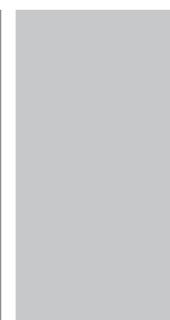




2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Citizen Diplomacy, One Handshake at a Time





OUR MISSION & WORK

WorldChicago’s mission is to facilitate professional and personal interactions for international leaders during official visits to Chicago; to enhance respect and communication through international exchanges and alliances; and to promote the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and Cook County as important centers of business and culture.

WorldChicago is an affiliate of the National Council for International Visitors, a nonprofit membership association with over fifty years of leadership in citizen diplomacy. Together with more than ninety community partner members, WorldChicago helps shape international relations “one handshake at a time.”

To accomplish our mission, WorldChicago arranges professional programs, cultural activities, and family homestays for international leaders, scholars, and youth participating in U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs in Chicago. These high-quality, customized programs range from several days to several months.

Our international visitors explore their professional or educational areas of interest through meetings with local government, private sector, and civil society leaders, and interactive and volunteer experiences that engage with Chicago’s diverse communities. WorldChicago also coordinates social activities around Chicago that introduce our visitors to globally-engaged Chicagoans and cultural life in the United States.

WorldChicago is pleased to acknowledge that this Annual Report is funded in part by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended.

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LETTER from the President

Dear WorldChicago Citizen Diplomats:

2013 was such an interesting year for WorldChicago. We saw 647 international emerging leaders engage with you, our Citizen Diplomats, during their stays in our city. While we booked over 1,800 hotel room nights for our programs, one in every five of our delegates stayed with Chicago-area homestay hosts for a combined total of 2,852 nights — over eight years in length end-to-end! On behalf of everyone at WorldChicago, I'd like to extend our gratitude to the dozens of hosts that welcomed our international leaders to Chicago:

- Thank you to the professional hosts at nearly 350 Chicago organizations who shared your expertise with your international peers.
- Thank you to our social hosts who shared your time and love of Chicago with our delegates.
- Thank you our homestay hosts, those families in Chicago that welcomed our visitors into their homes for several days to several months this year and showed them that though we have different cultures around the world, in so many ways we are all alike.

In 2013, WorldChicago's programs placed significant focus on disability rights advocacy. Throughout the year, we hosted 38 adult and youth disability rights leaders who learned about and explored such topics as advocacy, accessibility, education, and sports programs for people with disabilities. Learn more about two of these programs, the Chicago–Brazil Sports Exchange on page 6 and the Empower Access Program on page 10. We are delighted that disability rights is an increasingly visible theme in international exchange and dialogue due to the passion of disability rights leaders in Chicago and abroad. Thank you to the many Chicago host organizations that made these programs possible, and that continue to advocate for a fully-accessible city!

The benefits of our exchange programs are multifold. While displaying our city to the world's future leaders is a positive outreach, we also provide opportunities for our visitors to see Americans and Chicagoans as we really are, rather than through the lens of media. And we're delighted to stay that overwhelmingly, they like us! Many in our delegation of 30 African women entrepreneurs said Chicago was their favorite American city, while some of our international youth delegates took to calling themselves Chicago-“WINs” because they felt they “won” the best city in the program placements.

Our visitors also help us see Chicago with fresh eyes. A Chicago youth participant with our Chicago-Brazil Sports Exchange remarked, “[the Brazilians’] fascination with our city made me realize how great of a city we live in.”

Thank you again for your support in sharing our city with the world, and best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful year ahead!

Sincerely,

Peggy Parfenoff
President, WorldChicago

P.S. If you've ever considering homestay hosting, 2014 might be your year! WorldChicago has several short-term hosting opportunities on the horizon, including an 8-day program, repeated three times across the year, for three delegations of 24 students each from sub-Saharan Africa. WorldChicago provides a full day of programming Monday through Friday, then homestay families get to show the African youth the fun side of Chicago in the evenings and on the weekend. See more details on page 30.



