

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE

ABOUT GLOBAL TIES U.S.

Global Ties U.S. was founded in 1961 to support a community-based network of nonprofits that build relationships, partnerships, and trust through international exchange.

Our 90+ members represent all 50 U.S. states and provide the domestic infrastructure for U.S. public diplomacy efforts, implementing the International Visitor Leadership Program and a wide variety of other educational, cultural, and professional exchange programs.

In 2023, we launched a new partnership model to collaborate with organizations whose missions align with ours to build trust, globally and within the United States. Our Network partners include alumni organizations abroad and national organizations that focus on international affairs, public diplomacy, international exchange, and community integration.

Our mission is to power individuals, communities, and nations to build trust and advance peace and prosperity through international exchange.

Diplomacy Begins Here.

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A LETTER FROM KATHERINE BROWN, PH.D.

President & CEO, Global Ties U.S.



Thank you for reading this and for being a member, partner, funder, or general supporter of Global Ties U.S. and our extraordinary Network of 90+ nonprofit organizations, all of which are committed to building trust and advancing peace and prosperity through international exchange. The theme of this annual report is *Diplomacy in Action: Raising Community Voices*, which we will be carrying into 2024 for our National Meeting, March 5-8. We're privileged to be amplifying the nationwide and international voices who believe that diplomacy begins here, with all of us.

I started my career in national security more than 20 years ago, inspired by a high school international exchange program. It was a humbling experience to be 16 and realize how little I knew about the world, or the United States. Yet it was also incredibly energizing and taught me the critical importance of listening. We all bring our biases, frameworks, and lenses to making sense of issues. If we are to cooperate and tackle the momentous challenges of our modern world, like climate change and global pandemics, we need to know one another. We need to understand the ideas, cultures, norms, and values that drive countries' decision-making about international relations. Public diplomacy and international exchange programs are the pathway for us to do this.

Our Network is not only committed to supporting our country's diplomacy overseas, we are also living it in our cities through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and other public diplomacy programs. This includes the ones Global Ties U.S. is privileged to support directly, including our work with U.S. Exchange Alumni, the Water Smart Engagement Program (WiSE), and the MENA-USA Empowering Resilient Girls Exchange (MERGE), and the myriad of programs our Network members implement. This year, we also extended our work to include partner organizations whose missions align with ours in international affairs, public diplomacy, and community inclusion, such as Mobility International USA, American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), World Savvy, and the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy.

This year, we also developed some critical data with our first-ever Global Ties U.S. Community Impact Study. Our colleagues at the U.S. Department of State know that the world leaders who travel to U.S. communities, more than 4,000 of them each year, deepen their understanding of and relationship with the United States. We also wanted to understand how U.S. citizens and their cities are changed by the experiences. Our national Network, before COVID-19, had a 10:1 return on federal investment. This means that for every federal dollar spent on programs conducted in the United States, \$10 more were generated to support the program.

Until now, the socio-cultural impact seemed elusive. After conducting a nationwide survey of U.S. citizens who engage in diplomacy locally, by welcoming, hosting, and interacting with the global leaders who visit them in their communities, we found that:

- More than 80% of survey respondents said that participating in international exchange programs increased their global knowledge and cultural competence;
- 77% reported greater interest in being civically engaged;
- 80% reported international exchange programs enhanced the image of their community; and
- 32% reported benefits in long-term international connectivity for their businesses, organizations, and/or personal networks.

You will see on these pages plenty of examples of diplomacy in action to advance these gains. Our call to action is to raise our voices and build even greater support for this work in communities across the United States, with U.S. and international alumni, with corporations and foundations, and here in Washington, DC. As the world gets more complex, as the challenges seem steeper, the relationships and networks we build make it all manageable. Our Network is humanizing the world and building relationships that are the foundation for international diplomacy and cooperation. I'm grateful to have all of you with us as we accelerate this work.

Katherine Brown, Ph.D.
Global Ties U.S. President & CEO

U.S. COMMUNITY VOICES

International exchange programs are for everyone, and by expanding access to global engagement, we believe that our communities and our world become stronger. With our nationwide Network, we worked this year to create and support opportunities to engage more citizens in international affairs.

