



FY 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

Facilitating and strengthening connection, collaboration, and fellowship between the people of the Gulf Coast and the global community



A background image showing two hands shaking over a document, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The image is faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition.

James Mattis, Secretary of Defense (2017-2018)

No matter what message you are about to deliver somewhere, whether it is holding out a hand of friendship or making clear that you disapprove of something, is the fact that the person sitting across the table is a human being, so the goal is to always establish a common ground.

Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State (1997-2001)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## About Gulf Coast Diplomacy

### Community Impact and Benefits

#### Program Pillars

- **International Exchange and Citizen Diplomacy**
  - FY 2025 Numbers at a Glance
  - Countries hosted in FY 2025
  - International Visitor Leadership Program
  - Open World Program
  - Local Engagement, Lasting Impact
  - Supporters Who Met Professionally with International Visitors or Youth Diplomats
- **Education and Community Enrichment**
  - FY 2025 Numbers at a Glance
  - Youth Diplomats
  - Virtual Youth Programs
  - Additional In-Person Youth Programs
  - Beyond the Classroom

### Program Pillars (continued)

- **Hospitality & Community Enhancement**
  - FY 2025 Numbers at a Glance
  - Dinner Hosts and Homestay Families
  - Exchange Cafés

### Organization Information

- Board of Directors
- Staff & Team Citizen Diplomacy
- Financial Snapshot
- Looking Forward
- Thank you to Our Sponsors and Donors
- Change Through Exchange
- Thank you to Our Members
- Support Our Work
- Our Programming Calendar



*Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves with visitors from Moldova on a Congressional Office for International Leadership project titled Local Legislators, receiving honorary citizenship with the City of Pensacola (August 2025)*

# ABOUT GULF COAST DIPLOMACY

## MISSION

Gulf Coast Diplomacy is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization facilitating and strengthening connections, collaboration, and fellowship between the people of the Gulf Coast and the world.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Citizen diplomacy recognizes the value of person-to-person exchange and the role that individuals and communities play in fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect across cultures.

## PROGRAM PILLARS

Gulf Coast Diplomacy is a member of the Global Ties U.S. national network and advances its mission through the following program pillars:

- International Exchange and Citizen Diplomacy
- Education
- Hospitality

## COMMUNITY IMPACT AND BENEFITS

Through international exchange and community-based programming, Gulf Coast Diplomacy creates opportunities for dialogue, learning, and cultural understanding. Our activities:

- Are flexible tools to support U.S. foreign policy and national security goals;
- Contribute to the economic health of the cultural and hospitality economy of the Gulf Coast;
- Provide learning opportunities for both youth and adults;
- Encourage cultural awareness;
- Support educational exchange and professional dialogue; and
- Increase trust, respect, and understanding between our community and people from throughout the world.



*Over 70 locals attended an evening event at the Pensacola MESS Hall to explore Artificial Intelligence – Harnessing the Power of Technology with International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) participants from Brazil (July 2025)*

# INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

## PROGRAMS FOR PROFESSIONALS

FY 2025 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE



*IVLP participants with  
Advancing Economic Prosperity:  
Science and Technology  
Entrepreneurship explore  
innovation in Northwest Florida  
(May 2025)*

5

Virtual IVLP  
Projects

16

In-Person  
Projects

30

Liaisons and  
Interpreters

212

Hours  
Volunteered by  
Professional and  
Student  
International  
Exchange  
Participants

698

Hotel Nights for  
all Exchange  
Participants,  
Liaisons, and  
Interpreters

Total Professional  
Participants Welcomed  
In-Person to Pensacola

118

21

Virtual IVLP  
Exchange  
Participants

52

Countries  
Represented  
from 5  
continents

78

Cultural Events  
Attended by All  
International Visitors

119

Number of In-  
Person Professional  
Meetings

## COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES HOSTED IN FY 2025

Algeria	Ghana	Nepal	South Africa
Azerbaijan	India	Nigeria	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Pakistan	Syria (virtual)
Barbados	Iraq	Palestinian Territories	Taiwan
Brazil	Jordan	Panama	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Philippines	Thailand
Cambodia	Kuwait	Poland	Tunisia
Canada	Kyrgyz Republic	Republic of Kosovo	Türkiye
Chile	Latvia	Saudi Arabia	Turkmenistan
China	Malaysia	Serbia	Ukraine
Egypt	Mexico	Slovakia	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Moldova	Slovenia (virtual)	Venezuela
France	Morocco	Solomon Islands	Vietnam

## International Visitor Leadership Program

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's flagship professional exchange program, advancing U.S. foreign policy priorities through direct engagement between American communities and international leaders. Since 2009, Gulf Coast Diplomacy has partnered with the U.S. State Department to implement short-term, thematically focused exchanges in Northwest Florida, connecting local professionals with international counterparts addressing shared challenges. Through meetings and site visits, participants exchange practical expertise in areas such as economic growth, workforce development, public safety, education, and emerging technologies. These exchanges strengthen U.S. national security and economic interests while delivering clear local benefits by elevating regional expertise, expanding professional networks, and reinforcing Northwest Florida's role as a trusted partner in advancing American leadership.



*IVLP participants from Azerbaijan explore economic growth at the City of Pensacola while on a project titled Building Entrepreneurship and Capacity (January 2025)*

*The IVLP brings international leaders into direct conversation with Northwest Florida's professionals, showcasing local expertise while strengthening relationships that matter to our community and the nation.*



## Open World Program

Open World is a program of the Congressional Office for International Leadership (COIL), an agency of the U.S. Congress, that brings elected officials and emerging civic leaders to the United States to observe democratic governance in practice. Gulf Coast Diplomacy partners with COIL to host these participants in Northwest Florida, where local officials, professionals, and residents share firsthand perspectives on civic engagement and public service.

