

Roasting of a Restaurateur

Friends Forever has chosen to award this year's Eileen Foley Award to Portsmouth's Jay McSharry. Each year, Friends Forever presents the award to a New Hampshire citizen who takes personal responsibility in making the world a better place.

Since graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1990, Jay has opened a number of successful restaurants in the region including Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café, Dos Amigos, and Mox in downtown Portsmouth. Throughout his career Jay has remained committed to giving back to the community that has given him so much. He and his restaurant partners are loyal supporters of The Music Hall, Discover Portsmouth Center, Strawberry Banke Museum's Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

Jay will be honored with the award and "roasted" in front of 200 close friends and community members at Friends Forever's Annual Dinner and Roast on March 10. The event is Friends Forever's largest fundraiser and provides program support for each of our U.S. Chapters. *To learn more, contact Chelsea at (603)397-5301.*



"For the last 15 years, Jay has used his entrepreneurial energy to make sure that those in need benefit from the success of our business community,"

-Jameson French,
Event emcee



Friends Forever brought over its first delegation of Protestant and Catholic young men in the fall of 1986 (above). 30 years and fifteen hundred alumni later—we're celebrating!

Friends Forever 30th Anniversary Northern Ireland Trip May 7– May 14

Historical and cultural siteseeing
Personal tours of our partner's facilities
Celebration with alumni at Stormont Parliament Building

To learn more about travel packages please contact us at (603) 397-5301. Stay tuned for more 30th Anniversary celebrations throughout the year!

Leaving a Legacy

Regardless of one's age or socio-economic status, deciding how to bequeath one's assets is one of the most important decisions of a lifetime. How will you choose where to leave your legacy? Will you support our cause fifty years from now? At Friends Forever we help people determine an area of our program they feel passionate about sustaining for the long term. What better gift is there to leave this world than the legacy of peace?

Options for naming in your Will include:

- Giving a specific sum or item of property.
- Giving a percentage or residue of your estate.
- Giving a contingent bequest leaving your bequest to Friends Forever should your primary beneficiary have passed.

Interested in learning more about
Friends Forever's planned giving
opportunities?

Contact Stephen at (603)397-5301 or
smartineau@friendsforeverusa.org

30th
Anniversary

FRIENDS FOREVER *World Peace... Grown Locally*

5 Years Later

By ANNE ROMNEY

Friends Forever Board President

I first learned about Friends Forever about 5 years ago having moved to the area not long before. I attended an informal get together at a home in New Castle. The homeowner, a longtime supporter, advocate and past board member who had been host to 15 or more "life raft" groups at that time, spoke with such passion about the program that he cried. I learned, that night, that this is an organization you can really be a part of.

Like many 30 year olds (this being the start of a major milestone anniversary) Friends Forever has put down roots and a sense of physical permanence that did not exist before. When I first joined the board, headquarters was a one-room office in a building on the edge of downtown Portsmouth. Since that time, we now have an amazing "campus" in Durham, we have expanded our programs in our New England, Gulf Coast and Mid-West chapters, and this summer we hosted our first delegation from Uganda.

Being a part of Friends Forever, I have had the chance to be involved in so many ways. I have helped find locations for the groups to reside, advocated for and introduced people to the organization and it's mission, attended fund raising events and been introduced to an amazing, diverse group of people who are all committed to the program. By far, the greatest gift has been the time I've spent with the kids themselves.

As the need for peace in this world is ever more critical, Friends Forever is, for me, an inspiring, hopeful endeavor. When I allow the 24/7 media barrage of pain and suffering to get to me, I think of the young people who step out of their worlds to participate in our program that bridges the seemingly impassable distances that separate them at home.

Whether you are a participant, partner organization, staff member, community supporter, financial supporter, board member, neighbor or one of the many who just happen to meet these amazing kids while they are here – we are all uplifted by their courage to make this world a better place. *Visit www.friendsforeverusa.org to read Anne's full article!*



Anne observing a communications workshop with youth from Israel, Northern Ireland, and the U.S. (ABOVE)

2016 Robert Raiche Fellow

Friends Forever has named Courtney Robinson as the 2016 Robert Raiche Fellow. Courtney, a graduate from our Northern Ireland program, participated in the 2012 Life Raft hosted by our Gulf Coast chapter. After participating in Friends Forever, Courtney was inspired to return home and fight for a better future for all members of her community.

