

AFS JANUS

Newsletter for AFS Alumni & Friends - June 2021



Strengthening the AFS Mission Through the New A. Piatt Andrew Fund

AFS is proud to announce the launch of the **AFS A. Piatt Andrew Endowment Fund** to honor the legacy of A. Piatt Andrew, the founder of the American Field Service (AFS). **The fund will benefit the AFS mission today: Foster intercultural understanding for a more just and peaceful world.** The Fund is established thanks to the generous support of A. Piatt Andrew's descendants.



Inspector General A. Piatt Andrew and Assistant Inspector General Stephen Galatti at the AFS headquarters in Paris, France. 1917. Photograph by H.C. Ellis.

Find out more about this photo at afs.org/2015/04/01/deconstructed-photograph-1917

The annual distributions from the Fund will be applied where the funds are needed most, such as supporting volunteerism in AFS and helping AFS advance activities that meet its mission of providing intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

We welcome contributions to the AFS A. Piatt Andrew Fund online at afs.org/donate or via mail.

Contact Milena Miladinovic (m.miladinovic@afs.org) to discover ways to support AFS or to learn more about AFS today.



AFS has more than 50,000 volunteers around the globe.

“ We are incredibly grateful to A. Piatt Andrew’s descendants for establishing this Fund. Their support will help ensure AFS continues the mission of our founders, by bringing communities together across cultural divides and other differences ”

-Daniel Obst,
President and CEO of
AFS Intercultural Programs.

Learn more about A. Piatt Andrew on the following pages.

AFS WWII Ambulance Drivers Last Post



Lee Harold Chalifour,
1st Air Ambulance Squadron
(1928-2021)



William Robert Wallace,
ME 16, FR 4
(1921-2021)



Allan Bixby Prince,
CM 43
(1924-2021)

Find out more at afs.org/lastpost



Letter from the President

Dear AFS Friend,

Throughout the pandemic, the staff and volunteers of AFS have drawn inspiration from our brave founders, the AFS ambulance drivers. As we continue to live through an unprecedented crisis, we remember their determination to serve and their vision for AFS in the aftermath of the greatest crisis of their own time, World War II.

That is **why we are dedicating this issue of the Janus to our founder, an inspiring AFSer, and an original global citizen, A. Piatt Andrew.**

We are deeply grateful to his descendants for creating the A. Piatt Andrew Endowment Fund now, at a time when support for the AFS mission is more important than ever before.

In spite of all the challenges we have faced over the last year and a half, the AFS Network has managed to:

- Maintain our **intercultural exchange programs**, which have been running for 70+ years, wherever it is safe and possible to do so.
- Find **innovative ways to meet young people where they are** and teach them the value of empathy,
- Bring **global citizenship to schools**, and
- **Tackle social inequalities through our local volunteers** in 57 countries around the world.

We've also found ways to advance our mission beyond our exchange programs. Last month the global AFS community gathered to discuss **what it would take to treat the whole world as family**. AFS alumna and Chair of the AFS Board of Trustees Vishakha N. Desai met with three young global citizens whose lives were transformed by AFS. One thing we all agreed on is that **once you open your eyes to the world, you cannot close them**.

As I write this letter, more than 5,000 young AFSers are getting ready to start their exchanges this year. Their desire to meet other cultures and build friendships across borders has not diminished during the time of isolation and pandemic.

On behalf of this newest class of young AFSers, and the global AFS community, thank you for standing with us.



Daniel Obst

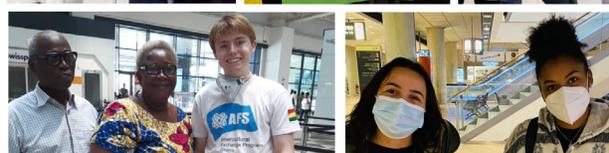
President & CEO
AFS Intercultural Programs



AFS Dialogue: World as Family gathered more than 120 people interested sharing their experiences.



Members of the AFS International staff gathered at the new office in New York for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic started.



AFSers worldwide started their exchanges this year.



A. Piatt Andrew: Our Founding Global Citizen

A. Piatt Andrew was born in 1873 in La Porte, Indiana, USA. He graduated from Princeton University, and received his M.A. from Harvard University. Over the course of his career he became Assistant Professor of Economics at Harvard (1900–1909), Director of the U.S. Mint (1909–1910), and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under United States President William H. Taft (1910–1912).

