ONE TO WORLD

2013

LOCAL CONNECTIONS.
GLOBAL IMPACT.
Dear Friends of One To World,

We like to say that once people become a part of the One To World family, they never leave. The power of getting to know amazing young leaders from all over the world, learning about each others’ lives and challenges, sharing perspectives freely—there's nothing else like it.

But don’t take our word for it. In these pages we bring you the voices of those closest to our programs—students and scholars from around the globe, and Americans who open their homes, schools and businesses to them for meaningful dialogue across cultures, year in and year out.

Local connections with global impact: that’s the One To World promise, and as you read these first-hand experiences you’ll see how this promise is fulfilled every day.

We live in fragile times. Everywhere we turn, negative misperceptions of other countries and cultures find all-too-easy expression. What we can do is meet each other, listen, learn, and share our own experiences. This makes a difference. This changes everything.

That’s why One To World is here. Thank you so much for being part of this vital work.

One To World brings young leaders from over 100 countries together with Americans to break down stereotypes and misunderstanding, and build respect and tolerance across cultures.

We invite you to be a part of our programs throughout the year and get to know some of the 65,000 students from countries around the globe who are studying at New York-area institutions of higher education.

One To World is proud to be designated by the U.S. Department of State as the official Coordinator of Enrichment Programs for Fulbright grantees in the greater New York area.
I came from Moldova, which, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is said to have become the poorest country in Europe. The average annual income is under $100. For many young women in Moldova today there is very little hope for a good future. Many are trafficked internationally into prostitution or slave labor.

It is highly unusual for a girl from a small village, as I am, to grow up with a good education.

And yet here I found myself, for the dream of my lifetime, in New York City. The Fulbright program enabled me to come here and I am very grateful. Once I got here, I cannot express how much it meant to me to get emails from One To World, saying that they had thought of Fulbrighters’ needs and wanted to help us.

Because of One To World, I had the opportunity to meet many of the city’s leading executives in their offices. I enjoyed lovely meals in the homes of American families. I shared my culture in New York City public schools. To me, these programs are a great expression of human genius.

Now I’m back home in Moldova. The schools outside our capital cities are often so very limited in the vision they offer students for their lives. I’m working on a program based on what I experienced through One To World, to bring professionals from all over the world into these schools so that our students can learn about different jobs and career paths. Most importantly, they would learn that there is opportunity in our world, that someone cares about them and wants them to succeed.

One To World proved to me that dreams can come true, and this is the message I now give to students in Moldova.
LIAN YU 
Student from China, studying Computer Science 
at Stevens Institute of Technology

“My host family and I were strangers, but we became friends so quickly.”

I had never visited an American home before joining One To World’s four-day Thanksgiving in Pennsylvania program. Right away, my host family made me feel warm and comfortable. I saw a note on their refrigerator that said, “Be kinder than necessary to other people, because everyone is in some kind of unknown battlefield.” This phrase was one of the most important things I’ve learned here.

This visit meant so much to me that, in the spring, I asked to go back to this community again through One To World’s three-day Easter Weekend. I brought photos of my family and life in China, and shared in a traditional American celebration of Easter Sunday.

It’s amazing to have made such a close bond with people whose culture is very different from mine, and I am grateful to One To World.

GEORGI YANKOV 
Fulbright Grantee from Bulgaria, studying Organizational Psychology at Baruch College

“These conferences helped me realize that the U.S. military is in fact not the way it is portrayed in some media across Europe and Asia. The soldiers, midshipmen and cadets are people like us, facing the same life problems, and they also want peace and understanding among nations.”

One To World enabled me to attend foreign affairs conferences at West Point Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. I was part of a One To World delegation of 30 international students and scholars.

We met with top American students, policy makers, and military experts for speeches and roundtable discussions. It was important that we were there to represent our different countries and to give a true, first-hand international perspective. When we disagreed, we were still respectful of each other.

I talked with Americans with a wide range of political beliefs from across the country and because of this, I realize that there are many thoughtful, well-informed Americans who do not fit the common negative stereotypes.
ROHULLAH AMIN
Fulbright Grantee from Afghanistan, studying Psychology at New York University

“Students asked me, ‘How do you make time to pray five times a day? What are your views about people who use violence in the name of Islam?’ I used my own experiences to answer their questions, and in the end one student said, ‘Muslim people aren’t that different from us.’”

Afghanistan and Islam

As a Global Guide for One To World, I found that New York City high school students were surprised to hear of similarities between Islam and Christianity. They wanted to know how the war in Afghanistan has affected me and my family, because this is something they cannot learn from their textbooks. They were studying Islam and ancient civilizations in their Global History class, so they asked good questions and I gave them real-world answers from my own experience and knowledge. I know that their misconceptions and stereotypes were challenged, and it meant a lot to me to have this opportunity.

DORIANE BOUOBDA
Student from Cameroon, studying Biology at the College of Staten Island

I had the privilege of leading a workshop with an environmental science class at Bushwick Community High School, as part of the Water in the World unit of One To World’s Global Classroom.

I told students about a period in my life when my family’s water source was an hour away from our home. Every morning I woke up at four o’clock to go to the well with my siblings, to get the water our family needed that day. After school, I would again walk to the well for the water we needed for cleaning, cooking, and bathing that night.

I led students in an activity with beans, one student using a teaspoon to carry beans carefully across the room to a bowl, while another used a cup to pour beans into the bowl near him. He quickly finished, and I asked him to think about what he could be doing while he waited for the other student to finish—his homework, he said, or working and earning money, or hanging out with friends.

I could see students begin to recognize that everyday actions such as bathing and drinking water are carried out quite differently around the world, and that the availability of water has a profound impact on a person’s education, income, health and way of life.

