

FFI Fundraiser Update & Invitation to Join FFWM Photo Cluster

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friendship force
WESTERN MICHIGAN

An update about the FFI fundraiser from our president, Jerry Potratz:

I am extremely pleased to share with you that we had a very successful fundraising drive to help Friendship Force International (FFI) with its Covid-caused financial challenges. As of Tuesday, May 13th, Lisa Fisher, our treasurer, has recorded contributions from 42 members. . . a 67% participation rate.....which, I think, in today's environment, is outstanding! Our contribution total of \$4,610, when combined with our \$2,000 match, results in \$6,610 going to FFI. This is also outstanding!

Our average contribution from the 42 members was \$110. Great! Our total being sent to FFI (\$6,610), divided by our entire membership of 63 people, results in an average per members amount of \$105. Again great!!

A big thank you goes to our membership for creating such a meaningful donation to FFI. We are all to be commended and I am confident that FFI will be pleased with our result!

I hope that we can gather as a club, in a safe way, in the not to distant future. In the meantime, please continue to take care of yourselves and give some thought to joining our photo cluster! Everyone is welcome!



INVITATION TO JOIN OUR FFWM PHOTOCLUSTER

As announced at our last Christmas gathering, in response to a larger such endeavor at the international level [<https://ffiphotographycc.shutterfly.com/>], we decided to create a group within our club (a club cluster or CC) for those interested in photography and wishing to develop their photographic skills. Initially 11 members of our club indicated an interest in being part of the group. Four club members agreed to serve as leaders of the endeavor (a requirement in order to be recognized by the larger FFI photography CC) - Dave Hargreave, Lyn Hargreave, Marcie Ellis, and Lisa Fisher. We held our first organizational meeting early in the new year and those members who remained in the frozen North for the winter months even managed to carry out a group photo shoot of raptors at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in late February. Then, before the group could meet to compare and evaluate the images captured during that shoot, we entered the COVID 19 era and everything ground to a halt. While the two images above from that shoot have been uploaded to the FFI Photography CC site, the procedure followed to do so fell far short of what we hope to accomplish with our club cluster because it didn't provide an opportunity for all group members to be part of the evaluation process.

We are now looking for ways to move forward with this cluster in an age of social distancing. Marcie has been working on creating our own photography share site so that we will have a place where we can upload our photographs to compare, discuss, and evaluate them, the goal being to assist one another in developing the vocabulary and promoting the skills of good photography. As we envision the process working, we will select a monthly focus or theme so that we can deal with images that are similar in subject matter, ask cluster members to select and upload to our share site if they choose to do so one or two images that they feel best exemplify that theme, then, when the images have been

uploaded, we will view all the submissions together and assess their strengths and weaknesses. At least for the foreseeable future, the discussions themselves will have to be carried out in monthly meetings via Zoom, Skype, or some such internet site.

We hope to have things ready to go soon. Once the share site is up and running all club members will be invited to view the photographs posted there. However, only those club members who actually wish to participate in the club cluster will be able to upload images to the site, or be able to evaluate those images being posted. The cluster is open to anyone in the club who wishes to join. There are no skill- level or photographic equipment requirements. However, you will need to have internet capabilities so that you can upload images to the share site, view the images on that site and engage in our evaluation meetings.

If you are interested in being a part of the FFWM CC but have not yet expressed that interest, please send an email to ellism@wmich.edu so that we can enter you as a member on the share site and put you on our email distribution list.

[facebook.com]



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