



++
++
++
++

Annual Report

2024



++
++
++
++



CISV USA

Building global friendship



Table Of

Contents

1 Mission & Vision

++

2 Our History

++

3 A Note from our Board Chair

++

4 Governance & Leadership

++

5 A Note from our Exec. Director

6 Our Year in Brief

7 Our Chapters

8 Mosaic

9 Our Impact

10 Community Support



Mission

**CISV educates and inspires action
for a more
just and peaceful world.**



Vision

CISV continues to grow, guided by its founding belief that a more just and peaceful world is possible through intercultural exchange, education and friendship – starting with children.

This year, we sent American participants to over 30 countries. As we enter our 75th year, we are committed to strengthening our chapters, engaging new families, and increasing financial aid for participants.



Our History



The idea for Children's International Summer Villages (today known as CISV International) was conceived by psychologist Dr. Doris Twitchell Allen in 1946. As a specialist in growth and development, Dr. Allen, firmly believed that the ultimate source for world peace, long range, lay with children.

In just a few years, Dr. Allen's idea had become a reality. Children's International Summer Villages (now known as CISV) was registered as a non-profit corporation in Ohio in 1950. The first Village program was held in Cincinnati in 1951, bringing together young people from Austria, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Sweden and USA.

Today, CISV offers experiences to people of all ages, starting with children aged 11. In the spirit of Doris Allen's original vision, CISV aspires to be a unique and pioneering organization. CISV has grown from one program model to seven different educational programs; from one Village to over 300 programs a year, involving over 9000 participants.

Celebrating 75 Years of Global Friendship and Peace Education

This year, CISV USA celebrates an extraordinary milestone—75 years of inspiring action for a more just and peaceful world. From our very first international Village to the thousands of friendships sparked across cultures, our mission remains as urgent and powerful as ever.

We enter this anniversary year with a spirit of reflection, renewal, and recommitment. We know the world needs global citizens—young people with empathy, curiosity, and the courage to lead. CISV helps shape them. While the past few years have brought challenges, this moment is filled with hope. Across the country, volunteers, chapters, and supporters like you are coming together to strengthen CISV for generations to come.



Thanks to your support, we are:

- Launching a 75th Anniversary campaign to expand access to life-changing programs
- Providing training and tools to help local chapters thrive
- Streamlining systems to operate more efficiently and sustainably
- Equipping volunteers with the resources they need to lead confidently

As we celebrate our history, we're also building our future. And we want you with us. Whether you're a long-time volunteer or a new supporter, there's a role for you in the next 75 years of CISV.

Thank you for believing in peace, in youth, and in the power of connection. The work we do together matters.

With deep gratitude,

Venkat Memula
Chairperson, CISV USA Board of Directors



Governance and Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Venkat Memula
Board Chair/President
Valerie Maurais
Jude Albukhari
Arnold Miller
Sam Taussig
Jamila Daniel
Mae Cooper
Tom Wilten
Brian Summerfield
Nikita Raheja
Junior Branch Director
Tim Morin
National Treasurer

LEADERSHIP STAFF

Laura Ripberger
Executive Director

HONORARY COUNSELORS

Phil Long
Joyce Maroney
Vicki Tejada
Kathleen Samul
Brett Vottero
Linda & Randy Winski

This year, we are celebrating an incredible milestone—CISV is turning 75! For over seven decades, CISV has been a global leader in fostering peace, promoting youth leadership, and creating lasting friendships among young people from all over the world. We invite you to join us in celebrating this legacy—and help ensure that it continues to thrive in the years ahead.



A Note from Our Executive Director

2024 brought increased stability as we continued to rebuild post-pandemic. While progress has been steady, we recognize that some chapters still face challenges. In response, we sought new ways to provide support, including a successful Chapter Development Workshop for our Pittsburgh chapter. This initiative strengthened their volunteer base and improved participant recruitment, setting a strong example for other chapters.

Our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) remains central to our mission. This year, our DEIA committee developed a comprehensive Inclusivity Guide—a valuable resource designed to help chapters incorporate accessibility and inclusivity at every stage of their work. This guide ensures that inclusivity is a fundamental aspect of our organization's growth and impact.

One of the highlights of 2024 was the launch of our inaugural mini-camp, CISV Connect. This event brought together CISVers from across the U.S. for a weekend of camp-based activities, educational sessions, and, most importantly, opportunities to reconnect in person. CISV Connect successfully bridged the gap between Junior Branch members and adults, reinforcing the sense of community that defines our organization.

As we look ahead to 2025, we reaffirm our dedication to integrating DEIA principles into every facet of our work. Our mission remains unwavering. In the coming year, we will undertake a comprehensive review of our National Program, Fortnight, to evaluate key aspects such as educational programming, participant ages, and marketing to ensure we continue to provide meaningful experiences. Fortnight plays a crucial role in closing the opportunity gap for participants aged 16-17. We are committed to strengthening its impact.

