



# NEWS

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## Kyrgyz Republic youth leaders arrive in October

Promoting social change and getting involved in positive community efforts is foreign to most young people in the Kyrgyz Republic. Why? Previously, they haven't been given the opportunity or experience because of significant economic, social and political challenges in their country.


But that will change Wednesday, Oct. 20 as 10 such youth leaders come to Wisconsin's Seven Rivers Region for three weeks to learn and experience the vital role they can play in their central Asian country.

Sponsored by the USAID Community Connections program, the participants are young, visionary leaders committed to youth and underserved populations. World Services will host the delegation, creating a professional exchange focusing on "Youth Volunteerism in Community Development".


Young people from the Kyrgyz Republic (also known as Kyr-

gyzstan) are rarely involved in the governance process. Thus they lack the opportunity to gain experience and do not realize what type of impact their involvement can have on community development. Instead, they see their own life separate from the future of the community. This Community Connections exchange will demonstrate the importance of youth volunteerism and social activism with the building of a strong sense of community and regional pride in Kyrgyzstan.

Youth Volunteerism program participants are expected to play a leading role in social partnership programs in their regions. The aim of the program is to expose participants to strategies on how they can become more effective leaders, be more involved in the community development process and make their own contribution to improve social life in their villages and home regions upon their return.



Community Connections, managed by the Bureau of Education Growth and Trade (EGAT) at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by World Learning, is designed to promote public diplomacy through the exchange of cultural ideas and values among participants, U.S. families and local community host organizations. It seeks to establish and strengthen links between U.S. communities and communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.



Join Seven Rivers Region volunteers hosting these 19-26 year-old Kyrgyzstan youth leaders of today and country leaders of tomorrow.

**Home Hosts Needed for Kyrgyz Republic delegates. Call World Services today! 608-781-4194**

## World Services' proposal presented at Citizen Diplomacy Summit Nov. 16-19

World Service's proposal to enhance international exchange programs will be presented at the U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy in Washington DC November 16-19. The Summit will explore best practices in citizen engagement, new technology, and networking between international affairs leaders, NGO's, corporate and philanthropic organizations and international guests.

Also featured at the Summit will be a proposal submitted by the La Crosse Dubna Friendship Association in cooperation with Duluth Sister Cities International. This proposal seeks to enhance volunteer skills.



# Open World Delegations: Sept—Dec, 2010

Hosting Location	Topic	Dates	Country
The Stafford Institute, Kernersville, NC	Accountable Governance: Agribusiness and Tourism	Sept 8—18	Moldova
Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development/Toledo, OH	Accountable Governance: Local Governance	Sept 8—18	Moldova
Stevens Point—Rostov Veliky Sister City Stevens Point, WI	Accountable Governance: Environment Management	Sept 15—25	Russia
Boulder—Dushanbe Sister Cities* Boulder, CO	Social Issues: Secondary Education Administration	Sept 23—Oct 2	Tajikistan
North Country Regional Hospital Bemidji, MN	Accountable Governance: Community Development	Oct 6—16	Russia
Iowa Sister States Des Moines, IA	Social Issues: Education	Nov 3—13	Russia
World Affairs Council of St. Louis St. Louis, MO	Social Issues: Education	Nov 3—14	Russia
Kalamazoo Pushkin Partnership* Kalamazoo, MI	Social Issues: Education	Nov 3—14	Russia
Buffalo—Tver Sister Cities* Buffalo, NY	Social Issues: Health	Nov 11—21	Russia
World Services of La Crosse, Inc La Crosse, WI	Social Issues: Health In Minneapolis/ St. Paul, MN	Nov 11—21	Russia
Fox Cities—Kurgan Sister Cities Appleton, WI	Accountable Governance: Environment	Dec 1—11	Russia
Advisory Commission on International Relations* Great Falls, MT	Rule of Law: Juvenile Justice	Dec 1—11	Russia

## U.S. Sister City hosts visit Russian Open World alumni: *Celebrating Sister City milestones*

Americans from La Crosse, WI and Kalamazoo, MI are among those Sister City volunteers who have hosted Open World delegations in the past two years with the support of World Services, Sister Cities International, and the Open World Leadership Center. When proposing to host, the U.S. volunteers often cite Open World as one of the best way to maintain and refresh their Sister City program.

U.S. volunteers from the cities noted above are also among those Americans who have made a reciprocal visit to their Russian Sister City to meet with Open World alumni and to follow up on events since their exchange program.

2010 marks the 20th anniversary for several Sister City organizations—La Crosse and Dubna marked their anniversary by participating in Dubna’s “City Day” celebration. Kalamazoo, MI Sister City members were happy to join their Pushkin friends and Open World alumni in celebrating that city’s 300th anniversary!

—Send us your stories about Open World reciprocal visits—we’d love to publicize them!

\* Hosted in Partnership with Sister Cities International



**Connecting Communities.  
Building Peace.**

**NEWS** is published five times a year for friends, volunteers and supporters of World Services of La Crosse.

For more information, contact World Services at 608-781-4194 or visit us on the web at [www.wslax.us](http://www.wslax.us)

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