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CEO Message

What a difference two years (2020-2022) of a global pandemic makes...

"With one kind gesture, you
can change a life.
One person at a time, you
can change the world.
One day at a time we can
change everything."
- Steve Waraboli



Global Ties Alabama effectively uses its diplomacy tools to shape US Foreign Policy and the impact on its stakeholders locally, statewide, and nationally.

Thanks to virtual programming, GTA facilitated 16 international exchanges with 212 visitors and 153 volunteers in 2021. GTA hosted 16 Global Perspectives Institutes virtually and 2 highly rated projects -- REACH and Selma Ties -- which targeted HBCUs and Alabama's high schools.

In the first quarter of 2022 GTA has returned to hosting in-person Congressional Open World delegations from Hungary and 5 virtual exchanges from Europe, Egypt, Africa, and Indonesia. It also led the TN Valley in welcoming its First Afghan refugee families in their resettlement in Huntsville, AL. Thanks to GTA's strategic partnerships with Inspiritus, the Alabama Refugee Partnership Initiative, Interfaith Mission Service, Operation Zulu 18, and Sponsor Circles over 33 Afghans are now safely residing, going to school, working, enjoying freedom from oppression, and witnessing democracy in action.

GTA is committed to promoting democratic values, processes, systems and advocating for enhanced understanding throughout our global village.

Yours in global service,

Jacquelyn Shipe

Upcoming Programs

April 8-16

Open World Kyrgyzstan,
"Promoting Cybersecurity"

April 12-16

IVLP Moldova,
"Strengthening Moldovan
Legislation to Combat
International Parental
Child Abduction (IPCA)"

April 25-26

Sasakawa Peace
Foundation,
"U.S.-Japan Cooperation
and Economic Legacy"

May 16-June 9

Young Transatlantic
Innovation Leaders
Initiative

May 22

IVLP Indonesia,
"Religious Pluralism"

June 10-July 9

Young Leaders of the
Americas Initiative

GTA Team

Jacquelyn Shipe,
Chief Executive Officer

Joshua Daniels,
Operations Associate

Kezia Daniel,
Operations Associate

Annette Philpo't,
Program Consultant

Jacob Inglis,
Program Associate

Sydney Wood,
Oakwood University Intern

Kite Festival

Josh Daniels



On March 5th, kites took to the skies at the 10th Annual Community Kite Festival hosted by the AshaKiran Foundation.

There was no better day to fly a kite as the wind was strong and the sun was out! And for what seemed like the first time in a while, the good people of Huntsville were out and about at the Kite Festival. Food trucks, raffles, and music lined the street at John Hunt Park as people flew their kites high into the sky. At the community center, organizations set up booths and shared their stories as people made their way through the festival.

Global Ties Alabama was set right in the middle of the action! The amazing John and Jane Davis represented GTA along with Operations Associate, Josh Daniels. We had our booth set up for any curious future volunteers. We also made sure to spread awareness about the situation in Ukraine and the global efforts to establish peace and prosperity for the Ukrainians. As we talked with each passer-by, the theme of each conversation was that of hope. Our city is hopeful for more festivals and gatherings. They are hopeful that we can gather with each other's families and share our stories. And finally, Global Ties Alabama is hopeful that we can continue to bring delegations to our great State this year!

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#LetsRallyforUkraine

Yaryna Zhurba at the rally for a no-fly zone over Ukraine in Huntsville, AL. Ukrainians want to deliver a message to the decision makers in the US and NATO that if the world doesn't confront Putin now in Ukraine then it will need to be done later but on a much more devastating scale. To know about future events to support Ukraine in Huntsville please follow the Facebook page Ukrainians of North Alabama <https://www.facebook.com/Ukrainians-of-North-Alabama-100134775961955>



Yaryna Zhurba

Donate to GTA



Global Perspectives
Institute

February 8-

"Black-Jewish Dialogue"

February 22-

"What is Critical Race
Theory?"

