



Educate. Empower. Embrace.



(Pictured) Global Friends' 15th Annual Community Picnic

2021

Annual Report

Fostering New American integration through work with individuals, families, and the Greater Grand Forks Community.



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(Pictured) Reggie Tarr speaks from the stage at World Refugee Day 2021 while English Learners wait to perform.



2021 Board of Directors



(Pictured, L-R) Faye Pederson, Ione Seidlinger, Maura Ferguson, Marina Kojic, Cindy Jensen, Andria Pinkerton, Cynthia Shabb, Sahra Abdullahi, (front) Prakash Pathak

Marina Kojic, President
Ione Seidlinger, Vice President
Cindy Jensen, Secretary
Robbin Rendahl, Treasurer
Lisa Gibson, Past President
Faye Pederson, Member-at-Large
Chyna Lynner, Member-at-Large
Elias Dean, Member-at-Large
Andria Pinkerton, Member-at-Large
Marua Ferguson, Member-at-Large
Sahra Abdullahi, Member-at-Large
Prakash Pathak, Member-at-Large

Ranju Dhungana, Advisor
Aisha Hassan, Advisor

Fatuma Ahmed, Youth Liaison
Farhio Ali, Youth Liaison
Nasteho Ali, Youth Liaison
Najma Ali, Youth Liaison
Pramita Ghaley, Youth Liaison
Grace Guei, Youth Liaison
Zamzam Hassan, Youth Liaison
Sumeya Hassan, Youth Liaison
Manisha Mishra, Youth Liaison
Ismarika Rai, Youth Liaison
Shubhana Rai, Youth Liaison
Nita Regmi, Youth Liaison
Soma Maya Subba, Youth Liaison
Zihan Zhang, Youth Liaison

2021 Staff & Interns

Cynthia Shabb, Executive Director
Adam Fortwengler, Program Coordinator
Kailee Roskens, UND Nonprofit Leadership Intern



*2021 UND Nonprofit Leadership intern,
Kailee Roskens*



From Our President

As I am writing this letter, I am overwhelmed with beautiful images of events that happened in 2021. Yes, we were still dealing with Covid-19 but there is hope. The vaccine is out and everything seems better. The Global Friends continued to collaborate with Spectra and Public Health. We made videos and fliers in Nepali and Somali languages about the importance of social distancing and mask mandate and also about vaccines. At our major events, we were able to offer vaccines on site and many New Americans took advantage of it.

We celebrated 2021 World Refugee Day with two different events in June: one at the Town Square Farmers Market with performances and a recognition ceremony for New Americans who have recently gained citizenship and one was at University Park featuring an evening of storytelling by local New Americans.

Our 15th Annual Community Picnic was another great event where New Americans and Grand Forks Natives got to learn about each other. This year's picnic was a very special to me for two reasons: It was my first event as a board president and this year's honorary co-host was my home country, once called Yugoslavia. Today it is a part of southeast Europe, including Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia. As some of you might know, those countries in 1990, were in a civil war, today they were sharing their culture and traditions together. I hope you enjoyed learning about this beautiful part of the world.

This year's Giving Hearts Day, once again showed how generous and kind are the people in our community. We brought in \$10,820.00, which, with the money raised from our "match" and all of our donors, brings our Giving Hearts Day total to \$20,820.00. We are very grateful for your generosity. Your donation makes a difference.

I hope that this 2022 brings peace, health and prosperity all around the world. I especially hope and pray for the peace in Ukraine.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support in the past and I ask you to continue with that support. With refugees fleeing their home from war torn Ukraine and other parts around the world, it is needed more than ever.

With gratitude,

Marina Kojic
President, Global Friends Coalition



From Our Executive Director

The Covid-19 pandemic certainly changed how we operated. We moved our classes online, concentrated on educational pieces around Covid-19, and developed new ways to work with youth. The good news is that we were still able to offer our annual events like World Refugee Day and the Community Picnic. While the highlights I want to share with you might not be our biggest accomplishments, they certainly show how we work within our three programs.

