

Nursing Partnership Launched

World Services of La Crosse, Inc. has been selected as a 2010 grant recipient of a Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation Bridging Cancer Care Initiative. Grant activities to enhance nursing skills in Balakovo, Russia will be conducted in partnership with volunteer medical personnel from the Gundersen Lutheran Health System, La Crosse, WI. The two year \$150,000 grant will work to advance nursing care through improved screening and treatment of breast and colorectal cancer.

Gundersen Lutheran nursing professionals including those who serve as faculty for the University of Wisconsin's western campus will share new techniques and practice with Balakovo nursing faculty. Russian nursing faculty will use their new knowledge to implement the program in the Saratov Oblast.

It is anticipated that the partnership will train approximately 500 nurses in state of the art cancer care in Balakovo and Saratov. About 3,000 citizens will also receive improved information about breast and colorectal cancer prevention, screening and treatment.

The mission of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is to



help reduce health disparities by strengthening community-based health care worker capacity, integrating medical care and community-based supportive services, and mobilizing communities in the fight against disease. Since 2007, Bridging Cancer Care has funded partnerships in Central and Eastern Europe focused on improving psychosocial support, education, prevention, early detection, screening, palliative care and health and care worker training.

In December, Sandra McCormick and Maureen Jameson of World Services and Kelly Barton and Joy Hennessy of Gundersen Lutheran met in the Balakovo region with nursing leaders at the Secondary Medical College and with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education officials to initiate the project and finalize the implementation plan. World Services and Gundersen Lutheran will host a delegation of Balakovo health leaders in April.

Kyrgyzstan Community Connections Delegates Inspire and Inspired by Seven Rivers Region

"Despite the challenges of traditions, we will be persistent in promoting and showing the benefits of volunteerism," noted delegate Nazgul Akyzbek kyzy, an international relations student at Osh Technology University.



The eleven delegates, hosted by World Services and supported by professionals from throughout the Seven Rivers Region, gained a new perspective on Youth Volunteerism during their exchange Oct 20—Nov 10. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to youth development in Kyrgyzstan inspired local youth organizations and area volunteer host families.

Community Connections, managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau of Economic Growth and Trade (EGAT) 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.

Community Connections

Turkmenistan March 16—April 6 : "Improved Infection

Control" Turkmenistan currently faces many cases of hospital acquired infections spread through unsafe medical procedures. World Services will host a delegation of ten hospital infection control professionals to share best practices in prevention of hospital acquired infections.

Home Hosts Needed for Turkmenistan delegates. Call World Services today!
608-781-4194 Email: dlutjen@wslax.us





Hosting Location	Topic	Dates	Country
GLOBALHOUSE Colfax, North Carolina	Public Administration and Transparency	February 2—12	Russia
Maryland Sister States Annapolis, Maryland	Role of the State Legislature	February 9—19	Russia
Iowa Sister States Des Moines, Iowa	Role of the State Legislature	March 2—12	Russia

Note: World Services is a national hosting organization with the Open World Leadership Center, and in partnership with Sister Cities International brings Eurasian and Russian participants to many states in the U.S. each year.

Congratulations Iowa Sister States!

The Open World Leadership Center, an independent Legislative Branch agency working to increase U.S.-Eurasian understanding and partnerships, recognized Iowa Open World volunteers in Des Moines last September. Iowa has been one of the top hosting states for Open World hosting over 800 participants since 1999. Iowa Sister States was among the organizations honored. World Services thanks all the Iowans who have hosted Open World delegations with us since 1999 including Burlington, Coon Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Mason City, Newton, and Osage.

Organizational Development Strategy for the Georgian Hospital Association

Over the past three years the health system in Georgia has been going through dramatic changes. In spite of attempts to regulate the health care system, there are still a lot of drawbacks especially in management, clinical service delivery, facility standards, and financing of health care. During October and November, Maureen Jameson and Sandra McCormick of World Services worked with consultants from Tbilisi, Georgia including the Center for Training and Consultancy, United Nations Association Georgia and Partners Georgia, and with Klaus Wittkuhn, the Performance Design International Expert to create a development strategy. Managed by the World Learning/Georgia FORECAST Program (funded by USAID/Georgia), five core deliverables were identified for short and long term attention by the Georgian Hospital Association :

- ◆ Develop and communicate quality Management System Standards
- ◆ Support improvement of hospital sector Management Systems
- ◆ Provide relevant information on a routine basis regarding health sector policy and regulation issues
- ◆ Develop an agreement with insurance companies on standardized reporting system regarding services provided
- ◆ Advocate for member hospitals' interests to the government and other key stakeholders

To address these goals, World Services is continuing its work by helping connect the GHA staff with U.S. organizations involved in setting standards, licensing and accreditation of health facilities.

Citizen Diplomacy— One handshake at a time

Sandra McCormick and Maureen Jameson participated in the November U.S. Summit for Global Citizen diplomacy in Washington D.C. Sandra presented a paper on "Enhancing the Exchange Program Model". Maureen, with Cherie Sawinski, Duluth Sister Cities, shared ideas about enhancing the capacity of U.S. citizens as citizen diplomats.

The Summit initiated a ten year effort to increase American volunteer involvement in international activities at home or abroad, from 60 million today to 120 million by 2020. All citizens are invited to reach out to the world as a citizen diplomat - one handshake at a time. Summit proceedings are available on the U.S. Center of Citizen Diplomacy website.



**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

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