COIL emphasizes that principles of accountability, representative government, and the role of citizens are best understood through direct exchange with American counterparts at the local level.

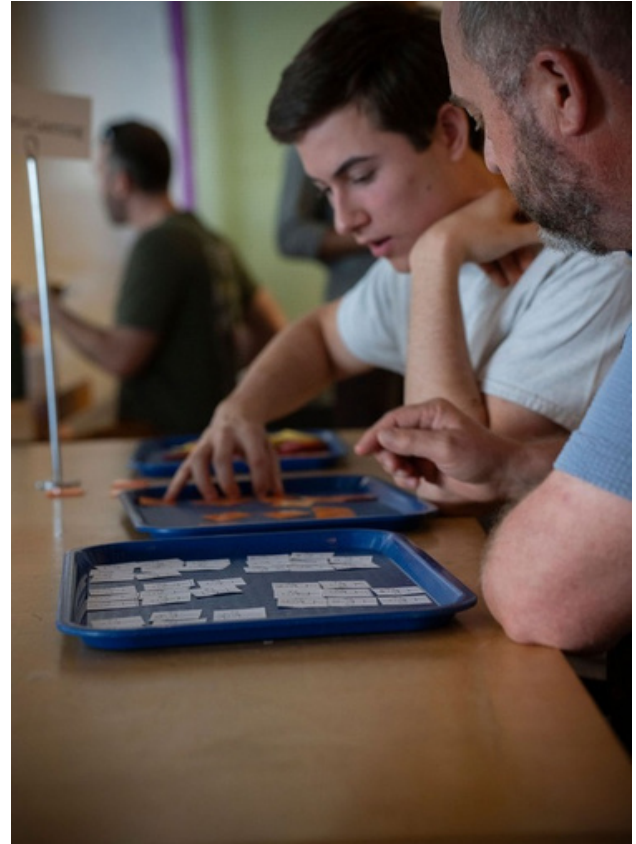
Participants spend eight days in Northwest Florida and take part in homestays with community volunteers, complementing their time in Washington, D.C.



*Ukrainians on the Open World project titled Emergency Management and Support Services participating in community service at First United Methodist Church's Serving the Hungry (May 2025)*

# Local Engagement, Lasting Impact

*Interaction with the IVLP, clockwise top to bottom:*  
*Community presentation with Hidden No More (Nov 2024);*  
*Exploring AI with Brazilian visitors (July 2025);*  
*Cooperative Efforts in Combating Transnational Crime (Sept 2025)*



# SUPPORTERS WHO MET PROFESSIONALLY WITH INTERNATIONAL VISITORS OR YOUTH DIPLOMATS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

Sarah Adams  
Sarabeth Alvarenda  
Alex Andrade  
James Bagby  
Renan "Chuck" Monteiro Barborá  
Charles Bare  
Brian Barlow  
Mary Beth Barrows  
John Batchelor  
Tiffany Bates  
Gayle Baugh  
Anna Kate Baygents  
Brandon Beech  
Robert Bender  
Adam Blood  
Jennifer Bobo  
Colleen Boyett  
Jennifer Brahier  
Sara Brake  
Rick Branch  
Charles Britt  
Melissa Brode  
Maggie Brown  
Jeff Brown  
Laura Campbell  
Ben Cheatham  
Kolleen Chesley  
Eric Christianson  
Lauren Clark  
Jenna Coates  
David Craig  
Kristy Craig  
Ginny Cranor

Theresa Cserep  
Kenzi Cueno  
Simon Dahdak  
Sonya Daniel  
Thomas Derbes II  
Josefina Devito  
Jeff DeWeese  
Maren DeWeese  
Deborah Douma  
Melissa Dow  
Peter Dye  
Philip Ebert  
Cheri Eichen  
Ana Eligio  
John Emsing  
Jason English  
Brian Estevez  
Elizabeth Eubanks  
Wendy Evans  
Ashley Farose  
Paul Fetsko  
Gil Fried  
Becca Fritschle  
Olivia Gardner  
Guy Garrett  
Sharon Gincauskas  
Kelly Goad  
Dr. Gerald Goldstein  
Erica Grancagnolo  
Ali Green  
Christine Griffith  
Brady Hale  
Brittany Hancock

Christi Hanks  
Rachel Hendrix  
Jacob Hill  
Justin Hoard  
Andrew Hobbs  
Brannon Hogue  
Angelique Hutchins  
David Ingram  
Nick Jackson  
Jereme Johnson  
Nick Jones  
Kimberly Kasper  
Scott Keller  
Henry Kelley  
Mohammad Khabou  
Mary Kyte  
Kandase Lee  
John Little  
Jia Liu  
Frederick Longmire  
Dana Lupton  
Ginger Madden  
Preston Marvel  
Philip Mayhair  
Grace McCaffrey  
Logan McDonald  
James Mead  
Lawrence Mista  
Patti Mohan  
William Moore  
Murilo Morata  
Haley Morrisette  
Rob Murrer

