



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Developing Active Global Citizens



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LOOKING BACK, ADAPTING FORWARD



As we write this letter, the COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to make a profound impact on the world. Its influence on AFS has been significant as well, but the commitment to service demonstrated by AFS volunteers and staff as well as the resilience of our students and host families have been truly impressive. That is the context in which we reflect on 2019: how our strategic efforts, innovative projects, and flagship programs have prepared us for a powerful response to a global crisis, and given us a basis to build back better.

Throughout 2019, AFS offices in 60 countries worked with donors, partners, schools and local organizations to deliver on our three strategic impact goals:

- Develop active global citizens,
- Globalize schools and institutions, and
- Expand access to intercultural learning.

We are grateful to our strategic partners for supporting our vision to ensure we are inclusive and relevant to the communities we serve.

AFS was created as a volunteer ambulance corps in 1915 and then reactivated after the start of World War II. Our founders transformed AFS into a global organization that builds understanding among people from diverse backgrounds to create a more just and peaceful world. Our commitment to service and volunteerism has not changed.

Worldwide, AFS is doubling down on our commitment to educate more young people to become global citizens and provide them with transformational intercultural experiences. In uncertain times especially, cultural exchange must continue and will.

It has been AFS's mission for decades to connect people across cultures and differences to transform the way we view and treat one another. But we recognize we must work even harder on educating ourselves and others about racial inequalities, power discrepancies, and bias recognition. We are committed to create more opportunities for our communities to learn how to honor and engage with the diversity that makes our societies strong.

We express our sincere gratitude to all AFS alumni, volunteers, and staff around the world whose work champions AFS values and makes the programs and activities featured in this Annual Report possible.

Vishakha Desai (AFS '67)
Chair, Board of Trustees

Daniel Obst
President and CEO

AFS 2019 IMPACT-AT-A-GLANCE

We believe a just and peaceful world is only possible when the global community respects diversity, embraces inclusiveness, and actively works towards advancing global understanding. This mindset transforms communities—and helps solve our most pressing challenges. In 2019, we provided more people with intercultural exchange and training programs.



11,863

AFS Study Abroad
Participants

113

countries



9,010

AFS Host Families



50,000+

AFS Volunteers



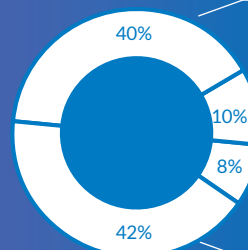
60

AFS Network
Organizations



118,253

People Reached



Non-Program
Participants

Exchange
Students

Host Families

Volunteers

17,453

School Alliances



500,000+

Alumni

DEVELOPING ACTIVE GLOBAL CITIZENS

More than 11,000 students from around the world participated in AFS study abroad programs in 2019. AFS partnered with a leading global design firm IDEO and the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) Center for Social Impact Strategy (CSIS) to improve how our study abroad programs catalyze the next generation of leaders who will be ready to deliver on our mission of active global citizenship. AFS also launched and conducted a number of short-term, virtual, domestic, and specialized exchange programs to develop active global citizens.

Two studies from Purdue University corroborated the value of the AFS Global Competence Certificate, a blended learning program that develops tangible global skills. One study confirmed that the program helps students achieve significant gains in the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) when participating in a short-term study abroad experience. Purdue also found that university students who received group mentoring through the AFS Global Competence Certificate Program improved their intercultural competence much more than the students who had no support at all.



Luisa Fernanda Romero Muñoz, co-founder of Get Up And Go Colombia, was awarded the first-ever \$10,000-worth AFS Prize for Young Global Citizens for advancing peace-building by converting former Colombian armed conflict zones into cultural tourism destinations. AFS also recognized these projects and organizations for educating and supporting active global citizens: Asia Kakehashi Project (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan); Collège Saint-Jean Vianney (Montreal, Canada); and Chatterbox (UK).

DELIVERING AN AGILE COVID-19 RESPONSE, PRIORITIZING PARTICIPANT SAFETY

In March 2020, AFS was forced to suspend study abroad programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We worked tirelessly to reunite close to 7,000 participants with their families in their home countries, coordinating with dozens of governments.



