



HOSTING CORNER



MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Executive Director **John O’Keefe** honored representatives of eight outstanding Minnesota host organizations in Minneapolis on Sept. 16. The event, held at the federal courthouse in Minneapolis, allowed Open World to express its deep gratitude for excellent programming and home hosting in the state. Also attending was a delegation of Ukrainian Supreme Court justices being hosted for Open World by Chief U.S. District Judge **Michael Davis** of Minneapolis, the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, and grantee World Services of La Crosse.

Ukrainian judges with Chief Judge Michael Davis (third from right) and attorney and home host Kate Bruce (second from left).

The recipient organizations and their representatives were **Ted Dooley** of the Ted Dooley Law Office, LLC; **Cherie Sawinski** of Duluth Sister Cities International’s Duluth/Petrozavodsk Committee; **Lonni Skrentner** and **Andy Otness** of the League of Women Voters of Edina; **Sigrid Johnson** of

the League of Women Voters of St. Paul; Justice **Paul Anderson** of the Minnesota Supreme Court; **Alice Thompson** of North Country Health Services; **Timothy Kaminski** of the Rotary Club of Hibbing; **Janet Newburg** of the Rotary Club of White Bear Lake; and Chief Judge Davis, U.S. District Judge **John Tunheim**, and U.S. Magistrate Judges **Jeanne Graham** and **Jeffrey Keyes** of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

IN THE FIELD

NASHVILLE, TN – Health-care leaders from Kirov Region, Russia, arrived in Washington, DC, Oct. 26 for orientation and presentations before embarking Oct. 28 on a week of idea exchange with their counterparts in Memphis, Knoxville, and Nashville, TN. While in Washington, the Russian health officials, administrators, and physicians took part in a discussion on U.S. health care at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and toured the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Bill Frist**, MD, an original member of Open World’s Board of Trustees and an international health-care advocate, helped organize the exchange and participated in the Nashville portion. Sen. Frist chairs the global health nonprofit Hope Through Healing Hands and sits on the board of the Nashville Health Care Council, two of the local host organizations for the visit.

Highlights for the Russian delegation hosted in Memphis included meetings at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and a Christ Community Health Services clinic. The delegates were also able to meet with staff members of Sen. **Lamar Alexander**, Sen. **Bob Corker**, and Rep. **Steve Cohen**. The Knoxville group’s visit featured tours of the University of Tennessee Medical Center and the Pellissippi State Community College Department of Nursing.

The two delegations’ joint Nov. 4 Nashville program highlighted the city’s innovative health-care industry, kicking off with a tour of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Public health was the focus of meetings with state Commissioner of Health **John Dreyzehner**, MD, MPH; Nashville Mayor **Karl Dean**; and Metro Health Director **Bill Paul**, MD. Local Host Organizations: Friendship Force of Knoxville, Friendship Force of Memphis, Help Through Healing Hands, Nashville Health Care Council



Delegates visit the Center for Experiential Learning at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Photo credit: Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Former Sen. Bill Frist addresses Russian health delegates hosted in Tennessee. Photo credit: Hermitage Hotel–Harry Butler



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NASHVILLE, TN – Open World hosts from across Tennessee gathered in Nashville on Nov. 4 for an official recognition ceremony hosted by Sen. **Bill Frist**. Open World Executive Director **John O’Keefe**, accompanied by Program Manager **Vera DeBuchananne**, presented certificates to the honorees. Also attending the ceremony and a reception that followed it were the health-care delegates from Kirov Region, Russia, who had just wrapped up their weeklong exchange in the Volunteer State with a debriefing led by Sen. Frist.



At right, Sen. Bill Frist (third from left) gathers during the Open World Tennessee host recognition reception with (from right) Jenny Dyer (Hope Through Healing Hands), Michael Schulz (Office of Sen. Lamar Alexander), Suzanne Reiss (Cressey & Company), Caleb Graves (Nashville Health Care Council), Jane Lynch Crain (Hope Through Healing Hands), Caroline Young (Nashville Health Care Council), Ambassador John O’Keefe (Open World Leadership Center), and Vera DeBuchananne (Open World Leadership Center).



Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge George Paine II, of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, and Ophelia Paine.



Ken Luckmann (left) of the Oak Ridge Sister City Support Organization.



From right: William and Nancy Prince of the Chattanooga Sister City Association, and Bill Hammon of the Blount County Sister City Organization (BCSCO). (Not shown: BCSCO’s Alan Barr.)



Ambassador O’Keefe (center) with Richard and Karen Thomas of Friendship Force of Memphis.



Members of the Russian delegation hosted in Tennessee present Sen. Frist with a souvenir.



Friendship Force of Knoxville’s Joanne and Al Schuetz, along with Ambassador O’Keefe (center).

Photo credit: North Shore Photography