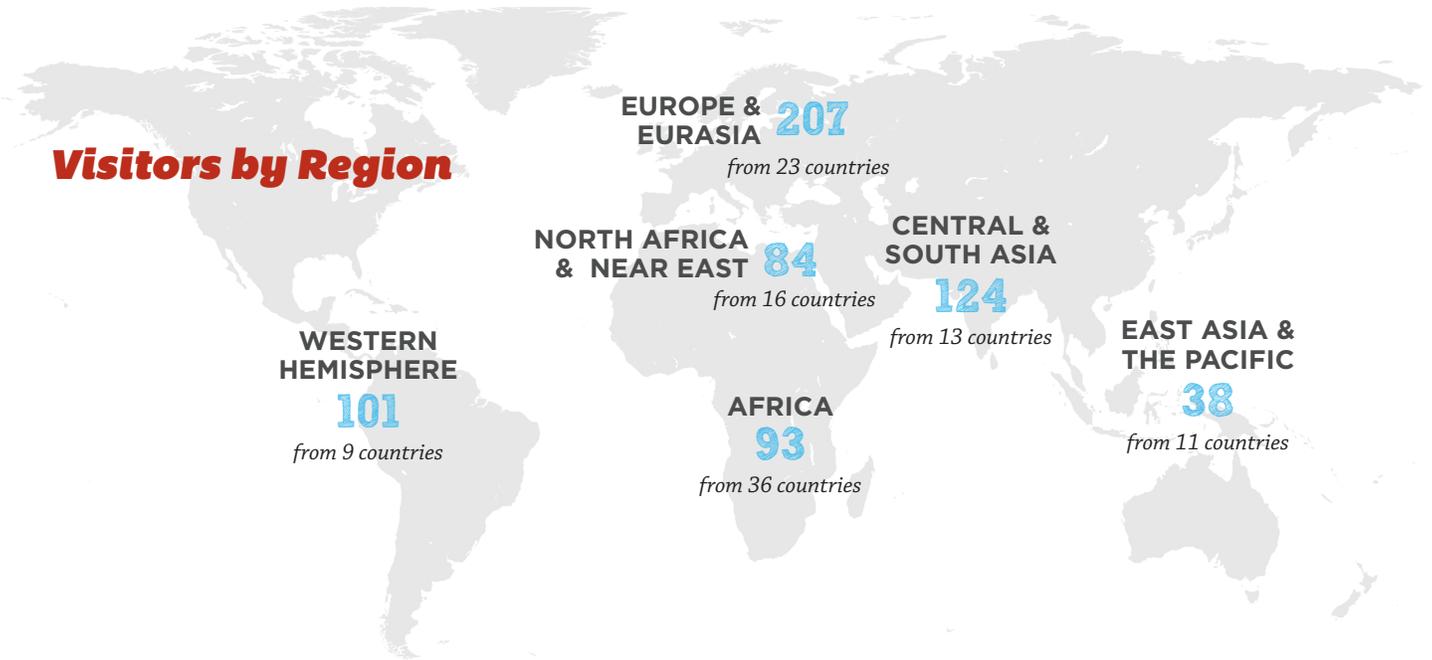
Visitors by Country

COUNTRY NAME	#				
Afghanistan.....	10	Democratic Republic of the Congo	7	Kuwait	2
Algeria.....	2	Djibouti	3	Kyrgyzstan	2
Angola.....	1	Egypt	13	Lebanon	1
Argentina.....	1	El Salvador	10	Libya	1
Armenia.....	1	Estonia	1	Macedonia	1
Australia.....	3	Ethiopia.....	2	Madagascar.....	2
Bahrain.....	2	France	5	Malawi	1
Bangladesh.....	13	Gabon	2	Malaysia	2
Belarus.....	22	Gambia	1	Mali.....	1
Belize.....	1	Georgia	2	Mauritania.....	3
Benin.....	3	Germany	5	Mauritius	3
Bhutan.....	2	Ghana	2	Mexico	34
Bolivia.....	1	Greece	1	Moldova	6
Botswana.....	2	Guinea	1	Morocco	7
Brazil.....	41	Haiti.....	5	Mozambique	2
Bulgaria.....	4	Hungary	1	Nepal	4
Burkina Faso.....	4	India	31	Netherlands	1
Burma.....	2	Indonesia	7	New Zealand	1
Burundi.....	1	Iran	8	Niger	5
Cameroon.....	2	Iraq	11	Nigeria	5
Chad	2	Israel	6	Norway	2
China.....	15	Italy	3	Oman	2
Colombia	1	Japan	3	Pakistan	21
Comoros	1	Jordan	3	Palestinian Territories	4
Côte d'Ivoire	6	Kazakhstan	26	Philippines.....	1
Croatia.....	1	Kenya	3	Poland.....	11
Czech Republic	2	Korea	1	Russia.....	30
				Rwanda.....	3
				Saudi Arabia.....	13
				Senegal.....	3
				Sierra Leone.....	1
				South Africa.....	8
				Spain.....	70
				Sri Lanka.....	3
				Sudan.....	1
				Swaziland.....	1
				Sweden.....	1
				Taiwan.....	1
				Tajikistan.....	1
				Tanzania.....	2
				Thailand.....	2
				Timor-Leste.....	1
				Togo.....	2
				Tunisia	8
				Turkey	8
				Turkmenistan	5
				Uganda.....	4
				Ukraine.....	13
				United Arab Emirates	1
				United Kingdom.....	16
				Uzbekistan.....	4
				Venezuela.....	7
				Vietnam.....	2
				Zimbabwe.....	2
				TOTAL COUNTRIES:	108
				TOTAL VISITORS:	647



2013 AT-A-GLANCE

Visitors by Region



2013 by-the-Numbers

647

Total international visitors hosted by WorldChicago

90

Total international professional and youth programs hosted by WorldChicago

108

Different countries represented by our international visitors

306

Days out of the year that WorldChicago hosted international visitors

344

Unique Chicago organizations that shared their expertise with our international visitors

516

Approximate number of professional volunteer hours contributed

1,800

Chicago hotel rooms booked, contributing nearly \$50,000 in tax revenue to the local economy



Top 10 Visitor Countries

1. Spain
2. Brazil
3. Mexico
4. India
5. Russia
6. Kazakhstan
7. Belarus
8. Pakistan
9. United Kingdom
10. China



Top 5 Program Themes

1. Education
2. Entrepreneurship
3. Law & Jurisprudence
4. Social Issues
5. Trade & Investment



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Chicago-Brazil



Chicago–Brazil Sports and Disabilities Exchange: The Path to the Paralympics!

ONE OF WORLDCHICAGO’S major achievements in 2013 was the successful implementation of a bilateral exchange program between Brazil and Chicago, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State SportsUnited Office. The program focused on promoting youth sports opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities.



TOP OF PAGE: Brazilian and American delegates pose at Buckingham Fountain in Chicago; ABOVE: Chicago delegates and Brazil partners Andef Niteroi pose near Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro. Photos by Gustavo Carvalho

IN APRIL, six disability rights leaders from the Chicago metropolitan region traveled to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil for the first segment of the exchange.

The 10-day program included meetings with the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games organizers, visits to local community centers, and a major forum convened at the Rio statehouse to discuss disability rights and sports opportunities for people with disabilities in Brazil.

With 60 speakers and more than 300 attendees, the forum provided a wide-reaching public platform for Brazilians and Americans to raise awareness of disability rights, share successful advocacy strategies, and collectively address the challenges that still lie ahead.

“Brazil has beautiful [disability rights] laws, but they don’t enforce them. So that was one of the things

that they wanted to learn from us, how do you get to that next step?” remarked attorney, author, and athlete Linda Mastandrea, one of the Chicago delegates who spoke at the forum. “Throughout the experience, we learned just as much from them as they did from us, which of course is what we hoped would happen.”

THE SECOND SEGMENT of the exchange took place in July, when 11 youth athletes with disabilities and eight adult leaders from Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Vitoria, Brazil traveled to Chicago for a 10-day program that combined adaptive sports training and disability rights advocacy. They were joined by five Chicago-area students for the entire program. All participated in adaptive sports like sailing, swimming, wheelchair basketball, and a triathlon, interspersed with advocacy and action plan training.

The exchange coincided with Chicago's annual Disability Pride Parade. Brazilians and Americans painted signs and marched together through downtown Chicago, accompanied by a Brazilian band and samba dancers.

The delegates also cheered on the home teams at Chicago White Sox, Chicago Fire, and Chicago Sky games; visited the Lincoln Park Zoo; and floated 103 stories up in the air on the Willis Tower Sky Deck Ledge. They even met Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel at City Hall.

Much like the Chicago adult delegates' experience in Brazil, the American participants in the summer exchange learned as much — if not more — from their South American peers as our visitors learned from them. For most participants, that experience struck a personal chord.