In March at our National Meeting, we brought together our international exchange Network under the theme *(Re)Building Community: Globally & Locally*. It was a fitting frame for 2023, as it marked the return of our first in-person **Emerging Leaders Program** cohort since 2020. The 2023 cohort was joined by several alumni of the 2021 and 2022 cohorts, in recognition of the in-person opportunities missed during the pandemic. We also adjusted the Emerging Leaders Program timeline, to follow the academic calendar, and welcomed our 2024 cohort this fall.

Also at the National Meeting, we recognized **Justin Powell** and the **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** with our 2023 Citizen Diplomat Award for their commitment to strengthen local communities through global service.



Justin Powell is Executive Director of the Salt Lake City, Utah youth humanitarian organization Youthlinc. “When people engage in community service, they transform,” said Justin. “They become more confident in themselves and develop a growth mindset. They tap into the power they have to make a more inclusive world.”

The **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** is a nonpartisan federal educational institution dedicated to ensuring the permanence of Holocaust memory, understanding, and relevance. “We believe quality Holocaust education helps people become global citizens, cultivate critical thinking skills, and our shared humanity,” said Museum representatives Andrea Bertrand and Tad Stahnke. “The IVLP is an amazing opportunity for us to meet and learn from a global public.”

Joining our two awardees was **Michael D. Smith**, CEO of Americorps, who spoke about the value of community service, noting: “There is something about service that brings you together and allows you to connect with your shared humanity.”

A critical part of our work in international exchange is showcasing the full breadth and diversity of the United States to our visitors, with special attention to historically marginalized and under-represented communities. The **Global Ties Network DEIA Working Group** is core to this work. In 2023, its three constituent task forces created a Programmers Toolkit to help members apply a DEIA lens to exchange programming and an Organizational Change Matrix to better align internal processes with inclusivity goals. The Working Group also shaped events including the Global Ties Forum and National Meeting, with even more to come in 2024.



Photos from top left: The 2023 Emerging Leaders with 2021 and 2022 cohort alumni; 2023 Citizen Diplomat awardees Tad Stahnke, Andrea Bertrand, and Justin Powell; and Americorps CEO Michael D. Smith (right) with Caryn Lavernia of Global Ties Miami. All photos by Kristoffer Tripplaar.

Community Impact Study

The Global Ties U.S. Community Impact Study examines the socio-cultural impacts of international exchange programs on U.S. communities and on the individuals who engage with them here at home.

Released in August 2023, it is the first study of its kind to focus on the domestic value of exchange programs and provides a comprehensive assessment of the benefits local people and organizations derive through participating in exchanges like the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP).

Findings from our study demonstrated that:

- **International exchange programs humanize global affairs for U.S. citizens and inspire curiosity about the world**, with more than 80% of survey respondents reporting increases in global knowledge and cultural competence.
- **U.S. participation in international exchange programs encourages local civic engagement and deepens community inclusion**, with 77% of respondents reporting greater interest in participating in local events or activities sponsored by groups representing a national heritage different from their own.
- **Engaging with international visitors provides U.S. communities with opportunities for economic growth and workforce development**, with 80% of respondents agreeing that exchange programs enhanced the image of their community, and 77% reporting gains to their organization or personal reputation.
- **U.S. participation in exchange programs provides greater international connectivity**, with almost one in three respondents (32%) reporting that they have stayed in touch with international contacts they made through participating in international exchanges.



Phase 2 of the Global Ties U.S. Community Impact Study will take place in 2024. It will encourage even broader engagement by our community-based Network. Over time, we expect our findings to point to steady and important indicators of local impact of international exchanges, underscoring the value of these programs in building both stronger alliances globally and stronger communities here at home.

Access the study: gties.us/CommunityImpactStudy



Photo by Lulu Bonning, San Diego Diplomacy Council



Global Ties U.S. weaves the fabric of our international community through international exchanges, making our diplomatic ties stronger, more prosperous, and more resilient. In the hard times, this fabric gives us patience and grace to lean on the relationships and to weather disagreements, hardships, and strife. We feel safer, more empowered, and more understood when we know each other.

