



*(Pictured) Red River HS seniors painted globes with artist Jamie Sebbby*

# 2020 Annual Report

**Fostering refugee integration through work with New Americans and the Greater Grand Forks community.**



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**Elias Dean**, Member-at-Large  
**Cindy Jensen**, Member-at-Large  
**Andria Pinkerton**, Member-at-Large  
**Michelle Nyguen**, Member-at-Large  
**Marua Ferguson**, Member-at-Large  
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**Sahra Abdullahi**, Advisor  
**Ranju Dhungana**, Advisor  
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**Prakash Pathak**, Advisor  
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**Fatuma Ahmed**, Youth Liaison  
**Farhio Ali**, Youth Liaison  
**Nasteho Ali**, Youth Liaison  
**Najma Ali**, Youth Liaison  
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**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

## 2020 Staff & Interns

**Cynthia Shabb**, Executive Director  
**Adam Fortwengler**, Program Coordinator  
**Anneetta Christman**, Social Work Intern  
**Sarah Beniek**, Social Work Intern



*2020 UND Social Work interns: Anneetta Christman (left) and Sarah Beniek (right)*



## From Our President

As I sort through potential topics to highlight in this letter, I'm hit with a stark reminder: We're isolated. Under normal circumstances, I would draw upon experiences and conversations from Global Friends' Annual Community Picnic, which in 2019 hit a record attendance of 700. In 2020, though, we held that event virtually, with recipes and cooking demos. In 2019, we kept with tradition to battle a winter storm while ushering guests and donors in to Soup in the Studio at Muddy Waters Clay Center. In 2020, the event shifted to a drive-through, minimal-contact format, with limited capacity inside the studio and coupons tucked inside bowls, instead of a steaming soup buffet.

2020 did not provide opportunities to socialize and share experiences. In 2020, things were vastly different.

COVID-19 hit New American populations hard, ravaging its way through multigenerational households, keeping parents home from work and children home from school. Global Friends staff have picked up their case work duties, assisting individuals in applying for unemployment insurance, rent assistance and more. As always, Global Friends Coalition evolves with the evolving needs of the people it serves.

The memes of 2020 have said it all. We probably won't miss it.

But ahead, there's hope. We have new federal leadership that has denounced the racist restrictions of the previous administration, with a promise to open wider to refugee resettlement. Perhaps new leaders will look at the world with compassion and understanding, instead of entitlement and arrogance.

We have a vaccine for COVID-19. The nation is building vaccination rates and it seems most of us in Grand Forks

are either partially or fully vaccinated. Global Friends Coalition is on the ground communicating to New Americans the importance of vaccinations and helping ensure access.

2021 is already a tremendous improvement here at Global Friends, having crushed our fundraising goal for Giving Hearts Day. We brought in a whopping \$17,234, which, with our generous \$10,000 match from the Hal and Kathleen Gershman Foundation, brings our Giving Hearts Day total to \$27,234. But wait...There's more. Global Friends also received the Most New Donors distinction from the Impact Foundation this year, which comes with an award of \$10,000. We are ecstatic. We are grateful. Thank you to all donors, new and existing. We are humbled and your donations make our work possible.

2020 may not have been a celebration of health, safety and national stability (in fact, the opposite on all counts), but Global Friends is forging ahead and still reshaping to meet the needs of the populations we serve. It has required flexibility and ingenuity. And overtime.

I hope to safely gather with you this year at a Community Picnic, at World Refugee Day and elsewhere. I hope to resume coffee meetings with our donors to discuss the funding needs of Global Friends Coalition, and the needs of the people we serve.

I hope you're healthy. I hope you're safe. Thank you for sticking with us and thank you for your support.



## From Our Executive Director

Words like “pivot,” “nimble,” and “flexible” became our mantra in 2020. Global Friends worked with lots of different groups to get the word out about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We created posters in Somali, Nepali, and English and asked for help from different businesses in Greater Grand Forks to post them. Working with the City of Grand Forks, the Welcoming Community Roadmap Project, and New American board liaisons, we created videos focusing on some tools to remain safe and how to reach Altru's COVID-19 hotline.

The pandemic increased the number of people in need of help. Job loss, reduced hours, parents needing to help children in the home were major barriers. 2020 was a year of assisting New Americans complete applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing and Medicaid, and explaining bills. There were times when I donned my mask, frustrated trying to help over the phone, and we simply met outside to go over forms. Despite the challenges with face-to-face interactions, we provided more “direct service” than ever before!

