

PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CENTRAL IOWA WEB SITE

<http://friendshipforcecentraliowaames.org>

The current web site for Friendship Force of Central Iowa (FFCI) is programed in Joomla and we have found it impossible to keep up to date with members from our current membership, who are not very computer literate. **A more user friendly and manageable web site is necessary.** Four years ago a senior practicum class of seniors in graphic design in the College of Design, working with FFCI officers, completed a proposed redesign of the FFCI web site. Some implementation of this design was begun but the web master at that time found it impossible to complete the implementation using Joomla programming. It has languished in this initial form with no new data added for the past three years. We would like to have a class of computer science students work on the programming to bring the site up to date



The web site is becoming increasingly important in improving the vitality of the organization. It is important for:

1. **Sharing information about the philosophy and principles and long and vital history of FFCI**
2. **Sharing announcements about important upcoming FFCI events**
3. **Providing an electronic method for apply for membership of new younger members.**

Our parent organization, Friendship Force International (FFI), (<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org>) has recently completed a total redesign their web site and is focused on providing improved and effective information and assistance to local clubs and reaching out to an expanding group of younger potential members to revitalize our aging “founders” generation. **Smooth and complementary connections with the FFI Web site are vital to the future vibrancy and viability of our local FFCI club.** Connections to the FFCI Facebook page is also desirable.

ITEMS FOR FFCI WEB SITE

1. Create history of club Journey pages and divide into a page for Inbound Journeys, one for Outbound Journeys and one for domestic Journeys. Exchange listings would then be clickable to show several photos from each Journey. These pages should be expandable as new Journeys are completed.
2. Develop easy way for web local administrator to easily upload photos, newsletters, events to calendar, highlighting upcoming local events, and officer listings.
3. Under Members section show photos of Board Members as well as e-mail addresses and phone numbers
4. Calendar page is good. Insert button to have pop up window to highlight upcoming events.
5. Emphasize opportunities for member/viewer interactions like ways to send e-mails to officers from within the web site,
6. Create a well-designed membership form that is interactive to send information to FFCI treasurer and Membership chair email accounts..

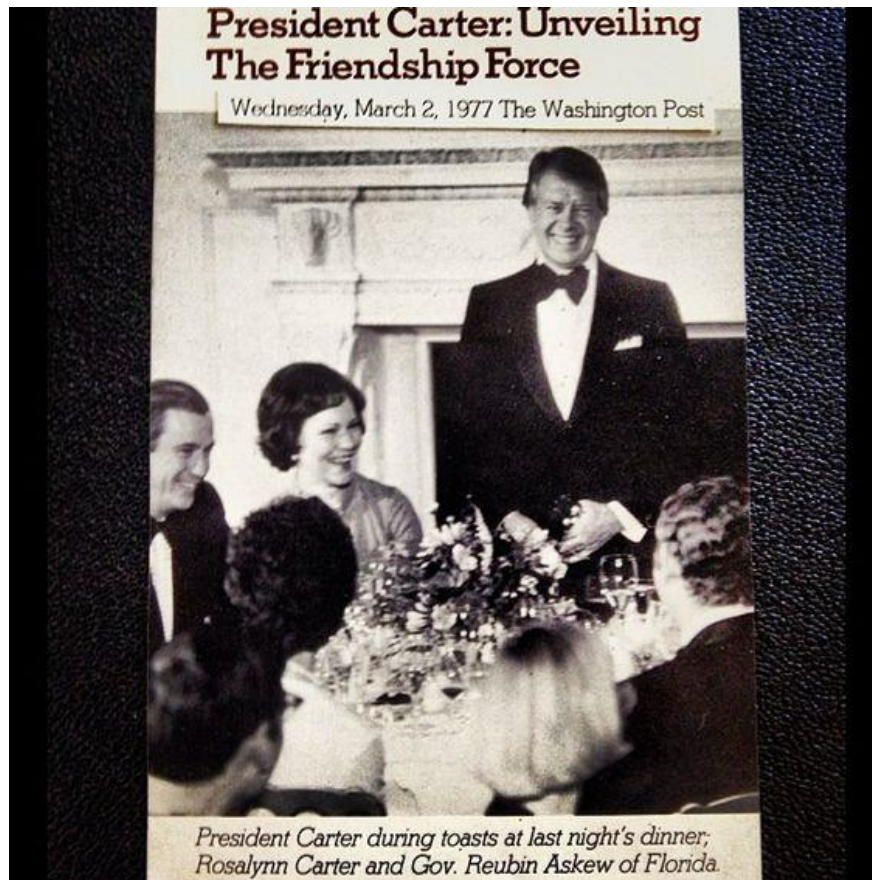
FFI has technical support and collaboration with James Ecklund, a professional computer consultant from Lincoln Nebraska. He can be contacted at: jecklund@me.com.

Thank you for considering having your class take on this task.

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WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP FORCE?

Friendship Force International (FFI) is a non-profit international cultural exchange organization founded in Atlanta, Georgia, United States, by Rev. Wayne Smith and unveiled on March 1, 1977, by President Jimmy Carter at a White House gathering of state governors. First Lady Rosalynn Carter served as Honorary Chairperson until 2002.



Iowa governor Robert Ray was one of the first political leaders to embrace and promote the organization upon returning home and for his efforts was subsequently awarded the organization's highest honor, The Wayne Smith Medal. Gov. Ray was instrumental in stimulating the formation of 5 local clubs in Iowa. In 1992, Friendship Force International was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its work building understanding between the people of the United States and the Soviet Union amidst a tense international climate.

Since 1977, the home stay travel exchange movement pioneered by Friendship Force International has given people the unique opportunity to connect in ways that transcend boundaries to promote goodwill, respect, and understanding of people in other cultures as a basis for world peace.

In 2016 FFI conducted almost 400 exchange programs (called Journeys) in 390 community based FFI clubs. Today, there are more than 300 registered Friendship Force Clubs in 60 countries; people willing to open their doors in the name of hospitality and friendship. On a FFI Journey club members, called “citizen ambassadors” travel the world and are welcomed into someone’s home. During a weeklong Journey these ambassadors immerse themselves in the local culture. Club members also invite travelers from other places into their own homes and proudly share American culture with them.

The registered Friendship Force Club in the area surrounding Ames is Friendship Force of Central Iowa. There are currently 50+ club members. In recently years FFCI has hosted several incoming FFI clubs from other countries and has traveled on club journeys to: England, Germany, Brazil, Russia, Ghana, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, In 2018 FFCI has been assigned a journey to Peru.