—Chris Hensman,
Global Ties U.S. Advisory Council Member and former U.S. Foreign Service Officer

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

This year, Global Ties U.S. engaged our Network at in-person and online events spanning coast-to-coast. Programming included two **Diplomacy Begins Here Regional Summits**, three **Global Ties Forums**, four **Career Connections** seminars for U.S. citizen alumni of international exchange programs, and several other initiatives that brought together leaders from a range of sectors to connect and explore how exchange programs support U.S. communities, cities, and foreign policy goals.

MARCH

In March, we welcomed 587 attendees to Washington, DC for the **National Meeting**. Programming focused on how our Network is **(Re)Building Community: Globally & Locally**.



A panel on diversity in international exchange.
Photo by Kristoffer Tripplaar.

APRIL

April saw the launch of our 2023 series of **Career Connections** events. The first event, **Crossover at the Crossroads**, was hosted by The International Center and brought together 26 participants in Indianapolis, IN.



Exchange program alumni and partners at Career Connections Indianapolis. Photo from The International Center.

SEPTEMBER

On September 13, we hosted a **Global Ties Forum** conversation and screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary **Stranger At The Gate**, about the power of listening and community, that featured the director and lead subject.



Speakers from our September Global Ties Forum.



A Diplomacy Begins Here Kansas City panel on local government.

From September 21–22, we were in Kansas City, MO with Global Ties KC for the **Diplomacy Begins Here Summit**, convening 148 participants to explore the theme **Shaping Foreign Policy from the Heartland**.

We rounded out the month with Global Ties San Francisco at **Career Connections: Technology & Entrepreneurship**, engaging 53 participants from September 23–24 in San Francisco, CA.

JUNE

On June 23 in Washington, DC, we welcomed 104 participants to **Career Connections: Careers in the Federal Government**, our largest alumni event to date.

Our first **Global Ties Forum** virtual event of the year, **Welcoming Refugees into U.S. Communities**, took place on June 27 and focused on national and local refugee support initiatives strengthening communities nationwide.



Liz Allen, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, at Career Connections DC. Photo from the U.S. Department of State.

AUGUST

August kicked off our first of two **Diplomacy Begins Here Summits** for 2023. From August 21-22, 169 participants gathered in Burlington, VT to explore **Building an Inclusive Climate Movement** with the Vermont Council on World Affairs.



Diplomacy Begins Here Vermont keynote speakers. Photo by Syejeong Kim, U.S. Department of State.

Between August 30–September 30, the World Affairs Council of Maine hosted the **Impact of Exchange** in Portland, ME. This public art exhibit aims to inspire audiences to become future exchange participants and features the stories and photos of 38 U.S. alumni abroad. The exhibit will travel to four more locations in 2024: gties.us/AlumniExhibit.



Impact of Exchange on display in Maine.

NOVEMBER

Our fourth and final **Career Connections** event of 2023, **Young Professionals Meeting Global Goals**, took place November 2–4 with International House in Charlotte, NC and included 41 participants.



Alumni network at Career Connections Charlotte.

DECEMBER

On December 7, we hosted our final **Global Ties Forum** of 2023: A conversation about global perceptions of the United States.

We finished the year with the **National Programmers Workshop** on December 15 in Washington, DC. This professional development event is for DC-based IVLP implementors to strengthen project management and team building skills.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY VOICES

The Global Ties Network continued to create community with global leaders in 2023. In March at our National Meeting, Global Ties U.S. named **Anass Hanafi** and **Jona Rizvanolli** the recipients of our 2023 IVLP Alumni Award for Social Innovation and Change for their leadership and work to support the advancement and integration of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, immigrants, and other underserved populations. Learn more about Anass and Jona at gties.us/2023IVLPaward.



Anass Hanafi
Turin, Italy

"I have seen firsthand how citizens can come together to create meaningful change and make a difference in their community.... [D]emocracy isn't something we should take for granted, but rather something that needs to be actively fought for and nurtured."



