



friendship force  
NORTHERN COLORADO



September  
2012

# FRIENDSHIP FLYER

## Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, and Surrounding Areas

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe the summer is nearly over, but I'm sure many of us are looking forward to the cooler days of fall. Although some of you have traveled with other clubs during the summer months, FFNC has had a quiet stretch that will soon burst into myriad opportunities for travel and hosting. If you haven't taken a strong look at outbound FFNC exchanges to Dallas in November, Myanmar after the first of the year, Harrisburg, PA in the spring of 2013, or Central Europe in September of 2013, check out the details of these exchanges on p. 7, and get

signed up right away if you decide you can join in.

Inbound exchanges from Lincoln, NE (rescheduled to Sept. 6-12 due to the wildfires) and South Taranaki, New Zealand, Oct. 14-20 also have some possibilities for you to be day hosts, or to join in some of the group activities. We hope many of you will be on hand to welcome our guests, even if you aren't a home host. Newer members who aren't quite sure about how to get involved with inbound/outbound exchanges can always call the Exchange Director (p.7 of the newsletter), or contact your mentor or me. We'll be glad to help!

For those of us who were available to attend the regional picnic in Cheyenne, it was a fun gathering with lots of delicious food and lively conversation. It was great to have such a large turnout from our club (37), and we were so fortunate that the weather was absolutely beautiful. As you'll read more about later in this newsletter, I was delighted and honored to present the Wayne Smith Medal to deserving FFNC members Helen & Charlie Crihfield. Like many of you who have been highly active members of this club, their contributions of leadership, hospitality and service exemplify the Friendship Force mission and help to keep our club vibrant and growing. Congratulations and thank you, Helen & Charlie!

I'll look forward to seeing all of you at our September 14, 2012 meeting in Windsor at 7:00 p.m. We have a very interesting program scheduled (see p. 3). Come a few minutes early to greet one another after our summer hiatus. Food contributions to the hospitality table are always welcomed, as are your guests!

Next Meeting:  
Friday, September 14  
7:00 P.M.  
Shannon Perry  
"The Freedom Climb"  

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Faith Church of Christ  
1020 Walnut  
Windsor, CO

AUGUST PICNIC IN CHEYENNE

37 members of the Friendship Force Club of Northern Colorado drove the 40 miles to Cheyenne to enjoy a wonderful time of good food and fellowship with the Cheyenne, WY Friendship Force Club on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Friendship Club of Northern Colorado surprised Charlie and Helen Crihfield with the Wayne Smith

Medal and a \$500 donation to the Legacy Fund in Charlie and Helen's name to FFI (see page 3). Needless to say we surprised them. 61 people in all attended the picnic. Thank you, Cheyenne, for hosting us at a wonderful lunch of barbecue beef sandwiches and good fellowship at the very lovely Lions Park in Cheyenne.



Bev, Dean, Rod



Debby and Anne enjoying the sun



Ed, Ray, Lydia, Nancy and Doris on the edge of the park



Gary and Sue Cummins, returning members



Hazel, Esther, Larry, Cinda & Dick



Helen, Charlie and Marcia examining the certificate



Helen wearing the medal



Marcia congratulating Charlie and Helen



Helen's hat

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM



September 14, 2012 our program will be presented by Shannon Perry. In January, 2012, Shannon Perry joined a group of 48 Christian women in **The Freedom Climb** of Mt. Kilimanjaro, at 19,340 ft, the highest mountain in Africa.

*“The purpose of the climb was to raise awareness of human trafficking and to raise funds to support projects to combat human trafficking. Each of us had a goal of raising \$10,000. And we came close; as a group we raised over \$350,000!”*

*The ascent took 4 ½ days, with walks of 5 to 10 1/2 hours per day, and the descent 1 ½ days. The slow pace was to help us acclimate to the change in altitude and decrease in oxygen in the air we were breathing. At some points, the path was fairly smooth and it was cool and shady; later we encountered rocky terrain often with good sized rocks which we had to climb hand over hand. We walked through several ecosystems; the vegetation changed as we increased in elevation. It was hot sometimes and cold and windy at other times; it was always cold at night. It snowed once and rained once.*

*We later learned that we set a record for the largest all-women group to attempt the climb and for the largest percentage (90%) of people who summited. All in all, an incredible experience.”*

We look forward to hearing the details of Shannon’s adventure at the September meeting!

## HELEN AND CHARLIE CRIHFELD HONORED



At the Friendship Force Regional picnic in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on August 26, 2012, Charlie and Helen Crihfield, of Fort Collins, were named the recipients of the Wayne Smith Medal, recognizing their years of service to the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado.