Our citizenship class moved to a virtual platform, thanks to volunteer, Pat Wilber. Without Pat's eagerness to try something new, we'd never have been able to meet the needs of New Americans who are preparing for the citizenship exam. Over the course of the year, we have expanded the number of volunteer teachers to five, and we offer two sections of citizenship and a current events class. We are looking forward to the day when we can return to face-to-face instruction but at the same time, we don't see a virtual platform disappearing. It is certainly convenient for single parents—they are available to their children when needed, but still learning the citizenship material from the comfort of their homes.

It was a year to try new things. Pop-up conversations over at Century Elementary School, a virtual World Refugee Day event, a virtual Community Picnic, complete with a “live” cooking demonstration from Laxmi Dhimal, and the many different Covid-19 infographics, posters, and videos that were created in partnership with the City, UND College of Nursing students, and Red River High School English learners made it an interesting year.

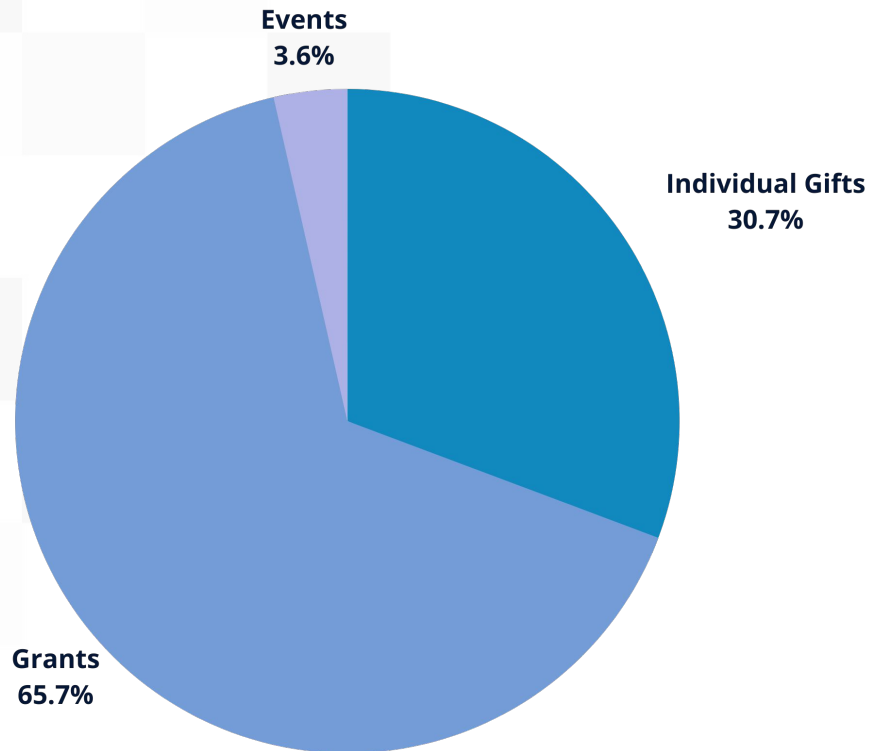
Right now, we are taking steps to educate and inform the New American community about the Covid-19 vaccine by setting up some vaccine events. We are working closely with New American leaders in order to ensure that we have helpful question and answer sessions.

We are constantly learning and modifying what we are doing. This year, more than ever, I have felt that we need to challenge ourselves to do more outreach and advocacy work to ease the pain of discrimination. Recently, I was asked by one of our supporters to resume face-to-face education and outreach to the community and we will strive to do so. We are busy planning the 2021 World Refugee Day and Community Picnic. And, the best news is that slowly, but surely, we are resuming face-to-face interactions with high school students and in homes. We are forging ahead, building friendships.

