

# U.S. CENTER FOR CITIZEN DIPLOMACY



*Every Citizen a Diplomat.*

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## Meet the Honorees

### Comments from the Awards Project Director

*There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. -Albert Einstein*

The National Awards for Citizen Diplomacy underscores the importance and value of citizen diplomacy and celebrates six Americans who are shaping the way people in other nations look at the United States.



M. Jessica Rowe  
Awards Project Director

While citizen diplomacy awards have been given by other organizations, the U. S. Center's National Awards for Citizen Diplomacy program expanded the pool of nominations by reaching out to educational, business, faith-based, and community-based entities. Whether support came from government, foundation, corporate, or private sources, it was exemplary accomplishments which were sought. All nominees were required to be U.S. Citizens and at least 18 years of age.

These honorees are people to watch. They are people who have already distinguished themselves in some way - like college student Anjali Bhatia, who has involved her contemporaries in a series of education programs for Rwanda orphans of genocide and HIV/AIDS, or Greg Mortenson, who has been a champion of education in rural Central Asia - a region of the world considered the front lines for the War on Terror.

Another honoree, Detroit businessman and philanthropist Tarik

## [Public Diplomacy](#)

### Opportunities

[YFU USA is looking for a District Director.](#)

[High School Essay Contest--"Secretary of State Rice wants to know what you think about the challenges facing the American Foreign Service in the 21st Century."](#)

S. Daoud believes "international relations are more important than ever in this unsettled world." He explains. "Being a foreign-born American has taught me the lessons about diversity and the necessity for kindness to all of mankind, no matter race, religion, or anything else that divides us from each other."

We proudly introduce our web guests to the remarkable and inspirational teacher Khris Nedam; the international mentor of arts organizations Jillian H. Poole; and the former TV producer and Peace Corp volunteer Donna Tabor. As we celebrate their accomplishments in the 2008 awards, it seems that these ordinary Americans not only exemplify extraordinary work as citizen diplomats, but each story reflects a life lived "as though everything is a miracle."

All six honorees are further profiled on the U.S. Center's [website](#).

M. Jessica Rowe | National Awards Project Director

**Blog |bläg| (n) : To write entries in, add material to, or maintain a weblog**

Our newest addition to the U.S. Center website is a blog. It is a place for all interested citizen diplomats to come and check out what is going on in the world of citizen diplomacy and foreign policy. We invite you to put in your two cents worth and start a discussion on any international topic that interest you. Share your stories about your travels abroad and encounters with other cultures or a new friend you have made in another country. Please click here to visit our [blog](#). Join us!



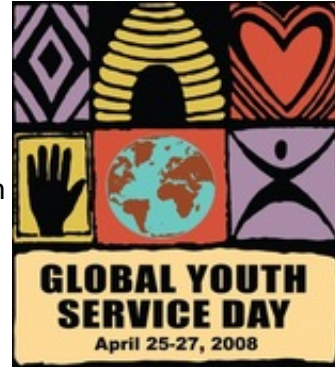
**"Iowa Corn Belt in the Soviet Union": How Citizen Diplomacy Transformed Soviet Agriculture**



During his historic visit to the United States in 1959, Nikita Khrushchev visited a small town in Iowa by the name of Coon Rapids. Though few people realized it, Coon Rapids was the most important stop for Khrushchev. It was the home of Roswell Garst, a plain-spoken, hard-headed corn farmer and agricultural innovator. To find out how the U.S. Center is involved in documenting this amazing story, click [here](#).

## Global Youth Service Day - Get Involved

The largest service event of its kind, Global Youth Service Day will once again be drawing in millions of young volunteers from across the United States and around the world to celebrate the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day.



On April 25-27, children and youth in more than 100 countries will address unmet needs in their communities by leading projects in areas ranging from literacy and disaster relief, to climate change, poverty and health. To learn more about this event, and how school youth organizations and other youth organizations can get involved, visit the Global Youth Service Day [website](#).

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