A big joy for me in 2021 was being a part of the stories of success regarding citizenship within our Family Mentors and Adult Education Program. I had the good fortune of being with someone right after she successfully passed the test. Giddy with the result, it took awhile for it to sink in that she had passed. Citizenship means belonging, it means stability, and it means that they can be a part of the democratic process. However, it doesn't necessarily mean that their lives are better. People are still working hard to make ends meet.

Through our Resilient Youth Program, we were able to take high school students on field trips to Turtle River State Park and work with the Grand Forks Public Schools' mental health coordinator, Geoff Gauckler. This was definitely a time to recharge and have fun, while at the same time prompting the youth to think about what helps them mentally and emotionally. In 2021, we have focused primarily on Covid, and ways to prevent anxiety and stress.

For the first time, we organized New American pairs into "patients" and "interpreters" for UND's Medical

School. First year medical students were given a simulation exercise to work on their diagnosis and their communication skills. New Americans told their "symptoms" to the "doctors." Their "interpreters" conveyed this to the team of "doctors." After the simulation, the medical students, patients, and interpreters met with UND School of Medicine professors to debrief. It was definitely a learning experience for all and it's wonderful that UND is being proactive in providing their medical students with cultural opportunities for learning. Other talks through our Outreach and Advocacy Program help us advance knowledge about the cultural and religious needs of New Americans..

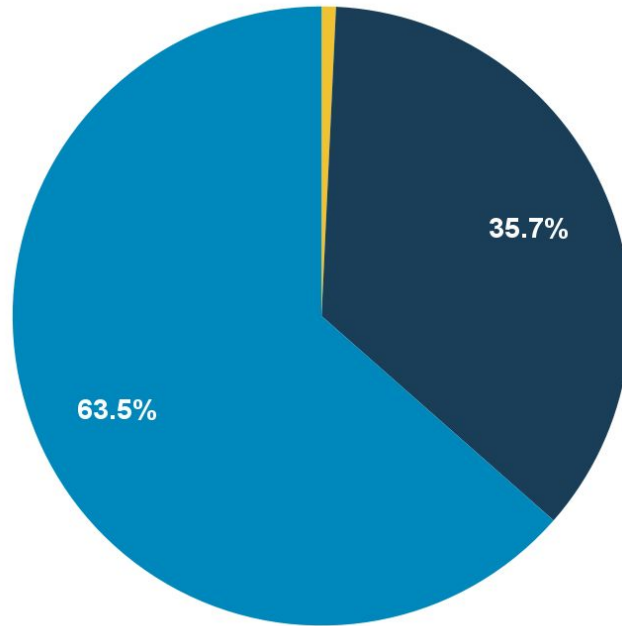
An aspect of our work that was new for us this year was the number of people seeking safety in Greater Grand Forks. Between calls to our office from other organizations in the area, and people nearby, we had never had as many requests for help filing for asylum. We try to help, but that is a legal process that leaves many people without any support from the US for a lengthy amount of time.

For me, I continue to be humbled by the efforts and successes of the New Americans we interact with and I dream of a time for them when life's burdens can be lighter.

Cynthia Shabb
Executive Director, Global Friends Coalition

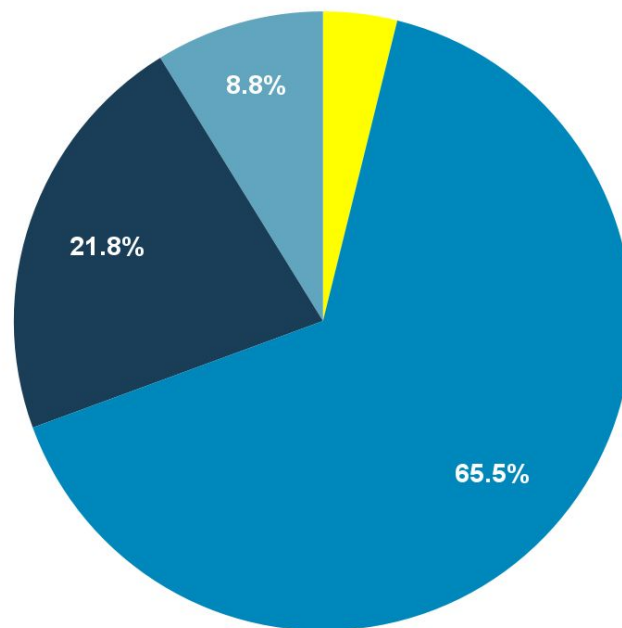
Our Financials

Revenue
\$159,685.91



- Events
- Individual Gifts
- Grants

Expenses
\$152,510.69



- Building & Facilities
- Programming
- General Admin
- Fundraising

Fundraising Highlights

302 individuals and 11 organizations donated to Global Friends in 2021!