March 29-

"War torn UKRAINE-
courageous experiences
and stories impacting
Alabama and the U.S."

THE OWL'S EYE -Bitter war

John Davis

I'm just an Owl. But even Owls can see. We aren't very good at understanding what it means when we hear a "dictatorship attacks a peaceful democracy."



That is too abstract. We Owls aren't good at abstract thinking, but we can see reality. In this day and age of almost instantaneous videos and reports from war-zones, we see what "a war of choice" means. I'm watching little kids in winter coats with tears, wonder and fear in their eyes.

Featured Presentations

-Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute in Birmingham

-Democratic Women of
Huntsville

FY 2022 Budget
Advocacy Update

On March 9, Congress reached a deal on the FY22 omnibus spending bill after weeks of negotiations. This bill funds educational and cultural exchange (ECE) programs at \$753 million. This is a \$12.7 million increase from FY21 enacted level, and an \$11.7 million increase from the Biden Administration's funding request.

The Alliance for International Exchange has provided these links for more details:
- [Bill text](#) (p. 1277-1279)
- [Bill highlights](#) for SFOPs
- [Joint explanatory statement](#)

They hold tightly to stuffed teddy bears, anything to make the fear go away. Next to them are their bewildered moms who can't bear their children's suffering. Through blasts toppling buildings, explosions cratering streets and fires, they forge on, trying to get to safety anywhere. They try, as mothers throughout history have done, to console their little ones until they can reach a railroad siding and, perhaps, a crammed escape. Yet, here are screaming wounded, there are dead, putrefying bodies lying on city streets. All of these horrors are in full sight of these innocents, for this is the murder of the innocents. Oh, yes, this is what war looks like in Ukraine. A peaceful democracy has been invaded. Such a fate might await any of us. Dictators, and their servile, slavish yes-men and cronies always think they are smarter than "the weaklings" of democratic countries. A want-to-be "tough guy," Vladimir Putin makes war on children and their mothers, a war insulated by a stuffing of his lies.

Sometimes, when it all becomes hard to understand, I've always found it best to go back to first principles. What do we believe is right about being a free country? Let's begin at the beginning. Our Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It is hard to imagine how powerful these ideas are. Whole nations, such as Ukraine, have tried to follow these principles, once liberated from the Soviet Empire's yoke.

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U.S. Amazon Wishlist



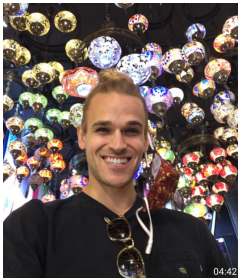
German Amazon Wishlist



Dubai World Expo (2021-2022)

Kezia Daniel

Expo 2020 is a World Expo that took place in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. They hosted the world for 182 days, each day brimming with new experiences. Featuring multiple pavilions representing over 175 countries, it was a time to create, collaborate and innovate. Originally scheduled for October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021, it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and took place from October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. With their roots planted in Alabama, the Expo featured two cultural performers that represented Alabama, Albert Allenback of Tank & the Bangas, and Jazmin Ghent of Jazzy and the Gents. Both found the experience to have helped them gain a new perspective on life. Using diplomacy to make the world better through global connections.



Albert Allenback,
Tank & the Bangas



Jazmin Ghent,
Jazzy and the Gents



Open World
Hungary

In February 2022, Global Ties Alabama welcomed its first in-person delegation since converting to virtual programming in March 2020. GTA in partnership with Birmingham Sister Cities was honored to host the Congressional Open World Hungary delegation of five Hungarian city staffers and an interpreter. The delegation met GTA's professional and cultural resources in Huntsville, Birmingham, Hoover, and Montgomery, as well as other Alabamians to engage in face-to-face diplomacy in order to accomplish our organizations mission. GTA was able to partner with government, professional, education, and business leaders in order to further globalize several Alabama communities.