Rufus Neely  
Peter Neuhaus  
Allison Newton  
Mort O'Sullivan  
Lacey Oden  
Rick Outzen  
Caleb Owens  
Brent Parmer  
Charlyle Parrish  
Allison Patton  
Krysta Ponek  
Jerry Pratt  
Megan Pratt  
Greg Prescott  
Emily Price  
Bhuvana Ramachandran  
Katie Ramsey  
Elizabeth Rasnick  
Kelly Reeser  
D.C. Reeves  
Sigrid Rehrig  
Lloyd Reshard  
Jerry Rhodes  
Jim Rhodes  
Stephen Ringl  
Tia Robbins  
Patrick Rooney  
Maria Roswold  
Cathy Rudd  
Jennifer Saba  
Darien Schaefer  
Pam Schwartz  
David Scott

Shabanali Sajida  
Jan Shackelford  
Chris Shaffer  
Jacob Shively  
Chip Simmons  
Dan Skyhorse  
Krissy Smith  
Toni Sparks  
Lindsey Steck  
Carrie Stevenson  
Steve Stroberger  
Joe Taschetta  
Cheree Tham  
Todd Thomson  
Ashli Tillman  
Angelica Tilton  
Willie Tubbs  
Barbie Valletto  
Angie Walker  
Kasey Watson  
Cristen Weaver  
Timothy Weekley  
Lonnie Davis Wesley III  
Matthew White  
Chad Willhite  
David Williams  
Sara Williamson  
Scottlin Wilson  
Sandra Winborne  
Davis Wood  
Brian Wyer  
Beverly Yeary

# EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

## FY 2025 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Through locally supported programs like Youth Diplomats and Camp Global, students gain civic and professional skills close to home. Federally funded Youth Ambassadors and the virtual *IVLP in the Classroom* further extend this impact by expanding learning through direct engagement.

3 Virtual IVLP in the Classroom Visits

2 In-Person Youth Ambassador Programs

41 Youth Diplomats

109 Students in Northwest Florida Participating in Virtual Exchanges

62 International Professionals on Exchanges Interacted In Person with Youth Diplomats

Countries Represented at In-Person Youth Diplomat Sessions

26

52 Students from 10 Countries at Camp Global 2025

1 Virtual Exchange with University Students

34 Students from 4 Countries at Camp Global Dakhla

2 Local Teens Awarded Fully Funded U.S. Dept of State Youth Ambassador Exchanges



Meeting for the first time at Pensacola International Airport: Youth Ambassadors Brazil (January 2025)

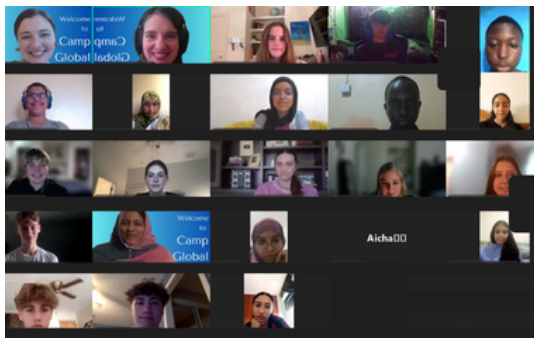
## Youth Diplomats

The Youth Diplomats program is a yearlong experiential learning initiative that prepares teens in Northwest Florida for civic participation and future careers. Students meet monthly to explore global affairs, diplomacy, and the ways international issues connect to local communities. Participants build practical skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and public speaking while strengthening their understanding of international issues. Through direct engagement with professionals and international visitors, Youth Diplomats explore college and career pathways, expand their networks, and participate in service activities that reinforce civic responsibility.

In FY 2025, students met with international and domestic experts, engaged with IVLP participants, and took part in applied learning experiences. Activities included an action planning and elevator pitch workshop, a resume and interview workshop, and a local government simulation focused on decision making and public service.



Top to bottom: Youth Diplomats with IVLP and (Open World participants, both from May 2025



## VIRTUAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

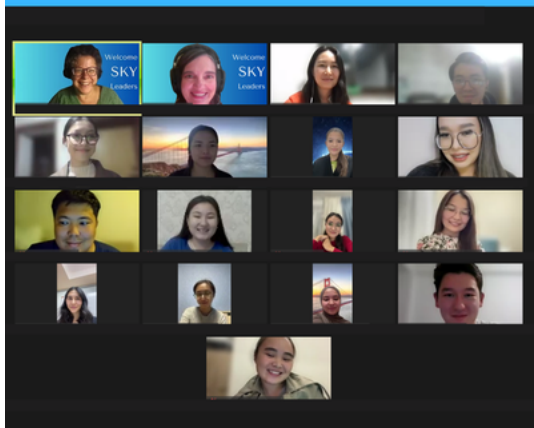
### Camp Global

Camp Global is a locally developed, annual four-session exchange that connects teens in Northwest Florida with peers abroad through facilitated dialogue and collaborative activities. The program builds leadership, communication, and civic awareness while allowing students to engage meaningfully from home.

### Camp Global Dakhla

Camp Global Dakhla is a five-session virtual youth exchange developed in partnership with an IVLP alumna from Morocco. The program introduced local students with students abroad for structured conversations that strengthened leadership skills, cultural understanding, and peer-to-peer learning.

### SKY Leaders



### SKY Leaders Kazakhstan

SKY Leaders is a virtual exchange developed by a partner NGO in Kazakhstan, with Gulf Coast Diplomacy invited to participate based on our Camp Global experience. In collaboration with Global Ties Detroit, the project strengthened staff capacity to deliver leadership programming for university students, directly informing the development of Camp Global: Undergrad for 2026.

