



Children's Friendship Project

F O R N O R T H E R N I R E L A N D

FALL/WINTER 2006

2006 Reunion Snapshots

The 2006 CFPNI Reunion was held October 21, 2006 at the City Hotel in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Teens, their parents, several host families, and CFPNI Volunteer Coordinators, Officers, and Board Members attended. The event enables the teens to share what they have learned and experienced over the past year, as well as providing a venue for us to thank all involved in the program for their dedication and commitment throughout the year.

CFPNI was honored to welcome Mr. Tony Kennedy, OBE as our guest speaker to this year's event. Mr. Kennedy is the Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland. Co-operation Ireland is a charity that aims to promote positive relationships between the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Here are a few of the other 2006 CFPNI Reunion highlights:



BARRETT AWARD WINNERS

The winners of the 2006 Barrett Award are Laura McLaughlin and Hollie McCobb from the Derry/Londonderry group. The young women (shown here with Peggy Barrett, Founder and President-Emeritus) were nominated by their host family, the Miller-Brown's of Lancaster, PA.

The Barrett Award committee noted that "it was a very difficult decision to make, as all three teams were exceptional and most worthy of the honor". The other nominees this year were Ronan Woods and his partner Jamie Douglas, and Mary-Elaine McCavert and her partner Kelly Morrow. All three pairs received a certificate of recognition.

The winning pair was honored along with their parents at the 2006 CFPNI reunion this past October. In addition, the winning teens received a certificate for dinner for them as well as their parents, a plaque and their names engraved on the master plaque beside the winners of past years.

Nominations for the 2007 Barrett Award will be accepted after July 1, 2007. All teens that have completed the 2006 program are eligible.



The Derry/Londonderry group entertained us with music and songs.



"C.F.P.N.I.!" The Roe Valley group did their version of the Village People's "YMCA", creatively re-writing the lyrics to describe their CFPNI experience.



The Craigavon group's "newscast" comparing Northern Ireland and US culture had the audience in stitches!



The Antrim group followed the "yellow brick road" to the emerald city in search of reconciliation.

Thank you to Florence Brunt, Principal Coordinator-Northern Ireland for organizing the event. Thank you to the teens and their families for another "BRILLIANT" year! We wish you well in your future endeavors and look forward to hearing of your successes!



"Romeo" texting "Juliet". The Fermanagh group's version had a happy ending.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMER OF 2006!

Submitted by the US Coordinators

There were 106 teens placed with host families nationwide this July. Teens were hosted in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, Florida, Ohio, Minnesota, New Mexico, and California.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Seven families hosted ten teens in New Hampshire. Fourteen-time host family the Muir's opened their home to our group for a day at their lovely home on Lake Winnepesaukee. Teens and hosts enjoyed swimming in the lake, tubing, tennis, brownies, and each other! Our next get-together was a positive communication/conflict resolution workshop. Host Mom/educator Ginny Kemp worked with Betsy Small-Campbell of War Child-USA, and educator/facilitator Karen Maitland to do several positive communication exercises with the teens. We also viewed the film "Promises" and discussed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The following week, thanks to the Peterborough United Methodist Church (Peterborough, NH), the teens spent the day in Boston. We took the train into the city to meet with a group of youth leaders from Mytown, Inc. (www.mytowninc.org). The Mytown leaders took our group on a tour of the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston, pointing out several locations where citizen activists stood up and made a difference in their community. After the tour, the teens participated in a workshop, then spent time exchanging stories. The whole day was inspiring! Some of the teens, along with their families, also enjoyed a Nashua Pride baseball game courtesy of the Nashua AOH. For the rest of the stay the teens had "baseball fever"! Thank you to all of our volunteers, hosts and donors for making the teens stay in New Hampshire so memorable!

MARYLAND



Excerpt from the pastors notes at St Paul's Catholic Church, MD: "Denise Thierer (CFPNI Host Mom) was recounting a visit by our Youth Group during the St. Paul Adventure Days. Colm and Michael (CFPNI teens from NI) joined our young people that day. Michael walked through the church and came back and asked Denise, 'Where are the confessionals?' When Denise answered, 'There are no confessionals, because this is a Lutheran Church.' Michael expressed surprise that a Catholic Youth Group would be doing a service project at a Lutheran Church! Both Michael and Colm learned a lot through their visit with us."