"I learned to be proud of your disability and not embarrassed by it," shared one Chicago youth. "I have learned that I need to step up and become an advocate to represent myself."

"No one should be limited by their disability."



LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP: Chicago delegates speak at disability rights forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Brazilian and American delegates participate in swimming lessons with Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association at Northwestern University (photo by Gustavo Carvalho); Wheelchair basketball at Roosevelt University in Chicago; Brazilians and American youth march down Dearborn Street in the Disability Pride Parade.



International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State’s premiere professional exchange program. Through face-to-face meetings, current and emerging international leaders from a variety of fields cultivate relationships and exchange best practices with their American counterparts over a three- to four-week visit to multiple cities across the U.S. WorldChicago typically hosts IVLP delegations for three to five days, organizing professional appointments and site tours with government, nonprofit, and private sector organizations related to the delegates’ program theme.

This year’s diverse program topics included Aviation, Agriculture, Journalism & Foreign Policy, Library Sciences, Museum Management, Religious Pluralism, Water Resource Protection, and Women’s Economic Empowerment.

Visitors came to Chicago from 97 different countries, from Afghanistan and Bulgaria to Venezuela and Zimbabwe, and dozens more in between.

Interested in sharing your professional expertise with WorldChicago delegates — and in turn, learning more about current trends in your field in their countries? Call WorldChicago at 312.254.1800 to discuss opportunities.

IVLP by-the-Numbers

368

International Visitor Leadership Program delegates hosted by WorldChicago

63

Different IVLP programs — an average of more than five per month

336

Unique Chicago-area meeting hosts who shared their professional expertise with IVLP delegates

330

Current or former heads of state who came to the United States as an IVLP delegate



In Chicago for a program focused on Alternatives in Higher Education, an IVLP delegate from Bhutan learns about a student’s sustainable agriculture plan at IPRO Day at the Illinois Institute of Technology, the culminating event of an experiential learning program that joins together students from various academic disciplines to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem.



IVLP delegates also participate in cultural and social activities in Chicago. For one delegation, it was an experience most Americans only dream of: two young political leaders from Indonesia caught not one, but TWO fly balls in the first 15 minutes of a Chicago White Sox game! Photo by Hengky Chiok, Interpreter

IVLP Spotlight: African Women's Entrepreneurship Program



JULY 20-25, WorldChicago hosted the opening of the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP), one of the largest IVLP initiatives.

Launched in 2010 by the U.S. Department of State, AWEP is an outreach, education, and engagement initiative that targets African women entrepreneurs to promote business growth, increase trade both regionally and to U.S. markets through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), create better business environments, and empower African women entrepreneurs to become voices of change in their communities.

WorldChicago welcomed 30 Anglophone and Francophone delegates representing 28 countries and three sectors: agriculture and food processing, textiles and fashion design, and handicrafts and home décor.

Together, the AWEP delegates learned about the U.S. federal system of government and gained practical business knowledge, such as how to develop an "elevator speech" to convey their message to consumers, or how to price their product competitively. They were

also inspired by the many examples of social entrepreneurship, a new concept for some of the women.

"Entrepreneurship? I used to think it was just business. Now I realize there is also social entrepreneurship. We need that back home," observed Domitille from Burundi.

Other highlights include a visit to the Andersonville Galleria on Chicago's northside, a two-story

"Entrepreneurship? I used to think it was just business. Now I realize there is also social entrepreneurship. We need that back home."

retail complex that features over 90 tenants offering apparel, jewelry, artwork, home furnishings, giftware, accessories, antiques, fair trade, and gourmet treats. The delegates felt this business arrangement was very ingenious because the artist could

continue to create and leave the selling to others.

Delegates also enjoyed meetings with local fashion house Atelier Azza, mobile produce market Fresh Moves, the Chicago Gift Market Trade Show, Chicago Urban League, the Kellogg School of Management Levy Entrepreneurial Institute, and a visit to Whole Foods.

BEYOND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

many AWEP delegates named Chicago as their favorite city on the entire three-week program. From the opening lunch at the John Hancock Building with keynote speaker Desiree Rogers, CEO of Johnson Publishing Company, to a scavenger hunt that proved to be a fun introduction to Chicago, the combination of professional meetings, cultural activities, and hospitality was very successful in setting the scene and creating excitement and enthusiasm for the rest of the program.

ABOVE: AWEP delegates had the opportunity to showcase their product samples to Chicago-area retail professionals and WorldChicago Board members at the AWEP Welcome Reception, held at the Joffrey Ballet Residences.



Professional Fellows Program

The U.S. Department of State’s Professional Fellows Program places emerging international leaders in three- to four-week fellowships with a variety of government offices, public policy-oriented NGOs, private companies, and universities. These professional development opportunities provide young global leaders with exposure to U.S. government and civil society processes, hands-on project or research experience, and a platform to learn and share best practices with their American counterparts.

In spring and fall 2013, WorldChicago hosted fellows from Armenia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Georgia, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

This year, our Professional Fellows followed two program tracks: Legislative Process & Governance and Economic Empowerment.

Two of our cohorts — the Empower Access fellows from Central Asia and our Egyptian and Tunisian fellows — focused specifically on legislation and governance in relation to people with disabilities’ participation and inclusion in society. The fellows — representing government, NGO, education, legal, human resources, and advocacy sectors — also learned the myriad ways in which Chicago works to be a more inclusive, accessible city, from transportation accessibility to classroom integration to anti-discrimination laws.

The Professional Fellows Program also includes a reciprocal exchange for select American fellowship hosts to travel abroad to their fellow’s country or region. Several of our 2013 hosts were selected for this unique opportunity, including Ken Gunn, First Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. Read about his experience on pages 12–13.

WorldChicago would like to extend special thanks to all of our fellowship hosts for their commitment to cross-cultural knowledge sharing and supporting the next generation of government and civil society leaders around the world.

Fellows by-the-Numbers

34

Professional Fellows hosted, from government, civil society, and advocacy sectors

16

Number of countries, from three regions, represented by our fellows

30

Unique Chicago government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and universities that served as fellowship hosts



Left to right: Deputy Commissioner Joe Albritton of the Chicago Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities presents an Empower Fellow from Kyrgyzstan with a certificate of achievement; Six of our fall Professional Fellows from Egypt, Nepal, Pakistan, and Tunisia pose with fellowship host Larry Labiak of the Chicago Park District at WorldChicago’s October Coffee Conversation; Empower fellow from Pakistan arrives on the first day of his spring fellowship at the Chicago Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities.