Additionally, our newly formed financial committee has made remarkable strides in expanding financial assistance opportunities. With the generous support of new donors, we are thrilled to offer full funding for three participants to attend our life-changing programs—an important step toward making our programs accessible to all.

While challenges remain, the dedication and passion of CISV's volunteers continue to inspire me every day. Their unwavering commitment makes everything possible, and I am honored and grateful to work alongside this incredible community. Together, we will continue to build a stronger, more inclusive future.

With gratitude,

Laura Ripberger
Executive Director, CISV USA



Our Year in Brief

We had another fantastic year with hundreds of American youth participants traveling all over the world! In the coming years, we anticipate growth in donors through our 75th anniversary campaign, and we hope to increase our number of chapters each year.

150+

Leaders and Staff

30+

Countries Traveled

17

Programs Hosted

Including

- 6 new Mosaic programs
- 3 Step Ups
- 2 Youth Meetings
- 2 Villages
- Fortnight
- 1 Seminar
- 2 Interchanges

450+

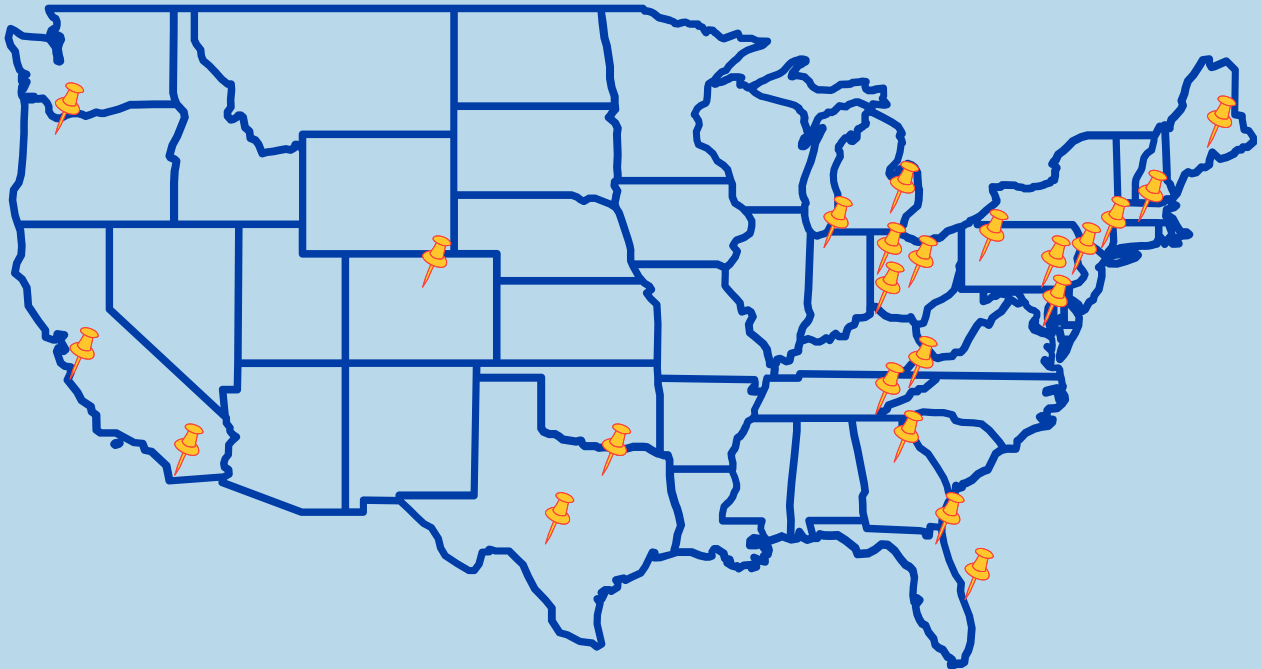
Participants

Including

- 29 Village delegations
- 2 Interchanges
- 24 Junior Counselors
- 34 Seminar participants
- 32 Youth Meeting Delegations
- 39 Step Up delegations



NATIONAL CHAPTERS



Atlanta
Austin/San Antonio
Brandywine Valley
Chattanooga
Cincinnati
Columbus
Dallas/Fort Worth
Detroit

Jacksonville
Maine
Miami
Michigan City/Lakeshore
Midwest Ohio
New York
Philadelphia

Pittsburgh
Portland
Rocky Mountain Denver
San Francisco Bay Area
Smoky Mountain
Southern California
Greater Springfield
Washington D.C.

MOSAIC

In addition to global programs, CISV also aims to make an impact on a more local level. Mosaic is CISV's local community-based program. Mosaic can be anything from a one-off event to a year-long project.