Our endowment through the Community Foundation, established in 2016, is now over \$30,000.

We continued to diversify our revenue streams, even throughout the pandemic.



Red River High School EL students celebrating Giving Hearts Day

Giving Hearts Day

TOTAL: \$27,234

Our best Giving Hearts Day total ever.
234 donations, averaging \$73.65.

Endowment Fund Matching Drive

TOTAL: \$20,195.24

Thanks to a \$10,000 matching gift from a generous donor, we raised an additional \$10,195.24.

Year End Giving

TOTAL: \$14,408.44

Our most successful year-end campaign ever.
An 89.3% increase over 2020's campaign.

Volunteer of the Year



2021 Global Friends Volunteer of the Year Pat Wilber

Pat received this award in recognition of her deeply valuable contributions to Global Friends and New Americans in Greater Grand Forks as a U.S. citizenship teacher and mentor. Her long-time dedication to her classes and students has helped many people achieve citizenship over the years, but 2021 was a special challenge. Pat took it upon herself to figure out how to move her classes to Zoom so that her students could continue to progress as they waited for their interviews. Pat also provided one-on-one tutoring over Zoom and phone for individuals close to their interview date, and crafted a new current events-based class for advanced learners. The results were the vital continuity of citizenship programming during a chaotic pandemic, and a number of proud new U.S. citizens, some of whom were previously stateless before this achievement. Pat is a shining example of someone who makes Grand Forks feel more like “home” for New Americans.



(Pictured) Global Friends' Volunteer of the Year, Pat Wilber, speaks about the importance and impact of citizenship and honors those who gained citizenship at World Refugee Day 2021

Family Mentors & Adult Education

New Americans are provided cultural knowledge and English language skills in their homes and in classes to create a better life for themselves and their families in Grand Forks.

Classes include basic English, U.S. citizenship interview preparation, driving, and this year, yoga.



An outdoor yoga class held near Century Elementary School.

Over 100 volunteers worked with more than 183 New Americans in 2021, donating over 2,000 hours.

98% of New Americans we worked with have been in the U.S. for at least 12 months.

About 50% of the New Americans we worked with are under the age of 18.

Programming Highlights:

- Maintained a weekly citizenship class and a current events class with a combination of in-person and online offerings
- More than 21 people who we have helped through classes or in-home volunteers obtained citizenship
- Weekly yoga classes were held in the summer outside at locations near many New American families to increase physical and mental well-being



(Pictured) Global Friends volunteer, Chuck Haga, leads a mock job interview at an adult English class in East Grand Forks, in collaboration with East Grand Forks Public Schools and Minnesota Adult Basic Education

Resilient Youth

New American youth are matched with mentors and/or tutors to develop their English skills, provide academic support, develop leadership skills, and cultivate confidence.



Global Friends sponsored field trips for EL students to visit Turtle River State Park

Served over 100 New American youth within Red River High School, Grand Forks Central High School, and East Grand Forks Senior High and elementary.

Fourteen youth served as Youth Liaisons to our Board of Directors, providing knowledge, experience, and insight into our work - as well as community service.

Provided scholarships for a number of activities in the community, including NDMOA art camps.

Programming Highlights:

- Covered GF Public Schools' iPad insurance for 27 youth
- Partnered with the ND Museum of Art to help fund 5 children for art camp
- Continued partnership with UND Nursing students who are enrolled in a public health class with a focus on mental and physical health
- Summer and fall field trips to Turtle River State Park
- English learners worked with artists in the spring and summer
- For World Refugee Day, EL students performed a play written by Kathy Coudle-King through SPA and worked with artist Adam Kemp on art displayed around the Farmer's Market



(Pictured) EL students prepare signs and art for their World Refugee Day performances led by Kathy Coudle-King and Summer Performing Arts

Community Outreach & Advocacy

The Greater Grand Forks community is provided opportunities to learn more about the people, cultures, and experiences brought here through refugee resettlement - and to come together to celebrate our community as one.