2013 Fellowship Hosts

EASTERN EUROPEAN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & GOVERNANCE: APRIL 4-MAY 8

Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Chicago Lighthouse, Heartland Alliance International

SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & GOVERNANCE: APRIL 18-MAY 8

Albany Park Community Center, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Office of Congressman Danny Davis

EMPOWER ACCESS PROGRAM: APRIL 26-MAY 21

Access Living, Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Chicago Public Schools Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services, University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Disability & Human Development

EASTERN EUROPEAN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & GOVERNANCE: OCTOBER 4-NOVEMBER 5

Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois Office of Tourism, Latino Policy Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement & Great Cities Institute

EGYPT & TUNISIA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & GOVERNANCE: OCTOBER 9-NOVEMBER 5

Access Living, Chicago Kent College of Law Health & Disability Legal Clinic, Chicago Lighthouse, Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Chicago Park District — Disability Policy Office, Chicago Public Schools Office of Diverse Learner Supports and Services, Health & Disability Advocates, State of Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, University of Illinois Chicago Department of Special Education

SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & GOVERNANCE: OCTOBER 17-NOVEMBER 5

After School Matters, Alderman William D. Burns' Office, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, ThinkCerca, Women's Business Development Center

ISRAEL & TUNISIA ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP: OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 1

Chicago Urban League, Cibola, Impact Engine

My Fellowship Hosting Experience

By Patti Werner, Access Living

TO SAY I ENJOYED HOSTING Imed Ouertani would be an understatement. Imed is the President of the Tunisian Organization of Defence of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a young organization that is similar in philosophy to Access Living.

Ours was a great match. We shared a lot of information about nonprofits and NGOs, advocacy, fundraising, and staffing.

But we did more than share information. We became friends. It was easy to do, since Imed's enthusiasm for going places, meeting people, and learning new things is contagious.

When we weren't going to meetings with clients or other service providers, we explored Chicago. We went to the zoo, the aquarium, and even the beach. We spent an evening at my house, where Imed and my husband played chess and we grilled Halal meat we purchased together at an Albany Park grocer. Imed was surely disappointed with my pronunciation of Halal, but we laughed a lot as he tried to get me to pronounce the 'h' just right.

We also spent time with other fellows, both at meetings and more informal events. Some of the hosts teamed up to provide more exposure to different organizations. Getting to know some of the other hosts was great and will have a positive impact on the work I do at Access Living.

I had no idea what to expect when I said yes to hosting a fellow, but I'm so glad I did.



Patti Werner from Access Living with Professional Fellow Imed Ouertani from Tunisia.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: *Chicago-Georgia*



In Spring 2013, the Chicago Commission on Human Relations hosted a Professional Fellow from Georgia — four months later, Georgia hosted Chicago

By Ken Gunn, First Deputy Commissioner, CCHR

WHEN I WAS FIRST CONTACTED BY WORLDCHICAGO with the opportunity to host a fellow from Georgia, it really was not a hard sell for me to make to my commissioner, Mona Noriega.

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations has had a wonderful working relationship with WorldChicago for many years. We have received dozens of visitors from all over the world. In every meeting, our staff has consistently walked away feeling that we had gained more from the experience than our visitors.

So the idea of having a visitor from Georgia for a few weeks was something that immediately appealed to us — and we were not disappointed.

Meeting Nino Tvaltvaдзе and spending time with her was like bringing on a new member of our team. She fit right in, and the staff really enjoyed having her with us. We enjoyed showing off Chicago, taking her to different neighborhoods, having her try dishes at our favorite restaurants, and giving her a brief glimpse of Chicago culture. I most enjoyed watching the joy on Nino's face when she sampled the Italian Beef at Portillo's, the Chicago Mix at Garrett's, and her favorite,

the stuffed pizza at Giordano's. While she was here, Commissioner Noriega actually found a Georgian bakery on the north side which they visited and returned with tons of treats for the whole staff.

While she visited many of the familiar tourists attractions, she told me what she found most enjoyable during her stay was spending an afternoon at Catholic Charities helping to serve dinner to the homeless and other less fortunate individuals and families. She explained that in Georgia there is nothing like this. The poor are helped by neighbors and family members, but there are no institutions with formal programs to provide this kind of assistance.

We also took Nino to meetings with elected and appointed officials, community groups, and one of the school closing hearings. She found this all to be very fascinating, but most of all she was impressed with the children who presented testimony on why their school should not be closed.

While we made every effort to make her stay enjoyable, we also put Nino to work on a project, which she volunteered for, translating our general brochure into Russian. The brochure has since been printed and distributed

to several Russian organizations and community sites in the city.

ODDLY ENOUGH, when we accepted the opportunity to host Nino we had not yet reviewed the application, so we were unaware of the reciprocal visit opportunity. Once we found out about it and I was selected to go, I was very excited — and a bit nervous. What I encountered would truly be a once in a lifetime experience.

While I was in Georgia, I'm sure that I looked every bit like the "wide-eyed tourist," but no one seemed to mind. I have to say as an African-American and the only person of color I saw the whole time I was in the country, I was taken aback by the warmth and welcoming nature of everyone I met in Georgia. Sure there were stares, particularly from the bright-eyed children, but once I gave them a smile and a "hello," they quickly returned it with a smile.

During my visit I was able to meet with NGOs, local and national public officials, and give a lecture to law students. I talked specifically about our work in Chicago addressing issues of discrimination, racial and ethnic tensions, and hate crimes. While most of the people I met with expressed that racial discrimination is not a problem in Georgia, they were able to relate our work to

theirs in terms of discrimination against sexual minorities, the Roma, and violence against women.

It was also very interesting to talk about the Commission's legal powers to address discrimination through the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance. I learned that most of the authority to address problems legislatively in Georgia rests with the central government, not local government. In that respect, I saw a country with a rich history going back thousands of years, but still a very young country finding its way on many very basic local issues and problems.

While I enjoyed the meetings and having the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Kutaisi, and the Chair of the Human Rights Committee of Parliament, I really enjoyed meeting just regular people.

One of the most memorable moments of my trip was when I went with Nino to pick up her daughter from kindergarten. I had just learned that my visit to Georgia made the local news — and more importantly, Facebook — so when I entered the school, all of the children stopped and said "Hello! How are you?" in English. Then they counted from one to 10 in English. You could have just wiped me off of the floor at that point. It was the most touching thing that I can ever remember happening to me.

