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Today, and every day at Legacy International, is about gaining perspective and applying practical ways to address needs. By seeing through the eyes of others, by listening and feeling the needs and the hopes of our fellow human beings, we have proven we can implement change for the common good. This process I call “Creating a New Tomorrow Today.”

Our model is not complicated, because it is based on who we are in our essence: we are all born essentially good. (We have never seen an ‘evil baby’!) We just strive in every possible way to sustain that goodness, support it, help direct it, and use it for the Common Good. With Compassion, Peace, Justice, Love, and Service as our foundation and template, I truly believe that bigotry, prejudice, inequality, inequity, and negativity cannot survive.

I feel that our Mission/Transmission is evidence of the transforming capacities of all people, youths and adults, that are needed to change the world and to alter the course of human self-destruction and selfishness to one of self-respect and selflessness.

Let us stay united in a dynamic vision of an attainable and sustainable future, so that the Legacy we are creating will be gladly picked up and enhanced by those who we train, inspire, and who come after us.

Legacy International President & Founder,
J.E. Rash
Due to the ongoing global pandemic, many alumni had to pivot and work to address the ongoing crisis in their communities. The Professional Fellows Program alumni have implemented initiatives addressing environmental sustainability, recovery, and peacebuilding in Lebanon, and online leadership courses in remote areas of Algeria.

**SHADY KHALIL (Egypt)**
**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & EDUCATION**

Greenish was co-founded by Shady Khalil, a Professional Fellows Program alumnus, with the intent to increase awareness of environmental sustainability and to engage environmental activists around the MENA region. In response to COVID-19, Shady and the Greenish team transitioned to a virtual model and developed a curriculum addressing biodiversity, clean energy, waste management, food, water, and agriculture that will be implemented in 62 entities around Egypt. Greenish will train them to implement this curriculum based on the needs of their local communities. Greenish’s experience-based model emphasizes outdoor learning and includes activities such as debate simulations and role playing on macro- and micro-scales. In the future, Shady and the Greenish team plan on continuing to support environmental activities and education, while also working on creating a Waste Management System in Egypt.

**KAMELIA HAMMACHI (Algeria)**
**WEBINARS FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Professional Fellows Program alumna Kamelia Hammachi saw an opportunity in the COVID-19 pandemic to provide beneficial resources for young adults living in her community in Algeria. Kamelia began by offering professional and personal improvement skills through videos and articles on LinkedIn, in an effort to popularize the use of the platform in Algeria. Moved by the positive feedback and demand for learning fundamental skills from her community, Kamelia transitioned to hosting free inclusive zoom webinars. In addition to covering topics of leadership in times of crisis, she focused on many other topics including self-discipline, problem-solving, time and stress management, and innovation for young entrepreneurs. Since the start of her project, Kamelia has hosted 17 total webinars and has reached over 120 enterprises. These webinars have inspired participants to visualize how they can begin to create and implement change in their own communities, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

**RODIANA BOU SHAHEEN (Lebanon)**
**WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT & SUSTAINABLE FOOD**

Professional Fellows Program alumna, Rodaina Bou Shaheen, is the Founder of Reef Catering, a social enterprise in Lebanon that provides eco-friendly catering services while empowering women from rural communities. In response to Lebanon’s lockdowns, Bou Shaheen moved her services online and began to offer online Food Safety training to 35 local women. This multi-day training aimed to increase the capacity of women from under-privileged areas, empowering them with vital skills to work through these difficult times. Reef also shifted to provide “Ready to Cook Products”, minimizing direct contact with customers while still providing quality home-cooked meals. Bou Shaheen would like to encourage fellow entrepreneurs to “swim with the current and be adaptable and flexible in matters of their ‘how’ but stand like a rock in matters of their ‘why.’” Times of crisis threaten an entrepreneur’s ability to reach his or her vision of a better world, but can also unearth new opportunities to address persistent needs.
In response to the global health crisis, TechGirls alumni have utilized their STEM and leadership skills to support their local communities. They are providing support and innovation directly to medical professionals, conducting peer education programs and serving those in need. Here are some of the many inspiring actions being taken by alumnae around the globe.

**SONDOS (Jordan)**

**DELIVERING VITAL MEDICINES TO REFUGEES**

“I was so frustrated thinking that I had missed a great opportunity to help others when the Syrian American Medical Society mission to the Zaatari refugee camp was cancelled due to COVID-19, until I found a form to volunteer with Watan to deliver medications to people in need. All of my life I have been studying diligently to give my utmost to patients and their families, to make people’s lives easier. Watan has given me the chance to do so and I couldn’t be more proud of the work I and my colleagues have achieved. We have to be one hand now, and each and every one of us has to do what they can to pass this crisis.”

