

FRIENDS FOREVER



World Peace...Grown Locally

2016

PARTICIPANT PERSPECTIVE - SIBA AND NOAM

“Living in Israel sometimes makes you feel like there is no hope. No hope for peace nor for a better future, but for us it all changed this summer when we decided to participate in Friends Forever’s program.

Our amazing journey started right at the outset of the program, namely when we attended the overnight seminar we had back in our homeland, a marvelous experience that one night made us feel that we knew each other forever, it brought us closer.

You must have never thought your life can change in a period of two weeks, but some things can make it happen, like living with people from both sides of the conflict, people you have never thought you could get along with. Living in one house made us friends at first, it’s never that hard if you consider brushing your teeth together every morning but the conversations into the night made us talk about the hard things knowing that whatever one will say the other will be open minded to it, accepting each other’s point of view, understanding where it comes from.

Furthermore, through the program we acquired new tools that enabled us to deal with conflict management and diversity. Our group grew stronger day by day until we had the strength to affect others as a group, at the same time we were affected by many special people we met through our time in the US who made us feel we really can change the world.

Now we have hope, we are no longer sitting aimlessly. We have the power to change our reality by our own actions, and we are working on it.”



Noam (Left) and Siba (Right), 2016 Israel Program

INTERNATIONAL LEADER VIEWS - PAULA

“Throughout the time I have been involved with Friends Forever I have saw how the programme has been enhanced and the impact among communities in Belfast is much greater. As a leader within the programme for me it is no longer about creating friendships alone but creating effective leaders. As I reflect on the impact the programme has had on the lives of the young people I have went through the programme with I often feel overwhelmed with the successes they have achieved. Throughout their time in America the participants face many challenges and the biggest challenge is being together 24 hours a day. Upon founding Friends Forever Bob Raiche said: ‘If you want to really know someone, take the seat next to them in a life raft.’”



Paula (Middle), Leader, Blackmountain Action Group

To read Paula’s whole letter go to our website at www.friendsforever.com/testimonials

2016 YEAR IN NUMBERS

7



GROUPS

3



COUNTRIES

84



PARTICIPANTS

3,070



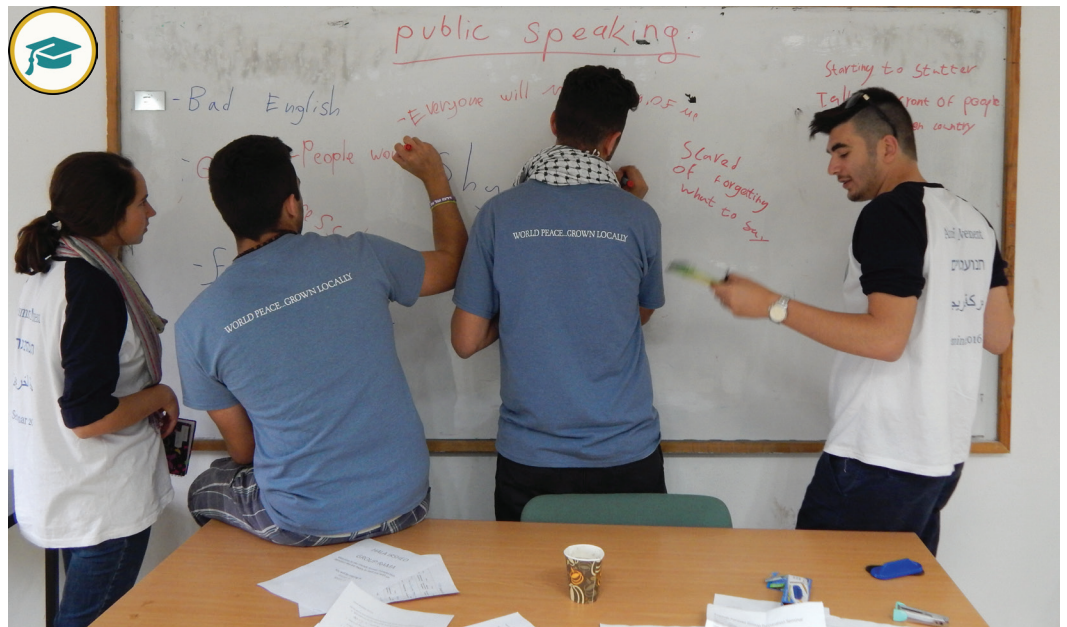
LOCALS

9,492

Hours of Community
Service

13,776

Hours of Leadership
Training



Alumni committee in Israel meeting to plan workshops for the 2016 Group Building Seminar.



A Friends Forever alumnus leading a meditation workshop for a team from this year's Northern Irish program.