I also visited cultural sites like the Kutaisi State Historical Museum, the

Bagrat Cathedral, the sanatoriums and spas of Tskaltubo, and the Prometheus Cave. I saw firsthand the importance of the Christian Orthodox Church in the country. I was impressed by and admired the efforts of the people to preserve the history and culture of the church and maintain the historic cathedrals. For example, I learned that young Georgian couples have returned to wearing the traditional wedding clothing as their ancestors had worn hundreds of years ago.

By far the most wonderful part of my experience was staying in the home of Nino's parents. Her mother, father, aunt, and grandfather treated me like a member of the family. They were all very warm and welcoming and made my trip a pure joy! While only her father and aunt spoke any English, it really didn't seem to matter that much. I'm not quite sure how, but we all managed to communicate on some level.

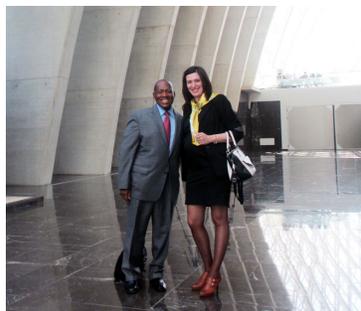
On my first night in Kutaisi I was introduced to the tradition of the *supra*, a formal dinner led by the host who offers many, many toasts throughout the night. At this dinner, my host family had also invited friends who were visiting from Germany, England, and Russia — quite the international table. It was here that I was first introduced to Georgian wine proudly made by Nino's father, who I warmly call

"Mr. David" since he calls me "Mr. Ken." Not only did I get to taste my share of his handiwork throughout the week, I was also fortunate to be there to watch and learn how to make wine. This is an annual tradition for the family, like it is for many Georgian families.

Visiting Georgia and hosting Nino was truly one of the highlights of my professional career and personal life. It was an experience that I will never forget, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to participate in the program. I have developed life-long friends in another part of the world which I previously knew nothing about, other than my misconceptions about Georgians being Russian and not realizing Georgia's own unique history and culture.

Nor could I have ever imagined the warmth and hospitable nature of the Georgian people. You can only gain so much by reading about another culture in books and on the Internet. I truly realize now how important it is to experience a new country firsthand and to be immersed in the culture, even if only for a week. It was truly one of the best weeks of my life.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Ken Gunn speaks to law students about the Commission and the Chicago Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances at Akaki Tsereteli State University; Ken with his host, Professional Fellow Nino Tvaltadze of Kutaisi, Georgia; Ken learns to make wine with Nino's father.





Open World Program

An initiative of the Library of Congress, the Open World Program brings emerging leaders from Eastern Europe and Eurasia to the U.S. to experience American democracy in action, meet with professional counterparts, and experience American culture with a local home host.

RUSSIA ROLE OF LEGISLATURES: FEBRUARY 15-23

Government officials and NGO leaders gained an introduction to United States political and government processes, including visits to Access Living, where delegates were impressed by local standards for accessibility, and a session of the Illinois House of Representatives in Springfield, Illinois, including a private meeting with House Speaker Michael Madigan.



TURKMENISTAN TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT: APRIL 24-MAY 3

Five delegates explored public transportation infrastructure, urban planning, environmental protection, and international trade in the U.S. Delegates met with NGOs, state agencies, and private companies, including the CenterPoint Intermodal Center in Joliet, Illinois, the largest master-planned inland port in North America.

RUSSIA ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE & JOURNALISM: JUNE 21-26

Six newspaper, television, and radio professionals from the Buryatia region of Russia enjoyed a visit to the Telemundo studio at NBC and meetings with Chicago Public Media WBEZ and Pulitzer Prize-winning Chicago Tribune editor Bruce Dold.

Community Connections

Community Connections, an initiative of the U.S. Agency for International Development, provides Eastern European and Eurasian entrepreneurs, government and NGO officials, and legal professionals with practical training tailored to their interests and a three-week homestay with a local family. The public diplomacy goal of the program is to contribute to economic and democratic reform in participating countries and to promote mutual understanding through exposure to U.S. society and personal connections with Americans.

BELARUS NGO ADVOCACY THROUGH INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES: APRIL 10-MAY 2

Ten nonprofit leaders explored communication technology strategies to enhance their public service activities in Belarus. The program addressed social media, politics, and public policy and advocacy efforts for a wide variety of constituencies. A highlight of the program was a visit to the Microsoft Technology Center, where the delegation was able to observe state-of-the-art business applications and learn about their utility for nonprofit organizations.

KAZAKHSTAN PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO REDUCE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION: JULY 26-AUGUST 16

Ten public health and NGO leaders met with their counterparts in Chicago to learn about public-private cooperation in the sphere of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, as well as advocacy mechanisms to promote the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. The highlight of the program was a meeting with Illinois State Representative Greg Harris, who shared his experience as a leading advocate for HIV/AIDS issues in Illinois.

ABOVE LEFT: Local politics and policy expert James Pappachen (third from right) provides an introduction to Chicago history, politics, and culture for Russian Open World delegates.



Community Connections delegates from Kazakhstan join the AIDS Foundation of Chicago Street Team for a day, volunteering to hang posters in local businesses around the city to promote the Foundation's annual AIDS Run/Walk.

Fulbright Enrichment Program

WorldChicago coordinated networking events, cultural activities, and volunteer opportunities for Fulbright scholars working and studying at Illinois and Indiana universities.

These events introduce scholars to aspects of American culture they might not otherwise experience on their campuses, and are intended to further the Fulbright goal of increasing mutual understanding between citizens of the United States and other countries.

Highlights included hospitality dinners at the homes of WorldChicago members, a tour of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Chicago Mercantile Exchange, a Broadway in Chicago production, and a Chicago White Sox baseball game.

Other Programs

BILINGUAL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM, MADRID, SPAIN: JUNE 29–JULY 27

WorldChicago partnered with Roosevelt University to coordinate a program for 25 science and technology teachers from Madrid, Spain. The teachers attended courses at Roosevelt's School of Education to develop their skills at bilingual teaching. WorldChicago arranged homestays and planned cultural activities for the teachers.

SHANGHAI MANAGER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: OCTOBER 26–DECEMBER 19

WorldChicago welcomed six professionals from Shanghai, China, for a two-month fellowship program with Chicago-area businesses, coordinated in cooperation with the Shanghai Economic Management College and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of Shanghai Municipal Government. In turn, the Chicago-area host organizations had the opportunity to strengthen their professional and cultural ties with Shanghai, one of Chicago's sister cities.

