



# Cyprus Friendship Program Newsletter

**SPRING 2011**

Online at [www.HasNa.org/CFP.html](http://www.HasNa.org/CFP.html)



\* \* \* \* \*

*Melanie: However, the most important contribution our host families gave us was that they taught us many valuable lessons about life. By offering their home time and love to two teenagers for a whole month they were a living example of how to make the world a better place. ... they all had two things in common: A big heart and a spare room*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Host Families Needed in CT, DC, MD, NH, OR, & VA

HasNa founded CFP in 2009. CFP operated as a pilot program in 2009 and 2010, with 19 pairs of teens hosted. All pairs were hosted in Northern Virginia in 2009 and two pairs were hosted in New Hampshire in 2010, as the program tested spreading to multiple locations.



CFP has ended its pilot phase, which was extraordinarily successful (see other stories) and is moving to full implementation in 2011.

CFP is seeking host families for July in New Hampshire, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the Portland, Oregon area. There are 16 pairs of Greek and Turkish Cypriot girls (15-17 years old) and 14 pairs of boys, who were selected by the

coordinators in Cyprus from amongst a large pool of applicants. They are talented young adults committed to improving the future of their island. They are anxiously waiting to see if there will be host families for them for four weeks in July (approx. June 30-July 28, 2011). Hosts need to fulfill three criteria: 1) a safe, neutral home for the teens to build a friendship; 2) a bedroom for the pair to share alone; and 3) daylong adult supervision.

If you can meet these criteria, you have the opportunity to directly and personally promote peace between wonderful peoples, deeply divided, in an important area of the world. We need hosts for 5-10 pairs in each of the five areas—enough to hold a number of group activities over the month. Please contact your area coordinator (listed on p. 4) if you have an interest or questions.

## Please Help CFP to Buy the Airline Tickets for the Teen Pairs this Summer

**CFP has Received a Generous \$10,000 Matching Challenge Grant from a Family!**

HasNa founded and provided financial support to enable CFP to operate on a pilot basis in 2009 in Virginia and in 2010 expanding to New Hampshire. And, HasNa has pledged \$30,000 to provide seed money in support of CFP's goal of expanding further to Connecticut, Maryland, and Oregon this summer.

Over the first two years it cost approximately \$4,000 for each CFP pair to participate in the program, almost all of which consisted of their airfares and travel insurance, and a chaperon on their flight. Airfares have gone up over the past year and will continue to vary, especially with fuel surcharges, until tickets are finally purchased.



**\$13,371+ (depending upon final fuel surcharges and ticket prices) is needed by the end of April to enable all 30 pairs to be hosted this summer. Please help if you can.**

**Toward that goal a family is generously offering to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 in contributions received by CFP by May 2, 2011. So, you can double the value of your gift in support of friendship and peace.**

Contributions to CFP are tax deductible. **Checks should be made out to HasNa, Inc. with "CFP" indicated on the memo line and be mailed to Warren Muir, Executive Director, Cyprus Friendship Program, 2931, S. Columbus St.-B1, Arlington, VA 22206-1440.**

Donate online at [www.hasna.org/CFP.html](http://www.hasna.org/CFP.html) and type "CFP" in the memo line. Thanks.

### INSIDE

	Page
CFPNI	2
HasNa, Inc.	2
Reflections	2
Facts About Cyprus	3
Area Coordinators Needed	3
Group Activities in Cyprus	3
CFP Coordinators in the US	4



## Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc.

The Cyprus Friendship Program is based upon the successful all-volunteer Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc. Peggy Barrett, a housewife in Pennsylvania, supported by her husband, Jack, founded CFPNI in 1987 based upon the simple vision that the divisions in Northern Ireland could only be overcome by building understanding, trust, and friendships between the teenaged leaders of the future from the two communities. Friendships would be supported by Americans who would host a cross-community pair of teens and who would continue to support their friendships in the future.



*Peggy Barrett with 2009 CFP Teens*

CFPNI ended after Summer 2007, only because the situation in Northern Ireland had improved to such a degree that bringing teens from the two communities to the US was no longer needed for them to build friendships. Over its 21 years, CFPNI brought teens from more than 2,000 different families in Northern Ireland and hosted them in about two-dozen different areas of the US. An enormous network of friendships remain that were formed through the program.

Several of CFP host families and US coordinators were active in CFPNI. Peggy's vision lives on, and she had a chance to meet all the 2009 CFP teens, when they were in the US. (See picture).



## HasNa, Inc.

While the Cyprus Friendship Program is based upon the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, it was founded in 2009 by HasNa, Inc., a 12-year old, Washington-DC-based non-profit organization. Indeed, most of the financial support of CFP during

its two-year pilot phase came from HasNa. And, HasNa has budgeted \$30,000 for CFP in 2011 to help the program move beyond its expansion across the US this summer.