Jona Rizvanolli
Tirana, Albania

"Being an IVLP alumni has helped me grow my network and learn the best practices in mentoring and empowering youth, especially girls and young women, through technology and leadership."

International Alumni Program

Global Ties U.S. proudly works with alumni of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs, including the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Our **International Alumni Program** is designed around a series of five virtual events to connect and deepen engagement between international alumni and members of the Global Ties Network. The online program covers a variety of topics, including the Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund (CDAF), working with U.S. embassies abroad, and the intersection of soft power, public diplomacy, and international relations.

The International Alumni Program is steered by an Honorary Committee. More details at gties.us/IAP.



Photo by Jonathan Christ, International Visitor Interpreter/Liaison



Ida (third from left) with alumni. Photo by U.S. Embassy Mogadishu, Somalia.

"Working with alumni is an amazing opportunity to leverage their U.S. experience and help us reach so many more audiences in our programming environments overseas. Alumni often have networks to tap into, professional experience to share, and are by far our best engagement allies."

—**Ida Heckenbach, U.S. Foreign Service Officer,**
Global Ties U.S. Diplomat in Residence

The **Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund (CDAF)** is a grants competition for alumni of U.S. Government exchange programs to carry out public service projects that make an impact on communities here in the United States and around the world. The 2023 CDAF competition was the most competitive to date with 47 teams selected from 187 applications. Meet a few of this year's project teams:

International Vermicomposting Missoula, Montana and Gaindakot, Nepal

Vermicomposting uses earthworms to eat food scraps and to create nutritious soil. This project connected elementary school students in Missoula, Montana and Gaindakot, Nepal to learn about the impact of food waste and ways to use vermicomposting to combat climate change; a win-win collaboration with nature to help students make a global impact.



Ballroom Saves Lives: Resiliency and Wellness in Peru Ballroom Lima, Peru

Ballroom is a performance art style and culture consisting of dance, modeling, and community engagement that began in the Black and Latinx LGBTQIA+ community. Through a series of events and workshops, this project connected LGBTQIA+ people with healthcare resources to foster trust with health providers in the community.



See all 2023
CDAF project at:
gties.us/2023CDAF

Inspiring Environmental Stewardship Through Birding Costalegre, Jalisco, Mexico

The Costalegre area in Jalisco, Mexico features high avian diversity, many of which are endemic to the local area; it is also a place of natural beauty with proximity to tourism destinations. This project used bird observation to engage children with their natural environment to positively shape their environmental attitudes and perceptions, and nurture future employment opportunities in ecotourism.



Youth Artpreneurship Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and New Orleans, Louisiana

By equipping youth ages 18-21 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe with skills to create positive change in their communities, particularly around environmental protection, social entrepreneurship, and digital literacy, this project aimed to inspire and empower youths to become leaders in their communities and create a sustainable future for all. The project also provided community-building opportunities for participants to share insights with their peers in New Orleans, Louisiana.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Member Services

Global Ties U.S. provides our 90+ member organizations nationwide, the majority of which are Community-Based Members (CBMs), with professional development resources that:

- Develop their leadership and management capacities
- Strengthen their programming abilities
- Engage more U.S. citizens in global affairs

This year saw the return of our in-person **Network DC** program for the first time since 2019. This week-long professional development program is for Community-Based Members (CBMs) to visit Washington, DC and introduce their organizations to DC-based programmers.

“Since returning home, I have been able to leverage some of the contacts that were made into projects for our CBM. This week was an enlightening educational experience.”

—Sewell Gelberd, Columbia Council for Internationals, July 2023 Network DC participant

Diplomacy Zooms Here meetups continue to support the Network by facilitating idea sharing and building community. The monthly calls provide an open channel for IVLP implementors to discuss programming challenges and problem-solve a multitude of issues.

Our bi-annual **Communications Cohort** and quarterly **Communications Working Group** continue to help the Network gain and grow their marketing, advocacy, and outreach skills.

We refreshed our **IVLP Fundamentals Online Course** to help executives, board members, staff, and interns better understand how the various stakeholders work together to support the IVLP.