In addition to working on-site, fellows took part in business seminars arranged by WorldChicago, featuring the culture of American enterprises, successful communication skills, and an overview of the American business management system.

Thank you to our Fellowship Hosts: City of Chicago Department of Aviation, Devon Bank, Flying Food Group, Internship Desk, and Openlands.



A Shanghai fellow celebrates Halloween with her colleagues at Flying Food Group.

2013

Connecting the World, One Handshake at a Time



LEFT: Highlights from the Chicago–Brazil Sports Exchange, including the Disability Pride Parade, sports training activities, and meeting Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Photos courtesy Gustavo Carvalho



ABOVE FROM TOP: Youth from the U.K. visit the office of 1st Ward Alderman Joe Moreno to learn about local government and citizen engagement (photo by Cortez Alexander); Youth from Iraq and Chicago's Little Village screenprinted t-shirts redefining "Chiraq," a term coined by youth to compare the violence in their neighborhoods to a warzone — a term many Iraqi students took issue with, leading to a debate on stereotypes, violence, and peacebuilding; Youth from Mexico volunteer with Girls in the Game, a nonprofit that promotes sports, fitness, nutrition, health, and leadership development for girls.



ABOVE, TOP: WorldChicago organizes social and networking opportunities for Professional Fellows from all regions to meet each other. Here, spring Fellows from Pakistan and Moldova locate their countries on a map; MIDDLE: Our Egyptian and Tunisian fellows in the disability rights and services sphere watched the wheelchair racers open the 2013 Chicago Marathon, and when they learned that a marathon participant with muscular dystrophy was still running late that night, some of the fellows returned to the course to cheer him on when he crossed the finish line at 1:30 AM! (Photo by Aymen Cherif); BOTTOM: Entrepreneurial Fellows from Israel and Tunisia celebrate a great fellowship week with hosts Chicago Urban League, Cibola, and Impact Engine.

TOP RIGHT: Open World delegates from Turkmenistan spend an afternoon at the Chicago Botanic Gardens with their homestay hosts; MIDDLE: An Iraqi youth with his host sibling in Jackson Park's Osaka Gardens; BOTTOM: Citizen diplomats walk on four legs, too — Jasper the Thomson Family dog helped several international students conquer their fear of dogs!



Youth Leadership Programs

In addition to professional programs, WorldChicago also organizes educational and cultural programs for international high school students. These dynamic programs aim to inspire cross-cultural dialogue, build respect and mutual understanding, and increase civic engagement among young Americans and their international peers. WorldChicago hosted four youth programs in 2013.

FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE (FLEX) PROGRAM: JANUARY-JUNE 2013

2013 saw the conclusion of the year-long FLEX Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Students from Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine attended Chicago public high schools, lived with volunteer host families, and participated in youth leadership and volunteer activities.

Spring semester included a diversity and tolerance workshop with interfaith educator Hind Makki, social justice training with the Chicago Freedom School, and a performance of *How Long Will I Cry?*, a powerful production at the Steppenwolf Theater that provided FLEX students with insight into problems of youth violence in Chicago and how a community can work together to resolve conflict.

The students also became regular volunteers at Bridge to Success, a nonprofit organization that enhances employment opportunities for at-risk, low- or no-income

men, women, and young adults by providing workplace-appropriate clothing and job interview coaching.

The FLEX Program was a huge undertaking for WorldChicago, and we could not have done it without the support of our phenomenal host families and partner schools. Thank you all!

U.K.-U.S. YOUTH DIALOGUE: JULY 2-13

Twelve young leaders and two adult mentors from the United Kingdom explored diversity, interfaith dialogue, political activism, and volunteerism this July.

“I wanted to understand life in Chicago from the perspective of a teenager, to understand the issues that plagued Chicago, but also its strengths and what solutions were being formulated by [officials] and teenagers,” said one delegate.

Highlights included leadership training with Young Men’s Educational Network, meeting students at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and learning about community organizing with media strategist Kevin Lampe.

“I learned how much one person volunteering can impact the greater environment and community,” observed a delegate from London. “I will be helping out and taking up as MANY opportunities as I can.”



Youth by-the-Numbers

46

Total international youth leadership program delegates

100%

Percentage of youth who stayed with Chicago-area host families

IRAQI YOUNG LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM: JULY 20-31

The Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) paired eight Iraqi and two American high school students to explore Peace Building through Sports & the Arts together. Students, accompanied by an Iraqi adult mentor, participated in site visits, discussions, and training workshops that exposed them to creative grassroots efforts to address Chicago's major challenges, and equipped them with tools they can use to build peace in their own communities.

Highlights included an art-making and dialogue session with youth from Little Village Non-Violence Institute and St. Agnes School, the students' first introduction to the epidemic of youth violence and gangs in Chicago. They described the activity as "shocking and eye-opening," but also inspiring as it showed "how young people can overcome violence." A strategic communications workshop with Kevin Lampe also ranked very highly.

IYLEP youth also participated in a wheelchair basketball workshop with WorldChicago's youth delegation from Brazil (see pages 6-7). One student valued the experience "to be in someone else's 'chair,'" while another said he learned "to respect everything I face in life, even bad events."



MEXICO JÓVENES EN ACCIÓN: JULY 20-AUGUST 1

WorldChicago hosted 18 students from four regions across Mexico for the *Jóvenes en Acción* program. Students identified the theme of Education and Drop-out Prevention for their action projects, participating in workshops, visits, discussions, tours, and cultural activities related to that theme. The goal was to teach students about the issue and root causes, and provide them with tools for finding solutions and implementing their action project upon returning home to improve drop-out rates in their schools and communities.

Program highlights included a strategic communications workshop with Kevin Lampe, meeting with youth community organizer and former gang member Max Cerda, and a civic action workshop with Mikva Challenge.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: U.K. youth romp through Millennium Park (Photo by Cortez Alexander); BOTTOM: FLEX students sort clothing donations at Bridge to Success; THIS PAGE, TOP: Mexico youth work on action plans at Mikva Challenge; RIGHT: Cameras capture fireworks in Erbil, Iraq to celebrate the Kurdish New Year (Photo by Nancy Bartosz)

IYLEP Impact: Reunion Abroad

By Nancy Bartosz,
WorldChicago Host

I ALWAYS APPRECIATED the way being a WorldChicago host offered endless opportunities to bring the world into my home, but it was even more exciting to have doors opened to me that I never would have imagined in Erbil, Iraq.

