

Friendship Force brings in group from Florida

Medicine Hat News

A group from Florida has spent a part of a week in the Hat and will be taking a number of tours thanks to the local Friendship Force chapter.

Friendship Force brings in two groups from around the world every year and sends its members to different parts of the globe each year.

"We're a cultural exchange club," said member Barb Bockman. "There's approximately 364 clubs around the world and this was actually instigated by President Jimmy Carter to create friendship around the world.

"We've been doing this for a while and

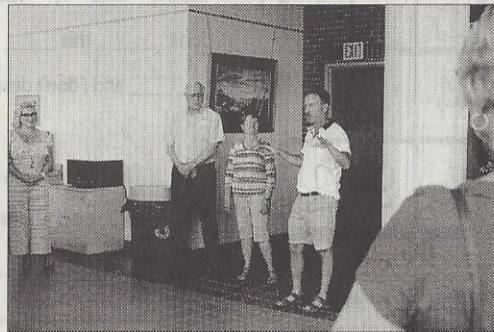
we've been to some great places."

Bockman says the goal is to show people around and to give them more of a real experience than tourists sometimes get when visiting a new place.

"We host visitors coming in and we want to show them how we live and how we make our living," she said. "We try to not get caught up in the touristy things when we bring people in."

This week's visitors are from the villages in Florida and they had a full itinerary for the week.

The group was set to see city hall, the Prairie Gleaners Society, chuckwagon races, a Hutterite colony and much more.



NEWS PHOTO MO CRANKER

Mayor Ted Clugston speaks with a group of people visiting the city this week as part of the Friendship Force group's efforts to bring more people to the city.