The Medal is awarded to individuals who have provided leadership in their local Friendship Force organizations over a number of years. The Wayne Smith Medal is named for the founder of the Friendship Force, an international organization that promotes friendships between individuals from various cultures and countries. The Crihfields become the first recipients of the award in Northern Colorado.

The Crihfields have held positions in the Northern Colorado chapter including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, they have volunteered their time and resources to organize local and regional events and provide transportation and touring for visiting Friendship Force Ambassadors from foreign countries. They have opened their home to host foreign visitors and have represented Fort Collins, and the U.S., as Ambassadors to numerous countries. A former I.R.S. employee, Charlie also was able to secure the nonprofit status for the Northern Colorado chapter and provide audit service to ensure compliance.

When asked why they have devoted so much of their lives to volunteering with the Friendship Force, they replied in unison, “We believe in the philosophy of the organization.” From making friends in Mexico to opening their home to the daughter of an artist they had hosted from Brazil, the Crihfields said, “We’ve enjoyed every Friendship Force experience we have ever had.” At one point, Helen was the leader of Friendship Force Ambassadors going to Australia. The planned two week visit kept expanding until she had a six week adventure planned, revolving around meeting Australia Friendship Force members, making new friends, and learning the culture.

An example of the friendships developed was seen by the Crihfields when they had a personal tragedy and received calls, letters, emails and emotional support from people all around the world. Their worldwide network of friends is due, in part, to their participation in the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado.

Marcia Ross, President of the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado made the presentation to the surprised couple and said how the success of the Northern Colorado chapter has been shaped by their leadership and dedication.



## HELEN AND CHARLIE SAY THANKS

Charlie & I want to thank everyone who had a part in our being nominated and receiving the "Wayne Smith Award" which was presented to us at the Cheyenne picnic on the 26th of August. What a pleasant surprise and privilege it was!! We have enjoyed our many travels and friendships which we have made through this wonderful organization, both near and far. Thank you again for this gift of recognition by all our Friendship Force friends.

Yours in Friendship Always,  
*Charlie & Helen Crinfield*

## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Ed & Nancy Brigden on the passing of Ed's mother in New Hampshire early in August. Brigdens were in NH at the time, and were able to gather with family for a private memorial service.

Friendship Force International is **CHANGING THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD**. Join us for an adventure that will take you past the monuments into the heart of a country and its people.

## BENSON PARK BLOOMS



### Garden Update and *Thanks!*

21 Friendship Force gardeners have helped us since 2010, when our club requested the garden at Benson Park in Loveland. And it shows!! It was beautiful for the sculpture shows in mid-August. We received a great compliment from the garden coordinator for the High Plains Arts Council. He said the garden is just lovely after all of our hard work, and he knows that we try hard to keep it that way. The City placed name plaques for The Friendship Force of Northern Colorado at each end of the garden by the sidewalk, so anyone can see that our group is responsible for how the garden looks.

Our garden is large, so it does take a large group to care for it. All of you who have helped are so very appreciated by our club, and by the people whose eyes rest on the garden we sponsor. During this past 12 months, there was an onsite planning meeting, spring cleanup, the major planting day when gardeners come to work for one to six hours, and numerous weeding sessions by varied groups of our members, and by individuals. Over two years, we have collectively worked nearly two hundred hours.

If you come once a week or once a year, your help is not taken for granted. Every weed pulled is a help. Soon, we have visitors coming from Lincoln, and more Ambassadors, from New Zealand, in October. If you have not yet helped, just stop by with a little trash bag or bucket some time and pull bindweed for a few minutes. Our garden is by the sculpture "They Are Waiting, which is at 31<sup>st</sup> and Beech (on the east side of the park), on both sides of the sidewalk by the sculpture. Let's keep it looking showcase lovely for our Ambassadors – domestic and otherwise! Again, sincere thanks to all of our gardeners.

### “TRAINERS ON WHEELS”

Betty Jean DeMersseman, our Regional Field Representative, and Cinda Clark, FFI Board member, returned July 15<sup>th</sup> from a visit to our region's two westernmost clubs in Grand Junction and the Salt Lake City area. In Grand Junction they were invited to FF Western Colorado's (yummy!) summer ice cream social. Betty had asked for time to tell about how to keep new members interested. Cinda slipped in a talk about the Friendship Force expansion plan, and asked for suggestions about areas of the world in which to expand FF. They were hosted in Grand Junction by friends - present and past members of Friendship Force.