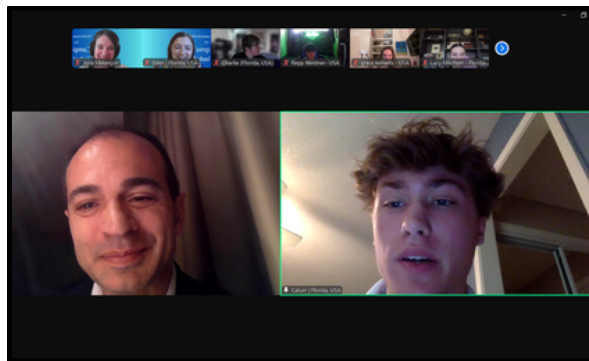
Southern Kazakhstan Youth Program

## IVLP in the Classroom

*IVLP in the Classroom* brings international professionals into local classrooms through structured virtual conversations that are coordinated by the U.S. Department of State. Students engage directly with practitioners working in fields related to their studies, gaining insight into real-world applications, career pathways, and the value of professional exchange in an educational setting.

## Exchange Alumni Visits for Youth Diplomats

Youth Diplomat alumni visits are independently organized by Gulf Coast Diplomacy and complement, but are separate from, State Department-led *IVLP in the Classroom* programs. Through lively virtual conversations with former IVLP participants, students explore careers, education paths, and real-world experiences that bring learning to life.



## ADDITIONAL IN-PERSON YOUTH PROGRAMS



**Youth Ambassadors Community Service (France)** focused on community service, exploring volunteerism, civic responsibility, and youth leadership through facilitated activities in Northwest Florida. (October 2024)



**Youth Ambassadors Brazil** took part in programming centered on leadership, examining the role of civic participation, and youth engagement through structured discussions and site-based learning. (January 2025)



**Faces of Service** is a locally developed program that engages teens in Northwest Florida in service-based activities, emphasizing civic responsibility, leadership development, and the importance of contributing to their communities. (May - July 2025)





Tom Selinger, executive director of the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, spoke on American diplomatic history at the University of West Florida (September 2025)

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

1

Presentation at UWF by a Representative from the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training

8

Weeks of Great Decisions for 16 Locals

2

Speaking Engagements at Rotary by Visiting Professionals

5

Additional Community Presentations by 42 IVLP and Open World Participants

341

Locals Attending Presentations and Speaking Engagements

Gulf Coast Diplomacy provides educational opportunities for community members of all ages. Public discussions, university presentations, and exchanges with international professionals allow residents to explore global issues firsthand, strengthening civic awareness, professional knowledge, and informed engagement in Northwest Florida.

From Oct - Dec 2024, we were the UWF Community Partner, spotlighted for our programs.

# HOSPITALITY AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

Our Exchange Cafés, hospitality dinners, and home hosting programs connect international visitors with Northwest Florida residents through shared meals and community experiences. Local volunteers play a direct role in advancing public diplomacy by sharing everyday American life and values.

## FY 2025 NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

14

Community  
Coffees

44

Homestay Nights

305

Meals Served in  
Homes to  
International  
Visitors



Left to right: *Dinner visitors participating in an IVLP titled Education in the Digital Age enjoy dinner in the home of a Gulf Coast Diplomacy member (June 2025); Memorial Day Exchange Café for an IVLP titled Advancing Economic Prosperity: Science and Technology Entrepreneurship*

# DINNER HOSTS AND HOMESTAY FAMILIES

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

## HOMESTAY FAMILIES

Laura & Joe Boyles

Christina & Milan Brunet-Sabastia

Stephanie & Eric Christianson-Baldwin

Carrie & Jason Cromey

Wes Delaware

Leigh & Kent DeSantis

Hannah & Dave Domsloy-Paul

Karen & Jon Kellams

Jen & Tim Kinsella

Ania & Doug Kreis

Mici & Chuck Kuba

Tammy & Chuck Kunze

Lisa & Tommi Long-Lyter

Logan & Tim McDonald-  
Sullivan

Rita Miller

Tamara Mitchell

Richel & Allen Moretsky

Jean Norman

Jan & Terry O'Rourke

Magali & E. Ben Posey

Megan & Jerry Pratt

Terry & Bill Preston

Marcia Quierolo

Kelly & Chris Reeser

JoAnn & Kenneth Roberts

Rachel & Josh Trahan

Jeannine Van Reeth

Liz & Basil Yelverton

## DINNER WITH A DELEGATE HOSTS

Vicki & Brian Barlow

Stephanie & Eric Christianson-Baldwin

Vivian Faircloth

Susie & Marty Griffith

Karen & Mike Jurkowich

Jean Norman

Megan & Jerry Pratt

JoAnn & Kenneth Roberts

Lynn & Joe Sonderman

Chris Stephenson

Leslie & Gerry Yandle

Liz & Basil Yelverton

Right: *The Roberts receive thanks from the U.S. Dept of State for their hosting at the Annual Meeting in May*



## EXCHANGE CAFÉS

Exchange Cafés are a cornerstone of citizen diplomacy in Northwest Florida. More than informal coffees, they bring the community and international visitors together to discuss careers, public service, and solutions to shared challenges. For many residents, these gatherings are a practical way to contribute to civic life by sharing professional experience and building connections that strengthen our community.