**SULEKHA (United States)**

**3D PRINTING MASKS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

“I’ve been leading my robotics team’s effort to 3D print N95 masks for USC’s Keck Medical Center (through an initiative by CrashSpace). We saw the need for N95 masks and thought that we could use the 3D printers we had on hand to help. We advertised through our school and city to raise money through donations and also asked for volunteers to print masks using their own 3D printers. Currently, we have raised $275 and donated 130 masks. We are continuing to raise money and print masks.”

**KHAYOT (Uzbekistan)**

**COMMUNITY CARE DURING NATURAL DISASTERS**

Khayot is a high school student in Uzbekistan and is involved in the local volunteering organization “Barakat”. During the COVID-19 crisis, she and other volunteers have gathered food and given it to people in need. During these hard times, there was a devastating flood in Syrdarya — one of the regions of Uzbekistan. Citizens lost their houses, farms, and almost everything they owned. She and a team of people gathered food, clothing and various necessities to help them persevere through this tragedy.
While the global pandemic halted all our in-person exchanges, we nonetheless united transformative leaders worldwide in virtual programming that turned isolation into collaboration. As the stress of shutdowns emerged, and as cries for change to protect our environment and to create more just and equitable societies were raised, Legacy International responded by providing valuable training, one-on-one coaching, and self-paced courses.

CREATE A NEW TOMORROW, TODAY.
2020

BY THE NUMBERS

From Algeria to Mexico to the United Kingdom, participants from around the world came together to engage in Legacy International’s Virtual Programs. Rising to the challenge of COVID-19, Legacy delivered a multitude of programs to participants worldwide. Here are the highlights:

1200 PARTICIPANTS

FROM 22 COUNTRIES

IN 14 PROGRAMS
Due to the postponement of the Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program (SYLEP) 2020 U.S. exchange, Legacy International developed a virtual engagement program for the selected participants. Participants completed asynchronous assignments through Legacy’s Talent Online Learning Management System and attended weekly Zoom meetings. The virtual engagement was an effective way to get to know the participants and build community among the cohort – keeping them engaged until their U.S.-based program could be re-scheduled for 2021.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

**THE SAUDI YOUNG LEADERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

While the global pandemic kept us physically apart, the 2020 TechGirls built friendships and explored youth leadership with 62 TechGirls from 12 different countries and many time zones! These innovative students accomplished a great deal in a unique virtual space — coming together to address pressing global issues and to create plans for implementing change in their communities.

**LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

**ALUMNI WEBINAR SERIES**

As we all settled into new norms and established different routines, we worked to maintain our support of the Professional Fellows Program network through a four-part professional development webinar series. This series not only provided the opportunity to develop soft and hard skill sets, but connected 2020 ProFellows with alumni from countries across the MENA region who participated in the program over the past 10 years.
In the pandemic summer of 2020, the Global Youth Village pivoted from a traditional in-person program to an international virtual program which engaged a total of 93 young people aged 15-18 with intermediate and advanced English language skills.

Through 54 hours of activities per week over three weeks, V-GYV fostered cross-cultural understanding and helped young people tap into their potential as agents of change.

Important cross-cultural communication skills were developed such as how to listen, ask questions, share perspectives and discover shared values.

Students made friends from across the globe, sharing stories, art, recipes, and their passions in a safe secure setting.
LEARNING PATHWAYS

The Virtual Global Youth Village Pathway groups divided students into subsets of 10-18 individuals, to explore specialized areas of interest and Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to daily activities with the pathway, three all-Village meetings were dispersed throughout the program, assembling the entire Global Youth Village community to celebrate the integral role youth play in the world.

HELPING HANDS: SOCIAL JUSTICE & SERVICE FOR ALL
Students explore areas of needs in their communities and work 20+ hours with a local community service agency, or develop projects of their own with peers to raise awareness of social justice issues.

COMMUNITECH FOR SOCIAL GOOD
This pathway introduces the design thinking process and students develop app prototypes to address the issues that are of concern to them such as: public health, environmental stewardship, improving access to educational resources and more.

CROSSING CULTURES THROUGH THE ARTS
Students explore approaches to thinking like an artist and share public art works in their communities with the intent of uniting people through the power of art.

