In the Life Raft with FFI: Shaping Tomorrow Together

As 2024 comes to a close, Friends Forever International reflects on a year of growth, gratitude, and transition. Our campuses in New Hampshire, Northern Ireland, and Belize have been vibrant hubs for transformative programs, fostering empathy, leadership, and connection among youth from around the globe. This year, we also mark a pivotal moment as Board Chair Jameson French and Treasurer Bob Raiche Jr., the son of our founder, step down after over a decade of dedicated service. Since 2014, their leadership has guided FFI through significant milestones, strengthening our foundation and preparing us for an exciting future.



Bob Raiche Sr., our founder, famously said, *"If you want to get to know someone, take the seat next to them in the life raft."* This sentiment lies at the heart of FFI's mission, where shared experiences—whether through our leadership programs or time spent on our campuses—bring people closer together and create lifelong bonds. Under Jameson and Bob Jr.'s leadership, FFI has embodied this principle, fostering groundbreaking initiatives like our New Hampshire high school credit-bearing programs which empower students with leadership and academic skills that prepare them for a rapidly changing world. Our Ireland-wide programs continue to unite youth across the island, while our work with professionals in Central Europe addresses critical global challenges through collaboration and innovation.

The impact of these programs resonates in the voices of our participants, like Malia, who shared how FFI *"vastly improved my mental health"* and gave her *"motivation to learn and explore."* These stories are just a glimpse of the ripple effect created by FFI programs—stories that are also showcased on our YouTube channel, where inspiring speeches and project highlights come to life.



Board Members Pictured Left to Right: Tim Allison (Incoming Chair), Darcy Peyser (Treasurer), Chris Dwyer (Incoming Vice Chair), Bob Gibson (Incoming Treasurer), Bob Raiche, Jr. (Outgoing Treasurer), Steve Falci (Member), Jameson French (Outgoing Chair)

As we transition into 2025, we invite you to be part of this journey. Whether through planned giving to ensure long-term sustainability, online giving to support scholarships and programs, or simply spreading the word, your engagement makes it all possible. Together, we can continue strengthening connections and building a brighter future.

Learn more, donate, or explore opportunities to get involved at **www.ff.international**.



Global Leadership Takes Root in Belize

February 2024

FFI volunteers went to the Diane M. Seagren Rainforest Academy in Boom Creek, Belize to begin planning future programs there! Stay tuned for updates on an Alumni Advanced Leadership Training Program in March 2025.

www.ff.international/belize



Connecting Worlds: FFI's Global Professional Exchanges

March & November 2024

This year, FFI hosted two delegations through the Open World program, which is a professional exchange program headquarted in Washington D.C.

- North Macedonia - Diplomats
- Georgia - Mental Health Professionals



Uniting an Island: Leadership Across Ireland

July 2024

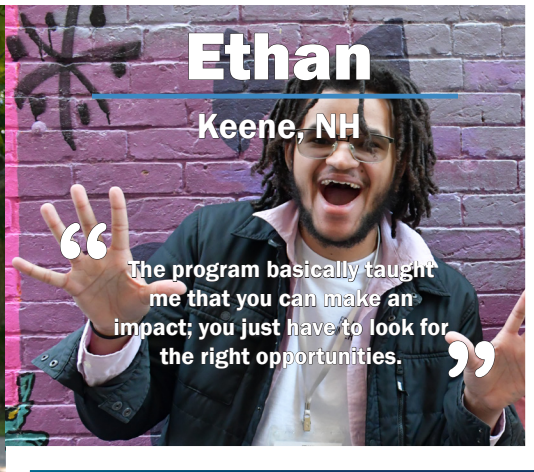
This summer, a team of 10 young people from the island of Ireland participated in a two-week program focused on leadership, service learning, and self-reflection. They are currently planning their Community Action Projects.



Luna

New London, NH

"FFI takes you out of your reality and puts you in a different one, where there are far different opportunities and experiences available to you. After FFI, your job is to take the 'FFI Reality' and apply it to your home community in any way you can."