### Groups we welcomed to Exchange Cafés included:

- Open World: *Elections*
- IVLP: *Next Steps in Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security National Action Plan*
- IVLP: *Building Entrepreneurship and Capacity*
- IVLP: *Technology Innovators: Education in the Digital Age*
- IVLP: *Advancing Economic Prosperity: Science and Technology Entrepreneurship*
- Open World: *Emergency Management and Support Services*
- IVLP: *Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management*
- IVLP: *Artificial Intelligence – Harnessing the Power of Technology*
- IVLP: *Digital Standards: Fostering Security and Innovation*
- IVLP: *Young Leaders RISE – Renew, Inspire, Serve, and Engage*
- Open World: *Local Legislators*
- IVLP: *Towards a More Safe and Secure World – Cooperative Efforts in Combating Transnational Crime for the Indo-Pacific*



*A retiree and a university student discussing fostering security and innovation through digital standard with a participant of the IVLP (July 2025)*

# EXCHANGE CAFÉS SUPPORTERS WHO MET WITH INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

Alex Andrade  
Charles Bare  
Gayle Baugh  
Trista Bennett  
Olivia Booth  
Sara Brake  
Reina Cain  
Savannah Caldwell  
Carol Campfield  
Kolleen Chesley  
Eric Christianson  
Starla Coursey  
John Cromey  
James Crowe  
Kenzie Cueno  
Kent DeSantis  
Leigh DeSantis  
Jeff DeWeese  
Maren DeWeese  
Chloe Diehl-Fulton  
Sandra Donaldson  
Nathan Doyle  
Paula Drummond  
Peter Dye

Brandon Earl  
Paul Fetsko  
David Fries  
Geissler Golding  
Gerald Goldstein  
Laura Griffin  
Marty Griffith  
Kelly Gunther  
Joanne Hagn  
Juanita Harvin  
Al Henderson  
Rachel Hendrix  
Cheryl Howard  
Jeff Hutcheson  
Darina Ivanova  
Jawana Jackson  
Jarah Jacquay  
Nick Jones  
Sue Kardon  
Will Kennedy  
Ania Kreis  
Doug Kreis  
Tammy Kunze  
Michelle Lamar-Acuff

Catherine Lambert  
Gloria Lemmey  
Evana Lin  
Marcus McBride  
Kelly McCord  
Jennifer McKeon  
James McTyre  
John Mankelwicz  
Preston Marvel  
Lilah Messerly  
Turner Mitchell  
Allen Moretsky  
Hale Morrisette  
Ed Muller  
Katie Nicholls  
Cooper Nolen  
Jean Norman  
Charlyle Parrish  
Robin Pratt  
Jennifer Reichwage  
Clare Reilly  
Dee Reilly  
Jerry Rhodes  
Stephen Ringl

Matt Rizzo  
Clyde Roark  
Tia Robbins  
Tre Robbins  
Patrick Rooney  
Pamela Schwartz  
Randolph Scott  
Sajida Shabanali  
Jacob Shively  
Toni Sparks  
Carrie Stevenson  
Steve Stroberger  
Derek Stomas  
Julie Tippins Parker  
Michael Tona  
Jeannine Van Reeth  
Geraldine Vaurigaud  
Celeste Whisenant  
Sandra Winborne  
Gerry Yandle  
Leslie Yandle  
Liz Yelverton

# ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MAY 2025

Chair: Liz Yelverton  
Vice-Chair: Logan McDonald  
Secretary: Jean Norman  
Treasurer: Stephen MacHelms-Beth

Carrie Cromeey  
Leigh M. DeSantis  
Karen Jurkowich  
Henry Kelley  
Marty Griffith  
Karen Sassano Kellams  
Kayla Mabry

Randolph Scott  
Julie Tippins Parker  
Dee Reilly  
Clyde Roark  
Jeannine Van Reeth



**If you are interested in serving on the board, the application, expectations, and responsibilities are available on the website.**

*May 2025 Annual Meeting  
Clockwise from top left: Immediate Past Board Chair Leigh DeSantis with Deputy Director Sandy Jacobs, Office of International Visitors, U.S. Department of State; Past Board Chair Rachel Hendrix with Secretary Jean Norman; Board Treasurer Stephen MacHelms-Beth*



*Annual Meeting  
May 2025  
Clockwise top left  
to bottom:  
Board Member  
Marty Griffith  
speaks to  
membership;  
Member Gayle  
Baugh and Board  
Member Clyde  
Roark; Board  
Member Julie  
Tippins Parkter  
and Guest of  
Honor Sandy  
Jacobs; Board  
Members Karen  
Jurkowich and  
Carlos Collard*

## STAFF



**Jena Mélançon**  
Founder and  
Executive Director



**Eden Davenport**  
Program  
Coordinator

## TEAM CITIZEN DIPLOMACY

Our work is possible because there are many people who work behind the scenes to make the itineraries seamless. You know who you are, and we appreciate you all. Team Citizen Diplomacy is a gem, and we are thankful to live in such a community.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Our paid internship program allows students to learn employable skills while introducing them to U.S. foreign policy goals and to the best that Northwest Florida has to offer in businesses, cultural resources, higher education, government agencies, and the nonprofit sector. In 2025, we worked with two students: Reina Caine and Clare Reilly, who assisted us with Camp Global and compiling statistics for our grant work.