ROANOKE, VA

The four teens staying in the Roanoke, VA area did a few group activities. They visited our local Sheriff's Department, attended church services, enjoyed a waterpark, went to a Scottish Society dinner and had welcome and farewell cookouts at the coordinators home. For their group community service project they helped entertain children from the local homeless shelter for a day. Both host families did other activities with their teens as well. I guess you could say they were pretty busy during their visit to America!

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Update from the President

The CFPNI reunion signals not only the completion of the yearlong leadership program, the beginning of the next year's program. Each year, the Board of Directors meets during the day before the reunion to discuss the past year and look to the future. The Northern Ireland Coordinators, along with a few US Coordinators, meet the evening before the reunion as well. US Coordinators came together for a conference call in early October. This year, our 20th, there was much to discuss at all the meetings.

At the Board meeting, finances were the main topic. We had an independent financial consultant go over our income and expenses over the past several years. This was prompted by the question "will we have enough money to cover airfare for next year's teens" and, how many teens can we recruit? The Board has made fundraising a priority. In addition, a task force was established to look at the future of the organization in an effort to meet the needs of the young people in Northern Ireland in response to the changing political climate. A team was also pulled together to support the alumni program, in preparation for a 20th anniversary celebration planned for next year.

In the evening, Northern Ireland & US Coordinators came together to discuss issues or concerns, share ideas, and make suggestions for next year. We looked at host family and teen comments on the evaluations, pulled together a team to review those cases where the teens' commitment to the program were questionable (i.e. did they participate in all the meetings, follow all the rules, etc.), in order to determine if the teens would receive their deposit (due back upon completion of their year-long program), and we looked at ways to improve the program for next year. The meetings were very positive and the level of commitment among the volunteers is immense!

Some changes will be made for next year, which coordinators will communicate to hosts in more detail. Generally speaking, we will be recruiting host families earlier in an effort to keep airfare costs down (by reserving connecting flights earlier), and we have to fundraise earlier so we know if we will have enough money to cover airfare for all the teens before we run into our purchase deadline with the airlines (typically, most of our funds come in after March 1st, too late to cancel tickets without penalty).

If you are considering hosting next year, please let your coordinator know as soon as possible. Teens are already being recruited for 2007!

Thank you once again to all who made this past year such a success once again for the teens and their families. Special thanks to our donors, who make it all possible; to our volunteers who give so generously of themselves all year long; to our host families whose compassion brings out the best in all of us; and to our teens—the reason we do this year after year. We know that you are making a difference!

Christine Robidoux, *President*

WE NEED HOST FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS

To apply online, or download an application, go to www.cfpni.org today!

For more information, or to volunteer call **1-888-524-0648** or contact a local coordinator.

IN THE US:

Peggy Barrett
Founder & President Emeritus
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TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION:

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CFPNI is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization.



WWW.CFPNI.ORG

THE DEADLINE FOR HOST FAMILY APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 25!

Spotlight on Our Volunteers

FROM THE BOARD



Ian Young, OBE DL, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and CFPNI Volunteer since 1999, is the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Volunteer award, named in his honor. The Board unanimously voted to recognize Mr. Young (unbeknownst to him) for his many years of service, dedication, and commitment to the program. He is truly inspiring and his enthusiasm and energy is contagious! Thank you, Ian!

New Board Members

The Board met in its annual meeting, Friday, 20 October, in the City Hotel in L'Derry, Northern Ireland. We welcomed Director William Flack, to his first meeting and re-elected Rosemary O'Neill to a second term. Elected to their first term were: Linda Lagan Kildea, Shiela McCaul and Fiona McFarlane. George Demass was re-elected chairman. A Task Force will be constituted to look at the future of CFPNI beyond 2007. Next year, the 20th Anniversary of CFPNI will be celebrated in a special way.