I hosted Ali and spent time with Aamr in summer 2010 while they were adult mentors for the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program. We explored Chicago together and I enjoyed new views of the city through their fresh perspectives. One of the best parts of our visit was the chance to break stereotypes about our cultures and appreciate fun moments of friendship. When leaving, we said goodbye, imagining that it would be some time until we would see each other again.

Then, last year, I took a leave of absence from my work as a teacher to travel around the world. After realizing I would spend a month in Turkey and that Erbil was just a quick flight away, I was in. Aamr was an excellent host from my first minutes in Erbil, even picking me up at the airport at 3:00 AM! He met me every day and showed me Erbil through the eyes of a local, including food, shopping, and fun.

During our visit, Erbil celebrated Newroz — the Kurdish New Year. On my first night, I enjoyed the Annual Dance Party around The Citadel, which is said to be the world's oldest inhabited town. The beautiful area was packed with tons of people. The government of Erbil hosted a huge party in a local park with live music, a few speeches, lighting of a ceremonial fire, and a great firework display! People were having a great time celebrating Kurdish pride. On this night, everyone felt great pride and appreciated the resilience of their culture and region.

During my stay, I had other great opportunities through my WorldChicago connection, including lunch with another IYLEP participant and a visit to the United States Consulate.





WorldChicago organizes fundraising and citizen diplomacy events to involve as many Chicagoans as possible in our mission of promoting global understanding, one handshake at a time. WorldChicago events encourage wider local engagement in global affairs, while providing essential support for our programs and operations. Thanks to all who attended events in 2013 — we hope to see you again in 2014!

FUNDRAISERS

Spring Diplomacy Luncheon

May 7 saw the return of WorldChicago’s Spring Diplomacy Luncheon, our major fundraiser for the year held at the University Club.

In keeping with many of our other sports-themed programs, this year’s keynote address by ESPN writer and reporter — and long-time WorldChicago hospitality host — Lester Munson focused on the broad theme of Sports & Citizen Diplomacy. Munson shared his experiences with the sports network, which reaches 107 million people every week and includes international versions of *SportsCenter* in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as his insights into the impact of sports in politics and the universal language of sports in supporting international understanding.

As he noted, “Citizen by citizen, visitor by visitor, these programs make the world a better place.”



TOP: Keynote speaker Lester Munson shares his “7 Rules for Hosting Visitors,” including #4: “learn to listen, listen to learn” (Photo by Chris West); ABOVE: Professional and Empower Fellows from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, and Pakistan enjoy the Luncheon.

Mystical Macedonia

October 9, our annual cultural fundraiser focused on the central Balkan country of Macedonia. Guests noshed on traditional Macedonian cuisine (from the only Macedonian restaurant in Chicago), tasted Macedonian wine, reveled in traditional dance from Dukati and Biseri Folklore Ensemble, and bid on unique items in our silent and online auctions.

Presented at the loft office of Brian Hall Design Group, the event provided a rare opportunity to experience the culture of this tiny former Yugoslav republic right here in Chicago.

CITIZEN DIPLOMACY EVENTS

Coffee Conversations

Coffee Conversations bring together WorldChicago members, partners, professional hosts, and international visitors for lively dialogue around a range of topics. The format ranges from country and culture presentations to informal roundtable discussions about current affairs.

To illustrate the impressive diversity of our international visitors, 2013’s featured speakers included Brazilian judges; Fulbright scholars; social entrepreneurs from India; transportation officials from Turkmenistan; journalists from Buryatia, Russia; HIV/AIDS advocates from Kazakhstan; German media and political officials; government and civil society leaders from 10 countries; and youth citizen diplomats from right here in Chicago.



The October Coffee Conversation featured our Professional Fellows in discussion with WorldChicago members and partners — and each other! Above, a fellow from Turkey, meets fellows from Egypt and Russia.

12th Annual Chicago Celebrates International Women's Day

On March 8, WorldChicago co-presented the annual celebration of International Women's Day with the International Trade Club of Chicago and the Union League Club of Chicago. This dynamic event inspires conversation around the goals, rights, needs, dreams, and accomplishments of women around the world.

The event opened with an international fair showcasing local organizations, companies, associations, and entrepreneurs with interests in women's and/or international affairs. Then guests settled in for the luncheon program, emceed by television journalist and entrepreneur Robyne Robinson, with opening remarks from Dr. Aparajita Sengupta, Fulbright Visiting Scholar at St. Mary's College, and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

Ellen Costello, CEO of BMO Financial Corp. and U.S. Country Head of BMO Financial Group, then delivered the keynote dialogue, "The Importance of Diversity and Inclusion and the Impact of International Experience in Today's Workplace."

Young Professionals

WorldChicago's Young Professionals group offers an exciting opportunity for globally-minded, civically-engaged young leaders to expand their local and international networks, access global expertise, and meet socially and professionally with current and emerging leaders from around the world.

The year got off to a jolly good start with an exclusive *Downton Abbey* premiere watch party hosted at the residence of the British Consul-General. Trivia and world affairs aficionados got their *Jeopardy!* fix at the second-annual WorldChicago Pub Quiz in February, while sweets lovers learned about international confections on a Chicago Chocolate Tour in March.

In May, the Young Professionals returned to the British Consul-General's residence for a lively event, co-sponsored by the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association, with artist and Peace Corps alum Teresa Albor, whose husband was serving as British Consul General in Chicago at the time. Accompanied by performer Irene Marquette, Ms. Albor shared how her experiences living abroad have molded her cultural identity and what it means for her to return "home."

In July, our friends at Hosteling International and Go Girl Travel Network, along with our delegation of



Young Professionals Committee member Megan Mozina introduces artist Teresa Albor at a sold-out Young Professionals event, "No Place Like Home," at the residence of the British Consul-General in Chicago.

Spanish teachers, joined us on the lawn at Pritzker Pavilion for a free concert by Malian artist Fatoumata Diawara. September took us to the Turkish Film Festival, while in October we co-hosted an International Careers Night with Thunderbird School of Global Management. Held at Leo Burnett, the event featured speakers from the international finance, human resources, and water management spheres.

Follow WorldChicago on Facebook and Twitter to learn about upcoming Young Professionals events for 2014!

Annual Meeting & Holiday Party

In conjunction with International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, WorldChicago's annual gathering of members, friends, and visitors celebrated the Chicago youth and professional disability rights leaders who participated in the Chicago-Brazil sports exchange in spring and summer 2013.