Mosaic projects are planned and delivered by our Chapters, using CISV's educational approach, and each one responds to local needs and interests in a meaningful way. Most projects are designed and run in cooperation with partner organizations to further the benefit to the local community.

This year, we hosted many Mosaic programs all over the country. Mosaics were held in Brandywine Valley, Columbus, Midwest Ohio, New York, Jacksonville, Portland, and San Francisco including 6 new Mosaic projects and 5 ongoing ones.



2024 Mosaic Projects

“CISV Jacksonville offers a free two-week day camp for 9–11-year-olds, aiming to engage children from diverse neighborhoods across the city, especially those new to CISV or facing financial barriers. Over the past three years, we’ve shifted from an overnight model to a day camp to improve accessibility for families and strengthen long-term connections through relationship building. “

-CISV Jacksonville

“The New York City Chapter's Mosaic Program offers a diverse group of 11 and 12 year old children from underserved communities throughout the New York City area with a free one-week sleepaway camp that embodies the mission and values of CISV to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world through activities modeled after a Village experience. Each year, between 30 and 35 children are accepted into the program to participate, many of whom continue with CISV activities.”

-CISV New York



2024 Mosaic Projects

"In 2024, for the second year in a row, CISV Portland Junior Branch (JB) gathered, planned, prepared, and served a meal for 60 residents of the Path Home Portland Homeless Family Shelter. We also provided shelter support by way of an in-kind donation drive. The event also included a content discussion around the issues facing homeless families in the Portland region with 21 JB participants plus 6 CISV staff. Our partnership with Path Home continues to be a highly successful, educational, and rewarding experience for everyone involved. One special element of this year's Mosaic was that some of the kids were able to go to Path Home directly to drop off the food. This had not been possible before due to the pandemic. The JB members were also enthusiastic. One said afterward, "I can't imagine how hard it must be for kids who don't have a safe place to stay or enough to eat. You see a lot of people experiencing homelessness in Portland. I wish we could do more, but it is good that we can at least do something to help."

-CISV Portland



"Our chapter has impacted the local community through a number of Mosaics year. We have supported local families in need through our Holiday Angels toy drive & One Warm Coat drive. We have focused on sustainability through our Coastline Clean-up with SF BayKeeper. We have worked with Second Harvest Food Bank to help prepare meals for families in need."

-CISV San Francisco



Our Impact

What our participants
are saying



“CISV has made me feel more independent. It makes me feel confident to try to new things.”

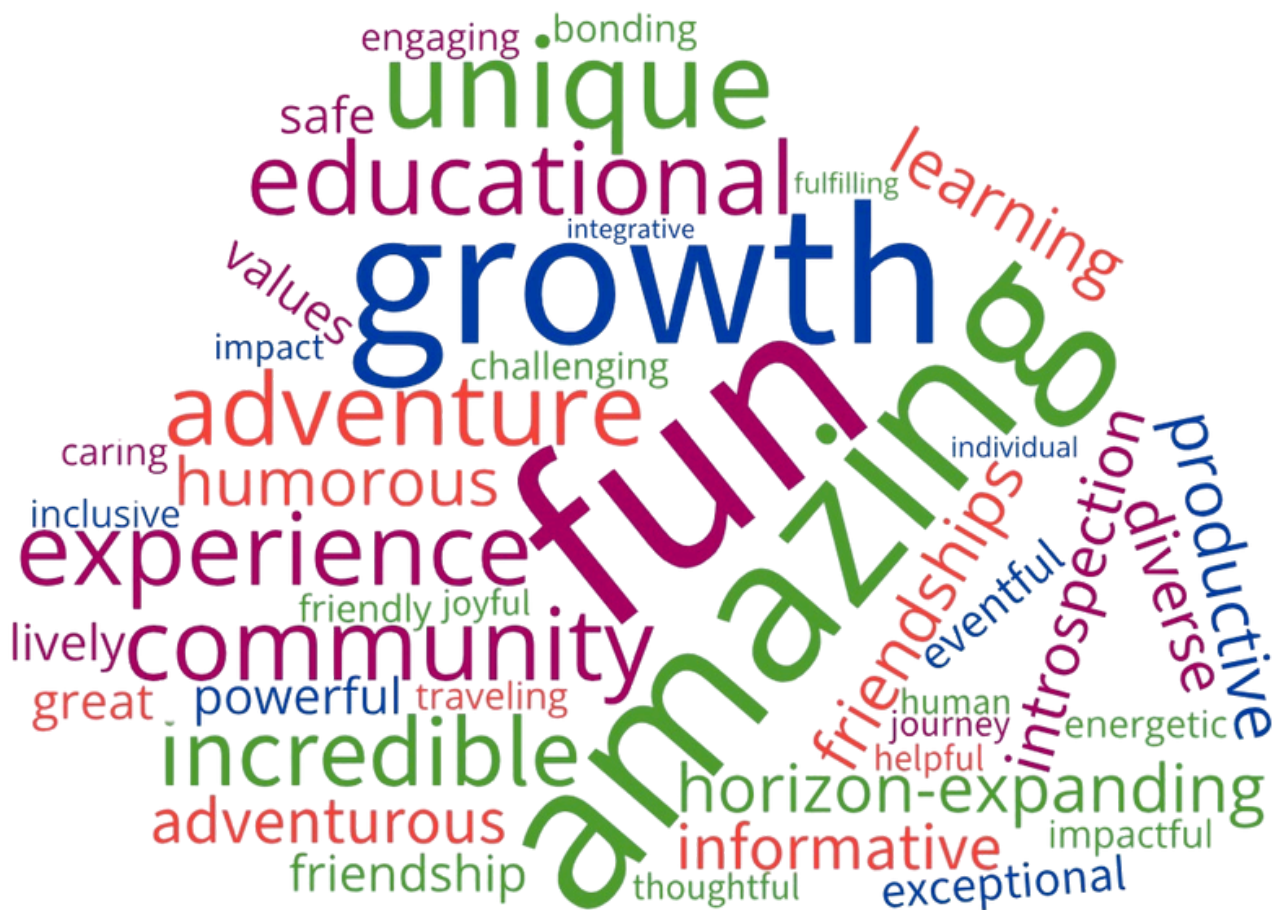
“CISV has impacted my life in the way of seeing how other people live and feel taught to me be a better and stronger person”