We felt this would be a good time to introduce/re-introduce you to our distinguished volunteer Board of Directors.

USA

Peggy Barrett, *President Emeritus*
George Demass, *Chairman* (2nd term)
William Flack
Linda Lagan Kildea
Rev. Msgr. William J. Linder (2nd term)
Gary McGuirk
Laurie McPherson
Warren R. Muir, Ph.D. C.St.J.
(Past President/Past Chair of the Board)
Rosemary O'Neill (2nd term)
William J. Skane (2nd term)
David Reynolds (Past President)
Christine Robidoux, *President*

Northern Ireland

Ian Young OBE DL, Vice-Chair (2nd term)
Donald Alexander (2nd term)
Bronagh Hinds (2nd term)
Norman Houston
Shiela McCaul MBE
Fiona McFarlane
John Patrick McKinney MSc OBE

Honorary Board Members

Robert Bozzone
Liam Neeson
James Rooney

Ellen Dowling, PhD named President-Elect 2007-2008

At the CFPNI Board Meeting held in October, Ellen Dowling was elected President-Elect for a two-year term effective immediately until October 2008, when she will take over as President of the organization.

Ellen has been the Southwest Coordinator in New Mexico for several years, heading up a team

of dedicated volunteers in that area. When she's not recruiting host families, fundraising, and taking care of "her" teens, Ellen is working as an internationally recognized communication, management and organizational consultant. She has also written two books! We look forward to having Ellen share her talents with CFPNI! Thank you, Ellen!

WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

Do you have CFPNI photos you would like to share?

We would like to put them on our website. Please send photos along with a brief description to webmaster@cfpni.org or mail them to Glenn Martinsen, 7 Olde Manchester Rd, Derry, NH 03038 USA.

Please indicate whether or not you would like your photos returned.

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OHIO



The Maas Family with their teens Emma and Jayne from County Tyrone.

Central Ohio welcomed 3 pairs of teens to host families in the Dublin suburb of Columbus. The host families worked as a group to schedule activities from visits to the local fire department to house and pool parties. Everyone enjoyed a complimentary day at the local water park, Wyandot Lake. The final week was capped by a visit and tour of the Ohio governor's mansion and gardens. Thanks to the generosity of Nelson Auto Group in Marysville, OH, who loaned vans, the families were able to take extended trips (Washington, D.C. and Cleveland). The teens worked on service projects at Mid-Ohio Food Bank and assisted with childcare at a local summer Bible camp.

NEW MEXICO

It was a wonderful summer for all concerned: teens, host families, CFPNI NM committee members, and Irish-American Society supporters. This year we brought 10 teenaged girls over staying with 7 hosts. This was a record number for us!

The CFPNI committee members in New Mexico (Chuck Keady, Joan Braunhardt, George Van Stry, Paul McDonough, Janice Lee Merry, Emmett O'Sullivan, Jessica Patterson, Linda Patterson, and Patricia Ryan) are very blessed to have the support of the 400-plus members of the Irish-American Society of New Mexico. The IAS held two events for the teens, as they do every summer. The Annual Family Picnic and the Farewell Party, held shortly before the teens' departure at the German-American Club. Another fun event for all of our teens was a trip to the top of the Sandia Mountains on the Sandia Peak Tramway (the world's longest tramway). Although we were 10,000 feet above sea level, no one got altitude sickness or was frightened by the height of the Tram—they all had a great time!

PENNSYLVANIA



CFPNI teens in the Philadelphia, PA area shared a variety of experiences together this summer in addition to the bonds they formed with each other and their host families. The Sean McBride AOH of Glenside, PA, a steadfast supporter of the program for the past 6 years, held a lovely reception that all the teens and their families enjoyed. Thanks to Bucks County River Country and Kate & Dan Breen (Point Pleasant, PA), teens had the opportunity to spend the day tubing down the Delaware River. Teens also participated in a workshop facilitated by the Bucks County Peace Center (Langhorne, PA) in partnership with the Children's Home Society of Trenton, NJ. The 1st day of the seminar was offered by the Peace Center (education in conflict resolution and violence prevention). It