We also launched a pilot **CBM Mentorship Program** to connect those who are new to the Network (within the last year) with an experienced mentor in a similar role at a similarly sized organization. The 6-month program is focused on personalized mutual skill-building. Our first cohort was in April and the second in October, with more activities ahead in 2024.



Network DC participants Amy Alice Chastain (center) and Sewell Gelberd (right) with Pete Botjer of Global Ties U.S. Photo by Syejeong Kim, U.S. Department of State.



Citizen Diplomacy Day photo by Global Ties Kalamazoo.

Citizen Diplomacy Day

February 16 is Citizen Diplomacy Day, a date first noted by the U.S. Congress in 2011 to mark the 50th anniversary of Global Ties U.S. and our Network's important role in building peer-to-peer connections through international exchange. In 2023, we marked this day with a social media campaign that engaged U.S. and international organizations through story-sharing. Our global community posted stories and images that elevated and celebrated our work and its impact locally and globally. Check out highlights at [#CitizenDiplomacyDay](#).

Programs

As local hubs for global engagement, the Global Ties Network has deep roots, wide reach, and real impact. Take a look at how our Network connects communities here at home and abroad through international exchange.

International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the United States' foundational professional exchange program, implemented by the Global Ties Network through a 60+ year partnership with the U.S. Department of State. The IVLP connects international visitors to U.S. citizens, which deepens their professional skills and knowledge of the United States, and grows our Network's investment in U.S. communities, economies, and foreign policy goals.

In our last fiscal, the Global Ties Network:

- Welcomed **3,810 international exchange participants** to U.S. communities, in-person and virtually
- Implemented **420 in-person and virtual projects**



Global Minnesota organizes an IVLP exchange on disability rights.

U.S. Exchange Alumni Network and Capacity Building Program

The U.S. Exchange Alumni Network and Capacity Building program supports enterprising U.S. alumni as they build on their exchange experiences through professional development and citizen diplomacy opportunities. Programming includes Career Connection events, small grants awarded through the Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund (CDAF), the traveling *Impact of Exchange* photo exhibit, and asynchronous learning content.

\$ Awarded in 2023:

\$407,060.80

CDAF Project Grants: **\$390,660.80**

Career Connections Travel Stipends: **\$16,400**

Career Connections Events:

4

CDAF Projects Funded:

47



Participants at Career Connections Indianapolis in April.

Alumni Engaged:

334

CDAF: **112**

Career Connections: **222**

(some alumni attended more than one event)

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK

Programs

Law Enforcement and Security Exchange Program

The Law Enforcement and Security Exchange Program provides in-person and virtual training for law enforcement professionals from across Mexico and access to U.S. police professionals and experts. The program consists of four elements: webinars, study tours, online learning courses, and hands-on training in Mexico. In 2023, we implemented six study tours and three online learning courses on topics including combating gender-based violence, internal affairs, and community policing.



Participants visit Dallas, TX for a study tour.

9

Activities

3 online courses and
6 in-person study tours

985

Participants

120 study tours and
865 online learning

8

U.S. States visited

12

CBMs engaged

72

Organizational and agency meetings

MENA-USA Empowering Resilient Girls Exchange Program

The MENA-USA Empowering Resilient Girls Exchange (MERGE) was a virtual exchange program that connected girls from the United States, Middle East, and North Africa to learn about their own mental health, develop emotional resilience skills, and share this knowledge with their communities. We implemented the fourth and final cohort in Spring 2023.



MERGE alumna Mayra Khaled organizes an event at her school.

10

Facilitators

301

Participants

11

MENA Countries

13

U.S. States

32

Weeks of virtual exchange

9

CBMs Engaged

Water Smart Engagement Program

The Water Smart Engagement program (WISE) explores innovative, efficient, and effective approaches to 21st century water challenges and helps participants from Southeast Asia build collective capacity. Activities in 2023 included participation in Singapore International Water Week and site visits around Southeast Asia, followed by reciprocal visits to Chicago, Illinois for the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC)—the foremost water quality convention in the world—and to U.S. partner cities.



June WiSE site visit to Malaysia.