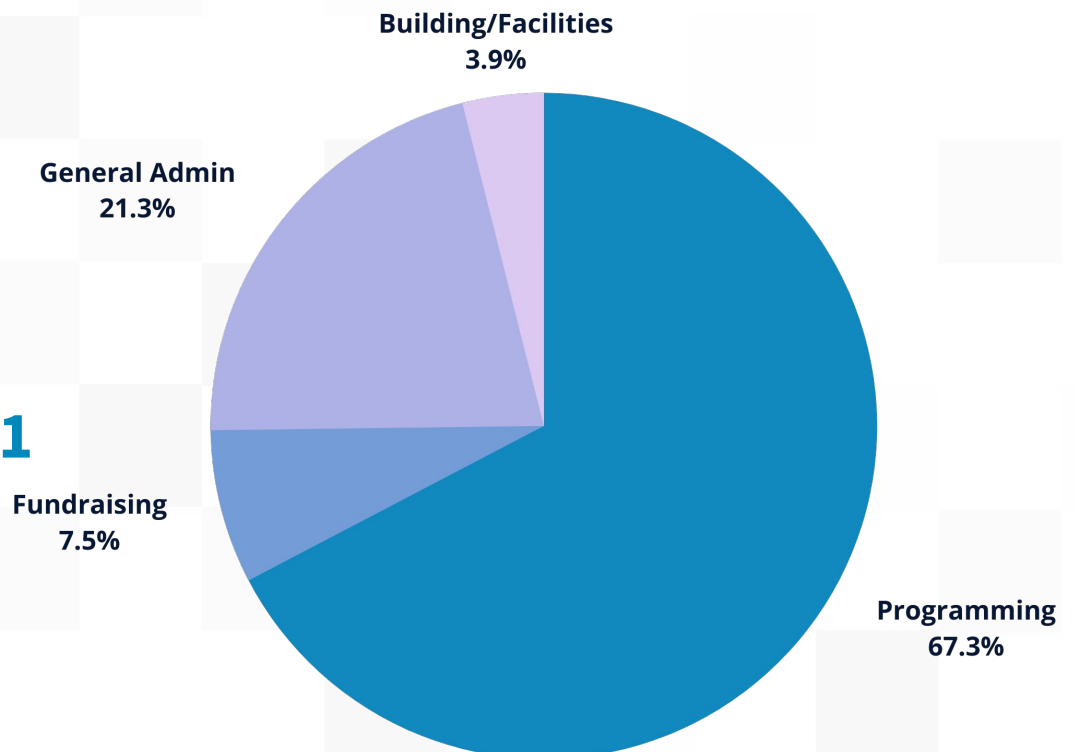
*Cynthia H. Shatt*

# Our Financials

**Revenue**  
**\$93,864.79**



**Expenses**  
**\$112,371.91**



# Fundraising Highlights

**214 individuals and 7 organizations donated to Global Friends in 2020!**

Our endowment through the Community Foundation, established in 2016, is now at: \$12,123.22

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



*2020 featured artist, Pirjo Berg, teaches volunteer, Zeineb Yousif how to shape a bowl in preparation for Soup in the Studio.*

## Giving Hearts Day

**TOTAL: \$14,716**

Our second-best Giving Hearts Day total ever!  
120 donations the day of, averaging \$64.46.

## Soup in the Studio

**TOTAL: \$2,633**

The 2020 edition of Soup in the Studio was a drive-through event held in November due to the pandemic.  
The featured artist was Pirjo Berg.

## Year End Giving

**TOTAL: \$7,610**

Our most successful year-end campaign ever!  
A 142% increase over 2019's campaign.

# Volunteers of the Year



## **2020 Global Friends Volunteers of the Year** **Sue Kiesow & Kristina Beiswenger**

This mother/daughter duo is recognized for their valuable contributions to Global Friends Coalition and New Americans in Greater Grand Forks as childcare providers during our English and citizenship classes. Childcare is one of the largest barriers to having access to increased income, skills, and knowledge. If you don't have someone responsible to look after your children, getting to a class wouldn't be possible. Sue and her daughter, Kristina, are fully dedicated to ensuring families have one less worry and are able to comfortably learn and build skills and confidence in our classrooms.



# Occupational Therapy Students of the Year



## 2020 Global Friends OT Students of the Year Grace Spanos & Taylor Beatty

Grace and Taylor are recognized for their service as mentors to New Americans. The underlying goal of Global Friends' work is to increase the confidence of the people we work with - to navigate the various systems in the community, to physically navigate the community, and to feel comfortable interacting with their neighbors. Their work with their mentee exemplified all of this and more. Their mentee directly credits Grace and Taylor's work with her for her increased confidence and self-sufficiency - they truly made a difference!