GLOBAL EARTH WARRIORS
Students engage in activities to explore climate change and ways humans can mitigate the effects on all ecosystems, culminating in personal action plans which include awareness campaigns, park cleanings, and other tools.

(YOU)NITED NATIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACTION
Students investigate which global goals critically affect youth development and learn that education, climate change, unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, conflict, and migration top the list. They go on to develop ways to engage youth in their communities to address the SDGs.
As we transitioned into virtual programming in 2020, we felt the effects of social isolation and came to realize that pre-recorded webinars were not going to allow us to overcome this hurdle of disconnection and overall weariness. We moved forward with one goal — to turn isolation into collaboration.

We were able to offer genuine personal interaction and networking in a live setting through our virtual Global Viewpoints Forum seminars. Curious minds from around the globe came together with experts and changemakers to engage in conversation, spark inspiration and grow their networks.

The seminars we offered throughout the year brought emerging leaders and bright minds together to tackle some of the world’s most pressing issues.
We offered 25 Virtual Global Viewpoints Forums. Below are only a few examples of the speakers and seminars we hosted throughout the year.

**HARRIET SHUGARMAN**

**OUR CLIMATE CRISIS: TURNING ANGST INTO ACTION**

Selected as a 2020 New York City Climate Hero and a 2019 featured speaker at the Global Engagement Summit at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, Harriet Shugarman is a sought after speaker, recognized as an influencer and connector in the climate movement. Harriet is the Executive Director of ClimateMama, an on-line community that reaches individuals in over 110 countries and all 50 states. As a leader and mentor with The Climate Reality Project, Harriet chairs the Climate Reality NYC Metro Chapter and was the recipient of the Climate Reality 2017 Green Ring Award. Harriet is also profiled in former U.S. Vice President Al Gore’s 2017 book: An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power.

**THOMAS LEE JR.**

**PRACTICING HUMILITY, EMPATHY, AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

Tommy Lee is passionate about global health, human rights, and youth development, particularly among sexual orientation and gender identity diverse (LGBTQIA+) people. His passion and interests for solving global issues has been greatly shaped by his over a decade long connection to Legacy International and the Global Youth Village as both a participant and staff member. Tommy earned his Master of Public Health degree from BUSPH in 2018 focusing on global health, program management, and sex, sexuality, & gender studies. Concurrently, he completed a graduate-level practicum in Botswana with LEGABIBO (Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals of Botswana) and earned a Graduate Certificate in African Studies. He undertook additional graduate-level coursework around religion and conflict transformation with the BU School of Theology in 2019.

**DANIELLE RICKS**

**SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SOCIAL GOOD: CAUSE MARKETING AND YOUR BRAND**

Danielle Ricks has three decades of work in traditional, broadcast media and journalism. Her experience includes Entertainment Producer at Walt Disney Co., Director of Corporate Social Strategy at MGM Resorts International, Digital Media Consultant for the United States Department of State, Broadcast Producer for ABC, CBS, and BET. Ms. Ricks holds a bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism from Howard University.
Abdo Magdy is an alumni of the Department of State’s Professional Fellows Program from Dahab, Egypt and the honorable awardee of the 2020 Alumni Impact Award. The prestigious Professional Fellows Program Alumni Impact Award (AIA) from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs recognizes exceptional contributions made by Professional Fellows Program Alumni to their communities.

In the fall of 2018, Abdo spent his four week fellowship at Apco Worldwide, a business advisory and advocacy consultant. With 14 years of entrepreneurial experience, Abdo’s focus during the program was to design a way to automate his company, Egypreneur, which specializes in providing comprehensive guidance and business support services to entrepreneurs and remote workers. Starting in 2008 and continuing to grow, Egypreneur had an overwhelming number of requests for business advice by the time Abdo entered the PFP program – nearly 50,000 – and required a way to automate the question and answer process. Abdo’s project during the PFP program was automating the digital communication system to make it easier and more efficient for the company to assist its clients. He created the Funding Assistant, a virtual conversation where entrepreneurs can gauge their next steps, be ranked on a scale of 1-10 on their financial readiness, and are given mentors to usher them through the next steps in their personal process.

In addition to fully automating his company, Abdo designed Lila, a virtual assistant and mentor for entrepreneurs and remote workers. Lila, a kind of Siri for entrepreneurs, helps these workers find their strong points and locate areas of weakness that they should focus on growing in their business.