Laetitia Hellerud leads a group discussion of New American stories at our Belonging event

We reached more than 3,365 individuals through 17 community presentations and events!

Programming Highlights:

- Four successful Covid-19 vaccine events were held: the Islamic Center of Grand Forks, Hamro Bazar, World Refugee Day, and our Community Picnic
- Worked with New American leaders, the Grand Forks Public Health Department, Spectra Health, and the North Dakota Department of Health on Covid-19 response.
- 65 total Covid-19 vaccines given out
- Robust World Refugee Day program held
- “Belonging” a storytelling event moderated by Laetitia Hellerud was held with four New Americans telling their personal stories to small groups followed by a large group discussion
- Over 700 people attended the Global Friends Community Picnic - our 2021 co-hosts were the Southeast European Community, including people from Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia
- Began a new venture with Northland Community and Technical College and Deka Ali to offer a six-week course on Somali culture and language to service providers in the region.



(Pictured) Children on stage at World Refugee Day 2021

Thank You Donors!

** Donations received between 1/1/21 - 12/31/21. While we try not to make mistakes, please contact us if you see an error or have been left out of our report.*

Philanthropists (\$1000+)

Bell Bank
Laurie Brustad Kennedy
Hal and Kathleen Gershman Family Foundation
Sarah & Nick Jensen
Erin & Carter Kunz
Marie Neumann
Impact Foundation
Cathy & David Perry
Cynthia & John Shabb
Jenna & Joe Zavoral

Humanitarians (\$500 - \$999)

Bonnie Cameron
Kaye Carlson
Robin David & Brian Schill
Deb Glennen & Don Miller
Heidi Heitkamp
Harvey Henderson
Janice Jelliff
Cindy & Warren Jensen
Clara & Donald Jurivich
Andre Kehn & Carolyn Ozaki
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Samuel Lerma
Dr. Eric Lunn
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Retrax Holdings, LLC
Andrea Sivanich
Joe & Janice Sowokinos

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Joseph & Kristine Dinsmore
Barry & Ann Folsom
Lisa Gibson & Ronald Lozano
Gretchen Graf
Donna Hastings & Jonathan Geiger
Michele & Joel Iiams
Mara Jiran & Matthew Wallace
Karen & Kent Lovelace
Joel & Amy Medd
Treasure Omdahl
Rolf & Linda Paulson
Ann & Michael Porter
Mark & Gloria Sanford
Sue & Keith Swanson

Providers (\$100 - \$249)

Emily Adams
Donette Arndt
Karen & Rich Axvig
Becca & Wayne Baumbach
Patricia Berggren
Irena Bobicic
Bruce Bohlman
Brent Braga
Karl & Rebecca Breddin
Terence Brenner
Beth Carlson
Douglas & Cindy Carpenter
Sharon Carson & Lucy Ganje
Anneetta Christman
Lee Dexter
Cassel Everson
Kathy & John Fick
Angela & Cory Floden
GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry
Kari Goelz
Robert Goldschmidt
Benjamin & Rachel Greenlee
Chuck Haga
Candace Hennekens
Katelyn Hildebrand
Julia Ann Hill
Kayla Hochstetler
Sally Holewa
Rex Huss
Brent and Kristi Hall Jiran
JLG Architects
Brenda & Stephen Johnson
Kathryn & Kenneth Johnson
Sam & MaryAnn Johnson
Katherine Sukalski & Thomas Johnson
Mary Kester
Susan Kiesow
Kira Kimball
Bethany Klemetsrud & Tawanda Murinda
Marina & Marko Kojic
Dave Lambeth & Cecilia Volden
Jeff & Kristi Larson
Michael Maragos
Dean Opp & Mary Haslerud
Donna & Ronald Mattson
Judith & Barry Milavetz

Thank You Donors!

