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LOCAL NONPROFIT CREATES GLOBAL DIPLOMATS

One To World (Formerly Metro International) Links New Yorkers and Students from Around the World to Foster Global Literacy

For networking on a global scale, you don't have to look much further than a Tribeca-based nonprofit organization that harnesses personal relationships to bridge countries and cultures. One To World (formerly Metro International) brings Americans and 50,000 international students from 100 countries around the world face-to-face to share experiences and learn from one another.

"We create opportunities for Americans and international students to know and appreciate each others' culture," said Executive Director Tracy Snyder. "The experience changes people's lives — and their perception of the world. They start seeing themselves as global diplomats."

One To World programs include visits to diverse neighborhoods throughout the metropolitan area, one-of-a-kind cultural programs, opportunities to share holidays and special events with local families, and Global Classroom, which brings international students into New York City public schools to facilitate hands-on, interactive workshops about their home countries and cultures.

Idrissa Mamane Rabiou, a Fulbright grantee from Niger, learned about American-style volunteerism through One To World programs. "I got to see how Americans freely volunteer their time, donate, and participate in charity. When I go home I will help my country do that in as many ways as I can," said Rabiou.

Aguil Sapargaliev, a Fulbright grantee from Kazakhstan, toured the city with an historian of architecture, met with a New York Times journalist, and attended briefings at the United Nations. "I would like to start programs like these in Kazakhstan, and introduce visitors to Kazakh families and our traditions of hospitality," said Sapargaliev.

One To World's Global Classroom program, gets high marks in the city's schools. Cecilia Marquette, a teacher at Henry Street School, said it was invaluable for her 8th, 9th and 10th graders to meet foreign students, especially because many of them also come from another country.

The international students also get a great deal from the program. "The children ask such interesting questions," said Rabiou, who is doing a Masters in Global Affairs at Rutgers University. "They ask about the food, and even the primary teachers are shocked when I say we don't have McDonald's."

Upcoming One To World events include:

Community Garden Restoration in Bushwick, Brooklyn June 14, 2008, 10 AM- 4 PM

One To World International students will work with students from the Acorn High School for Social Justice to reclaim a neglected public garden and build an outdoor classroom. Local block association

and community members will join the effort. This volunteer activity will seed cross cultural understanding and appreciation among all participants while creating a new resource for Bushwick. Partners include “The Secret Garden” Linden/Bushwick Community Garden, Green Apple Corps, and EcoStation: Bushwick.

Annual Fulbright Awards Dinner, June 5, 2008, 6 PM

The New York City nonprofit organization will unveil its new name at their annual Fulbright Awards dinner, at the Waldorf-Astoria. Awards are presented by visiting Fulbright grantees before an audience of 500 international leaders in business, higher education, the arts, and government. Honorees will include:

- Kevin A. Parker, Global Head of Deutsche Asset Management, Deutsche Bank
- Emily Altman, Managing Director, Head of International Government Relations, JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Barbara Crossette, Former Bureau Chief, Asia and the United Nations, The New York Times
- Matthew A. Dalio, Founder and Chairman, China Care Foundation

For more information, or to attend a One To World event, contact Deborah Clifford office: (212) 431-1195 (ext. 30) cell: 917-673-0021 or dclifford@metrointl.org

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One To World creates global citizens and inspires a peaceful world through one-of-a-kind programs in classrooms and communities

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