In Utah, Cinda and Betty presented a requested Exchange Director workshop, complete with a set of handout pages containing helpful tips. Cinda spoke about outbound exchanges. It was Betty's first ED workshop, and she did a marvelous job, sharing much needed information, especially about inbound exchanges. At the end, Cinda spoke about the expansion plan. It was nice to spend time with and get to know some more members of the Utah club. In Salt Lake, Betty and Cinda were graciously hosted by Nona Bressler, President of FF Utah, and her family.

### JEWELS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Central Europe is still more than a year away for us, but there is a proposed itinerary ready to send to our travel agent in Bratislava when he returns to work next week.

Some highlights: In Prague, we can look forward to dinner, dessert, or just a stroll in the picturesque square overlooked by The Cloth Hall. In Krakow, we'll see how the Jewish quarter was rebuilt after WWII. We will travel through the beautiful Tatra mountains, from Poland to Hungary. Budapest will include photo-ops at the Fisherman's Bastion. It is a fairy tale building on Castle Hill, which sits on the Buda bank above the Danube, overlooking Pest. On to Bratislava, to enjoy getting to know our Slovakian home hosts! We will finish in Vienna, with its artistic and musical opportunities. Somewhere along the way, we will have a sight-seeing or transportation river cruise.

If the itinerary is approved, it will be sent to all those who have asked to be kept aware of new developments. The itinerary will also be available at the September meeting, should it be approved by then.

*FFNC Web Site:*  
[www.ffncolorado.com](http://www.ffncolorado.com)

### LINCOLN WEEK WITH FFNC

We are looking forward to sharing a “taste of Northern Colorado” with our Lincoln Exchange Ambassadors. The Welcome dinner will be at the Poudre Learning Center in Greeley on Thursday, September 6 at 5:00 pm. If you have not had the time to read your emails this summer and would like to join us at the potluck, we still have a place at the table for you. Please let Carolyn Crowley, ED (377-1299) know if you would like to attend.

The itinerary for the exchange will include a couple of days in the mountains, a couple of days in the Fort Collins/Loveland area, and a free day to visit Greeley, Windsor, or Boulder. Highlights of the week include: Global Village Museum, the Scottish-Irish Highland Festival Parade in Estes Park, a great tour of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, lunch at Shambhala with a tour of the Great Stupa, as well as tours of various gardens and New Belgium Brewery. Again, if there is another event you would like to attend, please give Carolyn a call.

The Northern Colorado Exchange Committee has shown great tenacity as everyone has worked “double time” in planning the events. Our special thanks goes out to all the members who have helped us meet the challenge of squeezing one more thing into a very busy Friendship calendar. You all truly define the meaning of “friendship”.

### MYANMAR IN 2013

Our Friendship Force club is the Mentor club for the Yangon Myanmar Friendship Force club that I anticipate we will be able to form after the mid-February Global Discovery Exchange. We are signing up 3 trusted partners from the groups we give aide to in Yangon to help with club formation.

The timing of this exchange is for the best weather in Burma, but with our club's outgoing to Costa Rica so close, I'm the only current member going. However, there are 3 other people going from this area, who will add to our club membership and hopefully help with the club mentoring effort. The response from the Friendship Force website has been amazing. The other 17 at this point are coming from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and both coasts of the US. We still have Friendship Force members interested from Russia, Africa and India. Apparently, Friendship Force is not the only group interested in going, because we had to make paid reservations of 30% down the end of August, with the hope of having the Hotels and Lodges I've used in my past 5 trips there. No more reservations without that 30% down. Myanmar is very rich in all natural resources and the opening up is a "gold rush" for businesses with a lot of patience.

The very best news is that with my limit of 25, we will make such a difference, as the average family needs help. Each person will bring at least 1 suitcase of aid, and some have committed to 2 and paying the extra fee if they apply. We are very fortunate in this area to have Help International, which provides free medical and clothing aid, and sometimes even the suitcases. Helen Carihfield, I still need your efforts.

The trip is almost 5 1/2 months away. To have this type of success including the benefit of having someone the caliber of Jan Goodwin, the war correspondent, on the trip is a boon. I'm so happy she was mostly willing to wave her usual \$8,000-\$10,000 fee for having the trip provided with help from FFI, Moe and myself. Maybe she'll do a documentary and use Meryl Streep as she has done in the past to narrate. What great PR for Friendship Forces goals.

Yours in Friendship

*Dot Cada*

### DALLAS EXCHANGE

NOVEMBER 7-14, 2012

We have eight excited ambassadors booked on a flight to Dallas to participate in a joint exchange with Great Falls, Northern Colorado and Dallas. We'll be enjoying the great Texas hospitality thru the 14th with a terrific itinerary scheduled. The cost of this trip is less than \$400.00 for a week of western culture. If you have any interest in joining us, give us a call right away. The cutoff date for this trip is closing in quickly.