To enable our participants to round up their experiences, we immediately launched a special online intercultural learning program based on our AFS Global Competence Certificate.



The safety and well-being of our participants remain our number one priority. For 2020 and beyond, we launched an innovative, impact-driven, new AFS program experience that builds on the classic AFS exchange program.



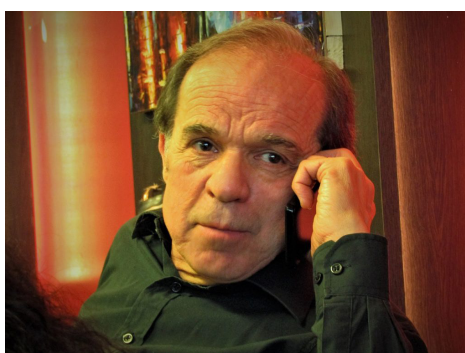
AFS Costa Rica's Thinking Across Borders event facilitated a dialogue between the public, private, and NGO sectors about the need for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) professionals to develop global competence to tackle the defining challenges of this profession that transcend borders. High level speakers included representatives of the Ministry of Public Education, Centro Cultural Norteamericano, Purdue University, Alianza Empresarial para el Desarrollo, and AFS.

AFS recognized our most dedicated volunteers for their outstanding support of AFS students and families:



Peggy and Art Howe Award for Outstanding Service of AFS volunteer families:

Ohnishi Family (Japan) for always having their doors open for every exchange student and being eager to share their experiences with other AFS volunteers and host families.



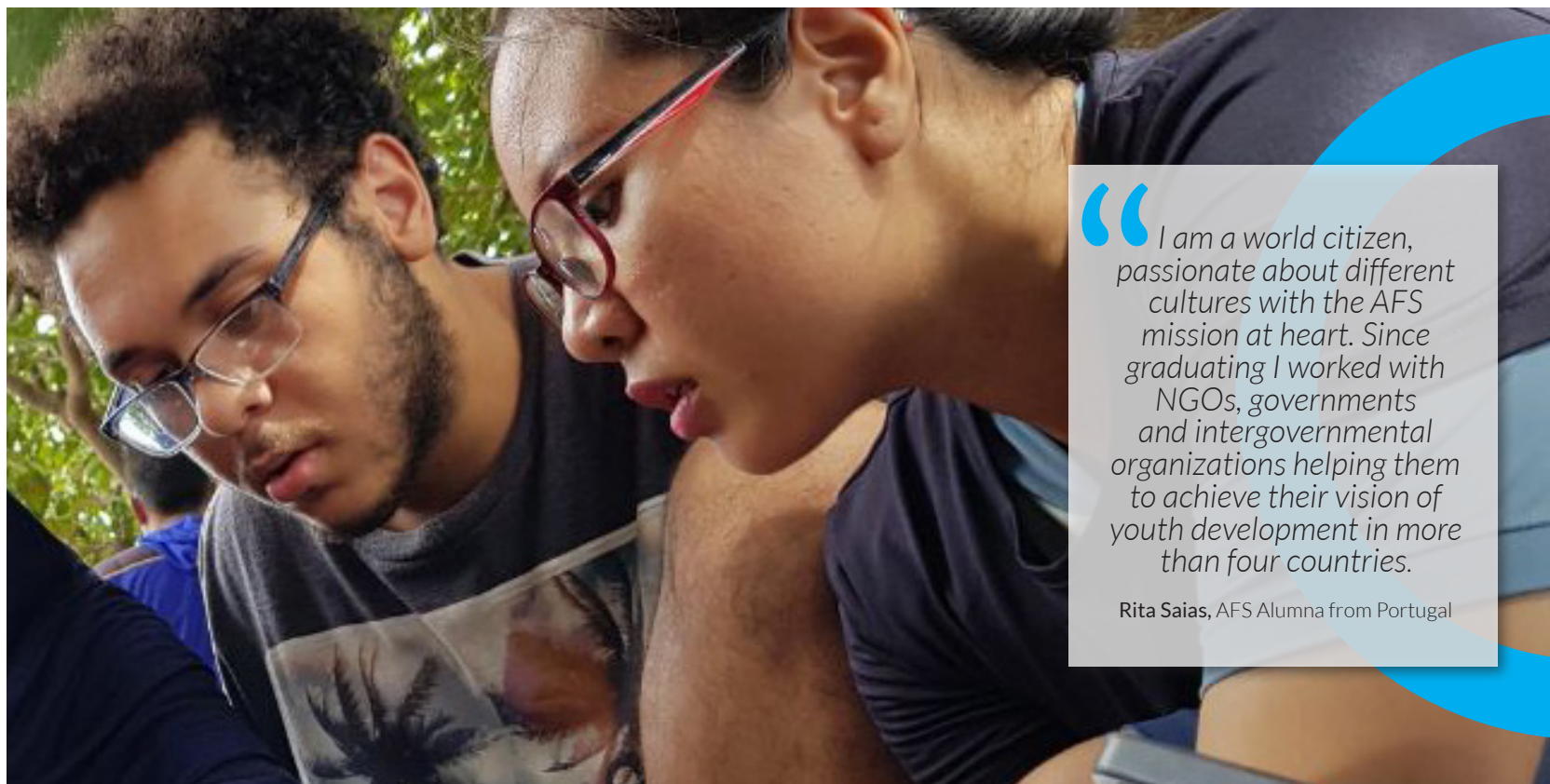
AFS Galatti Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service Award:

