

FRIENDS FOREVER

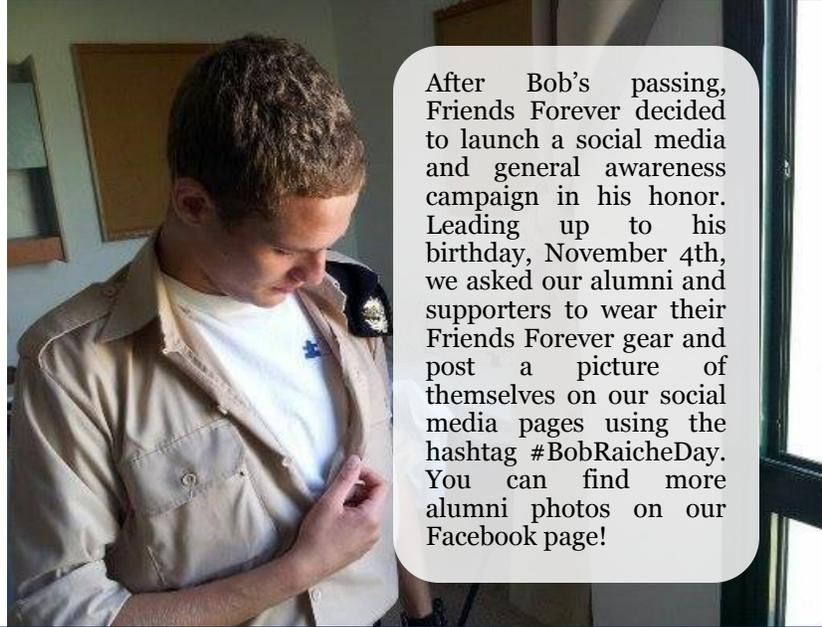
World Peace...Grown Locally

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

It's hard to believe that it has been over a year since my father has passed. We miss him every day. While my father was involved with many projects over the years, one that he was involved with until the end was Friends Forever. Maybe it was the enthusiasm for life that he saw reflected in the eyes of the youth that participate with the organization, be they from Northern Ireland, or Israel, which kept him engaged? Or the potential he saw for growth if everyone here in the US just "caught the bug" of making peace? Whatever the reason, our family was so touched with the outpouring of support to the organization in his name. Thank you to you all.

*- Bob Raiche, Jr.
Board of Directors.*

#BobRaicheDay



After Bob's passing, Friends Forever decided to launch a social media and general awareness campaign in his honor. Leading up to his birthday, November 4th, we asked our alumni and supporters to wear their Friends Forever gear and post a picture of themselves on our social media pages using the hashtag #BobRaicheDay. You can find more alumni photos on our Facebook page!

Friends Forever abroad.

At the end of 2014 Friends Forever Board President, Rick Gilmore, and Friends Forever volunteer Bob Herold, joined Friends Forever's Executive Director on a trip to Israel to conduct mid-program check ins. They met with each school's participants and teachers, and spent time learning about what the groups have been doing since they returned home from the United States.

Volunteers from our Bloomington-Normal, IL host community, visited with alumni while they were on a recent trip to Israel, this past February. They met with members of the past two delegations, as well as participants from the group that will be traveling to Bloomington-Normal, IL this coming July. Roger Schmidgall, our US Regional Coordinator and Michael Gizzi, a Friends Forever volunteer, were hosted by many partners during their visit, and joined in on meetings with Friends Forever staff. "Roger and I have hope for the future, and the strong conviction that all the work that goes into Friends Forever is completely worth it," said Michael.



Above: Roger and Michael with members of the delegations that came to Bloomington-Normal, IL in 2013 and 2014. Life Raft programs.

Vistas welcome.



Say hello to the newest addition to the Friends Forever staff, Ben Roth! Ben is a volunteer with the Americorps Vista program. Originally from Virginia, Ben studied history at the University of Mary Washington and received a Masters in International Relations at the University of Bristol.

Friends Forever partnered with Americorps and New Hampshire Catholic Charities to bring Ben in for one year. Ben will be working on the Friends Forever website, and helping to reestablish our Domestic Program in New Hampshire's communities.

AmeriCorps was founded in 1993 to engage Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies and community and faith-based groups across the country. The Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) program was originally established to fight poverty in America, and was eventually incorporated into AmeriCorps programs.

Each VISTA member makes a year-long, full time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency, in return for a modest living allowance and health benefits during their service.

"My main objective in applying to serve in the AmeriCorps is to employ my knowledge, skills and abilities in a capacity that makes a genuine, positive impact on people's lives," said Ben on his Friends Forever application.