As one student said, “At the beginning I felt like water was nothing serious, but now I see how much we take it for granted.”

ONE TO WORLD’S GLOBAL CLASSROOM

This year, through our flagship program, Global Classroom, One To World brought international students and Fulbright Scholars from 39 countries into public schools to give low-income students the chance to experience the world first-hand.

Since the program started in 1985, we have opened tens of thousands of New York City students’ eyes, ears, and hearts by bringing the world right into their classrooms. During the 2012-13 academic year, we were proud to serve 1,065 public school students through workshop series lasting 5-20 weeks in 11 schools and afterschool programs.
My husband and I have been involved with One To World for nearly 30 years. Having grown up overseas as a “foreign service brat” and enjoyed a Fulbright year in Japan, I empathize with the international students whom One To World serves, remembering how important it was to feel liked and welcomed enough to be invited into someone’s home.

Recently, I’ve focused on hosting a small group of students a few times a year at our country cottage upstate. We hike and share a picnic or supper by the fire—it’s very relaxed and homey, and leads to excellent conversations.

Two years ago, Michael, a Fulbrighter from New Zealand, came on one of the hikes. I’d spent my early teens in New Zealand, and he and I formed an instant bond. Last spring we bumped into each other at a One To World event, and I reminded Michael that he was welcome any time. Imagine how pleased I was when he asked if he could bring his family to the cottage during their summer visit to New York! It turned out that some of his mother’s best friends had been my classmates when I lived in Wellington. And the small-world circle continues—my husband and I have just returned from a trip to New Zealand, where we stayed with Michael’s parents.

What has always motivated me has been these personal connections, the personal diplomacy. Greater New York Fulbrighters and foreign students are so fortunate to have an organization like One To World that fosters true educational exchange, a cross-cultural meeting of interesting and interested minds. I believe One To World nurtures that intangible sense of our common humanity which is the real glue in building global relations.

I didn’t know what to expect when we visited Bushwick, Brooklyn for the weekend. As it turned out, I had a wonderful time with my host family, discovering how much we have in common.

Many different cultures live in Bushwick, and together they form a rich community. Our three-day visit was during Black History Month, and one highlight was a local Girl Scout troop whose members were working on their international merit badges. This was all new to me.

Special guests were the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-African American air force group that broke racial barriers during World War II. The Girl Scouts led a conversation among all of us about the civil rights movement, and candid questions were asked and answered. Because of this program, I broadened my views and understanding of African American culture, which is such an important aspect of living in the U.S.
ONE TO WORLD SALUTES
THE 2013 FULBRIGHT AWARDS DINNER HONOREES

GIANLUIGI ESPOSITO came to the U.S. from Italy as a Fulbright grantee studying law at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. His leadership in founding Altieri Esposito and Minoli has furthered cross-border transactions involving clients with interests in countries throughout the world, drawing on his ability to navigate cultural differences to achieve cooperation.

SUSAN CARMEL LEHRMAN is a champion for the strengthening of international relations through the arts. As Founder of American University's Initiative for Russian Culture, lead sponsor of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas 2011 tour and the European Union's Kids Euro Festival, and former Chair and underwriter of the Washington National Opera Ball, she has built bridges of understanding through cultural diplomacy.

ISAAC SHAPIRO is a true global citizen—born in Japan, emigrating to the U.S. as a teen, participating in the Korean War and becoming an American citizen, graduating from Columbia University, receiving a Fulbright grant to study in Paris, and achieving a global career at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. He is past president of the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and the Japan Society.

DR. DAVID STEINBERG, President Emeritus of Long Island University and an outspoken advocate for international exchange, was inspired by his Fulbright year at the University of the Philippines to become one of our country’s leading educators on Southeast Asia. An acclaimed author and consultant to foundations, the U.S. government, and UN agencies, he is a current member of the One To World Board of Directors.

“I was fortunate to be a student ambassador for the One To World 2013 Fulbright Awards Dinner, which is attended each year by 500 guests at the Waldorf Astoria. Fifteen other Fulbrighters joined me in welcoming guests and helping with logistics. The model of a fundraising dinner was new to us, and we learned a lot about philanthropy in New York City.

The highlight of my time in the U.S. was meeting Harriet Mayor Fulbright at this dinner. However, that was only one of many events that wouldn’t have happened if not for One To World. Every event was so relevant that each time I wondered, how did they come up with this? The play, Dispatches from (A)mended America, the panel at New York University on U.S. politics and the second Obama Administration, and the Council on Foreign Relations policy briefing were outstanding events that have informed my research.

I’ll be a bit jealous thinking about how much fun next year’s Fulbrighters will be having, but will look back on my year with great memories and affection.
A decade ago, I was debating whether to pursue a tenure-track teaching job or further explore serving international students. I can honestly say that a strong influence urging me towards international student advising was my mentor’s taking me to the monthly One To World network meetings.

The true collegiality and the selfless sharing of knowledge and best practices was something I hadn’t experienced in an academic department. This openness moved me.

My grandfather came through Ellis Island, so I grew up with the ideal that one of this country’s great strengths is the willingness to open its doors and embrace diversity. Being able to do that on a personal level is something I’ve grown to love about my job.

I’m grateful for the support of One To World’s knowledgeable, committed network that helps me better assist students every day. They showcase what this country and New York in particular have to offer, while simultaneously providing formative opportunities for students and scholars to share their culture and enrich the lives of those in their new community.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013.

### PUBLIC SUPPORT

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### REVENUE

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### TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

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### Change in Net Assets

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TO LEARN MORE
Please visit our website: www.one-to-world.org

TO GIVE
Please contact Deborah Clifford, Executive Director, at 212.431.1195 ext. 25 or visit our website at one-to-world.org/donate.