The program has created five bilateral partnerships:

- Permodalan Darul Ta'zim (PDT) in **Johor Bahru, Malaysia** & DC Water in **Washington, DC**.
- Phuket Water Authority in **Phuket, Thailand** & The Water Council in **Milwaukee, WI**.
- Saigon Water Corporation in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** & San Francisco Public Utility Commission in **San Francisco, CA**.
- Vientiane City Office for Management and Services (VCOMS) in **Vientiane, Laos** & Clean Water Services in **Hillsboro, OR**.
- Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) in **Cebu, Philippines** & Miami-Dade Water and Sewer in **Miami, FL**.

6
U.S. States

30
Participants

5
Pairings

6
Countries Visited

UK Countering Hostile State Influences Exchange Program

The Countering Hostile State Influences Program consisted of three exchange programs that brought UK stakeholders to the United States to explore U.S. federal, state, local, and civil society responses and strategies to counter the growing influence of hostile state actors. The program included a series of post-visit activities in the United Kingdom to share learnings and amplify the program's impact to a wider network of UK stakeholders across sectors. The program concluded in 2023.



NEW FOR 2024

Strengthening Mexican Inspectorate for Labor Enforcement Program (CAMINOS)

The CAMINOS project aims to improve government systems for labor law enforcement, better administration of inspections, and engagement with supply chain sectors targeted by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Global Ties U.S. is responsible for facilitating in-person and virtual exchanges and trainings, and we look forward to implementing our first activities in 2024.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

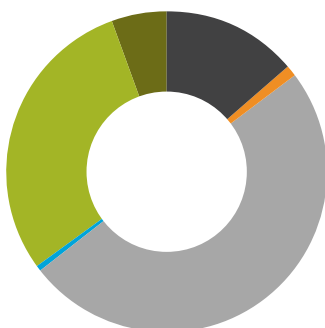
September 30, 2022



ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$302,974
Grants and Other Receivables	\$669,872
Pledges Receivable	-
Advances to Subrecipients	\$1,269,057
Investments	\$890,459
Prepaid Expenses	\$177,396
Property and Equipment, Net	\$58,373
Refundable Advance	\$112,024

TOTAL ASSETS **\$3,480,155**



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$478,826
Accrued Vacation	\$42,735
Refundable Advance	\$1,726,734
Due to Affiliate	\$19,559

Total liabilities **\$2,267,854**

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,021,990
With Donor Restrictions:	
Restricted for Time and Purpose	\$10,000
Restricted into perpetuity	\$180,311
Total With Donor Restrictions	\$190,311

Total net assets **\$1,212,301**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS **\$3,480,155**

Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year ended September 30, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE, SUPPORT, AND GRANTS			
Grants and Contracts	\$16,786,178	-	\$16,786,178
Conference and Event Fees	\$195,499	-	\$195,499
Contributions	\$147,461	-	\$147,461
Investment Loss	(\$198,775)	-	(\$198,775)
Membership Dues	\$38,591	-	\$38,591
Other Income	\$58,514	-	\$58,514
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:			-
Satisfaction of Time and Purpose Restrictions	-	-	-
Total Revenue, Support, and Grants	\$17,027,468	-	\$17,027,468
EXPENSES			
Program Services:			
Membership Programs and Services	\$15,776,531	-	\$15,776,531
Other Programs	\$39,001	-	\$39,001
Total Program Services	\$15,815,532	-	\$15,815,532
Support Services:			
Management and General	\$1,043,045	-	\$1,043,045
Fundraising	\$90,229	-	\$90,229
Total Support Services	\$1,133,274	-	\$1,133,274
Total Expenses	\$16,948,806	-	\$16,948,806
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	78,662	-	78,662
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$610,101	\$190,311	\$800,412
Net Assets - End of Year	\$1,021,990	\$190,311	\$1,212,301

A LETTER FROM PATRICIA HARRISON, PH.D.

Chair, Global Ties U.S. Board of Directors



Was this past year really only 365 days long? The pandemic has played with perceptions of time.

When I think back on all the transitions that the Global Ties Network has been through in the past 12 months, it would be easy to wonder if the pandemic was all a bad dream from decades ago. With some necessary adjustments, we as Network members have returned to welcoming international visitors with the same warmth and commitment to meaningful interactions that we have demonstrated throughout the long history of exchanges.