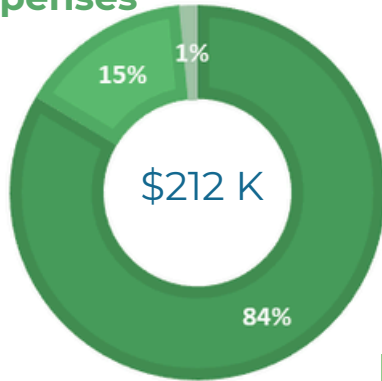


# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

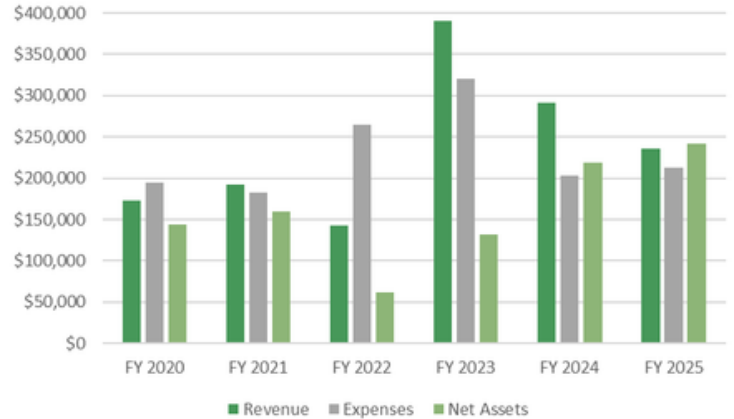
■ Program Service ■ Admin ■ Fundraising

## Expenses



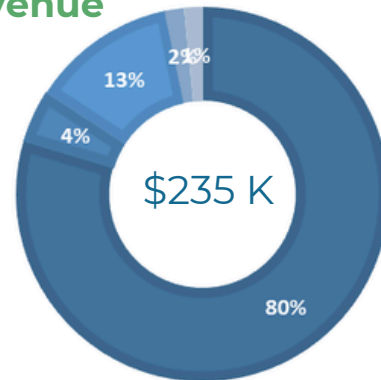
83.54%

of expenses went directly to program services



■ Public Grants ■ Membership ■ All Other ■ Fundraising ■ Program Service

## Revenue



## LOOKING FORWARD

1

### **Reinstating the International Speaker Series**

In 2026, we hope to relaunch our international speaker series. Anticipated as a quarterly event, the series will provide IVLP participants with a platform to engage directly with residents through public talks and Q&A sessions.

2

### **Launching Quarterly Sessions of IVLP in the Classroom**

We will continue to collaborate with local middle and high schools to organize regular *IVLP in the Classroom* sessions, connecting students with international professionals in real-time and enriching instruction in civics, global affairs, and leadership.

3

### **Strengthening Local Institutional Capacity for Global Engagement**

In 2026, we want to grow our international exchange programs effectively by adding new professional resources, including local businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, and academic experts, to our network. This growth will enhance our region's ability to offer a comprehensive and authentic American experience to IVLP visitors, thereby advancing national security priorities through people-to-people diplomacy.



*Community members continued engagement with IVLP exchange alumni this year through virtual conversations with university students in Ukraine and India and through ongoing professional collaboration with an IVLP alumnus in Mexico.*

**St. Francis**  
College for Women  
Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016  
(Autonomous & Affiliated to Osmania University)

**Department of Zoology**

Organizes  
**Guest lecture on**  
**Stewards of Our Blue Planet : Sea Turtles,  
Biodiversity and Conservation Initiatives**

**Resource Person**  
  
**Cathy S. Holmes**  
Founder, Navarre Beach Sea  
Turtle Conservation Center,  
Gulf Breeze, Florida

**September 27, 2025**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Google Meet**

Organised by : **Dr. Vidya Jayaram** Associate Professor  
**Dr. Jyothi Rani** HoD - Zoology

For the Students of B.Sc. IIIA & IIIN

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
SFC supports SDG

# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

Blue Wind  
City of Pensacola  
Clark Partington  
Dreamcatcher Shuttle  
Escambia County  
The Hive Foundation  
Home for Rent LLC  
Karen Jurkowich, Realtor  
Seville Quarter  
Tower East  
University of West Florida, Historic  
Trust  
University of West Florida, Office of  
International Affairs

John Baehr  
Lois Benson  
Glenn Carey  
Carlos Collard  
Carrie Cromei  
Kent De Santis

Leigh De Santis  
Christy Draper  
Nora Ellertsen  
Vivian Faircloth  
Ellen Fisher  
Allan Ford

Sally Fox  
Racine Frank  
Guy Gascard  
Marty Griffith  
Nan Harper  
Stephen Helms-MacBeth  
Rachel Hendrix  
Beth & Bruce Hoffman  
Jimmy Jones  
Karen Jurkowich  
Karen Kellams  
Henry Kelley  
Yasmine Khabou  
Logan McDonald  
Erin McIntosh  
Jena Mélançon  
Carole Neuner  
Peg & Eric Nickelsen  
Jean Norman  
Jeremy Ochoa  
Debbie O'Neill

Ken Pile  
Carol Powell  
Megan Pratt  
Jim Reeves  
Dee Reilly  
Clyde Roark  
Robert Robinson  
Pamela Schwartz  
Randolph Scott  
Susan Senkarik  
Justine Simoni  
Stephen Terry  
Jim Thomas  
Todd Thomson  
Julie Tippins Parker  
Jeannine Van Reeth  
Nina Voges  
Linda Wade  
Keith Wilkins  
Leslie & Gerald Yandle  
Liz & Basil Yelverton



Clockwise top left to bottom: Vietnamese IVLP participants exploring public safety (Dec 2024); An Open World participant from Ukraine enjoying Waffle House over the weekend with her host family (May 2025); At UWF, Open World visitors from Poland learned about U.S. federalism (Nov 2024)



*Youth Diplomats meeting with  
Moldovan local government  
leaders on an exchange via the  
Congressional Office for  
International Leadership of the  
U.S. Library of Congress  
(August 2025)*

## CHANGE THROUGH EXCHANGE

Change Through Exchange supports the locally funded work that makes international exchange possible in Northwest Florida. While federal funding supports specific exchange activities, donations sustain the planning, community engagement, and educational programs that are not federally funded.