To learn more about Ben and the work that he is doing, contact him at broth@friendsforeverusa.org or (603)397-5301.



Living a legacy.

The Robert Raiche Fellowship—named after our late founder—was created to recognize alumni who display Bob’s spirit for group work and reconciliation, and have demonstrated great efforts to promote his legacy. Friends Forever chose to award Paul Cain with the 2015 Robert Raiche Fellowship for his outstanding leadership in community service, his strong demonstration of global consciousness, and his commitment to bettering the lives of others.

Paul, a graduate from our Northern Ireland program, participated in the 2008 Life Raft hosted by our New England U.S. Host Community. After participating in Friends Forever, he was inspired to volunteer in his own community. Within a year of returning from the United States, he received the Millennium Volunteers Certificate for completing 200 hours of community service, and was eventually awarded the Esprit de Corps award for his involvement in charitable fundraising. Paul continued to volunteer throughout high school, and went on to study Liberal Arts at St. Mary’s University, where he participated in a European Union student exchange program. After graduation, he moved to Prague, CZ, where he currently teaches English as a Foreign Language to local schools and businesses.

As part of the fellowship, he received a scholarship to raise awareness and volunteer at the Friends Forever Headquarters, in Durham, NH, for three weeks. During his time in New Hampshire he met with supporters and local partners, and worked in the office daily on his plan to strengthen the presence of Friends Forever in Northern Ireland’s communities.

While in the office, Paul has been skyping with our current partners to begin the process of creating a program for 11-15 year olds in Northern Ireland’s youth clubs. The program will be similar to the Life Raft, where groups of young people will get together multiple weekends throughout the year. “We need to start the process earlier,” Paul told Friends Forever staff, “just recently there are young people getting in to trouble who are just twelve and thirteen. They need programs like Friends Forever just as bad.”

2015 Eileen Foley Awards.

Friends Forever is proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 Eileen Foley Award as Janet Prince and Peter Bergh. Each year, Friends Forever presents the Eileen Foley Award to a New Hampshire citizen(s) who continues to take a personal responsibility to make the world a better place.

“From the time they met serving on the board of the Greater Portsmouth United Way in 1988, to simultaneously chairing boards for two state-wide organizations—New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR) for Janet, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for Peter, this couple truly exemplifies the spirit of this prestigious award,” said Steve Martineau, Friends Forever’s Executive Director.

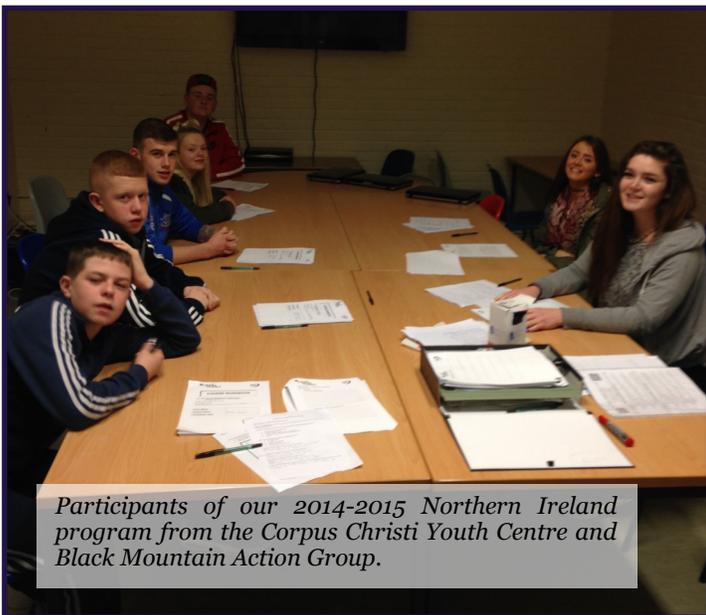
Janet and Peter were presented with the award at Friends Forever’s Annual Dinner and Roast, held at Portsmouth Harbor Events in downtown Portsmouth. Friends and family gathered to poke fun at the couple, all in celebration of their decades of leadership and extraordinary philanthropy. This year’s “roast roster” included Janet and Peter’s daughter, Hadley, Peter’s brother and CEO of Levi Strauss, Chip Bergh, long time family friend, Carl Hyatt, President of the Northern Forest Center, Rob Riley, and host of NHPR’s *World of Mouth*, Virginia Prescott.



(upper left: Janet and Peter laughing on the stage; bottom left: Peter’s brother, Chip, taking his turn at him; above: Janet, Peter, and their daughter, Hadley.)