# 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, Social Hour, and sewing.*



*A virtual U.S. Citizenship study class, taught by Pat Wilber (upper right corner)*

**173 volunteers worked with more than 140 New Americans in 2020, donating over 2,600 hours.**

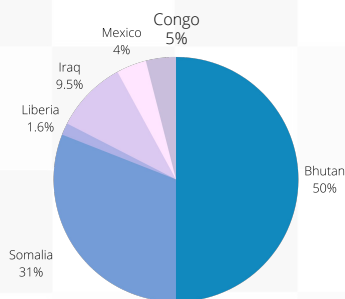
98% of New Americans we worked with have been in the U.S. for at least 12 months.

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

## Programming Highlights:

- Piloted an adult English class using children's books and modeling with students' kids in partnership with UND.
- Successfully pivoted our citizenship class to Zoom.
- English in the Park at Century Elementary included conversation practice and social connection.
- Provided direct service to New Americans in the chaos of the pandemic, including help with unemployment claims, social service forms, connecting families with resources such as food giveaways, and navigating the uncertainty surrounding covid-19

## Who we work with:



**“Global Friends was by my side at all times when I needed help. They never said, ‘no.’ When I got my driver’s license, words couldn’t explain how thankful I was for them.” - Afrah Kathm**

*(Pictured: Driving instructor, Tammy Elm [left] with Afrah Kathm on the Global Friends golf cart.)*



# 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 scholarships for youth activities such as NDMOA art camps.*

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

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:**

- Despite not being able to work within the schools after the start of the pandemic, our staff and volunteers stayed connected with the students.
- We continued our partnership with UND Occupational Therapy, shifting to virtual meetings with some success.
- A strengthened partnership with UND Nursing contributed to new covid-related materials, including outreach over new social media channels.
- We organized an art project in the park with artist Jamie Sebby for graduating EL students at Red River High School.
- 66 protection plans for iPads and laptops were covered by Global Friends after the shift to distance learning in the spring.



**“I thought this event planned by Global Friends was really fun. I was very thankful for it because I got to see my friends and teachers before I had to say goodbye to head to college.” - Pramita Ghaley**

*(Pictured: Red River High School senior, Pramita Ghaley, painting a globe at with the words, “We’re all golden sunflowers inside,” at Sertoma Park under the direction of artist Jamie Sebbly.)*

# 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.*



2020 (Virtual) World Refugee Day Panel Discussion

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

## **Programming Highlights:**

- Pivoted our World Refugee Day program to a virtual environment, hosting a screening of short films from New Immigrant and Refugee Visions and a live panel that included New Americans in Greater Grand Forks and the director of the film *Pulse of a Dream*, Mubarak Muwonge Nsamba.
- Moved our Community Picnic program to Facebook live, which included talks from local leaders and a cooking demonstration by Nepali chef, Laxmi Dhimal.
- Worked with a number of partners to provide translated covid-19 materials, information, and videos.
- Ensured a voice at the table focused on New Americans in community pandemic response discussions and meetings.
- Promoted the Census 2020 campaign to ensure a true count of our region's population.
- Tabled at Mental Health Matters, a community event focused on fostering positive discussions around mental health, wellbeing, related services.

## Components of Fitness

### Health-Related

Strength



Flexibility



CARDIOVASCULAR ENDURANCE



MUSCULAR ENDURANCE



BODY COMPOSITION

### Skill-Related

AGILITY



SPEED



Family Mentors & Adult Literacy Program

in-home, goal-oriented mentoring

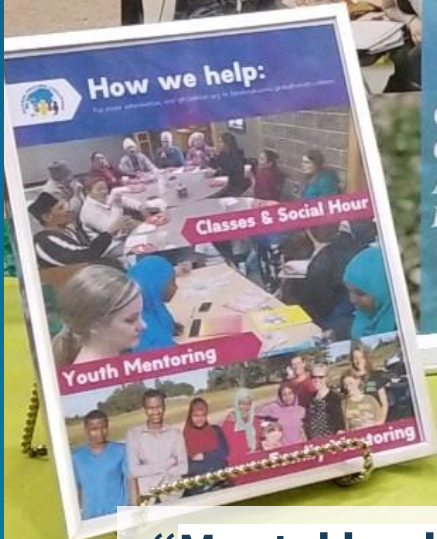


Resilient Youth Program

one-on-one, in-school tutoring and mentoring.