Through Gulf Coast Diplomacy, international visitors meet with local professionals, educators, and students, contributing to our economy and expanding professional and educational opportunities in our region. Donations also support Youth Diplomats and scholarships to the program, preparing local students for civic and professional leadership.

These locally funded efforts ensure Northwest Florida remains an active partner in federally sponsored exchange programs while strengthening workforce readiness and civic engagement close to home.

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, families, and sponsors whose generosity makes this work possible. Your support helps prepare future leaders and strengthens our community through education and exchange.

# THANK YOU TO OUR CHANGE THROUGH EXCHANGE DONORS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

## \$5 - 99 Donation

Gayle Baugh	Samantha Pitts
Christina Bridwell	William & Teresa Preston
Thomas Derbes	Patrick Rooney
Sophia Forsley	Zachary Schang
Charles Kahn	Whitney Scheffel
Karen Kellams	Randolph Scott
Diane Kratochvil	Krista Smith
Laura Lawrence	Joe Sonderman
Ann Livingston	Mary Ann Taylor
Vanessa Mayes	Jeannine Van Reeth
Barbara Mozur	Sandra Winborne
Amy Palmer	Brian Wyer

## \$100 - 145 Donation

Jennifer Brahier	Ric Nickelsen
Rick & Heidi Branch	Jan O'Rourke
Patricia Drlicka	Leslie Parson
Paula Drummond	Mary Reeber
Bobbi Godwin	Jennifer Reichwage
Amishha Gujral	Carol Sekhon
Cookie Kichler	Chris Stephenson
Landrum Family Foundation	Ellen Vinson
Philomena Madden	Leslie Yandle

## \$150 Donation

Laura Boyles	Ellen Fisher	Jim Reeves
James Callahan	Laura Gilliam	Jack Stevenson
Robyn Christensen-Sandfort	Brandy Hauwiler	Vowells Printing
James and Terry Crowe		

# THANK YOU TO OUR CHANGE THROUGH EXCHANGE DONORS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

## \$200 Donation

Luke Hunt  
Timothy & J.W. Kane  
Larry Morris

## \$300 - 350 Donation

Carlos Collard  
Rachel Hendrix

## \$250 Donation

Advanced Construction  
Services  
Allan Ford  
Casey Jones  
Beth McDonald  
Jena Mélançon  
Jared Moore  
Carole Neuner

Allison Patton  
Clyde Roark  
Santa Rosa Band of  
the Lower Muscogee Inc  
Pamela Schwartz  
Murray Turner  
Bonita Witkin  
Susan Woolf

## \$500 Donation

City of Gulf Breeze  
Janet Delorge  
Laura Ericson

Eric & Peg Nickelsen  
Megan Pratt  
Tiffany Weidner



# THANK YOU TO OUR CHANGE THROUGH EXCHANGE DONORS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

## \$550 - 999 Donation

Karen Jurkowich  
Logan McDonald

Julie Tippins Parker  
Liz & Basil Yelverton

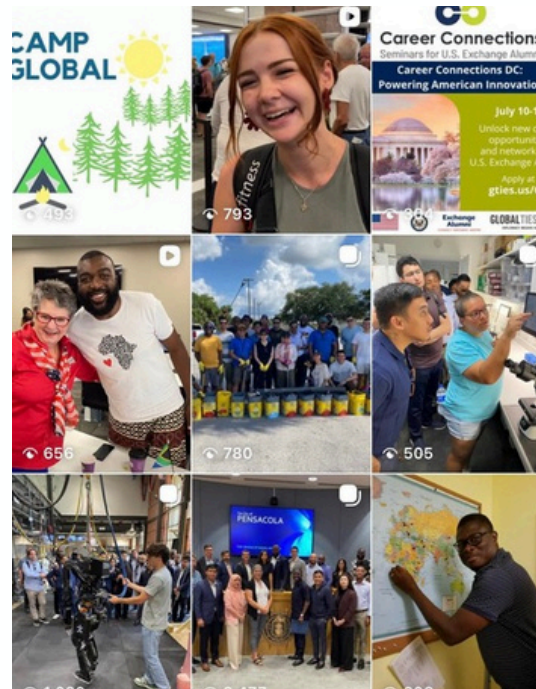
## \$1,000 Donation

Charles Bare  
Lois & Scott Benson

Henry Kelley  
Dee Reilly

## \$2,000+ Donation

Leigh & Kent De Santis  
The Hive  
Jean Norman



*A glimpse  
of our  
Instagram  
feed and  
some of the  
activities  
the Change  
Through  
Exchange  
campaign  
helps fund*

# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$60 - \$100

Charles Bare  
Sara Brake  
Brigette Brooks  
Julie Connerley  
Patricia Drlicka  
Marcia Edwards  
Bobbi Godwin  
Stephen Helms-Macbeth  
Karen Jurkowich  
Karen Kellams  
Fred Ketchem  
Joe Lepo  
Ann Livingston  
Kayla Mabry

Philomena Madden  
Vanessa Mayes  
Jena Mélançon  
Tamara Mitchell  
Dave Murzin  
Jean Norman  
Maria Queirolo  
Linda Radomski  
Kenneth Roberts  
Randolph Scott  
Linda Thompson  
Jeannine Van Reeth  
Linda Wade  
Brian Wyer

## FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

\$110 - \$200

Brian Barlow  
Jim Crowe  
Janet Delorge  
Sophia Forsley  
Gerald Goldstein  
Logan McDonald  
Teresa Preston  
Jim Reeves  
Colleen Rogers

## CORPORATE

### CORPORATE MEMBER

Home4Rent LLC

### AMBASSADOR CIRCLE

Tower East Group  
Blue Winds

# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

FROM 10/1/2024 TO 9/30/2025

## AMBASSADOR LEVEL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$250+

Gayle Baugh  
Laura Boyles  
Carlos Collard  
Carrie Cromey  
Carmen Cuneo  
Kent De Santis  
Leigh De Santis  
Vivian Faircloth  
Allan Ford  
Martin Griffith  
Susie Griffith  
Rachel Hendrix  
Henry Kelley  
Gary McGraw  
Patricia McGraw

Ed Muller  
Dee Reilly  
Patrick Reilly  
Maria de Jesus Ritz  
Michael Ritz  
Pamela Schwartz  
Lynn Sonderman  
Chris Stephenson  
Jack Stevenson  
Julia Tippins Parker  
Gerald Yandle  
Leslie Yandle  
Basil Yelverton  
Liz Yelverton



Left to right:  
Board Vice Chair  
Logan McDonald  
meeting a  
participant from  
Moldova; The  
Boyles family  
reconnecting with  
their Ukrainian  
exchange student



# SUPPORT OUR WORK

GULF COAST DIPLOMACY RELIES ON AND IS INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS & DONORS.

Gulf Coast Diplomacy is a registered 501(c)3 organization, and contributions are tax-deductible. Donate at [www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org/donate/](http://www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org/donate/)

## BECOME A MEMBER

Our work strengthens national security by fostering direct engagement between Americans and international partners. Your membership dues support local education initiatives like Youth Diplomats and Camp Global and help fund paid internships that prepare students in Northwest Florida for civic and professional leadership.

## BECOME A SPONSOR

Exchanges strengthen our local economy and expand educational and professional opportunities for youth in Northwest Florida. They also help international visitors gain firsthand experience with American communities and institutions. As a sponsor, you support programs that prepare students, engage residents, and strengthen relationships that benefit our community and nation.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING [www.800helpsla.com](http://www.800helpsla.com). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION #CH 28751

# OUR PROGRAMMING CALENDAR

## October

- SKY Leaders Kazakhstan
- Youth Diplomats

## November

- Camp Global Dakhla
- Open World Poland
- Youth Ambassadors for Community Service
- IVLP: *Hidden No More: Empowering Women Leaders in STEM*
- IVLP: *Youth Entrepreneurship - A Sub-Regional Project*
- Youth Diplomats

## December

- IVLP: *Next Steps in Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security National Action Plan*
- IVLP: *Law Enforcement Training for Investigation and Prosecution of Crimes*
- IVLP: *Preventing and Confronting Domestic Abuse and Violence*
- IVLP: *Venture Capital Investment and Regulation: Learning from the U.S. Model*
- Youth Diplomats

## January

- *IVLP in the Classroom: Global Health*
- *IVLP: Building Entrepreneurship and Capacity, A Project for Azerbaijan*
- Youth Ambassadors Brazil
- Youth Diplomats

## February

- *IVLP: Technology Innovators: Education in the Digital Age I*
- *Global Ties U.S. IVLP Training in Washington, D.C.*
- *Great Decisions*
- Youth Diplomats

## March

- *Citizen Diplomacy Training*
- *Great Decisions*
- Youth Diplomats

## April

- *Great Decisions*
- Youth Diplomats

## May

- *Annual Meeting*
- *Open World Ukraine*
- *IVLP: Local Strategies for Promoting Economic Growth*

## May, cont.

- *IVLP: Advancing Economic Prosperity*
- *Great Decisions*

## June

- *IVLP: Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management*
- *IVLP in the Classroom: STEM Education and Careers in STEM*
- *Camp Global*

## July

- *IVLP: Digital Standards: Fostering Security and Innovation*
- *IVLP: Young Leaders Renew, Inspire, Serve and Empower*
- *IVLP: Artificial Intelligence – Harnessing the Power of Technology*
- *Youth Diplomats & Faces of Service*

## August

- *Open World Moldova*
- *Youth Diplomats*

## September

- *IVLP: Towards a More Safe and Secure World*
- *IVLP in the Classroom: We the People*
- *Association for Dipomatic Studies and Training Community Presentations*
- *Youth Diplomats*



Clockwise, top left to bottom: IVLP participants exploring investigation methods with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office (Sept 2025); Faces of Service students exploring civic engagement through a local government simulation (July 2025); IVLP Technology Innovators at Pensacola City Hall (Feb 2025); Open World visitors from Poland are briefed on the Electoral College (Nov 2024)



You welcomed a stranger and sent home a friend.

Madura M. Chatrapathy, IVLP Alumna

The IVLP offers priceless opportunities to understand the United States and the American people through direct experience and to make valuable contacts...I am immensely grateful for the insights in the U.S. which this exchange scheme provided. I have drawn on them regularly since then.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair



THIS PUBLICATION WAS FUNDED BY THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED.

150 W Maxwell St  
Pensacola, FL 32501  
(850) 377-3176  
[www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org](http://www.gulfcoastdiplomacy.org)

**Proud member of Global Ties U.S.**



@gulfcoastdiplomacy



@gulfdiplomacy



@gulfcoastdiplomacy



Gulf Coast  
Diplomacy



@gulfcoastdiplomacy