(upper left: Paul on his Life Raft Program in 2008; upper right: Paul attending a seminar at Facing History and Ourselves, this March; Bottom: Paul speaking at the 2015 Eileen Foley Awards honoring Janet Prince and Peter Bergh.)



Participants of our 2014-2015 Northern Ireland program from the Corpus Christi Youth Centre and Black Mountain Action Group.



Our Arab and Jewish participants from the Sisters of Nazareth High School and Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa, Israel --- hosted in New Hampshire's Seacoast last summer---spent an afternoon with residents of a senior home, making music, playing games, and sharing stories.

The group that stayed in NH's Seacoast this past October is focusing their follow up meetings around Stephen Covey's Book, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. In a session focused on the first habit, being proactive, our participants drew pictures of where they would like to be in ten years and explored ways to turn negative situations into positive ones.



Our participants from El Galil HS and Carmel Zvulun Regional HS met multiple times during the holiday season, visiting the Christmas Market in Nazareth and making Hanukkah decorations with Autistic children. They also skyped with their US Host Community in Bloomington-Normal, IL, with whom they were based in August.



Our participants from the Scotch Street Youth Club and Co-operation Ireland held an intercultural evening with food from 8 different countries. The group, who stayed in Westwood, MA, last October, had the opportunity to play different types of African drums and participated in tribal friendship dances.

Want to see more of what are groups are doing back home?
@friendforeverus
Facebook.com/FRIENDSFOREVER.ORG



Want to be more involved with Friends Forever? Attend an upcoming volunteer night to learn more!

Friends Forever Headquarters
6-7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 14th
Tuesday, May 12th
Tuesday, June 9th

To RSVP, please contact Chelsea at cfitton@friendsforeverusa.org



World Peace...Worn Locally
Puzzle pin: \$10
T-shirt: \$25
Sweatshirt: \$50
www.friendsforeverusa.org

The Rotary Corner.

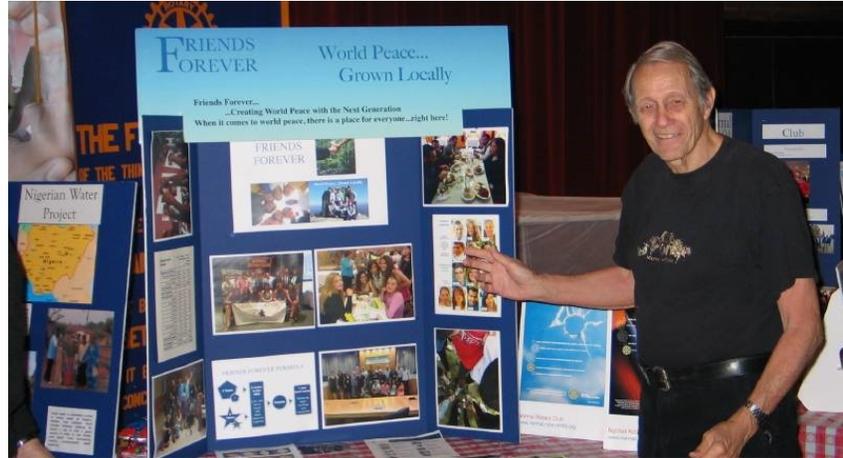
Friends Forever staff and long time volunteers attended Rotary International District 7780's World Peace and Understanding Dinner, this past February. The dinner was held to celebrate 110 years of Rotary International's efforts to create positive, lasting change in communities around the world.

There was plenty to celebrate as Friends Forever has recently partnered with the Portsmouth Rotary Club and District 7780 on a global grant to bring over a group from Friends Forever's Uganda program.

The year-long effort will focus on a slum area of Kampala, Uganda, where youth from different tribes and regions have migrated to avoid conflict and try to find peace. The future trainers will learn, strengthen and then replicate the Friends Forever model, building relationships to further efforts of conflict resolution and peace building in Uganda.

The group will be comprised of young leaders from Youth Passionate Organization, a group dedicated to conflict resolution through music and dance, and are scheduled to travel to the United States later in 2015.

Would your local Rotary Club be interested in hosting a group from a Friends Forever program? Contact Chelsea at cfitton@friendsforeverusa.org for more details.



Above: Friends Forever Bloomington-Normal, IL volunteer giving a presentation to the Normal Rotary Club; a sponsor of our Israel Program.

Golf for Peace Tourney Monday July 20, 2015

Wentworth By the Sea Country Club
60 Wentworth Road
Rye, NH 03870

Sponsorship available.

Contact Chelsea at cfitton@friendsforeverusa.org
or (603)397-5301 for more details.

Friends Forever Headquarters
One Morgan Way
Durham, NH 03824
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www.friendsforeverusa.org

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