Linda Mastandrea described the program experience in Brazil, while Chicago youth spoke about the impact the exchange has had on their lives since the summer.

The event, held at John Marshall Law School, opened with remarks from out-going Board President George Drost and WorldChicago member Virginia Russell.



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Thank you, Lexy!

For nine years, Lexy Gore deftly managed all WorldChicago events, outreach, and communications — and always with a smile! WorldChicago would like to acknowledge her talent, dedication, and collegiality. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors!

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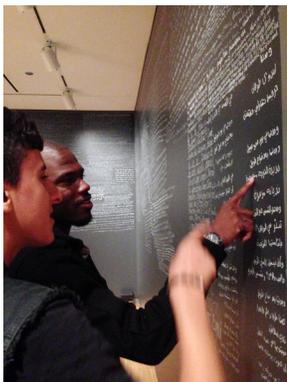
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FAR LEFT TO RIGHT: Board member Kevin Lampe meets with Iraqi young leaders; Board member Simone Baptiste talks with a Chicago youth participant in the Chicago–Brazil Sports Exchange (Photo by Chris West); Summer Program Assistant Cortez Alexander (right) practices Arabic with an Iraqi youth; Intern Zoey Wallace (right) with a Fulbright scholar from Greece at a Coffee Conversation; Intern Grace Tsang from Hong Kong greets Young Professionals at Millennium Park; Intern Lauren Nopar (far right) at a White Sox game with IYLEP youth and host siblings.





For many of our youth and professional visitors, the highlight of their exchange program is a homestay with a local family, spending an afternoon sightseeing with a WorldChicago day host, or joining WorldChicago members at their homes for dinner. Thank you to our generous home and hospitality hosts for warmly welcoming our visitors from all around the world — you truly embody the spirit of citizen diplomacy!

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Hosts by-the-Numbers

20%

Percentage of total visitors who stayed with Chicago-area homehosts during their exchange program

2852

Combined number of nights visitors spent in homestays — over 8 years end-to-end!



The Caprio Family and their international student volunteering in Jackson Park; Homestay hosts Roland Kulla and Robin Graham with Eastern European Professional Fellows

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WorldChicago was delighted to be the August recipient of Ovie Bar & Grill's Charity of the Month Sandwich program. Summer intern Grace Tsang samples the sammie, a seriously cheesy eggplant parmesan. Thank you, Ovie, and all those who supported WorldChicago by ordering our sandwich!



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Resolve to get involved in 2014!

BECOME A HOMESTAY HOST

Experience new cultures and meet leaders from around the world — right here in Chicago! Our visitors consistently rate the homestay experience as the most memorable part of their program. Help us make their stay in Chicago unforgettable!

Hosts provide a bed, breakfast, and some dinners. Visitors participate in fellowships, internships, or program activities Monday–Friday, with evenings and weekends free to spend with host families.

Throughout 2014, WorldChicago will host programs for more than 100 youth from India, Pakistan, Iraq, and all across sub-Saharan Africa, plus dozens of professionals from around the world.

Now seeking hosts for the following 2014 programs:

- **MARCH 27–APRIL 4:** Pan-African Youth Entrepreneurship
- **APRIL/MAY:** Professional Fellows Program
- **JUNE 13–18:** India-Pakistan Youth Cultural Immersion
- **JUNE 5–13*:** Pan-African Youth Entrepreneurship
- **JULY 10–24:** Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange
- **SEPTEMBER** (dates TBD): Pan-African Youth Entrepreneurship (French-speaking)

**dates subject to change slightly*

To learn more about hosting, please contact Maria Krasinski, Youth & Professional Programs Manager at mkrasinski@worldchicago.org or 312.254.1800.

“For me, it is the joy of sharing an authentic American experience with my guest, whether inviting friends to meet my guest over pizza, or those late night chats about anything and everything, which start out as half hour of talking and end up two hours later. I have learned so much, on a very informal basis, from each and every guest I have hosted.”

— MIMI ROSEBUSCH, HOMESTAY HOST

JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP

WorldChicago membership provides unique opportunities to meet with our international friends and guests from around the world, while helping them experience all Chicago has to offer.

Membership benefits include:

- Exclusive opportunities to meet with U.S. State Department international visitors socially and professionally
- Free or discounted admission to all WorldChicago events
- Reciprocal hospitality opportunities with WorldChicago alumni when you travel abroad

To join or renew your membership, please contact Abbey Jennings, Director of Outreach at ajennings@worldchicago.org or 312.254.1800.



Mimi hosted U.K.-U.S. Youth Dialogue adult chaperone Rukiya, pictured above (center) with U.K. chaperone Josh (left) and WorldChicago Program Assistant Cortez Alexander (right)

PROFESSIONAL MEETING HOSTS

WorldChicago's 2013 programs would not have been possible without the myriad Chicago-area meeting hosts who gave generously of their time to share their expertise, ideas, and interests with our international visitors. Thank you for your support of citizen diplomacy!

2013 Top 25 Meeting Hosts

City of Chicago

State of Illinois

Chicago Police Department

Kurth Lampe

Northwestern University

Illinois Institute of Technology

University of Chicago

U.S. Attorney's Office

Access Living

Chicago Public Radio

Chicago Public Schools

Cibola

Perkins Coie

Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Circuit Court of Cook County

Interfaith Youth Core

Loyola University Chicago

University of Illinois at Chicago

U.S. District Court/Court of Appeals

Office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

After School Matters

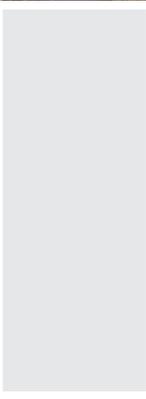
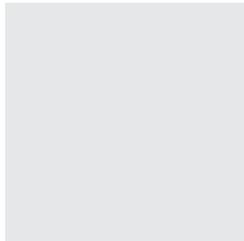
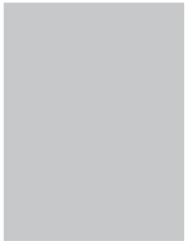
Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Heartland Alliance

Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago



The June WorldChicago Board of Directors meeting was held aboard the MV Abegweit, home of the Columbia Yacht Club, established in 1892 for those who share a passion for sailing and comraderie. Thanks to Board member Joan Miller for welcoming us to the Ship on the Lake!



worldchicago

Thank you for your support!

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