

Seven Rivers Region WISE Business Partners

What was your favorite summer job during summer break? Was it stocking shelves in a grocery store? Learning about local banking? Serving ice cream to hungry kids? Did that job change your life?



For Anastasia Yakovleva, her job last summer and the people she worked with in La Crosse "will stay in my heart forever". She shares "I don't know if it is magic or something else, but the crew at the [People's Food] Co-op is specially selected! I'm not sure if there are other places in the world like this!"

This summer Seven Rivers region employers will again join

World Services as citizen diplomats-extending their businesses to provide life changing experiences for Russian college students from La Crosse's Sister City Dubna.

Since 2007 World Services and the La Crosse Dubna Friendship Association have welcomed Dubna University students for the U.S. State Department's Summer Work & Travel program. Program goals are to facilitate international understanding and appreciation. Dubna University students are cultural ambassadors to Seven Rivers Region co-workers, customers and citizens.

Say "Hello" to the University WISE Students this summer at:

Buzz's Bikes
Coulee Bank
Culvers of Onalaska
People's Food Co-op
Rudy's Drive-in
The Pearl
the Y
Waterfront Restaurant & Tavern

Thank You Event Sponsors and Friends!

The World Services Board of Directors extends a heartfelt thanks to all who supported our first-ever Citizen Diplomat Celebration in March.

Sponsors and friends helped us reach out to more people, create a celebratory and inclusive atmosphere, instill a spirit of citizen diplomacy and spread hope for world peace.



World Services' Citizen Diplomat Volunteers



Celebrating People in Action

National Volunteer Month

Thank you to all of World Services' faithful friends, volunteers, donors, home hosts, and professionals, who share time, expertise, hospitality and a spirit of generosity as citizen diplomats!

Exceptional People doing Extraordinary Work

World Services welcomes Open World delegates hosted by our partner cities across the U.S. Thank you to these volunteers for promoting world peace through mutual understanding.



May & June Volunteer Hosts Tajikistan Delegates

- ◆ Advisory Commission on International Relationships, Great Falls, Mont.
- ◆ Creating Great Places, Coon Rapids, Iowa
- ◆ Boulder Dushanbe Sister Cities, Boulder, Colo.

Russian Delegates

- ◆ International Institute of Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.
- ◆ Maryland Sister States Annapolis, M.D.
- ◆ Iowa Sister States Des Moines, Iowa
- ◆ RUS Global Initiatives Appleton, Wis.
- ◆ World Services of La Crosse La Crosse, Wis.

Ukrainian Delegates

- ◆ Sebastopol World Friends Sebastopol, Calif.



**Connecting Communities
Building Peace**

For more than a decade, World Services has worked to improve international relations, making real, practical and measurable changes in the lives of people around the globe. Through our work with hundreds of volunteer citizen diplomats, our international friends come to view Americans differently. The *World Services Newsletter* highlights and celebrates the commitment of volunteers who connect communities to build peace.



Santa Barbara Celebrates Diversity with Open World Ukraine Legislators

“The price of the democratic way of life is a growing appreciation of people's differences, not merely as tolerable, but as the essence of a rich and rewarding human experience.” Jerome Nathanson

By hosting Open World delegations, volunteer citizen diplomats around the country give witness to American democracy and respect for human rights. Thanks to Santa Barbara Sister City Board volunteers for sharing America's democratic governance with a delegation of legislators from the Crimea Region of Ukraine in March.

The exchange with the Crimean leaders has inspired Santa Barbara community leaders to organize a delegation to travel to Ukraine in the next year. While visiting Yalta in the autonomous Republic of Crimea, a peninsula in southern Ukraine, Santa Barbara officials hope to rekindle a dormant Sister City partnership.

Crimea is a multi-ethnic region of Ukraine with a majority of ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and repatriating Crimean Tatars. Faced with non-violent tensions in the Crimea region between ethnic groups, the Open World participants noticed the cultural mosaic of America. They noted the respect for individual rights and freedoms enforced by the rule of law in local government.

A “Day of Mexico” cultural heritage celebration at Westmont College altered their opinion about ethnic diversity. The Open World delegates plan to take the idea of celebrating ethnic diversity back to Ukraine. As community leaders, they will encourage citizens to hold cultural celebrations honoring and respecting cultures for mutual understanding.

Volunteers needed in La Crosse, and Minneapolis/ St. Paul!

Open World delegates from Russia will visit La Crosse June 22—30 to explore the Seven Rivers Region and share professional experience in community leadership. Ukraine judges, through the Open World program, will be hosted in the Twin Cities with the Minnesota District Federal Court September 15– 22.

Home and hospitality host volunteers needed!

Call World Services today!! Ph 608-781-4194.

WISE students in La Crosse appreciate social exchanges with area hospitality volunteers. Call us to share Western Wisconsin with our Dubna friends.

NEWS is published for friends, volunteers and supporters of World Services of La Crosse. For more information, contact World Services 1601 Caledonia St., Suite B, La Crosse, WI 54603 Ph: 608-781-4194
Email: info@wslax.us Visit us on the web at www.wslax.us
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Thinking about traveling internationally?

Be prepared!

Passport Expiration Date?

Do I need a visa?

What is an invitation?

Migration Card?

Registration Card?

International travel can be complicated. Plan Ahead!

The U.S. State Department has many resources and services to help you plan your business or tourism trip abroad.

1) See; [“Tips for Traveling Abroad”](#).

2) Check your [U.S. Passport](#) If you are traveling to any foreign country, you must have a passport that is valid for at least six months after the date you enter a foreign country.

3) Determine if you need a visa. A travel visa (permission) is required to enter many countries. Each country has unique entry requirements.

When World Services staff need assistance with international travel planning, we appreciate the timely, helpful support by

[Travisa \(www.travisa.com\)](#) Travisa specialists help World Services obtain all the necessary invitations and visas for countries around the world.