasters make us all realize that this planet we inhabit and all of us on it are more deeply connected than we would like to admit. Yet for each of these times of global distress, there are many more beautiful examples of individuals coming together in ways, small and large, and that gives us hope.

1986: Friends Forever was started as a small one-time project as a way of fostering connections between Protestant and Catholic young men that were in conflict in Northern Ireland at the time. It was a simple program and it worked. It not only created friendships among these young men, but also created connections among the many volunteers that gave their time, treasure, and talent to make that first trip a reality. While organizations with more "sophisticated" names were much larger in size have come and gone in these last 35 years, FFI continues to evolve and grow with the times. Over the last 35 years, our deep and personal connections with our donors, partners, and alumni have not only sustained us but elevated and pushed us to new levels.

Yes, we have moved from a small rented room that was 96 square feet to operating three campuses across the globe. Yes, we have grown from one program serving 10 youth in Northern Ireland to having served nearly 2,000 individuals from Cyprus, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Tajikistan, Uganda, and now the U.S.

Yes, we have gone from Friends Forever...to Friends Forever International. But, we are still Friends Forever at our roots. There is the same personal and authentic connection with everyone who is a part of the FFI family. Whether they are a participant from 1988 or from 2018, a group of volunteers like Community Toolbox, or new youth joining us from across this nation - our impact continues to grow deeper in each decade of our existence.

Regardless of the year, 1986 or 2021, the world will always have its times of sadness, but these times of sadness can become the soil from which our connection blooms. As we enter the spring of 2021, we invite you to visit, both in body and spirit, to reconnect with FFI and everyone in our global family. Let's make our 35th year a year of optimism and hope, so that we can continue to grow together for the next 35 years.

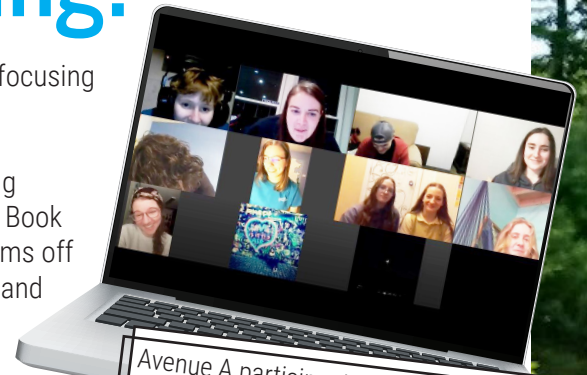
Steve Martineau, CEO



Programs are Blooming!

Over the last 12 months, FFI has been preparing for the spring and summer by focusing on strengthening our curriculum.

We've spent countless hours creating Individual Leadership Plans (ILPs), training alumni to facilitate new workshops, and completely redesigning a new Memory Book (a workbook style tool used in all FFI first-year programs) to get our new programs off the ground. We're excited to share that FFI can now work virtually with schools and afterschool programs everywhere. Take a look at our newest projects below. To learn more or apply, visit <https://www.ff.international/programs>.



Avenue A participants laugh during vision boarding.

Avenue A - Teen and Community Center

In March, we embarked on our first program with our community partner, Avenue A, thanks to support from the Greater Monadnock Rotary Club. Avenue A has hosted international FFI teams in years past and we are excited to collaborate on this one-of-a-kind program. Over the last six weeks, young people from Monadnock County have explored goal setting. We've answered hypothetical questions about our values and our future ambitions, we've visualized our goals using vision boards, and we've discussed goals as temporary benchmarks: things that propel you towards the future you want.

In one of the last sessions, participants were asked to set a formal goal using FFI's preferred goal setting method of objectives, key results, and action steps (OKR's). One of the young people, Maggie, stated that this method, "broke down big picture goals to make them more attainable." No matter what method worked best for them, each participant came away with at least one important future goal. One participant said they wanted to start to write one poem a day, some shared, they wanted to get outside more, and most mentioned they felt better prepared in their decision to select a future university to attend.



Tailored vision board packages mailed directly to each Avenue A participant reflecting their individual interests.

With the conclusion of this initial program, we look forward to two additional Avenue A programs in 2021.

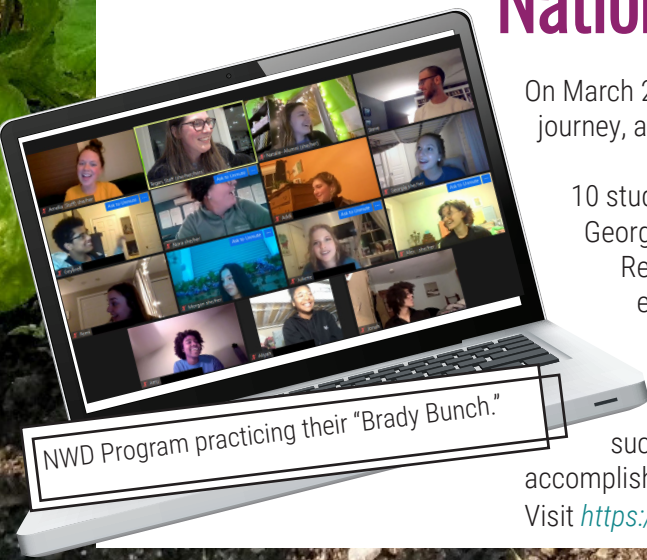
Nationwide Discovery Program

On March 2nd, FFI's newest leadership group "Orbit C3" began their virtual FFI journey, and they've been Zooming around the FFI galaxy ever since.