Ethan

Keene, NH

"The program basically taught me that you can make an impact; you just have to look for the right opportunities."

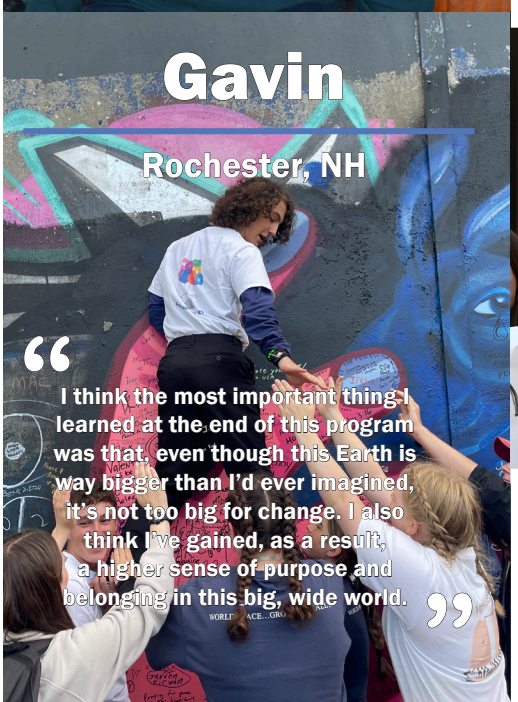
32% of participants come from minority ethnic backgrounds.



Soren

Alexandria, NH

"I feel that I learned a lot about other people and how to deal with people when they have opposite or differing views than myself."



Gavin

Rochester, NH

"I think the most important thing I learned at the end of this program was that, even though this Earth is way bigger than I'd ever imagined, it's not too big for change. I also think I've gained, as a result, a higher sense of purpose and belonging in this big, wide world."



Elise

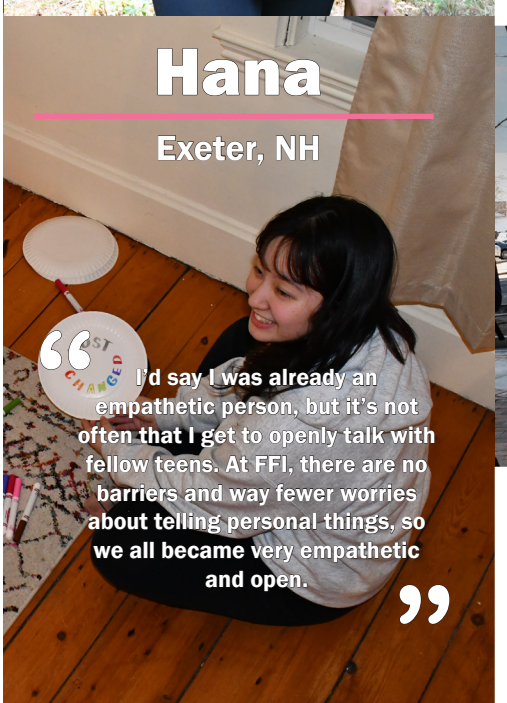
Pittsfield, NH

"I don't think that the world can always be like it is with FFI, but that does not mean we should not try."

20% of participants identify as LGBTQIA+.

28% of participants have a documented disability or condition which makes it difficult to be successful in a traditional school environment, the majority being neurodivergent.

91% of participants would not be able to afford to participate without a full scholarship from FFI.