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was called "Building Cultural Bridges" and facilitated by Nicole Maxwell. Michael Pemberton from the New Jersey Children's Home Society facilitated the second day. The teen participants from the Home Society represent "KIKS" (Kids Intervention with Kids in School!) to curb violence in the Trenton, NJ school system. The session was called "Life Values" on Personal Skills, Leadership Traits and Positive Steps in an interactive forum. Here are a few things the teens said of their experience:

"Through this (program) I have met many new people, made new friends, and most importantly have come to realize that no matter what religion, race, class or background, we are all the same."

"Through interaction with CFPNI I have gained lots of confidence and self esteem. This project has brought me a long way and I hope this will continue for the future."

"I think this experience has helped me get to know people that at home I would not be able to get to know as they wouldn't hang around in the same groups as I would. I think this group is doing good throughout Northern Ireland as it is bringing teenagers from two different religions out of the place where there is problems between them, to a place where they can come to find out there is not much different between their religion and learn to interact with each other. With the help of this group the youth of today can make a difference."

WASHINGTON D.C./VIRGINIA

Families in the Washington D.C. metro/northern Virginia area hosted thirty-eight CFPNI teens this summer. During their stay, the teens participated in a four-part Leadership Program. The first event was Team Building at George Mason's Hemlock Ropes, where the teens were challenged in a variety of ways, both individually and as a team. The Team Building day was generously funded by ECI Inc. The second event, the Community Service Day, was in support of Reston Interfaith's Emergency Food Pantry and Embury Rucker Shelter, a Reston area homeless shelter. The teens led a food and fund drive in which they raised over \$300 in financial donations and gathered more than 3 car loads of groceries. The groceries were used to stock the emergency food pantry shelves while the money was used to purchase food from which they made 70+ bagged lunches for Embury Rucker residents as well as shepherd's pie, salad and brownies. To the delight of the residents, the teens served the shepherd's pie dinner that evening. Due to the generosity of the Northern Ireland Bureau and the devoted effort of CFPNI Board Member Rosemary O'Neill, the third installment of the Leadership Program was a Day on Capitol Hill. After an engaging lunch with Tim Losty, Director, Northern Ireland Bureau, the teens traveled to Capitol Hill where they met with Mr. Michael Gallagher, State Department, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ), and Jordan Forbes, from the office of Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA). The teens were delighted that in between votes on the Senate floor, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton took the time to greet the teens and offer them words of encouragement. The final event was a Cultural Diversity workshop moderated by Family Services Bureau of New Community Corporation (Newark, NJ). The day began with a panel discussion on 'Tolerance in Religion' with panel members representing many of the Abrahamic faiths. These

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What Do We Do With Those Host Family and Teen Evaluations?

Each year, the President and Principal Coordinator in Northern Ireland read each and every evaluation – many times! They are divided into Northern Ireland groups, US groups, and as a whole. Results are then shared with the Coordinators and Board of Directors.

Overall, the evaluations confirm that this year was overwhelmingly successful. Both the teens and hosts reported that the teens were well matched with each other (85% of hosts agreed, 93% of teens agreed), and that teens were well matched to the host family (88 % of hosts agreed, 93% of teens agreed). In addition, 91% of the hosts were happy with the teens assigned to them. Ninety-five percent of the teens and hosts also felt that teens developed trust with one another as a result of their participation in CFPNI.

There were a few things that caught our attention. For example, less than half of the teens and hosts felt that teens had "few opportunities to

become close friends with members of the opposite religion in Northern Ireland" before they arrived in the US (other than through CFPNI). This raised some questions here in the US. Are we selecting teens that are already integrating? Should we be recruiting different teens from different areas? Has enough progress been made? Did we ask the question appropriately? We asked the Northern Ireland Coordinators these questions, many of whom are teachers and youth workers all over Northern Ireland. The answer is yes; they have "opportunities". When they ride the bus to their segregated schools, they could mix. Some sports teams outside of school are integrating. But are kids mixing outside of these "opportunities"? Are they really "close" friendships? Maybe not. The question will be asked differently next year. In the meantime, this 15-year old CFPNI teen's heartbreaking poem seems to answer the question:

