



Shaping Diplomacy One Handshake At A Time

GLOBALTIES > Alabama

Volume 14, Issue 1, Year 2024

Message From Our CEO - Jacquelyn Shipe

2024 continues Global Ties Alabama's journey that transcends screens and resonates in the corridors of change. In the spirit of collaboration, I salute GTA's stakeholders-- our multi-talented team, Board of Directors, Diplomatic Corps of volunteers, professional resources and strategic partners as the New Year has ushered in a wave of inspiration for us all.

During the week of March 4th I found myself standing amongst a constellation of thought leaders during the 2024 Global Ties U.S. national meeting in our nation's Capitol.

The kickoff event was a dynamic Advocacy Day on March 5. The agenda was meticulously crafted to serve as a roadmap, guiding us through the intricacies of appropriations, the current state of play, key contacts, and the powerful messaging that will define the Global Ties Network in the months ahead. I was accompanied by Global Ties Alabama's former interns-- Noah Gray, 2024 UAH grad and Emerging Leader and Nadia Harden, Oakwood University and White House student intern. On March 7th the Global Ties Alabama team-- Annette Philpott, Noah Gray and two of its strategic partners, Mark Rebstock of Meridian International and Troy Collazo of Episcopal Migrant Ministries-- met with Congressman Robert Aderholt and his Deputy, Laura Titus in order to update them on the diplomacy and refugee resettlement work of Global Ties Alabama. We were asked to submit an 2025 Appropriations application after returning to AL which we did.

In late March, the U.S. Congress finally passed the FY 2024 spending bills which included the State Department Foreign Operations (SFOPS) budget. Unfortunately, the Educational and Cultural Exchange (ECE) budget was reduced by roughly 5% but we expect to receive the funding that was budgeted for the FY 2024 Community Partnership Grant which is critical to the Global Ties U.S. network and Global Ties Alabama.

Thanks to the living tapestry of advocacy experiences and candid conversations which unravel the nuances of congressional contexts. Through storytelling, we illuminate engagement strategies that have proved effective and messaging that has echoed in the hallowed halls of decision-making and strengthened our advocacy voices as catalysts for change..



Global Ties U.S. National Meeting

The 2024 GTUS national meeting upheld the cherished tradition of bringing together members of the GTUS network. The vibrant spirit of the network enriched every interaction with CBM leaders and staff, OIV or NPA partners, whether forging new connections or reconnecting with longtime colleagues.

During the Advocacy breakfast on Capitol Hill, GTA's team had the opportunity to engage with new Congressional and Department of State personnel and initiate connections with CBM associates. The meeting's plenaries and workshops were dynamic, filled with valuable insights, and marked by a sense of celebration.



Advocacy Visit to Congressman Robert Aderholt's Office



Advocacy Day on the Hill



2012 Visitor Jarrett Clarke and Annette Philpo't, GTA

“Having had the privilege to be a part of Global Ties US’ Emerging Leader program, I have to thank Global Ties Alabama for nominating me. The task to create a service project brought with it a deep responsibility to do something good for our community, which is why I chose to educate college students on the risks of social media disinformation, how to identify and even combat it given this likely historic election year.

Getting to discuss and share my project at the Global Ties US National Meeting was rewarding, but the experience I gained by talking with seasoned diplomats and professionals was the highlight of my experience at the national meeting. From sitting in on State Department regional briefings, discussing entry into the foreign service, or networking with my Emerging Leaders cohort, the experience was powerful.

The best quote I heard was from a former foreign service officer turned Ambassador; “Go do good work in hard places.” I will live the rest of my life living up to those words.”



Noah Gray, 2024 GTUS Emerging Leader

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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

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Last November, Global Ties Alabama was officially approved as the first and only refugee resettlement agency in North Alabama! Our Refugee Resettlement Program is designed to provide assistance and support to refugees who have been forced to flee their home countries due to persecution, conflict, or other forms of violence in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Department of State. Our small (but mighty!) team is comprised of: Stephanie Manning, Program Director; Lisa Whitehurst - Community Relations & Referral Specialist; Brooklyn Ashley, Case Management Intern (AAMU); Lianna Didyk, Case Management Intern (UNA); Emanda Ortiz, Case Management Intern (AAMU); Julie Parker, Case Management Intern (UA); and Joycelyn Collier, Case Manager.

So far – with the help of our community supporters – we have received and resettled three families since February 21st. These families have come to us from Guatemala (family of 7), Qatar (family of 4), and Colombia (family of 4). Through our work and community support, we have been able to provide housing, home furnishing, clothing, school supplies, toys, baby items, food, and so much more for these deserving families. For the first 90 days of their arrival, our team will continue working closely with the families to provide them with additional support and resources such as case management, employment assistance, medical and mental health referrals, ESL referrals, trade/education referrals, women’s support group, trauma support group, and enrollment for children in school.

Just how vital our community support is in doing this important work cannot be understated. We are so grateful to all of those who have generously volunteered their time, money, donated items, resources, and efforts to this cause. As you know, we will have more families to serve in the coming weeks and months, so we will continue to lean on the community’s support to provide these families with the best possible experience in the resettlement process. Here are some things we are constantly in need of: donated items for our families’ homes, transportation to appointments, interpretation/translation, financial sponsorship, and general volunteer support. If you are able to contribute to our cause in any way, please sign up via our volunteer form to be added to our mailing list.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage in philanthropic work and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community, as we work to assist our new neighbors in settling into their new homes!



January - June 2024 Programs

Azerbaijan:

Social Entrepreneurship in the United States- January 13-17, 2024

Near East North Africa:

Human and Civil Rights Advocacy & Awareness- January 21-24, 2024

South Korea:

Global Industry Relationships
April 1-5, 2024

Africa:

Transitional Justice in Africa & the United States- April 6-10, 2024

Georgia:

Promoting Service Learning & Career Counseling in Education
April 12-18, 2024

Czech Republic, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom:

Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative
May 4-June 1, 2024

Laos:

Transparency and Accountability in Government- May 8-14, 2024

Germany:

Civil Society Against Extremism and for Constructive Political Dialogue
May 15-19, 2024

Belarus:

Human and Political Prisoners Rights Advocacy- May 18-22, 2024

Czech Republic, Finland, Geneva USIO – Switzerland, India, Iraq, Nepal, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa:

The Problem We All Live With: Dismantling Racial & Social Injustice- June 6-11, 2024

Japan:

Strengthening the U.S. - Japan Alliance through Leadership Development
June 8-12, 2024

Caribbean:

Climate Smart Agriculture in the Caribbean
June 9-12, 2024

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Al Allenback, *Governance Vice-Chair*
Helen Fischle, *Secretary*
Zeke Anders, *Treasurer*

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GTA Team

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Program Consultant
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Jacob Inglis,
Program Associate
Jessica Fischle,
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Stephanie Manning,
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Joycelyn Collier,
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Congratulations!



Nyla Henry

2024 Spring Intern

University of AL in Huntsville
Undergraduate



Helen Fischle

GTA Board Member

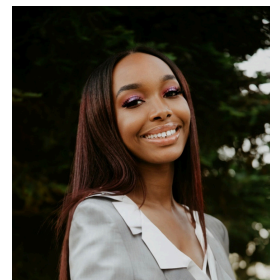
Alabama A&M University

Doctorate Program

Jessica Fischle

2022 Intern

University of Alabama in Huntsville
Undergraduate



Brooklyn Ashley

2024 Spring Intern

Alabama A&M University
Undergraduate