Participant Quotes From the Skill Building Phase

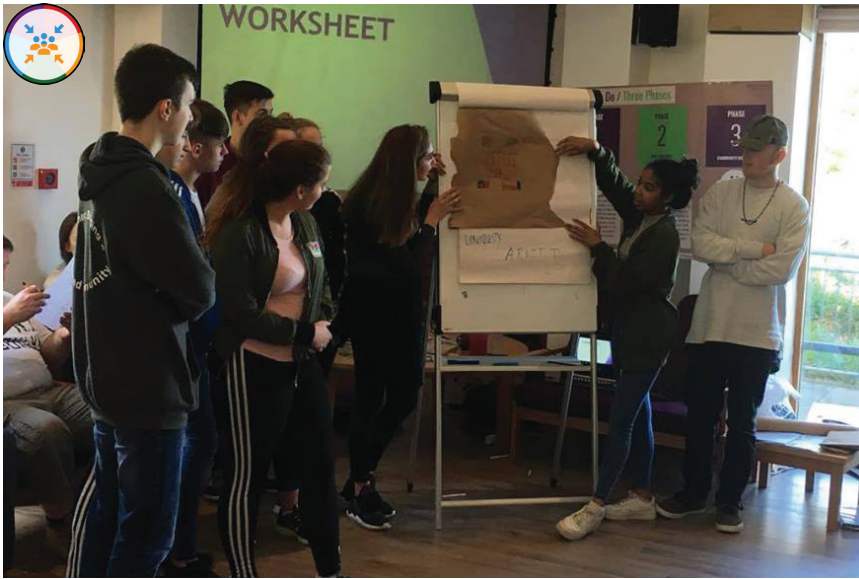
"Friends Forever has pushed me to pursue my goals and allowed me to look at the world from a different angle."

"I learned that leadership isn't just being in charge. It's about ensuring everyone is on task and no one is left out through activities."

"I learned that in order for me to express my leadership the best, I must rely on my team's ideas..."

"When you help someone you will feel that you helped all the people in the world."

"It's not about being friends, it's about changing the way people think using a group of people with different strengths."



Group Building Seminar

This year our groups participated in a Group Building Seminar in preparation of their two week Skill Building Phase in the United States. They simulated their experience in the U.S. by spending a weekend together and participating in a day and a half of workshops. After a few teambuilding activities, this year's participants went over expectations and agreements for their trip, learned the Friends Forever pedagogy, and begin work on their speeches. Both seminars in our Northern Ireland and Israel programs were run by staff and Friends Forever alumni from 1995-2015.

When possible, Friends Forever staff also met with the parents of this year's groups during the Group Building Phase. Recognizing the importance of a parent's buy-in in developing a successful program, our staff wanted to give them a chance to ask questions and to get to know each other as a group themselves.

Curriculum Development



This year Friends Forever created the "Memory Book" designed to help participants connect different aspects of our program and curriculum, while encouraging them to keep track of their progress and the skills they develop throughout the year.

Post U.S. Skill Building Phase Survey Highlights

93.5%

of participants felt they strengthened their own leadership skills

96.7%

of participants felt they learned skills to help communicate their stories

93.5%

of participants felt they were more able to accept opinions different from their own

87.1%

of participants are now better able to see failure as important to their success



#BobRaicheDay Celebration

Planned Giving

Are you or a loved one interested in leaving the legacy of peace? Planned Giving allows people to leave their mark on the world by providing a charity with a gift that lasts far beyond their lifetime. There are many different options for planned giving and it is important to speak with your financial advisor to determine which is best for you. To learn more, please contact our Executive Director, Stephen Martineau at (603)397-5301.

30 for 30 Campaign Updates

For thirty years Friends Forever has been delivering quality programming with no government funding. Each program has been made possible with the support of individuals, small family foundations, civic organizations, and special events. To celebrate, we are asking everyone to help us raise \$30,000 by the end of the 2016 program year to fund a yearlong program for a team of 10 youth leaders. Please consider supporting the campaign by using the envelope provided or by visiting our website www.friendsforeverusa.org/30-for-30. While you're there check out our 30 for 30 videos!



Friends Forever HQ now has an array of 45 solar panels! To learn more about the panels and other renovations in process check out our Capital Campaign page at www.friendsforeverusa.org/capital-campaign.

30th Anniversary

Being our 30th Anniversary, Friends Forever has been celebrating all year. In May, Friends Forever brought a delegation of board members and volunteers to Northern Ireland for a week of visiting the communities we work with and historical site seeing. Alumni from each of our partner youth clubs took us on walking tours of their neighborhoods, spoke about the work they have been doing since graduating from Friends Forever, and showed us a glimpse of what it is like growing up in Northern Ireland. Towards the end of the trip Friends Forever Europe hosted a celebration for 300 alumni and their families at Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast.

To celebrate our successes over the last thirty years, Friends Forever held a party at our new peace campus to celebrate #BobRaicheDay in honor of our late founder, Bob Raiche's, birthday. 24 participants and dozens of community members, including Bob's family, came together to celebrate three decades of successful programming around the globe.

Steve Martineau, Executive Director

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