



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL

WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY 2012 fact sheet

March 1, 2012

- THEME:** Building Friendships for a New Generation
- SLOGAN:** 35 years of friendship
- FACT:** March 1, 2005 – First observance of World Friendship Day by Friendship Force clubs.
- FACT:** March 1, 2012, is the 8th observance of WFD by Friendship Force clubs worldwide.
- FACT:** In 2008 the United States Senate issued a proclamation designating March 1st as “World Friendship Day.”
- HISTORY:** The first celebration was March 1st, 2005, and was known as “Friendship Day Around the World.” At that time, March 1st was officially designated as the anniversary date for the entire organization. The selection of March 1st for World Friendship Day is a tribute to founder, Wayne Smith, and acknowledges the original founding day of the Friendship Force on March 1st, 1977, when it was announced in a White House ceremony by President Jimmy Carter.
- CHALLENGE:** FFI encourages Friendship Force clubs around the world to celebrate World Friendship Day 2012 with club activities and public events that will:
- increase public awareness for the Friendship Force
 - provide a platform for gaining new members
 - create opportunities for real-life examples of executing the FFI mission to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people.

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