

UNA-USA Accomplishments

As we ended 2014, UNA-USA membership continues to grow! Not only did it double in size since 2012, but now remarkably, 60% of members are under age 25. Young Americans have taken the lead in developing innovative programming on nearly 30 college campuses across the country. To assist in this effort, UNA-USA has developed a new interactive platform, genun.unausa.org, which allows us to engage young supporters through multiple media tools including and empowering young people to share their experiences. You can review their important work by visiting genun.unausa.org/stream.

We're making things happen thanks to the help of our dedicated supporters—mobilizing thousands of Americans to provide direct input into the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals. UNA members gathered in churches, community centers, and on college campuses to conduct 45 community consultations providing valuable American feedback to UNDP, the U.S. Mission to the UN, and the U.S. Department of State. This national consultation process identified gender equality and climate change as top priorities for advancing the new goals both at home and abroad.

UN Day 2014 was an unparalleled success. Community and Campus Chapters held over 150 events across 38 states and territories including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Of particular note, UNA Iowa and UNA Nebraska partnered with USA for UNHCR to sponsor Hikes for Refugees, raising money to help some of the 50 million displaced people around the globe.

The annual Global Leadership Dinner was once again a standout New York event. High-level representatives from the business, philanthropy, media, entertainment and social sectors came together with UN leadership to call attention to the work of The United Nations and to aid its mission to achieve a peaceful, prosperous and just future. Special guests included UN Foundation Chairman and Founder Ted Turner and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, OCHA's Valerie Amos, Merck & Company, and Justice Michael Kirby were among the honorees. For more information and to see photo and video highlights from the event, please visit www.unausa.org/gala.

2015 Looking Ahead

This year marks not only the 70th anniversary of The United Nations but also the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), two incredibly significant events.

The United Nations is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The draft SDG's that the UN is currently debating are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. September will mark the official launch of the SDGs at The United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda on September 25 to 27 in New York. And, UNA-USA and our Chapters will be an important part of the UN's launch strategy.

These goals seek to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and respond to new challenges. They range from ending extreme poverty, stopping human trafficking, and taking urgent action on climate change. The United Nations, with the support of dedicated UNA-USA members, is working to mobilize resources and drive real progress on some of the world's most pressing problems.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked that, "The year 2015 is a once-in-a generation opportunity. Our goal is to put people at the center and protect our one and only planet. Our duty

is to end poverty, leave no one behind and build lives of dignity for all.” An important moment of the 70th anniversary celebrations will come on June 26 in San Francisco, CA as the Secretary-General commemorates the day, 70 years ago, when the United Nations Charter was signed in the city’s Veterans’ Memorial Hall. A culminating event will be United Nations Day 2015, the October 24 celebration of the ratification of the UN’s founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council.

These are momentous times for our organization. More than ever, the world needs individuals willing to take action to make global peace, prosperity, and justice a reality. Thank you again for the important role you play as an invaluable member of the UNA family.

Sincerely,

Mel Boynton, Chapter President and

Chris Whatley, Executive Director of UNA-USA

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