Community Outreach & Advocacy Program

building bridges between New Americans and the general public



**“Mental health is so crucial for young people in refugee populations. It is vital that Global Friends is present at Mental Health Matters.” -Lisa Gibson**

*(Pictured: Global Friends President, Lisa Gibson, at the Grand Forks Mental Health Matters event.)*

# Thank You Donors!

*\* Donations received between 1/1/20 - 12/31/20. 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+)**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND Caring Foundation  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hal and Kathleen Gershman Family Foundation  
Sarah & Nicholas Jensen  
Knight Foundation  
Erin & Carter Kunz  
North Quilters Guild  
Robin David & Brian Schill  
Cynthia & John Shabb  
Jenna & Joe Zavoral

## **Humanitarians (\$500 - \$999)**

Joseph & Kristine Dinsmore  
Heidi Heitkamp  
Sally Holewa  
Andre Kehn & Carolyn Ozaki  
Cathy & David Perry  
Dave Lambeth & Cecilia Volden  
Stacy Warcup

## **Visionaries (\$250 - \$499)**

Kaye Carlson  
Charles Christianson & Mary Wakefield  
Chuck Haga  
Clara & Donald Jurivich  
Mary & Bruce Kester  
Dr. Eric Lunn  
Treasure Omdahl  
Robbin Rendahl  
James & Judy Schill  
Ione Seidlinger  
United Way

## **Providers (\$100 - \$249)**

Harmon & Julie Abrahamson  
Emily Adams  
Valerie & Vincent Ames  
Becca & Wayne Baumbach  
Barbara Beach  
Patricia Berggren  
Evan Boucher  
Ed & Kelly Christ  
Duane Christenson  
Kristijana Dogan  
Kathy & John Fick  
Adam Fortwengler  
Lisa Gibson

## **(Providers Continued)**

Rachel & Benjamin Greenlee  
Christopher Hill  
Rex Huss  
Hajar Sads El Idrissi  
Impact Foundation  
Warren & Cindy Jensen  
Mara Jiran & Matthew Wallace  
Tori & Mike Johnson  
Sara Kaiser  
Mina Kharel  
Susan Kiesow  
Marina & Marko Kojic-Zepackic  
Karen & Kent Lovelace  
Karna Loyland  
Joel & Amy Medd  
Barry & Judith Milavetz  
Deb Glennen & Don Miller  
Gretchen Mullendore  
Marie Neumann  
Rolf & Linda Paulson  
Faye & Billy Pederson  
Betsy Perkins  
Cynthia Peterson  
Ann & Michael Porter  
Sally Pyle  
Youna Rhee  
Sharon Lutheran Women of the ELCA  
Carolyn Shabb  
Brad Sherwood  
Joshua Slayen  
Marcus & Maura Tanabe  
Karen Tankersley  
Aleksandar & Ivona Todorovic  
Gary Towne  
UND Staff Senate  
Carol Wendel  
Joyce Wicklund & David Nelson  
Pat & Russell Wilber  
Sonia & Delore Zimmerman

## **Advocates (\$50 - \$99)**

Paige Amann  
Carenlee Barkdull & Bret Weber  
Stacy Bjorgaard  
Mike Brue  
Dominique & Max Buchholz  
Aaron Bush  
Anneetta Christman  
Katie & Dylan Dachtler  
Arlene David



# Thank You Donors!

## **(Advocates Continued)**

Emily Dawes  
Shirley Dykshoorn  
Cassel Everson  
Maura Ferguson  
Suzanne & Craig Gandrud  
Haylee Gibson  
Catherine Gillach  
Gretchen Graf  
Julene & Paul Griffin  
Gail Hand  
Donna Hastings  
Al Boucher & Thomasine Heitkamp  
Jane & Frank Hutzol  
Eric Jensen  
Brent Jiran  
Brenda & Stephen Johnson  
Mason Kendall  
Kathryn Kester  
Susan Knapp  
Joyce & Brian Larson  
Kristi & Jeff Larson  
Samuel Lerma  
Beth McDougall  
Richard McGurran  
Patti & Don Medal  
Denise Mills  
Eudoro Olivares  
Steph Olson  
Lorraine O'Shea  
Rosa Panzarella  
Kristine & Grant Paranica  
Garl & Judith Rieke  
Sheri Schrock  
Alice Senechal  
Connie Sherwood  
Jennifer Stenseth-Bolte  
Denyse Sturges  
Joel Walz & Hayley Svedjan  
Jennifer Tarlin  
Aida & Richard Wakefield  
Kay Williams  
James Ziegler

