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| **President's Message** Big thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the Western Kentucky Friendship Force visit such a huge success. It takes a village to put together a journey, and so many of you stepped up to make that happen. Our co-chairs Jane Lee and Gretchen Worth did an amazing job putting together a fun-filled agenda and dealing with all the last-minute challenges. The home hosts, day hosts, dinner hosts, welcome party hosts, farewell-party planners, sandwich-maker, brochure developer, and anyone else who played a part in the planning and execution of this journey can be so proud!   Of course, while our journeys are a lot of fun, there is a deeper, more meaningful purpose. They are a way of living the Vision of Friendship Force International by committing to harnessing the transformative power of human connection and recognizing that these experiences can lead to lifelong friendships that change the way we see the world. While reflecting on my new role as president of FFFS, I thought a reminder of other FFI values and goals was in order. I'll share a few in hopes that we continue to be inspired to live up to them. WelcomingFFI promotes friendship among peoples of different backgrounds and cultures globally, regionally, and locally and welcomes everyone regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political opinion, religion, or any other difference. Open-MindedFFI seeks to foster mutual respect and appreciation of differences. Members challenge their own prejudices and approach new situations with a learning attitude. AdventurousFFI members have a spirit of adventure! They are flexible and adapt to uncertain circumstances with energy and enthusiasm. PositiveFFI members always consider the needs of others and seek to give more to host communities than they take. FFI members seek to be a force for good and aim to have a positive impact wherever they go. InnovativeFFI seeks to be constantly evolving; adapting to new and better ways of carrying out our goals. FFI will be responsive to cultural and social changes. FFI members are open to change. Committed To PeaceFFI firmly believes that a world of friends is a world of peace. FFI brings diverse people together to discover common ground.  So, thank you all for everything you do to further the vision and values of Friendship Force International. The world needs us now more than ever! Stay curious, stay inspired. Karen Sherrets |

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