When reflecting on his experience in PFP, Abdo says he had an abundance of opportunity to reflect personally and professionally, and was able to meet a lot of new people and form new connections. Abdo was officially recognized by Toastmasters, an international public speaking organization and is currently the President of his group in Egypt.
How did Legacy International respond to the COVID-19 crisis? A Heart Pause and an Intentional Pivot to meet the direct needs of today’s youth. As Founder and President of Legacy International, J.E. Rash says – a Heart Pause is truth written on our hearts that we get to listen and respond to.

The organization took immediate steps to support employees in the face of the pandemic and equip us to serve participants across the globe. We discussed as an organization how we could be flexible in our work to still impact communities across the globe despite the newfound obstacles. As a leader in social change, Legacy International recognized that instead of trying to solve problems that have not happened yet, we realize that everything that matters will last.

For me personally, COVID-19 has brought about grief, gratitude and giving. I have found a deeper need to give my time, energy, and resources to people and causes I care about such as relief for the pandemic, Black Lives Matter and climate action. I have experienced the impact it makes in my personal life to have the company I work for exemplify these universal values as well.

Legacy International has been successful in remaining agile in COVID-19 because we owned the indisputable mind syndrome and worked through it. We all often think that what we think and feel is correct (why else would we set our brains and hearts on them?) and yet we must accept when we are wrong so we can be flexible and agile. Here are a few things I believe I have learned because of my time with Legacy International in COVID-19:

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE IS POWERFUL.

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION ARE NOT LIMITED TO IN-PERSON EXPERIENCES.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE & DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH IS THE FUTURE.

FLEXIBLE LEADERSHIP IS ALL ABOUT TRUST IN RELATIONSHIPS.
My experience with Legacy International is that they understand the importance of managing stress, not just sweeping it under the rug, or giving stress-reduction “lip service”. This experience has allowed the management and staff to be more flexible, more responsive and to see opportunities to pivot where others may have not. Some of the actions management took included:

- Holding weekly meetings, where staff could bring up things going on in their lives during Covid, and sharing tips on how they take care of themselves (exercise, etc.)

- Prioritizing mental health training for staff and students: After a staff member attended a mental health training, all staff got to benefit from the lessons of that training in a Friday meeting.

- Offering extra days off in December and January to refuel our tanks through personal time or service to the community.

- Asking the wider community for help: reaching out to the wider community, Legacy ran a three-part fundraiser to help support our long-running international exchange, the Global Youth Village.

These techniques have trickled down to our program participants as well. I find we use these similar skills to strengthen our regular programming and help us gear up for new opportunities in international exchange! Thinking about the various possible outcomes allowed us to pivot quickly to pro-active virtual programming and to start planning for possible (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) options for upcoming programming. I am incredibly grateful to work at Legacy International!
PRINCIPAL STAFF

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MAHAVIR HOMSY
JUDITH LARSON

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ED STERN
ANNE ELISE THOMAS
This year has been unparalleled in the challenges we have all faced. The Global Pandemic has kept us all apart, disrupted businesses and international travel. The Global Youth Village, established in 1979 specifically designed to build the skills of teen leaders worldwide on our peaceful campus in the foothills of the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains had to close its cabin doors in 2020.

In response, we poured our hearts into creating a dynamic virtual exchange and offered it for free. The work stoppage drained our cash reserves but our determination remained intact. We immediately pivoted to create a special three-part fundraising campaign “Guarantee GYV’s Future” to raise $20,000 by December 20, 2020 for our 2021 program.

**DISTANCE CHALLENGE**

From Bishkek to Bedford - on November 5 - 8, 2020 Legacy International held our first GYV Global Distance Challenge. Alumni and friends of Legacy joined in by walking, tracking their distance, raising money, and sharing their journey on social media using the hashtag #gyvextramile. Over 40 participants walked 180 miles in 12 different cities and 7 countries around the world.

**ONLINE AUCTION**

From November 20 - December 5, 2020 Legacy International held an online auction featuring a range of unique items and gifts, from seasonal gifts like a Trader Joe’s holiday basket and Six Flags, MD holiday tickets, to designer vases and art work, as well as nutrition, coding and cooking classes!

**VIRTUAL GALA EVENT**

Our fundraising efforts culminated in our December 5, 2020 Online Gala. the event featured a keynote from Legacy International Founder & President, J.E. Rash, an artistic performance by Charles Williams, youth-led dialogues, poetry, storytelling, and prizes.

We reached our goal of $20,000 raised!