10 students from across the nation: Addi (IL), Alex (SC), Aliyah (PA), Amy (LA), Georgia (SC), Geybrell (MA), Jonah (NH), Juliette (SC), Morgan (NH), and Remi (NH) have put countless hours into becoming stronger and more empathetic leaders through FFI.

So far they've focused on the team building, communication, and identity aspects of our program, and are now moving on to a wide variety of classes such as goal setting, and public speaking. We're so proud of what Orbit C3 has accomplished so far, and we hope to see them in person this summer!

Visit <https://www.ff.international/programs> to apply for our next Nationwide Program!



NWD Program practicing their "Brady Bunch."

1988 - 2018: 30 Years of Public Speaking!

Over the past few months of our 35th year, we have had the opportunity to take a step back in time, looking through letters, poems, and speeches, along with hearing memories from participants dating back to the 1980's. One of the earliest memories we've received is from Karyn Woods-Harty who participated in the program in 1988:

"I was a shy teenager when I traveled to New Hampshire with Friends Forever in it's third year. We had a wonderful experience and met many amazing people. I will always be very grateful for the opportunities that FF opened up for me, particularly the experience I gained while public speaking at Rotary events. I was fortunate to be made a Paul Harris fellow some years later and carry with me many happy memories from FF. Some of you may know the poem that I had written, which Bob Raiche 'made me' read out at those events, and was later quoted by Senator George Mitchell in his memoir of the peace process, 'Making Peace.' It is wonderful that FF has given opportunities to so many young people from around the world since those humble beginnings. Thanks everyone."



Karyn Harty (right) during her FF program in 1988.

Today, Karyn is a senior partner at McCann FitzGerald, a full-service law firm in Dublin, Ireland where she specializes in complex commercial litigation. She is also advocating for access, diversity, and inclusion in the legal profession. She continues to support and remain in contact with FFI to this day! Check out an excerpt from her poem below.

*Is there any hope?
Prejudice is ruling here.
Can we not all be one,
Protestant and catholic alike?
All human.
To solve it, we will have talks,
About talks.
About talks.
I need a future.*

Another memory that we received is from Christal, who 30 years after Karyn, participated in the FFI program that, while changed and evolved, still encompassed the same core values and aspects as the one Karyn participated in, like public speaking:

"One of my favorite FFI memories was giving my speech and watching my teammates give theirs. We were all uncomfortable with public speaking, and I doubted myself a lot at the time. I remember so clearly the pride I felt for myself and my teammates, and how it helped me learn to push myself more."

Today, Christal is a double major in Sociology and Psychology (along with working part-time) at Suffolk University in Boston, and eventually wants to get her Master's degree in social work to become a social worker. Christal is actively facilitating workshops for our current virtual teams as an FFI alum.

We want to thank all of FFI's supporters, who are an integral part of FFI's legacy. We couldn't have made it to 35 without you! To read some of the stories we've collected or submit one of your own, visit <https://www.ff.international/35>.

Cheers to the next 35 years!

Christal (middle) and teammates in Northern Ireland during her FFI program in 2018.



Spring Fever?

Volunteer with Us!

Spring is near, and it's time to start thinking about meaningful campus volunteer opportunities for individuals, local businesses and civic organizations, and anyone else looking for opportunities to come together outside! Having multiple FFI campuses provides us with an abundance of upkeep from planting and maintaining our community gardens, to cleanup around our campus grounds, to furthering renovations of our Farmhouse.

We've recently been fortunate enough to have been the recipients of countless volunteer hours from Community Toolbox--a local nonprofit that completely renovated the bottom floor of the FFI Office. These renovations included building all brand new shelving, floors, and even an individual workspace for private calls! With plenty of room to comfortably practice social distancing, we want everyone and anyone to be able to enjoy our newly renovated space. Please call [603.397.5301](tel:603.397.5301) with questions on how your company or nonprofit can use it!

This spring season, we'll be focusing our volunteer days on campus renovations and gardening. If you or your office/organization/business would like to volunteer with us this spring, have a fun team building out-of-the-office work day, and give back to a community organization, please contact [Nora at nora@ff.international](mailto:nora@ff.international), or call the above number.

Don't feel like gardening, cleaning, or renovating? Come visit us anyway at the newly renovated [One Morgan Way, Durham, NH](#). ANYTIME! We'd love to visit, give you the tour, and share with you a little bit more about the FFI WAY!



"Course" Material is our Specialty!

FFI's 12th Annual Golf Fore Peace
is just around the corner on June 21st, 2021!

Once again the annual Golf Fore Peace tournament will be held at the exclusive Wentworth by the Sea Country Club in Rye, NH. We are now accepting registration for individuals and foursomes along with having a variety of sponsorship opportunities you don't want to miss out on! Please visit <https://www.ff.international/golf> to register, donate, or sponsor! You can also call [Tegan at 603.397.5301](tel:603.397.5301) or reach her at tegan@ff.international for more information or with any questions.

May the course be with you!

