

# CELEBRATING 35 YEARS



**Back row:** Mike Tanner, Dave Bentzin, Jim Robinson, Carl Dawson, Cecil Roberts, Jim Watson, Jack Kimpton

**Front row:** Larry Brown, Sandy Villarreal, Lynn Dawson, Carolyn Kimpton, Jane Watson, Anita Smith, Marilyn Shroat, wife of president Marvin Shroat.

## SOME FUN FACTS OF THE CLUB'S HISTORY

By Larry Brown

Prepared for the club's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- May 1, 1977 – White House dinner for governors of all the states with President Jimmy Carter. He asked for their support in establishing Friendship Force in each state
  - Governor Lamm unsuccessful in doing so in Colorado
  - Pat Stephenson, current member of our club, eventually successfully lobbied to establish the Denver club 5 years later
- Denver club founded in 1982 by Pat and fellow co-founders Dave Bentzin, Jackie Goreham, Lois and Earl Jones
- We have hosted more than 8 Open Worlds
- November 1990 – along with Channel 9 television, sponsored an exchange involving Tbilisi of Republic of Georgia involving 300 participants – 150 coming to Denver from Tbilisi, 150 going to Tbilisi from Denver
- Hosted the 1994 World Conference – included a unique logo design by FFD member Mary Riney with the slogan, "Taking Friendship to New Heights," which FFD has continued to emphasize
- We hosted the FFI founder Wayne Smith in 1987 and other FFI presidents and board members through the years
- Named USA Club of the Year by FFI in 1992 and 2001
- Exchanging gifts is an integral part of Friendship Force, and FFD has often provided assistance to communities we have visited – e.g. medical supplies in Cuba and Zimbabwe and elementary school books and high school scholarships in Thailand
- It has been said that our club's special brand of hospitality included a September snowstorm in 1995 so that our Costa Rican ambassadors could experience snow for the first time
- Approximately 100 members have been ED/Journey administrators through the years