## **Neighbors (\$1 - \$49)**

Claire Anderson  
Sunnie Andreu  
Karen & Rich Axvig  
Laura Berg  
Rose Brandt  
Larissa Campbell  
Douglas & Cindy Carpenter

## **(Neighbors Continued)**

YeeHan Chu  
Kathleen Coudle-King  
Marian DeBeltz  
Amy Eisenmann  
Rosemary Flynn  
Ron Franz  
Melissa Gjellstad  
Theresa & Jim Grijalva  
Collin Hanson  
Candace Hennekens  
Fayme Stringer Henry  
Debra Maske Hornbostel  
Anelaonalani Hughes  
Kelly Hughes  
Gable Hultgren  
Leta Jensen  
Peter & Marsha Johnson  
Catherine Johnson  
Chase Johnson  
Phyllis Johnson  
Maria Kennedy  
Chris Gable & Merie Kirby  
Bethany Klemetsrud  
Hamzat Koriko  
Doris Lebby  
Matthew Leiphon  
Margot McGimpsey  
Lisa Brandt Mencke  
Shera Nesheim  
Jill Ozaki  
Kim Pedersen  
Ann & Randy Pederson  
Andria Pinkerton  
Aimee Rogers  
Addrick Santiago  
Mizuho Schwalm  
Roberta Shields  
Milo & Fawn Smith  
Jeannie Sollom  
Haleigh Stenseth  
Kathryn Sweney  
Brad & Marcia Wehe  
Rachelle Williams  
Sharon & Richard Wilsnack  
Deborah & Williams Zaks

# Thank You Donors!

## (Neighbors Continued)

Diane Bowen  
Dawn Boyd  
Pete Haga  
Kayla Hochstetler  
Dee Ann Jellesed  
Jane LeDuc  
Kaia Lunde  
Andrea Parks  
Cynthia Prescott  
Amy Riker  
Brad Rundquist  
Jenny Scheer  
Jeffrey & Ann Shallman  
Kirsten & Bradley Stromsodt  
Ryan Taylor  
John & Cathy Martsof  
Durga Pathak  
Deborah Swanson  
Keely Walker  
Linda Bedard  
Matt Collings  
Christine Dewey  
Jonathan & Emily Holth  
Chantal Kerr  
Catherine Krummey  
Jolene McEarchern  
Janine Ogren  
Kylie Oversen  
Robin Rozanski  
Zachary Tomczik  
Robin Tracy  
Brooke VanLooy  
Annella & Steve Winger  
Ben Kranz  
Carolyn Shabb  
Mary Ann Johnson  
Erin Phillips  
Anna & Mathew Picklo  
Grace & Everett Sondreal



**Global Friends Executive  
Director, Cynthia Shabb, is  
celebrating 10 years with  
the organization!**

# Thank You Volunteers!

*\* Volunteers who submitted hours and/or completed orientation between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020. 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  
Emily Adams  
Fatuma Ahmed  
Farhio Ali  
Nasteho Ali  
Najma Ali  
Sheri Altepeter  
Lauren Anderson  
Donnette Arndt  
Kaylee Athmann  
Sabrina Balgamwalla  
Benson Bakabaka  
Becca Baumbach  
Barbara Beach  
Kristina Beiswenger  
Sarah Beniek  
Kaitlyn Berglund  
Elena Bissonette  
Megan Boman  
Dillan Bowen  
Brad Bowyer  
Dylan Brandner  
Erin Brown  
Dominique & Max Buchholz  
Corey Burkholz  
Craig Burns  
Haylie Carlstom  
Roxana Chirinos  
Anneetta Christman  
Margarita Consign  
Jane Croeker  
Allison Cwikla  
Torie Danielson  
Elias Dean  
Kelly DeBeltz  
Samantha DeBeltz  
Kayla Dembek  
Carly Derouin  
Laxmi Dhimal  
Ranju Dhungana  
Tulasha Dhungana  
Nichole Dumlao  
Stephen Dwumfour  
Tammy Elm  
Maddy Ertelt  
Marua Ferguson  
Angela Floden  
Cory Floden