HasNa promotes understanding and economic empowerment in culturally-divided areas of the world and encourages individuals and communities in such areas to work together toward advancement and peaceful coexistence.

HasNa's programs integrate all members of a community through the fabric of social justice and professional development. It nurtures this vision by planting seeds of peace in communities across a troubled world.

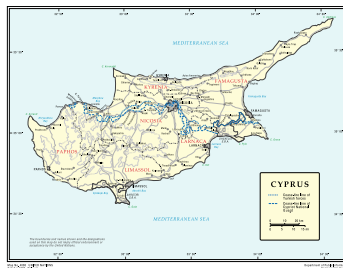
HasNa works at the grassroots level to create communication and collaboration among ethnically divided peoples, providing the tools and ongoing assistance to support small-scale, sustainable efforts aimed at economic and social development.

## Reflections

I'm writing this in haste, as we need to get this newsletter into the hands of potential host families and of contributors. I'll write in more detail in our next newsletter. In the meantime, I'd like to address specifically a few of you who are in special categories.

**To those who don't know much about Cyprus:** Cyprus is seldom in the news. So, few know of the division between the wonderful people on this beautiful Middle Eastern island in the Mediterranean.

Cyprus in many ways is more divided than Northern Ireland was when we started, but CFP offers us a greater opportunity to contribute to a brighter future there.



There was rampant paramilitary violence between members of the Greek Cypriot majority and of the Turkish Cypriot minority throughout the 1960's and early 1970's. The violence peaked in 1974, when Turkey sent its army to Cyprus leading the island to be partitioned, with UN Peacekeepers separating the two communities and with many on each side of the partition refugees from the other side.

Since then, the two communities have lived separated from one another, each with its own truths about history, and seldom, if ever, recognizing the suffering shared by the other. Only a few years ago a handful of crossings were opened in the partition allowing people to visit the other side for the first time in thirty years. Some have done so.

But, any teen crossing the divide has no safe place to go to meet teens from the other side who would be welcoming. CFP provides such "places." And, as the number of CFP participants increases, the places will get more numerous and larger.

**To those of you who, like me, participated in the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland:** Over a number of years we witnessed a dramatic transformation and healing amongst two communities in Northern Ireland who had been bitterly divided for centuries. We know that, along with other organizations promoting peace, we contributed to bringing about that transformation. Indeed, these collective efforts were cited explicitly in the 1998 Peace Agreement.

As significant as CFPNI was in Northern Ireland, CFP has the potential to be even more important in Cyprus. Unlike Northern Ireland that had many non-profit organizations promoting peace in a variety of ways, CFP is one of few in Cyprus.

The coordinators in Cyprus are awe inspiring. Most have been involved in some forms of cross-community dialog in the past. Yet, they have been energized and are devoting enormous efforts identifying and bringing together young leaders of the two communities, their families, and their friends from more and more schools and towns.

The coordinators, the CFP teens, and the families of both are at risk because of their efforts organizing creative, high-profile, cross-community CFP activities.

And, the CFP teens are extraordinary. They are so committed to making a difference in the future of their island. They are standing up to extremists who threaten them for developing friendships with those from the other community. They are in constant contact with one another through social media and are organizing their own activities and groups to model their friendships for others.

**To Peggy Barrett:** You should be very proud. You helped the peoples of Northern Ireland to develop friendships and peace. And, now your vision lives on and bringing hope for a brighter future in Cyprus. Thanks!

*Warren*

## Facts About Cyprus



- Most Cypriots younger than 36 years old have grown up without contact with anyone from the other side.
- Both communities are filled with wonderful people who have much in common culturally, but the long years of separation have made many Cypriots unaware of this fact.
- While it has been possible for Cypriots to cross the divide via checkpoints since 2003 they cannot choose to live in the 'other side.'
- Peace in Cyprus could offer a model elsewhere in the Middle East.
- Families hosting Turkish- and Greek-Cypriot teens in their homes in the U.S. show American goodwill, caring and generosity.
- There is a real opportunity for CFP to help bridge the Cyprus divide and build a brighter future starting now

## Area Coordinators Needed for 2012

This summer we hope to host 30 pairs of teens across five different states. CFPNI found that to host 60 pairs balances the reach of the program with the management ability of an all-volunteer organization.