The American Field Service (AFS) originated as the Transportation Department in an auxiliary military hospital in Paris. This volunteer-run, civilian-financed American Ambulance Hospital, an extension of the nearby American Hospital of Paris, opened its doors in September of 1914, shortly after the outbreak of World War I.

In December 1914, at age 41, A. Piatt Andrew set sail for France to volunteer as an ambulance driver at the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris. Andrew informed his parents that his reasons for volunteering were **“The possibility of being of some service in the midst of so much distress—the interest of witnessing some of the scenes in this greatest of spectacles—[and] the chance of doing the little all that one can for France.”**

Read the full letter on the AFS website at afs.org/2015/01/01/a-piatt-andrew-letter-to-parents-1914

Although Andrew told his parents he planned to stay in France for only two or three months, he ended up volunteering his time through the end of the war in 1918.

After arriving at the Hospital in January 1915, Andrew traveled to Dunkirk to serve as an ambulance driver for a few weeks. He was quickly promoted to Inspector General of the Transportation Committee at the Hospital. In early 1915 the ambulance drivers at the Hospital primarily ferried patients from the train stations in Paris to hospitals in and



A. Piatt Andrew at Red Roof before the war, undated. Photograph by T.E. Bro & Son.

around the city. Andrew realized that much more could be done, and in April 1915 he successfully negotiated with the French Army to have some ambulance sections of the Hospital work closer to the front lines of battle. These sections would later come to be known as the **“American Field Service”** or **“AFS.”**

AFS would later break away from the Hospital to become an independent organization. This break is documented in the following letter, which was on view at the Postal Museum of the Smithsonian:

postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/my-fellow-soldiers-exhibition-explore-by-theme-staying-neutral/a-piatt-andrew-to-his

Under Andrew’s leadership AFS became the largest volunteer ambulance corps in Europe prior to the entry of the United States military into the war, and actively recruited volunteers from the Ivy League and other colleges in the U.S. for six month volunteer missions in France. By the time the U.S. entered the war in late 1917, 2,500 men had served as ambulance or camion drivers in the American Field Service with the French Armies.



Women and children at St. Amarin, Alsace, gave flowers to A. Piatt Andrew, circa 1915.

“The fellowships that the Field Service hopes ultimately to establish not only will promote science and learning, but will tend to perpetuate, long after all of us are gone, the fraternity and understanding between the youth of the two countries which so strikingly characterized their relations in old Field Service days. They will build noble and enduring monument to one hundred and twenty-seven comrades who gave all that they were, and all that they might ever have hoped to be, to the cause of America and of France. They will help to make immortal the spirit in which these men gave their lives.”

–A. Piatt Andrew;
Speech given at the reunion banquet,
May 8, 1920, New York

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5 Hanover Square, Suite 200
New York, NY 10004

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AFS drivers evacuated wounded soldiers from dressing stations near the trenches, driving them over shell-pocketed roads to safety. AFS also standardized the type of ambulance the organization used to the Model T Ford ambulance, which was quicker and more efficient, leading to the **evacuation of more than 500,000 wounded from both sides of the war.**

Andrew returned to the United States after the war ended, and became a congressman in the United States House of Representatives.

Find out more about his home in Gloucester, Massachusetts, MA, that he named “Red Roof.” The house had an extraordinary life until it was demolished in December 2012.

Read more on the AFS website at afs.org/2014/06/01/a-piatt-andrew-and-red-roof-1910.

Stephen Galatti Jr., son of the AFS founder Stephen Galatti, was an active AFS volunteer and staff member.

Read his personal recollections of A. Piatt Andrew in this vignette at go.afs.org/janus2011



A. Piatt Andrew in the uniform of a Lt. Colonel in the United States Army Ambulance Service, 1918.

We have moved!

The new address for
AFS Intercultural Programs is:

5 Hanover Square, Suite 200, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10004 USA

You can reach us by phone at:
+1 212 209 0900.

Contribute to the AFS A. Piatt Andrew Fund

We welcome your contributions at afs.org/donate to honor our heroic founder and benefit the AFS mission today: Foster intercultural understanding for a more just and peaceful world. Your gifts bring communities together across cultural divides and other differences. On behalf of every AFSer you support, thank you.