Hugo Paez Padró (Argentina & Uruguay) for supporting teenagers during their exchange programs, leading AFS activities in local communities, and strategically directing the organization as a board member for two terms.



Young AFS Volunteer Award:

Anggi Mopri Sahata Siregar (Indonesia) for supporting high school students to prepare for their study abroad experiences, organizing local AFS events, and mentoring alumni to make an impact after their program.



“ I am a world citizen, passionate about different cultures with the AFS mission at heart. Since graduating I worked with NGOs, governments and intergovernmental organizations helping them to achieve their vision of youth development in more than four countries.

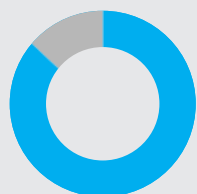
Rita Saias, AFS Alumna from Portugal

A new, global research report, [Creating Global Citizens: The AFS Effect](#), focused on the impact of an AFS exchange on life and career. This is the first large-scale, global survey of AFS alumni based on responses from over 10,500 former AFS participants across 80 countries.



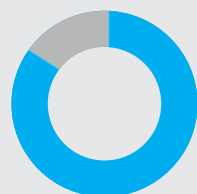
90%

indicated that their exchange program helped them better communicate and collaborate with people from different cultures and backgrounds



87%

of alumni say their AFS program helped them become active global citizens



84%

say AFS helped them develop the ability to adapt in a diverse workplace environment



60%

volunteer for AFS or for another organization

GLOBALIZING SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS



The **2019 AFS Global Conference on Active Global Citizenship—and How to Educate for It** (9-11 October 2019 in Montreal, Canada) convened 400 influencers and experts from 280+ organizations and 70+ countries to address this critical issue. Conference delegates came together for one important purpose: To build and grow a coalition of stakeholders across sectors to ensure global competence education is available to more young people worldwide.

Other AFS forums and symposiums worldwide focused on topics related to intercultural learning, global citizenship and building cross-sectoral coalitions for global competence education (Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Italy, Malaysia, and Turkey).



AFS Kenya will provide an intercultural learning and peace education program to 50 Kenyan high schools.

The East African AFS Organization signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education's National Cohesion and Integration Commission to implement the program titled Amani (Peace) Clubs Intercultural Learning Programs.