We are seeking to identify one or two new area coordinators in states other than NH, CT, MD, VA, and OR in each of the next few years to enable CFP to expand to a 60- pair-per-year program. Individuals who have been CFP hosts or who have either hosted or served as coordinators in CFPNI would be particularly good candidates. Please contact Warren ([warrenm@cyprusfriendship.org](mailto:warrenm@cyprusfriendship.org)) by this summer, with your interest or questions.  
\* \* \* \* \*

*Cyprus needs an honest and open dialogue about the past if people are to walk together into a shared future. But it is not easy. Reconciliation is a process, and it takes a long time. It means saying to the other 'I want to begin to be your friend' and to open yourself up to the possibility of being hurt or misunderstood. But the fruits of that work are fantastic! What I have seen this time on the island makes me more hopeful. I think Cyprus can be a beacon of hope for the whole world.*

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu  
December, 2010

## Group Activities in Cyprus

It is what happens in Cyprus now and in the future that is the heart of CFP. And, with extraordinary efforts on the part of the coordinators and the teens in Cyprus, a lot is happening.



### CFP Brings the Families of Teens Together

CFP teens accepted into the program commit themselves not only to pursue friendships with program participants from the other community, but also to work together as a group to bridge the divide in Cyprus. Selecting teens 15-17yrs old enables each to have at least one more year in Cyprus before heading to university or military service. In October, there is a graduation ceremony in Cyprus to which all teens, their parents, their family members, and host families are invited to celebrate the friendships formed over the year and to recommit to working together to promote peace and friendship in Cyprus.



### First Meeting with Someone from the Other Side

Group activities in Cyprus over the past year have included:

- Providing radio and television interviews,
- Making group presentations to schools and youth clubs across the island,
- Holding numerous social events to which other friends have been invited,
- Producing a video to support the nomination of the Internet for the Nobel Peace Prize (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRIFjT8VBsg>),

- Making presentations to and being hosted by the Peace Boat (<http://27.34.134.133/english/index.php?page=view&nr=66&type=20&menu=64> . Note Cise Sakali is a CFP coordinator),
- "Adopting" a 12 year old child from Malawi, covering her costs of education and other basic needs.

Two CFP pairs were selected by the Elders to spend several days with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Lahkdar Brahimi, and former President Jimmy Carter on their visit to promote peace in Cyprus. The visit is the subject of a documentary video that was released in Cyprus in February by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr. Gro Brundtland and two days later in London in Parliament Buildings. The documentary will be used for educational purposes across Cyprus starting in September. (<http://www.theelders.org/media/video/cyprus-documentary> is a trailer about the documentary and <http://www.theelders.org/media/video/teenagers-promoting-peace-cyprus> shows the presentation to the MPs, Lords, and leaders of the Cypriot diaspora.)

Local citizens joined CFP teens from 2011, 2010, 2009, their families, and CFP coordinators at the geographical center of Cyprus. Teen pairs each planted trees to form a Circle of Peace. Flowers were placed in the center of the circle by pairs by Greek and Turkish Cypriot teens and adults in memory of those from both communities who have died over the years. The event was covered by BBC and was filmed by the teens for CNN. (<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-580337> )

All CFP teens are Facebook friends with one another, interacting across the divide daily. Thus, these cross-community friendships are being witnessed by thousands of other teen "friends" in Cyprus.



### CFP Teen Pairs Make Presentations in Schools

CFP activities have had such a high profile that they have prompted extremist group threats to CFP's teens and coordinators.



2931 South Columbus St.-B1  
Arlington, VA 22206-1440

Please join us in promoting friendship, understanding, trust, and peace!



*Two Pairs of CFP Teens Spent Several Days with Former President Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Lahkdar Brahimi*

*The Time Together is featured in a Documentary Video Produced by the Elders and being Shown Across Cyprus*

*The Elders Sponsored CFP pairs in 2010*

Videos, photos, press releases, and commentaries about the teens and the Elders are at [www.theelders.org](http://www.theelders.org).

The Cyprus Friendship Program is the subject of a US State Department video that was released on the anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The video can be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5t9gsCKN3w>

Hosts and Donors are invited to the CFP 2011 Graduation on Sat. Oct. 8, 2011 Nicosia, CYPRUS

Cassie Cleverly  
New Hampshire Coordinator  
cassiec@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-603-563-7046

Don Guzewicz  
Transportation Coordinator  
dong@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-570-421-8930

Priyanka Komala  
Webmaster  
priyankak@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-202-334-1634

Tom McCarthy  
Maryland Coordinator  
tomm@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-301-774-7069

Mike Messinger  
Northern Virginia Coordinator  
mikem@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-703-536-5230

Liz Swenson  
Connecticut Coordinator  
lizs@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-860-388-2503

### CFP Coordinators in the US

Kim Bell  
Transportation Coordinator  
kimb@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-610-678-3182

Cheron Calder  
Portland, OR Coordinator  
cheronc@cyprusfriendship.org  
+1-503-224-1853