MY LIFE

I live in a country where there is war
Stabbings, beatings we don't want no more
I grew up in this violence, I know what it's like
To walk down the street an get in a fight

I've been jumped a few times, outside a bar
Got punched in the nose an kicked over a car
They ran away back to their street
They're the people you don't want to meet

My mates recently got in a fight
Up in Stiles on Saturday night
It was 2 on 2 so it was fair
They sure were lucky I wasn't there

Me and my mates stick together
If someone's in trouble, we don't run, never
Some people think they're just plain royalty
But we like to think of trust and loyalty

*Written by a 15 year old 2006 CFPNI Teen
(1/7/06)*

Look for some other changes for next year when you receive your 2007 Host Family Handbook. Thanks for the great feedback!

THANK YOU... FROM THE TEENS!!

"CFPNI has given me an experience of a lifetime. It has given me the chance to view many different cultures and a better understanding of the Protestant community. I have also gained many friends and especially (my partner), who will be a friend for life. While in the USA I learned to always look forward and forget about the past and always have your "glass half full, not half empty". Even more importantly I have learned whether you go to DC, Maryland, West Virginia, VA, Northern Ireland, people are people and we're all human at the end of the day."

"Thank you so much, it was absolutely amazing. Not only did I achieve a great understanding in this programme but I also gained a friend for life and many other great friends. Now I have 3 families—mine, the (1st co-host family) and the (2nd co-host family). Thank you."

"This was the best time of my life. We have become so close to our family and each other. We wish we could stay like this for a longer time. Thank you so much for the great opportunity."

News From Northern Ireland

A LETTER FROM FLORENCE BRUNT, PRINCIPAL COORDINATOR, NORTHERN IRELAND

First of all I would like to say a heart-felt "Thank you", to all the Host Families who hosted the teens in 2006. You are such wonderful people who open your homes to the teens from Northern Ireland and give them such a life-changing experience. Reading the teen Evaluation forms and their Journals gave me a great insight as to how valuable that experience was for each and everyone of them. The work that we cover with the structured program here in N.I. is visibly demonstrated during their stay with you. They have all come home having gained self confidence which will help them throughout life.

The Northern Ireland Coordinators have just completed the program with the teens of 2006 finishing with the Re-Union in the City Hotel in Derry/Londonderry. All the groups gave wonderful presentations reflecting on the issues which they had dealt with over the year on the program. It never ceases to amaze me how the teens can come up with ideas to deal with such serious topics in a fun way but yet impart the message they want to get across to the audience.

The Northern Ireland team were delighted to see Ian Young being honoured at the Re-Union. They appreciate all the time and effort he has given to keeping our finances and raising the profile of CFPNI to get funding for our activities. It was he who researched and did the work necessary for gaining charitable status in N.I.

Fiona McFarlane, our Administrator over the last five years, has handed over her role to Lisa Campbell. She has decided that she can no longer give the same amount of time to CFPNI due to

family commitments. Fiona was a Co-ordinator with the Roe Valley group for many years before taking on the role of Administrator. CFPNI owes a great debt of gratitude to Fiona for all the work she has done since the program began in 1987. I know from my time with the program that any question needing an answer, Fiona was ready, willing and able to help. Certainly since I became Principal Co-ordinator I valued her help and advice on many issues. The Coordinators are delighted that she has become a member of the Board of CFPNI so that her knowledge is not lost to the program.

We have already begun our recruitment for 2007 with Posters and leaflets in schools, youth clubs etc. All the Co-ordinators use the agreed method of recruiting in order to have young people who are committed to the programme. To begin with the teens will complete a "Registration of Interest Form." This form contains all the necessary information required for the Data Base and also details of Passport type, T-shirt size etc to cut down paper work throughout the year. Some Information Evenings have taken place and interviews will be done over the next few weeks in each area. The same set of questions, which have been reviewed, will be used at the interviews throughout Northern Ireland. The final selection will be complete by 18th December. The Coordinators will then have a break from CFPNI duties for Christmas and the New Year. Meetings for the teens commence towards the end of January.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

MORE THANK YOUS... FROM THE TEENS!!