Within a few months of returning from the United States, Courtney organized a protest of young people and trade unions—across peace lines—to call for an end to sectarianism and education funding cuts. At age 16, Courtney was elected President of Belfast Metropolitan College Student Union– the largest further and higher education college in Northern Ireland—and served as a collective voice for over 37,000 students.

Friends Forever chose to award Courtney with the 2016 Robert Raiche Fellowship for her outstanding leadership in community activism, her strong demonstration of global consciousness, and her commitment to bettering the lives of others. *Courtney will be interning at the Friends Forever Headquarters from 2/26-3/14 . If you'd like to meet her or hear her speak, contact us at (603)397-5301*



Courtney protesting against sectarian attacks in East Belfast communities (ABOVE).

"Working on the Friends Forever project gave me the confidence and the people skills to express my ideas."

-Courtney Robinson
2016 Robert Raiche Fellow

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www.friendsforeverusa.org

Please visit <http://www.friendsforeverusa.org/#!donate/>
Sign up for monthly online donations today!

2015 in numbers...

8

Groups of young people from cultures in conflict

1,452

Hours of volunteer service performed



3,979

Community members heard our young people's stories



96

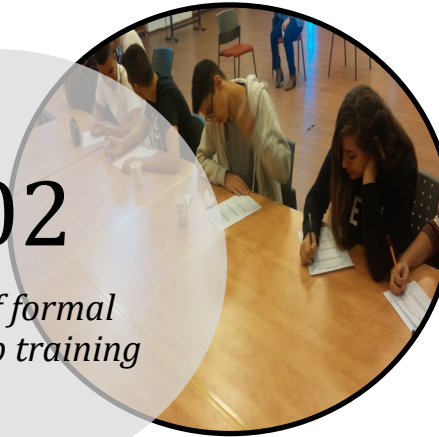
Future leaders from Northern Ireland, Israel, and Uganda

Over the years, Friends Forever has found community service to be one of the most effective aspects of our program. We believe that giving back to a community has the ability to highlight shared human experiences that transcend community lines. While in the U.S. each delegation is required to complete at least 5 distinct service projects. Many groups continue to focus on volunteer service during the implementation phase back in their home countries. Below are some examples of projects our young people worked on in 2015:

Open Heart Ministries
Operation Blessing
Nashua Soup Kitchen
Habitat for Humanity
Monarch School of New England
Haven from Hunger
Horizons Homeless Shelter
Northbridge Assisted Living Facilities
The Edgewood Centre
RiverWoods Retirement Community
Friends in Action NH
Living Innovations
Adopt-a-Highway
The Krempels Center
Labyrinth Outreach Services to Women
Epworth Project
Prisoners Book Project
More than Words Café
Cross Roads House

202

Hours of formal leadership training



At Friends Forever, we want to empower young people to make change where they see fit—stepping into leadership roles is an important part of that. While our entire program is by nature a leadership development program, we incorporate multiple formal leadership workshops throughout the program year. Here are some examples of leadership development workshops that our young people participated in during 2015:

Public speaking
Speech writing
Storytelling for change
Intro to video production
Entrepreneurship
Group facilitation
Social media safety
Conflict resolution skills
Project planning
Mental health awareness
Red Cross first aid training
Poetry writing
Work placement/resume building

194

Group meetings

Part of what makes Friends Forever's programs unique are the opportunities for ordinary people to directly participate in the international peace process. Community members meet our young people in a variety of settings from attending a public presentation to hosting a group in their home. Interacting with the larger community empowers our young people to best represent themselves and gives them a platform to share their stories with those who are eager to listen. Examples settings at which community members met with and listened to our 2015 participants include:

Rotary International District 7780
Slidell High School
Portsmouth Christian Academy
Rotary International District 6840
Spaulding High School
University of New Hampshire
Rotary International District 7910
Illinois State University
Islamic Center of Boston-Cambridge
Montefiore Temple
New Covenant Church
Consulate Generals of Ireland and the UK
Rotary International District 7930
Normal Town Council
Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal
Boys and Girls Club of Salem
Rotary International District 6490
NASA Space Center
Kennebunk Police Department
Mel Flanagans Irish Pub and Café
Community member's homes

If you'd like keep up to date with Friends Forever's programs and events, follow us on social media!

Facebook.com/FRIENDSFOREVER.ORG
@friendforeverus