



**OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER**

[www.openworld.gov](http://www.openworld.gov)

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Dear Open World hosts:

Please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2008 and the thanks of all of us at Open World for your involvement in the Open World program in 2007. Our work relies heavily on the generous support of our American families in providing time, organization, substantive specialized professional programming, arrangements, lodging, meals, transportation, and most important, friendship to our delegates and facilitators from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

From the beginning, private citizens like you have made this program unique. Without your help, it would simply not be possible to achieve Open World's mission of implementing joint projects and building partnerships with leaders from the former Soviet Union. Starting this year, we will inform you by e-mail of results related to people you have hosted through Open World. To take advantage of such services and communicate directly with Open World friends, please register on the Open World Digital Directory at <http://www.openworld.gov/ddregister.php?IDLang=0>. We also have seven alumni representatives in Russia to facilitate your communication with colleagues and friends.

Your time and effort in providing professional programming and hospitality has been noted. Here are a few warm comments that families and individuals like you have prompted. One alumna wrote us: "[My] American family taught me to value family relations in a new way and to perceive my own family and our Russian way of life differently." Another alumnus wrote that the home hosting experience allowed him to "discover a world through a shared refrigerator, children's photos. ... Swimming together in the ocean is the real world, real friendship is most important. The world is truly open. And it welcomed me."

As we start a new year with the resolve to enhance local programming with a deeper dialogue between Americans and Open World program participants, we hope that we can count on your experience, resources, and hospitality if you are once again asked to bring people of different cultures together for better understanding and a chance to forge ties of mutual benefit. Please visit our website at [www.openworld.gov](http://www.openworld.gov) for more information about opportunities and resources available to you as a valued Open World host.

Your opinions and suggestions are important to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John O'Keefe  
Executive Director