More than 9,500 high schoolers from 200 schools and educational communities participated in the AFS Effect+ Program, interactive workshops that introduce young people to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and instruct them how they can advance these goals in their communities. Since it started in 2018, the Effect+ program has been implemented in 17 countries (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Latvia, Paraguay, Peru, and Spain).



The European Commission appointed the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL), AFS umbrella organization in Europe, to create a framework for recognition of learning outcomes of secondary student exchanges, making study abroad programs more accessible and inclusive. The consortium partners also include Centro Studi e Iniziative Europeo (CESIE) and European Institute of Education and Social Policies (EIESP).



AFS presented the teachers exchange program Educadores con Causa (Teachers with a Purpose) at the UNESCO 2019 Forum on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. More than 100 schools from 10 Latin American countries have participated in this immersive learning experience supported by online and facilitated intercultural learning opportunities.



“ Global citizenship is not just within the purview of education, it's not just something that's taught in the classrooms. Ultimately, it is about living our lives as global citizens, daily incorporating intercultural competence into all of our interactions. Global citizenship is a lifestyle.

Dr. Darla Deardorff, Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA and Duke University, at AFS Global Conference)

“Early international exchange experiences often have profound effects on participants that prove transformative throughout their lives. SNF is proud to support AFS in making this possible for Greek students who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity.

Taylor Glazebrook, Stavros Niarchos Foundation



EXPANDING ACCESS TO INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

With a \$525,000 grant support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, **AFS launched a new scholarship program for 50+ Greek youth** to participate in an exchange program abroad. Emphasis is being placed on identifying full scholarship recipients that represent underserved, underrepresented, and lower-income communities in Greece. Grant funding will also support opening a permanent AFS organization in Greece.



102 high school students from 19 countries received scholarships to participate in the **second annual BP Global STEM Academies in Brazil, Egypt, and the USA**. Participants learned about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), visited sites like the Houston Space Center, met with BP employees, and took part in cultural exploration, intercultural learning, and community service activities.

...

Another **200 participants from 20 Asian countries embarked on the ASIA-KAKEHASHI study abroad program**, funded by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and facilitated by AFS Japan. This government funded initiative will provide full scholarships for 1,000 Asian high school students to study in Japan by 2022.



AFS Germany received a 1 million Euro grant from the SKala Initiative to develop strategies for alumni engagement, volunteer development, and other projects over the next three years. The SKala Initiative supports around 100 non-profit organizations with a proven social impact in Germany.

DONORS, SPONSORS, AND FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS



Thank you to all AFS International contributors. With your support, AFS provides study abroad scholarships, intercultural educational resources for teachers and volunteer training programs. Below is a list of selected donors, sponsors, and funding organizations that contributed US\$250 or more to AFS International in 2019.

We also thank the hundreds of corporations, foundations, government agencies, and individual donors that partner with our AFS Network Organizations around the world to expand access to intercultural education.

Below are the donors who contributed \$250 or more in 2019.

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Britt Holm
Carlo Fusaro
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Cornelius L. Grove
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William G. Meserve
YourCause, LLC

Support our mission

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the need for global cooperation and reflects the importance of the AFS mission. Stand with us by donating to AFS so we can:

- Facilitate personal growth and global competence development for young students worldwide
- Aid host families in welcoming thousands of students
- Deploy online resources for students' continued learning and peer-based community sharing
- Reinforce AFS staff and our global network of volunteers serving our mission

Make a contribution at [afs.org/donate](https://www.afs.org/donate).

FINANCES

AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc. ("AFS International") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of New York State, USA, and is a tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) of the United States of America. The below charts are excerpt from the financial statement of AFS International performed by the audit firm Eisner Amper. The full financial statement can be found at: afs.org/about-afs.

