2019 Highlights

Nebraska State Fair
Cast B2018’s first week on tour was an introduction to classic Americana as they performed and volunteered at the Nebraska State Fair. Cast members facilitated workshops for hundreds of elementary students in “Nebraska’s Largest Classroom” at the fair before performing Live on Tour at the Heartland Event Center.

Mexican Tour
Nine cities exuberantly welcome Up with People casts this year, sharing culturally significant holidays with us like Dia de los Muertos and Semana Santa. This year, we impacted 18,964 youth in Mexico through our classroom workshops, school beautification projects, culture-sharing fairs, and art-related activities.

Up with People hosts Panel Discussion in Stockholm: The Inclusive Society
The question of integration has been at the forefront of political debate in Sweden. On November 15, our panel brought together new residents and leaders from Swedish civil society to address the integration debate and best practices from grassroots efforts in Sweden. The discussion was moderated by UWP alumna and US Diplomat to the United Nations, Tressa Finerty, and included panelists from the Swedish NGOs Kompis Sverige, Futebol dá força, Fryshuset, Reach for Change, and My Dream Now. The UWP Board of Directors, eXperience Scandinavia program participants, and cast members attended the event.
Ralph Colwell is recognized as one of the musical founders of Up with People. With his brother, Paul, he wrote the song “Up with People”. A talented performer and songwriter, he was often the one who provided the “hook” that made the song memorable. As Director of Show Productions for 25 years, Ralph directed all Up with People shows which included three Super Bowl Halftimes, the original tours of the Soviet Union and Jordan, and collaborations with numerous symphony orchestras.

In Memoriam: Ralph Johnson Colwell

Arts in Action
The arts have been at the heart of Up with People since we began our journey in 1965. Beyond performances, we currently use the cultural arts to interact with people in communities, especially with youth. This year we led more than 75 World Dance Classes and 40 collaborative music workshops. Other arts-based activities included creating personal flags with children in elementary schools and painting murals with positive, inspiring messages in schools and community centers.

Hometown Volunteering
Up with People has worked with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) in Lake George, Colorado every year since 2006. CUSP protects the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed.

Sister Cities International
On August 3, Up with People performed at the Sister Cities International (SCI) Convention in Aurora, Colorado. SCI promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation--one individual, one community at a time.

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