Lydia Floden  
Quincie Floden  
Eric Fortwengler  
Nicole Gannucci  
Shanta Gautham  
Krishnamoorthy Gautham  
Pramita Ghaley  
Lisa Gibson  
Kelby Goulet  
Kelsey Grabanski  
Elijah Gray  
Danacia Greywater  
Karina Grigalyte  
Ibrahim Gross  
Grace Guei  
Chuck Haga  
Shay Harris  
Benjamin Harris  
Aisha Hassan  
ZamZam Hassan  
Sumeya Hassan  
Harvey Henderson  
Pam Hennes  
Julie Hill  
Elias Holte  
Nicholas Houge  
Cindy Jensen  
Tori Johnson  
Mike Johnson  
Binod Kharel  
Mina Kharel  
Susan Kiesow  
Nicolle Klukken  
Marina Kojic  
Jazmine Krogstad  
Erin Kunz  
Carter Kunz  
Macy Larson  
Kristi Larson  
Jon Lengowski  
Cody Lindeman-Johnson  
Tara Lindquist  
Breea Longley  
Sarah Lovelace  
Abby Lund

# Thank You Volunteers!

Kaia Lunde  
Chyna Lynner  
Quincey Marlatt  
Douglas Marshall  
Morgan Masrud  
Melissa Mercado  
Jenna Meredith  
Kirk Meseck  
Megan Miller  
Cassidy Mindeman  
Gillian Miranda  
Manisha Mishra  
Kaha Mohamud  
Natalie Mohring  
Allison Moran  
Isabella Mork  
Lydia Nemeth  
Marie Neumann  
Rachel Newton  
Michelle Nguyen  
Melody Nord  
Morgan Olson  
Prakash Pathak  
Madeline Patterson  
Dawn Pearson  
Kari Pearson  
Faye Pederson  
Betsy Perkins  
Brianna Peterman  
RayAnna Peterson  
Andria Pinkerton  
Samantha Plutko  
Casidi Pullar  
Amanda Quinn  
Kalindi Rachey  
Amira Ragab  
Ismarika Rai  
Shubhhana Rai  
Odele Rajpathy  
Jai Rasailly  
Nita Regmi  
Julie Reichert Scheef  
Robbin Rendahl  
Debbie Rham  
Macie Romsdal  
Dina Sado  
Laura Sauer

Helen Sawaya  
Grace Schimke  
Joelle Schmuck  
Nicole Schreiner  
Cody Schuler  
Holly Schulz  
Ivy Schulz  
Bailey Schumacher  
Hope Schuster  
Ione Seidlinger  
John Shabb  
Nicole Sinclair  
Taylor Slettvedt  
Hannah Smith  
Jeannie Sollom  
Brandon Steffen  
Ivy Steiger  
Haleigh Stenseth  
Soma Maya Subba  
Reggie Tarr  
Melvina Taylor  
Kirati Tayutivutikul  
Katie Thomas  
Paige Thorsen  
Abigail Udem  
Kalie Vogelbacher  
Mindy Vollmer  
Ethlyn Vorrhies  
Paige Warren  
Gabrielle Wavra  
Pat Wilber  
Shelby Wittenberg  
Zeineb Yousif  
Zihan Zhang  
Michaela Zins



*Global Friends Coalition's Youth Liaisons:  
From Left to Right: Lisa Gibson (Board President), Ione Seidlinger (Youth Liaison Board Coordinator),  
Fatuma Ali, Nasteho Ali, Shubhhana Rai, Soma Maya Subba, Farhio Ali, Manisha Mishra,  
Cynthia Shabb (Executive Director), Zihan Zhang*

# Thank You Grantors!



ND

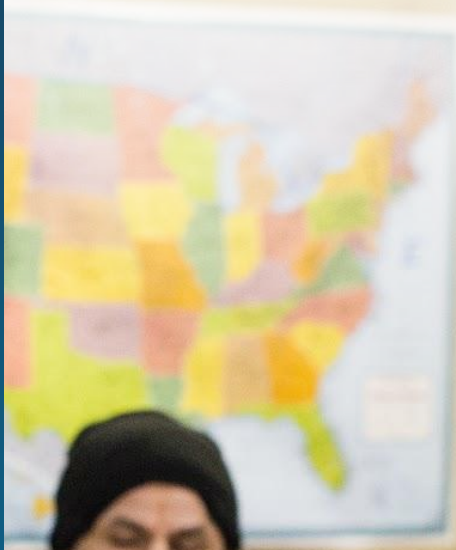


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**[www.GFCoalition.org](http://www.GFCoalition.org)**

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**[info@GFCoalition.org](mailto:info@GFCoalition.org)**

**701-746-8233**