AFS International Finances

Statement of Financial Position (in US Dollars)

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,498,577	7,515,705
Investments	207,611	2,940,411
Other assets	3,702,453	2,910,857
Total current assets	12,408,641	13,366,973
Noncurrent assets		
Property and equipment, net	233,171	200,734
Collective insurance account, net	1,193,512	1,118,703
Total noncurrent assets	1,426,683	1,319,437
TOTAL ASSETS	13,835,324	14,686,410
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,293,974	1,474,928
Due to partner organizations in clearinghouse	1,055,264	627,540
Other Liabilities	3,376,129	3,405,393
Total liabilities	5,725,367	5,507,861
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	6,205,975	7,404,380
With donor restrictions:		
Time and purpose restrictions	728,990	672,670
Perpetual in nature	1,174,992	1,101,499
Total net assets	8,109,957	9,178,549
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	13,835,324	14,686,410

Statement of Activities (in US Dollars)

	2019	2018
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Public support and revenue:		
Fees from partner organizations	12,608,141	12,375,389
Donations and grants	2,003,628	1,829,713
Travel operations	3,021,778	3,060,517
International conference fees and projects	1,051,017	761,510
Investment income	601,918	(234,292)
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	19,286,483	17,792,837
EXPENSES:		
Program services:		
Partner services	9,863,384	9,473,112
Network Fund services	8,331,961	7,984,870
Total program services	18,195,345	17,457,982
Supporting services:		
Management and general	1,933,691	1,611,093
Fund-raising expenses	26,932	11,558
Total supporting services	1,933,692	1,622,651
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,129,036	19,080,633
Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	(842,553)	(1,287,796)
Non-operating Activities (net)	(226,039)	1,864,272
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(1,068,592)	576,476
Net Assets at beginning of year	9,178,549	8,602,073
Net Assets at end of year	8,109,957	9,178,549

AFS Network Finances

The AFS Network Finances reflect the combined financial activity of all AFS Partner organizations, which are incorporated under the laws of the country in which they are located, and likewise prepare financial statements and tax reports as required by the jurisdictions in their respective countries. Each Partner undergoes an annual fiscal audit and presents to AFS International a copy of the independent auditor's opinion along with its financial statements.

The information for the two years shown has been gathered from the audited financial statements of all the Partners and AFS International for these years. The resulting tables reflect the combined financial activity in the AFS worldwide network of Partners. The compilation of the 2019 financial statements will be available once the annual audits around the world are completed.

The tables presented on this page are not the result of an audit performed by one firm.

Statement of Financial Position (in US Dollars)	2018	2017
TOTAL ASSETS	163,129,935	154,682,679
TOTAL LIABILITIES	76,670,398	72,125,808
Unrestricted Assets	69,623,478	66,629,096
Restricted Assets	16,836,058	15,927,774
TOTAL NET ASSETS	86,459,537	82,556,872
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	163,129,935	154,682,679

Statement of Activities (in US Dollars)	2018	2017
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Program Revenues	158,364,120	149,226,414
Contributions Received		
Corporations, Foundations & Governments	29,997,508	17,056,558
AFS Volunteer Network	17,799	12,952
Individual donors	69,252	417,193
Other Fundraising Income	1,581,531	3,959,418
Subtotal Contributions Received	31,666,090	21,446,121
Interest Income & Other Income	9,412,644	9,276,599
TOTAL REVENUES	199,442,854	179,949,134
EXPENSES		
Program Expenses	-145,481,676	-132,871,580
Other Expenses (Administrative and Financial)	-53,283,573	-46,687,410
TOTAL EXPENSES	-198,765,249	-179,558,990
SURPLUS	677,605	390,144





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Principal Investigator at Project Zero, Lecturer
in Education at Harvard Graduate School of
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AFS Mission

AFS is an international, voluntary, non-governmental, nonprofit organization that provides intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

Learn more about AFS at [afs.org](https://www.afs.org)

-  Connect with us at facebook.com/afs.org
-  Engage with us at linkedin.com/company/afs-intercultural-programs
-  Join the conversation at twitter.com/AFS
-  Discover the #AFSeffect at instagram.com/afsprograms

Support our mission at [afs.org/donate](https://www.afs.org/donate)

Call us at 1 212 2 09 09 00 or e-mail us at info@afs.org
Find the full list of AFS Network Organizations at [afs.org/contact-us](https://www.afs.org/contact-us)

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