

Draft

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE

FACT SHEET

(Updated January 2007)

- Why?** **The Friendship Force** believes that a “World of friends is a world of peace”. Its purpose is to create an environment in which seeds of friendship can be sown across the barriers that divide the people of the world.
- What?** **Friendship Force International (FFI)**, is a nonprofit non-denominational cultural exchange organization. The head office of the organization is:
Friendship Force International, 233 Peachtree St., Suite 2250, Atlanta, GA 30303 USA
Phone: 404-522-9490 Fax: 404-688-6148
Website: <http://www.friendshipforce.org>
- When?** **The Friendship Force** was first organized in 1977 and announced March 1st from the White House by former **President Jimmy Carter**, and for some 25 years **Mrs. Rosalynn Carter** was Honorary Chairperson. Founding president was President Carter’s friend , **Rev. Wayne Smith**. **Chip Carter** was the organization’s second president. He was succeeded by Rev. Wayne Smith’s daughter, **Susie Smith**, April 1, 2004. The current president and CEO is **Dr. George Brown**, who heads a **Board of Trustees**, and an office staff at F.F.I.’s Atlanta headquarters.
- Where?** The Friendship Force has chartered clubs in some 360 cities in almost 60 countries on 6 continents. The Friendship Force clubs are run by elected leaders and volunteer committees, who organize week-long inbound and outbound home stay “**exchanges**” for groups of “**ambassadors**”. Friendship Force International organizes an **International Conference** in November of each year, and **Regional Conferences** are held each spring. Lethbridge members attend the **Northern Rockies Regional Conference**, a region comprised of the clubs in Montana, Washington, Idaho, B.C. and Alberta. In Canada a **Canadian National Conference** is organized every two years. **The Friendship Force of Lethbridge** is a chartered member of FFInternational. The Lethbridge club was chartered in December 1994, and began operating January 1995. It was the first club to be chartered of almost 20 now in Canada. **Friendship Force of Lethbridge** is one of the four clubs in Alberta; the others are in Calgary, Edmonton, and Medicine Hat.
- How?** Each year **The Friendship Force of Lethbridge** is scheduled to conduct four “**exchanges**” with other clubs around the world or across Canada. An **inbound exchange** is when the Lethbridge club hosts a visiting group of ambassadors from another country or part of Canada for up to a week, and organizes a program which provides opportunities for cultural experiences, social interaction, plus some sight-seeing. On an **outbound exchange** a group of ambassadors from the club will travel to a host city for a one week home-hosting experience. The Friendship Force International program also provides opportunities to join other clubs on their exchanges, to participate in special cultural events or **festivals**, or to join specialized exchanges comprised of travellers from a certain **occupational or interest group**, or for a **humanitarian project**.

For further information, or to join the **Friendship Force of Lethbridge**, or to participate as an ambassador or host,

Contact : **President Barb Clarke Phone:(403) 327 9441 E-mail: barclar@telus.net**

Annual membership fee: \$25 Club name badge: \$8.
Subscription to *Friendship*, the FFI magazine: \$10 USD (optional).