Alice Gibson [310-8848](tel:310-8848)

Elle Barr 204-9722

### BRAZIL EXCHANGE

On Tuesday evening, August 14, the Friendship Force of Northern Colorado ambassadors to Brazil were treated to a delightful evening at Alice Boyle's home where we met



Gloria Picinini, a Brazilian-born chef and kitchen manager at Leona's Kitchen, a commercial kitchen in the Weld Food Bank in Greeley.

We asked

Gloria, as a native Brazilian, to meet with our group to give us first hand information and her personal views on Brazil and what to expect when we arrive in her native country. She is a "bubbly", warm and charming young woman. We enjoyed hearing all her very helpful tips and informative ideas for traveling in Brazil: everything from weather, housing, sports, customs, daily routines, and security measures, to name a few. Gloria assured us we were going to have a wonderful time. We would probably gain several pounds because the food is sooo good! She commented that the people are very friendly and to expect "kisses on our cheeks" as a common greeting. We were treated to her home made cheese rolls and Brigadeiro, the chocolate delicacy of Brazil. Oh, so delicious!

If Gloria is any example of the personalities we will be meeting in Brazil we are in for a special experience! Isso e demais!

*Judy Flatley*



## EXCHANGE AND ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Incoming

Outbound

**FROM:** Lincoln, NE September 6-12, 2012  
ED: Carolyn Crowley 377-1299  
cjcrowley707@gmail.com

**TO:** BRAZIL Sept 18-Oct 6, 2012  
Homestays at Sao Jose do Rio Preto  
& Curitiba Metropolitan + tour  
Judy Flatley 223-1037 flatjl@msn.com

**FROM:** South Taranaki, NZ Oct. 14-21, 2012  
Cindy Paulson 225-2252 cdp225@msn.com

**FROM:** Open World From Russia: Energy Efficiency  
October 26-Nov. 3, 2012  
Dot Cada 667-7548 dotcada@msn.com

**TO:** FFI World Conference in HIROSHIMA  
October 30-November 3, 2012

**TO:** DALLAS November 7-14, 2012  
ED Alice Gibson  
310-8848 aligibs@yahoo.com

**TO:** COSTA RICA January 6-22, 2013  
Turrialba homestay plus tour extension  
Co-EDs: Cindy Paulson & Marcia Ross  
cdp225@msn.com mross377@msn.com

**TO:** MYANMAR February 2013  
Global Exchange for Aid  
& to Assess New FF club  
Dot Cada 667-7548 dotcada@msn.com

**FROM:** Mid-Willamette Valley, OR June  
12-18, 2013  
ED Anne Brown, Asst ED Nita Kopyay

**FROM:** Penticton, BC, Canada Sept. 2013  
ED Barbara Miller Asst ED Kay Thomas

**TO:** DISCOVER EUROPE Sept 23-Oct.8, 2013  
"Jewels of Central Europe"  
Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna.  
ED Cinda Clark clarksmail@msn.com  
970 669-5426

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Carolyn Crowley 377-1299

Hospitality: Mary Riney 356-8311

Debbie Jones 686-0303

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Ways &amp; Means: Dick Johnsen

484-2666 [RNEJOHNSEN@aol.com](mailto:RNEJOHNSEN@aol.com)Photographers: Cathie McCallum, Ed Brigden,  
& Cindy PaulsonReporters: Barbara Miller, Marion Sparks,  
Thelma Slocum, & Brenda Wiginton

**FIELD REP CONFERENCE**

Aug 8-10 was an opportunity for all the 12 Field Reps to meet in Atlanta and become energized. It was a working seminar with many things being introduced and acknowledged. FFI is making 3, 5-7 minute videos for the International Conference. Northern Colorado will be a feature in one of them.

Social Media was a big emphasis. Andy Bowen, from New Zealand, talked on Media Relations via the Conference call. He gave us many pointers of “What makes a news story?” and how to “Get to know your Media.” (Details will be coming to the Leaders of each club.)

The FF of Greater Atlanta hosted us for an additional 3 days. Even though I had been to Atlanta twice before, I learned many new things and especially tried the food specialties.

The FF of Northern Colorado will be presenting at the International Conference in Hiroshima. Our specialty will be “How to Retain our Members.”

**Friendship Force Pledge**

As a member of Friendship Force, I recognize that I can make a difference. I recognize that I have a mission and that mission is to be a friend to the people of the world. As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching me. I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace can be furthered. I can make a difference.

