

Life is a Highway 4910 MILES

We are thrilled to introduce our first-ever FFI Road Trip, an incredible journey for New Hampshire high school students that combines travel, education, and personal growth. This week-long adventure allowed students to earn credits in four unique courses approved by the Department of Education:

- 1. **Resilience Through History** Exploring inspiring stories of individuals and groups who have shown remarkable resilience in the face of adversity.
- 2. **Human Rights** Delving into the historical and ongoing struggles for human rights in the United States.
- 3. **Music as a Mobilizing Force** Examining the role of music in U.S. history from the 1930s-1970s, and how songs by iconic artists have empowered and engaged people over the decades.
- 4. **Children's Literature and Its Role in Building Empathy** Writing their own children's book based on the FFI RECIPE to cultivate empathy and understanding.

Throughout this journey, students visited significant sites such as the National Center for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL; the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; the Presbytere Museum in New Orleans; the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC; the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia; and the homes of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain in Hartford, CT, among many others.

While on the road, students immersed themselves in curated playlists featuring artists like Bob Dylan, Harry Belafonte, Joan Baez, Aretha Franklin, and Billie Holiday, connecting the music to the historical sites and movements they learned about. This technology-free trip emphasized a 100% plant-based diet, daily mindfulness practices, and open-minded, empathetic engagement with diverse perspectives.

Our meticulously developed 180-page curriculum ensured that students met core competencies required for high school credit. Each participant had a personalized 15-page Individual Leadership Plan, developed in collaboration with their parents and school references. This unique experience is 100% scholarship-based, with no fees for any student, and included camping each night to foster teamwork and resourcefulness.



This road trip is just one of ten enriching programs we are offering this summer, each uniquely designed to provide hands-on learning and unforgettable experiences. Imagine diving into forensic science, where students solve mock crime scenes, or scaling mountains to build resilience and leadership. Our photography course inspires creativity with purpose, capturing meaningful moments. Participants in the local food systems program will explore sustainable agriculture and gardening, while those interested in public service will engage with community leaders. Students will also delve into the complexities of the incarceration system, understand the intersection between empathy and plant-based diets, and experience the cultural richness of Northern Ireland through film and personal interactions. These transformative programs empower our students to learn, grow, and lead in exciting, real-world settings.

Alumni

Impact

Sonia ('23), India

Sonia participated in FFI's first-ever Global Immersion Program in Annalong, Northern Ireland in August of 2023. As part of her program, she created a Community Action Project that addressed the lack of knowledge and availability of feminine hygiene products in her rural community in India, focusing on women and girls of lower socio-economic backgrounds. Since then, she has organized two talks at government

schools along with period product drives, making her project a reality.

Ruth ('23), Indiana

Ruth participated in FFI's Nationwide Immersion Program in July of 2023. For her Community Action Project, her goal was to provide food distribution centers near Wellesley College, which she attends, with free fresh produce for those in need. She is doing this by directly connecting local farms and food centers. One of these centers is Rosie's Place, a shelter for low-income women and those who have experienced domestic violence/abuse. They provide hot meals every day, as well as produce in their food pantry. Since connecting with them, she has connected with Boston Medical Center as a partner, which has many rooftop farm locations and has been delivering some of their fresh produce and other items to Rosie's Place!

Khaliun ('23), Mongolia

Khaliun participated in our Global Immersion Program in August of 2023. As part of the program, she created a Community Action Project that is called the "Peer Bridge Program." This program was organized in

Sukhbaatar and allowed rural children to learn English and study abroad opportunities in order to expand their world. With Khaliun as a peer teacher, nine students successfully completed the program.





Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland Alumni Weekend

In April of this year, FFI hosted a group of alumni from all over the island of Ireland for a weekend residential focused on cross-community understanding and community engagement. Alumni traveled to Derry/Londonderry to learn about the complex history of The Troubles that took place there through visiting museums and speaking to people knowledgable about the events. They also hosted a Community Fun Day for the village of Annalong, where our FFI Center is located. They offered various activities like a DJ dance party and arts and crafts. We love being able to welcome community members to our campus!

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Bridging Cultures: Ireland and Northern Ireland Program

We are thrilled to announce the participation of 10 exceptional youth from 7 counties across Ireland and Northern Ireland in our exchange program. These young leaders, selected through a rigorous application process, have each identified impactful community projects they wish to develop back home. During their trip, they will connect with key individuals and businesses that can provide the support and resources necessary to move their projects forward. Representing the diverse communities of the entire island,

they were chosen from a large pool

of applicants, showcasing their dedication and potential. Prior to this experience, they participated in a preparatory weekend at our Annalong campus in Northern Ireland, ensuring they are well-equipped for the journey ahead. This year marks the 35th anniversary of our exchange programs with Ireland, reflecting our commitment to evolving and meeting the needs of the island. These programs not only benefit the youth and their immediate

219



communities but also cultivate a network of engaged alumni leaders who will support our campus at Annalong and drive positive change for decades to come.



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North Macedonia Delegation FFI recently hosted a delegation from the North Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who visited New Hampshire for an Open World program through the Congressional Office of

International Leadership. During their stay, the diplomats engaged with a range of foreign affairs professionals across Manchester, Concord, Boston, and the Portsmouth area. These interactions provided invaluable insights into diplomacy, democracy, and foreign policies.



The delegates' comprehensive learning experience included

discussions on effective governance, international relations, and democratic processes, equipping them with knowledge and strategies to enhance their professional roles and contribute positively to their home country's diplomatic efforts.



Diane M. Seagren Rainforest Academy

1 MILE

In February of this year, FFI staff traveled down to our

Diane M. Seagren Rainforest Academy in Boom Creek, Belize, to continue meeting with our connections and partners there and to wrap up final updates and renovations to the campus in order to begin hosting programs. We are excited to be close to completion and to host our first program this winter for select FFI Alumni!





FFI is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to host teams for meals, to hear their inspiring speeches, and sponsor activities for our summer programs. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a positive impact on young leaders from around the world. To get involved, contact us at programs@ff.international or 603.397.5301. Join us in creating unforgettable experiences and empowering youth this summer!



IN NEWSCRIPTING



Your support makes these life-changing opportunities possible at no cost to the participants. We invite you to join us in empowering the next generation by contributing to our activities, meals, and scholarships this summer. To make a donation, visit www.ff.international/donate or send in the envelope provided. If you are interested in hosting a meal or team at your office, please contact us at programs@ff.international. Thank you for your continued support.

We just wrapped up our annual Golf Fore Peace Tournament at the

exclusive Wentworth by the Sea Country Club. It was a fantastic day of golf, networking, and inspiration. Local companies brought clients to enjoy the competition and the scenic views. The day was made even more special thanks to a heartfelt speech by 15-year-old FFI alumna Hannah Marshall, who truly motivated everyone. Participants left not just with great memories but also a renewed enthusiasm to support and



volunteer with FFI. Register now for next year's tournament on June 9th at www.ff.international/golf.



Including FFI in a Will & Planned Giving

1/2 MILE

Where do you want to leave your legacy? Will you continue to support our cause in the next fifty years? At Friends Forever International, we assist individuals in identifying a program area they are enthusiastic about supporting in the long run. If you care about the environment, social justice, education, or assisting those in need, consider investing in the future empathetic leaders who will champion these causes. Leaving behind a legacy of peace is one of the most valuable gifts you can give to the world. For more information, visit our website: www.ff.international/ planned-giving.