(Providers Continued)

Karin Moberg
Devin Mogler
Shera Nesheim
Kevin & ViAnn Olson
Kristine & Grant Paranca
Faye & Billy Pederson
Ann & Randy Pederson
Allison Peterson
Cynthia Peterson
Sally Pyle
Robbin Rendahl
Youna Rhee & Chang Yi
Shane Roemeling
Debbie Roskens
Nancy Sacks
James & Judy Schill
Vicki Schmidt
Ione Seidlinger
Alice Senechal
Sharon Lutheran Women of the ELCA
Connie Sherwood
Jeannie Sollom
Grace & Everett Sondreal
St Mark's Women of the ELCA
Marcus & Maura Tanabe
Karen Tankersley
Aleksandar Todorovic
Coiya Tompkins
Gary Towne
Roxanne & Jeff Vaughan
Sherryl & James Weisenberger
Carol Wendel
Sonia & Delore Zimmerman

Advocates (\$50 - \$99)

Gopal Adhikari
Valerie & Vincent Ames
Claire Anderson
Jason Berberich
Cheryl Biller
Henry & Kristen Borysewicz
Dawn Boyd
Mike Brue
Dominique & Max Buchholz
Renee Cardarelle
Pat & Scott Carter
Ed & Kelly Chris
Karen Cisek & Van Doze
Karla & Peter Coen-Tuff
Miranda Confer

(Advocates Continued)

Becca Cruger
Arlene David
Emily Dawes
Elias Dean
Sage Doehler
Amy Eisenmann
Ann Ercelawn
Mahlen Farms
Ron Franz
Christine Gaffney
Gate City Bank
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Ben Gibson
Haylee Gibson
Tom Gibson
Catherine Gillach
Kelly Gorz
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Gloria Haney
Anna Hurlbert
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Peter Johnson
Tori & Mike Johnson
Kathryn Kester
Haley Knight
Theresa Knox
Jane LeDuc
Karna Loyland
Jim Manos
Kristin Miller
Denise & Keith Mills
Ruth Ann Monteleone
Sally & Robert Nordlie
Steph Olson
Stephanie Olson
Glenn & Jill Ozaki
Denise Peterson
Andria Pinkerton
Amira Ragab
Fred & Donna Remer
Tera Roskens
Mizuho Schwalm
Milo & Fawn Smith
Molly Soeby
Terri Staples & James Pender
Denyse Sturges
Janice Tangen
Joshua Tripp
Jack & Charan Wadhawan
Keely Walker
Norah Wyman

Thank You Donors!

Neighbors (\$1 - \$49)

David & Kim Adams
Sunnie Andreu
Evan Andrist
Dave Appling
Rachel Aure
Hannah Bahnmilller
Michael & Sallie Bahnmilller
Linda Bedard
Laura Berg
Tricia Berg
Jen Berger
Kaia Berggren
Stacy Bjorgaard
Alyssa Bleninger
Betty Bloomquist
Joshua Boschee
Dawn & John Botsford
Mark Brandon
Rose Brandt
Building Bridges
Larissa Campbell
Linda Carlson
Roberta Carrlson
Warren Christensen
Erica Claus-Numsali
Matt Collings
Kathleen Coudle-King & Alan King
Jessica and Trey Daum
Marian DeBeltz
Christine Dewey
Kristijana Dogan
Sattar Dorafshan
Shirley Dykshoorn
Elizabeth Ferguson
Maura Ferguson
Adam Fortwengler
Naomi Foss Welsh
Melissa Gjellstad
Cherie Graves
Julene & Paul Griffin
Rachelle Haga
Cheri Halcrow
Collin Hanson
Catherine Harden
Angela Harrison-Urlacher
Sarah Heitkamp
Laetitia Hellerud
Emilia Hodgson

(Neighbors Continued)