"This month has been one of the best of my life. The (host) family made me and (my partner's) time an unforgettable experience. They were absolutely anything you could want in a host family and more! Not once did I feel homesick and the reason for that is that I felt like I was at home when I was with them. As me and (my partner) have said, they are our second family and always will be. I have become so close to our family and my partner, that there is no doubt in my mind we will remain in contact for a very long time and this is definitely not our last visit to (the US). I thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. I will always remember my CFPNI summer. Thank you again."

"I would just like to say thank you to everyone for making this experience possible for me. I know it involves a lot of hard work. Also I would like to say thank you to my host families for taking me and (my partner) in. I have gained memories for life."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Production and Design: Carol Gove, carolgove@mac.com
CFPNI Administrator & Newsletter Editor: Tricia Thomas

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included Judaism, Islam, and Christianity (both Protestant and Catholic). Afterwards the teens met in breakout sessions with moderators to discuss positive communication, diversity and conflict resolution. Dranesville United Methodist Church provided the facilities and lunch for the teens; through the efforts of Msgr. Linder, Board of Trustees New Community Corporation and CFPNI Board Member, Family Services Bureau provided the Diversity Workshop pro bono. The Santoli, Cecil, Cannon and Jones Host Families financially supported the Leadership Program this summer. For their generosity we are deeply grateful! Numerous volunteers made the summer program a once in a lifetime experience for our teens—a simple 'thank you' does not do justice for our gratitude. The greatest appreciation is reserved for our teens. They are an exceptional group of courageous future leaders!

FUNDRAISING NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY BARRETT, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT-EMERITUS

Happy Holiday's Dear Friends!

Thank you for your support of CFPNI for over 20 years. Believe me, you have all helped in the peace process in NI. The youth of yesterday and today are making a difference in the future of their country. At a recent Board meeting, it was agreed we would have to reduce the number of teens we could bring July 2007, BECAUSE of lack of funds for airfares. Need I say more? We still need your help. God Love You All. Sincerely, Peggy Barrett President Emeritus

Note: Peggy and Jack started this organization back in 1987 with a vision. A lot of work and expense went into getting CFPNI started and most of that money came directly from Jack and Peggy. Peggy served as Chairman/President for 10 years until Jack became ill with cancer. Unfortunately Jack passed away. Today, Peggy is still very involved in CFPNI. She is President-Emeritus, chair of the New Host Family Screening Committee, and an active member of the Board of Directors.

2006 RAFFLE... AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Thank you for supporting CFPNI through the purchase of raffle tickets! This is our only national fundraiser.

Daniel P Doherty, Albuquerque, NM\$500
Beth Allen, Temple, NH\$500
Molly Fisher, Collegeville, PA\$500
William Philburn, Red Bank, NJ\$500
Tom & Sheila McMahillBelleek Flower Vase
Howard Jenkinson, Stroudsburg, PA ...Belleek Shamrock Bud Vases
Beth Carroll, Charlotte, NCBelleek Mini Basket
The Shanahans, Langhorne, PABelleek Galway Vase
Mrs. James KarrBelleek Claddagh Vase
Mr. & Mrs. Michael MoriartyBelleek Tara Vase

2007 Raffle tickets are enclosed!

ALUMNI NEWS

FROM BRENDA LAVERTY, BALLYCASTLE (CFPNI 1999)

Just wanted to say thanks! In 1999 I went with Hannah McWilliams to Warrington, Virginia. It was unbelievable. Everything about it was amazing. I'm 23 now and it is still one of the best memories of my life. Hannah is now engaged to my cousin and they have a beautiful baby... none of this could have happened without your help. Anything I can do to support this I will.

**An Alumni Reunion is in the works!
If you know of alumni that would be interested in attending, please e-mail their contact information to alumni@cfpni.org.
Thank you!**

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