And yet, in many ways, it has not been simply a return to the way things were.

At a recent event to celebrate the historic International Visitor Leadership Program, Nicole Elkon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Professional and Cultural Exchanges, asked the audience, “How many of you have been here for 80 years?” None of us had. The question made me think of the layers of contributions to our country’s rich record of citizen diplomacy. We are all building on the work of our predecessors and their commitment to fostering international understanding. There is great value in history and institutional memory – it is in fact this institutional memory that enabled us to continue to implement exchange programs even during the tumult of the last three years.

At the same time, this is a time of innovation and new growth. As so many aspects of personal and professional lives have shifted in the wake of the pandemic, our Network has been challenged to invent new models of exchange, particularly when the workplace is no longer defined as a fixed location.

Our field of exchanges has welcomed more than 100 new implementers to the Network in the past year, which promises that we will benefit from the new ideas, perspectives, and practices that they bring. The infrastructure of citizen and subnational diplomacy that Global Ties U.S. supports is stronger for this infusion of new colleagues who have joined our mission to foster collaboration and understanding among leaders around the globe.

What is especially exciting about this new era for exchanges is that we can now prove our impact. The recent findings from the first Global Ties U.S. Community Impact Study, which focused on the benefits to local people and communities across the United States in hosting professional exchange participants, demonstrate that exchanges matter perhaps more than ever in forging stronger communities and more effective leadership. With more than 80% of surveyed respondents reporting an increase in their global knowledge and cultural competence as a result of exchange participation, it is clear that exchanges are central to building a global community to address our shared challenges. You’ll read more about the Community Impact Study on page 4 of this report.

The Global Ties Network is composed of people who are resilient, resourceful, and forward-focused. If we want a future in which people, communities, and nations find peaceful ways to work together, then international exchange is essential to building that collaboration. Whether you are a seasoned citizen diplomat or just starting your journey, I hope you will actively embrace your role in helping to foster more effective global leadership through international exchange.

Patricia Harrison, Ph.D.

Chair, Global Ties U.S. Board of Directors

Divisional Vice President of Professional Exchange Programs,
World Learning

SUPPORT OUR WORK

The work of Global Ties U.S. is made possible thanks to partners and donors who share our commitment to engaging citizens and their communities with the world through international exchange and public diplomacy. Together, our work builds stronger international alliances and stronger communities at home. Learn more at gties.us/SupportUs.

Spotlight: Emerging Leaders Program

Since 2011, the Global Ties U.S. Emerging Leaders Program, which is **100% funded by donors**, has helped launch the careers of nearly 200 globally-minded young professionals who represent the rich diversity of our country, including communities traditionally underrepresented in international affairs. The program develops leaders for local and global impact: Participants engage in year-long professional development and networking, as well as service projects to engage their local communities in international affairs.

“The Emerging Leaders Program was a catapult for my career....[T]he program was the first time I had the opportunity to visit DC and was introduced to the world of citizen diplomacy. The connections I made at the Global Ties U.S. National Meeting were eye-opening.”

—Emerging Leaders Alum

Thank You

We are grateful to the donors who helped us reach our \$35,000 goal for the Emerging Leaders Fund during our summer fundraising campaign.

WHY OUR DONORS GIVE

“Building long-term constructive relationships is what diplomacy is all about. U.S. diplomats know that people-to-people exchanges are one of the most effective diplomatic tools they can deploy. The many U.S. local sponsors of exchanges need more support. Acting and former diplomats can give back through donations to the Global Ties U.S. Emerging Leaders Program. Do it today.”

—Ambassador Richard LeBaron, Global Ties U.S. Advisory Council Member



Emerging Leaders from the 2021-2023 cohorts snap a selfie.

“I give to Global Ties U.S. to ensure the ongoing health of the network that welcomes the international visitors we Foreign Service Officers send on the IVLP to get to know America. I found a friend ready to hear me out at every post thanks to the great work of the Global Ties Network.”

—Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, Global Ties U.S. Advisory Council Member

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Program Partners



Stevens
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