“CISV has impacted my life by teaching me to always be kind to others and be grateful for what you have because other people’s lives are not always going to be as good as yours. Also, to accept other cultures because even though they are not the same as yours, they are equally as correct. Lastly, it taught me to be patient and respectful to others’ ideas even if you don’t agree with them.”



Our Impact

- These are the most common words participants use to describe their CISO experience



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



DONATIONS
\$46,000+



FAMILIES
500+



DONORS
150+



VOLUNTEERS
300+

CISV is a volunteer-led organization. Every year, our dedicated and passionate volunteers of all ages give their expertise, skills, life experience, energy, and time to run our Chapters, programs, and Junior Branches. Safe travel and educational programming simply would not happen without our indispensable volunteer support. Our volunteers are also involved at every level of CISV International, offering leadership and support to our network of volunteers worldwide. Our volunteers accomplish incredible feats including travel planning, risk management, hosting delegates, maintaining budgets, and more at every step of the process. Even those without a formal volunteer position are enormously helpful in making CISV programs successful. Every year, hundreds of families help support not only their own child in the CISV experiences but delegates from other families and other countries as well.

We also feel extremely grateful for our donors at every level. This year, we reached over \$50,000 in donations from individuals alone. We hope to double this number by 2030 in order to make our programs even more rewarding for participants, as well as to be able to provide more financial aid opportunities for our low-income families.



● COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank you to our 2024 donors!

Alexander Futiran
Alicia Roland
Amanda Stegner
Ambar Patel
Andrew Allen
Ann Appert
Anne Steinert
Arnold & Marilyn Miller
Beth Duff
Brian Summerfield
Camila Viegas-Lee
Catherine Knoop
Cecilia Schiera
Charles Lieberman
Chip Workman
Christopher Sheldon
Eko Prasetyo
Emily Filice
Emily Squires Levine
Erastus Allen
Erin Sheehan

Gislin Dagnelle
Jamila Daniel
Janet Reynolds
Jonathan Richard
Joy Radice
Juanita L Harty
Jude Albukhari
Karrie Mitchell
Katherine Bigelow
Kathryn McCormick
Kristin Ormand
Leah Closson
Leticia Keremian
Lynn Bassin
Lynn Vottero
Mary Greenebaum
Melissa Donohue
Michelle Dennison
Mike Gorman
Mona Schnitzler
Musa Zaid
Nancy Driller

Nancy White
Natalie Bonnewit
Nathan Goldberg
Rachel Hubbard
Regina Whittington
Rhea Grate
Robert Cordova
Pamela Johnson
Patricia Johnson
Shane Sherman
Soneel & Gita Raj
Stephanie Burr
Susan Brogden
Tanya Horning
Tiffany Kuzio
Tim Morin
Todd Watkins
Valerie Chritton
Valerie Maurais
Venkat Memula
Vicki Tajada



CISV USA

Building global friendship

THANK YOU



Phone

513-674-9242

Website

WWW.CISVUSA.ORG

Email

EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR@CISVUSA.ORG