Hana

Exeter, NH

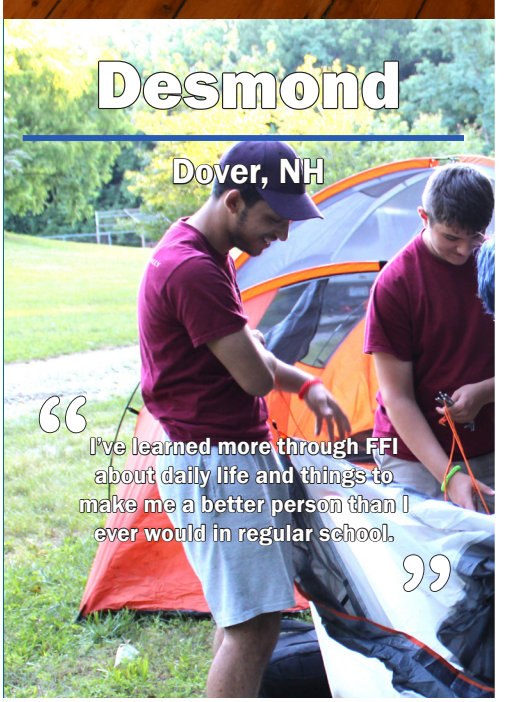
"I'd say I was already an empathetic person, but it's not often that I get to openly talk with fellow teens. At FFI, there are no barriers and way fewer worries about telling personal things, so we all became very empathetic and open."



Gracie

Dover, NH

"It sounds cheesy, but it's true: only good things can come from participating in FFI."



Desmond

Dover, NH

"I've learned more through FFI about daily life and things to make me a better person than I ever would in regular school."



88% of participants reported their empathy grew because of FFI’s programs.

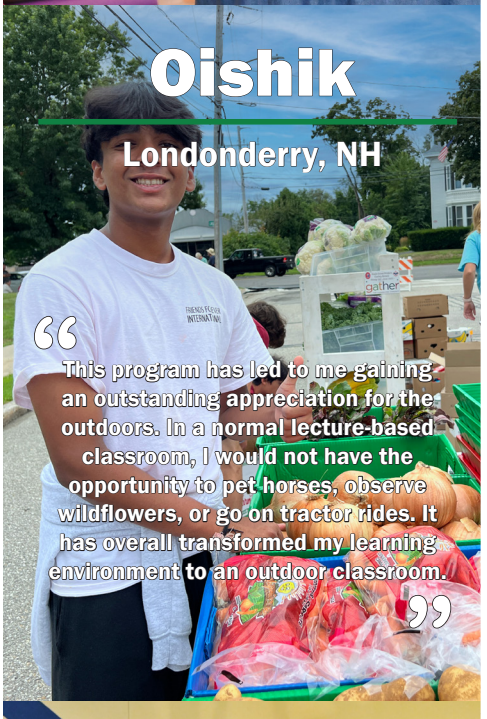


94% of participants reported they can better accept opinions that are different from their own.

90% of participants reported that FFI’s programs helped them understand the value of giving maximum effort.

50 different courses delivered.







Hands-On Education, Real-World Change: FFI’s Innovative Credit-Bearing Programs

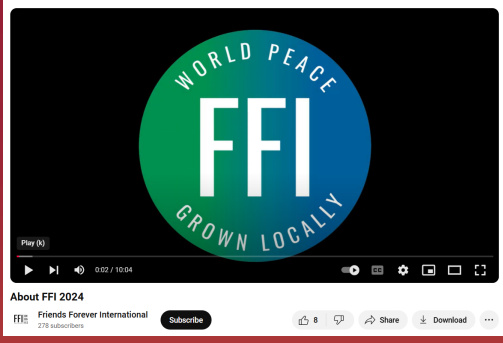
FFI has built upon our existing leadership programs by offering residential Credit-Bearing Programs. These programs are approved through the Learn Everywhere program of the New Hampshire Department of Education and are infused with our core values of empathy, understanding, and community engagement. They allow students to earn credits in areas such as Social Studies, Creativity and Arts, Science, Healthy Living, Adventure Education, and English. Alongside their academic focus, students also develop crucial skills in team building, communication, public speaking, and leadership. With the ability to grant dozens of credits and more pending approval, FFI continues to expand access to transformative, hands-on education, making us the largest out-of-school, in-person credit provider in the nation. Our innovative approach ensures we meet the diverse needs of students, preparing them for success in a rapidly changing world.