Allyssa and Lauren Hornbaker
Rosemary Hoverson
Donna Hudson
Johanna Ibarra
Amelia Indvik
Christine Johnson
Eric Johnson
Marsha & Peter Johnson
Stephen Johnson
Tiffany Johnson
Linda & Ross Keys
Jenn Kilmurray
Judith Kletzien
Kathleen Kletzien-Widner
Vickie Korey
Melissa Kornkven
Melissa & Johan Korslien
Karyn & Patrick Krause
Julie Leake
Doris Lebby
Jennifer Leroux Olszewski
Vicki lindberg
May Lo
John & Cathy Martsolf
Lucy Matejcek
Richard McGurran
Peter Mecham
Stacey Mesteth
Emily & Evan Montgomery
Bonnie Nelson
Yadu Niroula
Betty Nordeng
Lorraine O'Shea
Kylie Oversen
Andrea Parks
Brenna Payne
Kim Pedersen
Ella Pflipsen
Cynthia Prescott
Rachael & Randy Puttbrese
Susanne restemayer
Amy Riker
Michelle Rydz & Paul Sum
Kristine Sande
Mary Jo & Ken Schill
Ivy Schulz
Jamie Seby

Thank You Donors!

(Neighbors Continued)

Ann & Jeffrey Shallman
Michele Shoolin
Haleigh Stenseth
Jessica Strand
Chassidy Strege
Fayme Stringer Henry
Kirsten & Bradley Stromsodt
Deborah Swanson
Jeffrey & Therese Tiedeman
Kari Torkelson
Brandon Vandervort
Brooke VanLooy
Tami Vigness
Katie and Ricky Vogel
Joel Walz & Hayley Svedjan
Dylan Weber
Wendy Wendt
Caisie Westgard
Pamela Whaley
Pat & Russell Wilber
Kathryn Williams
Kay Williams
Annella & Steve Winger
James Ziegler



(Above) Students originally from Nepal watch World Refugee Day programming on the stage.

(Below) High school EL students perform a play written and directed by Kathy Coudele-King at World Refugee Day



Thank You Volunteers!

** Volunteers who submitted hours and/or completed orientation between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2021. While we try not to make mistakes, please contact us if you see an error or have been left out of our report.*

Sahra Abdullahi
Fatuma Ahmed
Deka Ali
Farhio Ali
Nasteho Ali
Najma Ali
Sheri Altepeter
Cherie Anderson
Olawale Babalola
JoNell Bakke
Sabrina Balgamwalla
Becca Baumbach
Barbara Beach
Kristina Beiswenger
Corey Birkholz
Chali Bista
Craig Burns
Renee Cardarelle
Lauren Carlson
Anneetta Christman
Elias Dean
McKayla Dewitz
Ranju Dhungana
Nichole Dumlao
Tammy Elm
Lindsey English
Maura Ferguson
John Ferguson
Angela Floden
Cory Floden
Lydia Floden
Eric Fortwengler
Pramita Ghaley
Lisa Gibson
Mason Gray
Karina Grigalyte
Grace Guei
Chuck Haga
Aisha Hassan
ZamZam Hassan
Sumeya Hassan
Harvey Henderson
Madeline Henke
Jeremy Horbul
Therese Hugg
Eberechi Ichi
Cindy Jensen
Laxmi Kharel
Mina Kharel

Susan Kiesow
Marina Kojic
Marko Kojic
Nura Kroeger
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Carter Kunz
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Terra Lindquist
Chyna Lynner
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Morgan Masrud
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Kaha Mohamed
Dawnn Morken
Cindy Newton
Taya Olson
Madison Pankonin
Prakash Pathak
Madeline Patterson
Faye Pederson
Betsy Perkins
Andria Pinkerton
Ismarika Rai
Shubhhana Rai
Odele Rajpathy
Nita Regmi
Robbin Rendahl
Kailee Roskens
Ivy Schulz
Ione Seidlinger
John Shabb
Alyana Simpron
Bailey Soupir
Ashlei Stanczyk
Bergen Stockstad
Soma Maya Subba
Kirati Tayutivutikul
Pat Wilber
Zihan Zhang
UND Nursing
UND Occupational Therapy
UND Social Work

Thank You Grantors!





(Pictured) Global Friends' 15th Annual Community Picnic

For more information, to volunteer, or to request a volunteer:

www.GFCoalition.org

facebook.com/GlobalFriendsCoalition

info@GFCoalition.org

701-746-8233