



IFYE® Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

IFYE UPDATE – March 2024

Calling all IFYE Alumni!

Barb Batie, Farm Bill Committee

Work on the Farm Bill has resumed in earnest in both the Congress and the Senate and the IFYE Farm Bill Subcommittee is still hoping to secure a place for international agriculture cultural immersion exchange programs within the framework of the next Farm Bill, along with 2025 appropriations for those programs.

We ask YOU to take to your computer, phone or tablet and contact your Senators and Congressmen via email to remind them of IFYE's importance in developing future agricultural leaders for their states and local communities.

An updated [sample letter](#) is on the IFYE website for your quick action. It includes language tailored to new developments within our organization and to reflect what we've learned in our lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill.

Farm Bill News

Jan Wood, Farm Bill Committee

Since January, IFYE sent two letters to the legislative Agriculture Committee members. A very specific letter was first sent to members of both the Senate and House Ag Committees outlining how the IFYE Association's plan is to use 2024 for the future structure of the organization and resume the exchange program in 2025. Follow-up calls were scheduled with the staff. The second letter was addressed to members of the House Ag Committee to explain how IFYE can help them achieve their priorities as outlined by the minority leadership of the committee.

Last week we learned that 2025 Appropriations requests are due soon. We submitted our first request to a House member last Friday and have requested forms from all members of the House Ag Committee. Eighteen members (at this writing) have replied with a form or link to complete in the next few days.

CALL TO ACTION

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS!



1. LOOK UP YOUR LEGISLATORS

Go to:
<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials/>
to see who your legislators are.

2. CHECK IFYEUSA.ORG

Click on the farm bill tab on our website to get the list of action points to include in your email.



3. TELL YOUR STORY!

IFYE fosters future leaders in local communities through learning experiences. World perspective is gained through cultural immersion and host family stays.



MORE DETAILS AT: IFYEUSA.ORG

The IFYE® Association shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin.

ifyeusa.org

IFYE Strategic Planning Process

Carolyn Hansen, Board President

Following the November decision to not participate in an exchange for 2024, the Board of Directors tasked the Development Committee to research how best to develop a new structure for the organization to move forward. The Development Committee commissioned a Focus Group comprised



(L to R) Barb Ford – Facilitator; **Caroline Ahrends** – Collegiate 4-H (U of IL); **John Barte Jr.** – Agribusiness, VP F&M Bank Ag. Lending (TN); **Matti Osterman** – 2012 IFYE: KS to UK/Switzerland; **Cora Rhode** – 2022 IFYE: CO to Switzerland/UK; **Pat Donahue** – Facilitator, 1971 IFYE-YDP: OH to Botswana; **Karla Trautman** – Extension Director – SD State Univ.; **Kate Garrity** – Multi-gen. IFYE Family 2018 IFYE: MI to India; **Andre Rodriguez** – Ag. Attaché, Chilean Embassy; **Andreas Altemueller** – Smith-Bucklin commodities

of four IFYEs and four individuals from the private and public sectors. We included an expert in agricultural lending, an Extension Director from South Dakota, a current collegian who is part of Collegiate 4-H and has had international experience with States' 4-H International, an executive with a non-profit association

management organization and the Agricultural Attache from Chile (a prospective host partner). The President and Associate Treasurer of IFYE were also on hand to provide organizational background and observe the discussions. Two professional volunteers, one of whom is an IFYE alumna, facilitated the day and a half meeting. The group was well informed of the history of IFYE as well as the current situation of our organization. The following are the outcomes of the Strategic Plan which was approved at the March 18 Board of Directors meeting.

Business Purpose: *We (IFYE) offer immersive agricultural experiences across the globe to cultivate local leaders and benefit local communities.*

This statement is used as we identify prospective investors (donors) who want to know what we deliver and what we provide to our communities. It is the “what” of our organization.

Organizational Purpose: *IFYE offers global immersive opportunities for personal development and leadership growth within agriculture to empower local communities.*

This is a statement of what competencies, capabilities, and unique benefits we offer people. This purpose also shares the long-term effects of being involved in the IFYE organization.

Values: *Community, Collaboration, Leadership (ownership, commitment, advocacy)*

These values are principles and attributes we hold dear to our hearts. They are our non-negotiables – without them, we would not be who and what we are.

Vision: *IFYE is the most trusted source of impactful learning experiences, fostering leadership development and creating enduring global partnerships in agriculture and food production.* This is who and what we want to be. It is what we are working toward and it drives the work of our membership.

As with any organization, there must be objectives to guide the work of the organization. The following four statements are what the Board of Directors and our National Board committees will be working toward this year as we move the organization forward:

IFYE OBJECTIVES

1. Generate enough support to fund strong and vibrant programs.
2. Develop a diverse portfolio of partners to support programs.
3. Become a household name among agricultural and food production stakeholders.
4. Create a world-renowned exchange that is safe, affordable, and integrated with partners both foreign and domestic.

As with any strategic plan now the work begins in earnest. Your BOD is finalizing the committee structure that will best support the plan.

2023 IFYE Donor List

[View Online Here](#)

2023 was a successful year for fundraising among IFYE Alumni and friends of IFYE in our 75th year of IFYE (1948-2023). This donor roll includes recurring/periodic giving, grants, memorials and 'in honor of' individuals, conference donations, CLUB 75, 75th Anniversary and Celebration donations, and other donations that helped support our IFYE program.



These contributions play a major role in sustaining the IFYE program and allow us to continue to provide today's young adults with a valuable and unique experience in international understanding and global awareness.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we share our heartfelt Thank You to all who contributed this past calendar year. We hope that you will continue to help sustain IFYE with your annual contributions and encourage other IFYE alumni and friends of IFYE to do likewise.

Listed are the names of those who contributed (excluding names of those who requested to remain anonymous) depicted by level of giving as shown.

Individuals in whose names the donations were made either 'In Memory of' or 'In Honor of' a friend or loved one are also listed. Thank you again for your faithful support of IFYE!

[Click here](#) to view the entire list.

IFYE Alumni Survey

IFYE Development Committee

After the Easter holiday, IFYE will be sending out a survey for all alumni. This is at the request of the Development & Farm Bill committees to gather information for future conversations regarding IFYE grants, donations, and governmental and non-governmental funding. The survey will be optional, but we hope to have a strong level of participation.

IFYE Store

Time to order your IFYE gear from [Squad Locker](#)! A portion of purchases go to support IFYE.



Russell Ladies Essential Long Sleeve Tee