Since 2023, we have granted a total of **402 credits** to **219 students**, delivering **50 unique courses** across various content areas. These students represented over **40 different high schools**, showcasing the broad reach and impact of our programs. By providing a diverse range of educational experiences, we continue to empower youth from across New Hampshire, equipping them with the academic knowledge and leadership skills needed to thrive both in school and in life.

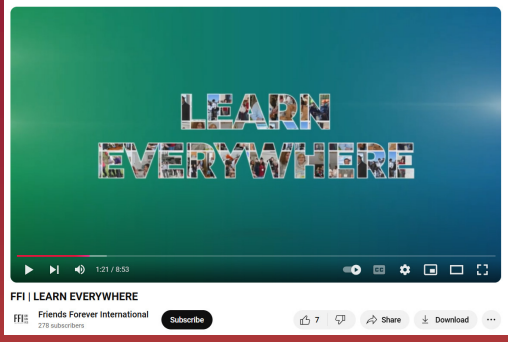
To learn more and see a list of courses offered, visit **www.ff.international/creditbearingprograms**.

Resilient Leaders, Compassionate Voices: FFI on YouTube

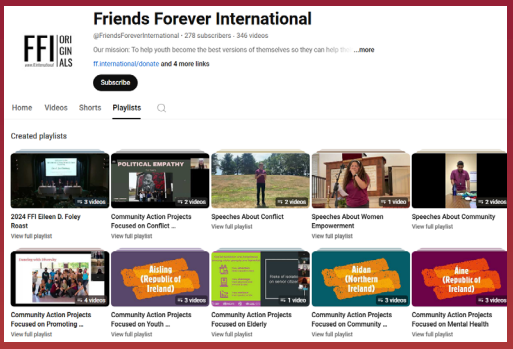
Subscribe to our YouTube channel to be the first to see new videos about us, recordings of participants' speeches, and videos from events! @FriendsForeverInternational



Watch our 2024 About FFI video



Watch our video about our Credit-Bearing Programs



Browse videos by participants' speech and project topics

Where Your Passion Meets Purpose: Planned Giving at FFI

Planning how to distribute one's assets is a significant decision that everyone must make, regardless of age or socioeconomic status. Where do you want to leave your legacy? Will you continue to support our cause in the next fifty years? At FFI, we assist individuals in identifying a program area they are enthusiastic about supporting in the long run. Leaving behind a legacy of peace is one of the most valuable gifts that you can give to the world.

A charitable bequest through your will or trust is a simple form of planned giving that allows you to direct a specific dollar amount or assets to FFI, ensuring that your legacy of giving lives on. We understand that your gift is deeply personal, and we are committed to helping you find the most meaningful way to direct it toward our vision and goals. Whether you want to create a lasting legacy of peace, support campus projects at our global headquarters, or contribute to our endowment fund, we are here to help you every step of the way.



If you decide to remember FFI in your will or estate plan, we warmly invite you to join the '86 Society, a group of individuals dedicated to creating a more peaceful world through planned giving. Anonymous members are welcome, too. No matter what your preferences are, we will work with you to ensure that your gift has the greatest possible impact. Visit **www.ff.international/planned-giving** to learn more.

Breaking Barriers: Access for Every Future Youth Leader



FFI warmly welcomes hundreds of aspiring leaders from every corner of the world. Participants join us from diverse backgrounds and regions, each embarking on transformative journeys fostered by FFI's commitment to accessibility. We believe every young leader deserves the chance to thrive, regardless of their financial circumstances. That's why we provide 100% full scholarships to all accepted participants in our leadership programs, covering travel, program fees, and more. By eliminating financial barriers, we open the door for youth from diverse backgrounds to develop critical skills in leadership, teamwork, and community engagement. These experiences empower them to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond, creating a ripple effect that benefits us all. Supporting these scholarships means investing in a future led by compassionate, capable leaders ready to make a difference.

Visit **www.ff.international/donate** to donate today.