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# Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **REGISTRATION OPEN: 6TH ANNUAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

### **WHAT:**

The Annual Youth Assembly at the UN. Related activities include two Leadership Seminars, the UC Peace Arts Festival and *more ...*

### **WHY:**

The Youth Assembly gives youth from around the world the opportunity to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to discover Social Entrepreneurship as a vehicle for peace.

### **WHEN:**

YA - August 5 – 7, 2009  
(Leadership - July 30 – Aug 3)

### **WHERE:**

United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY and  
Pace University  
(NY & Westchester campuses)

The Youth Assembly invites sponsors and media to learn more about this program and to request invitations to attend our opening ceremonies. For interviews or to attend any of the events, please contact Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, 203-542-0652. Please visit [www.faf.org/hl\\_youthassembly.htm](http://www.faf.org/hl_youthassembly.htm) for more information.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY AT THE UNITED NATIONS (YA). THE YA WILL TAKE PLACE AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, AUGUST 5 – 7, 2009. THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE A LEADERSHIP SEMINAR PRIOR TO THE ASSEMBLY, JULY 30 – AUGUST 3, 2009 AT PACE UNIVERSITY IN PLEASANTVILLE, NY.**

**THE YOUTH ASSEMBLY GATHERS YOUTH LEADERS (16 - 25 YEARS OLD) FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND INVOLVES THEM IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs).**

The Youth Assembly aims to empower young people through lectures, workshops, campaign presentations, and other special events. Delegates learn ways to identify viable approaches to MDG success – the corner stone of the UN's *better world* approach to improving the lives of millions of people across the globe. Attendees receive practical help on how to start NGOs and how to administer or manage campaigns. They also develop networks that identify existing work by governments, the UN, or civil society at home or abroad, and the implications for social entrepreneurship on MDG success.

The YA is produced in partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information. Lead Sponsor in 2009 is the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations. In 2008, 16 Permanent Missions to the UN endorsed the Youth Assembly events and that number is expected to grow in 2009. Other International NGOs affiliated with the United Nations co-sponsor the events along with several United Nations agencies. Patrick Sciarratta, Friendship Ambassadors Foundation's Executive Director is co-founder of the events with Dr. Elaine Valdov of the International Institute for the Culture of Peace.

FRIENDSHIP AMBASSADORS FOUNDATION, INC.

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800-526-2908 (exchange participants only) • Web site address: <http://www.faf.org> • e-mail to: [friendlyam@faf.org](mailto:friendlyam@faf.org)

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In 2008, nearly 1000 delegates attended the Youth Assembly, Leadership Seminar and UC Peace Arts Festival during August. Highlighted guests included Dr. Arun Gandhi, Kathy Ireland and Reverend Jesse Jackson. A Youth Achievement Award recognized the accomplishments of ten younger delegates, ages 16-18. During a UN luncheon hosted by Ms. Ireland, these delegates all received awards for significant contributions to humanitarian service at home or abroad. In 2009, the recognition will continue but the current format is under review. Also this summer, the U.C. Peace Arts Festival is seeking a sponsor to enable one of the performance venues to be outside the UN in Dag Hammarskjöld Park, opening up the cultural portion of the event to the entire New York City community.

“For the foundation, this is core to our mission,” said *FAF’s Executive Director and YA cofounder Patrick Sciarratta*, of the Youth Assembly events. “Here we have created a real opportunity for renewal at the United Nations by inviting young people into a ‘housewarming’ where they will get to meet the players and learn about the issues central to the future of this special organization, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. We want to empower youth leaders to create careers and other opportunities in fulfillment of the MDGs.” Mr. Sciarratta concluded, “If peace through cultural exchange is indeed our mission, then this is the place to ensure its success.”

**Registration is now open for the Youth Assembly at the UN (events are free after initial application fee) and the related Leadership Seminar. Please go to [www.faf.org/hl\\_youthassembly.htm](http://www.faf.org/hl_youthassembly.htm) for more information.**

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