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**A LOVE OF TENNIS HELPS ROAD SCHOLAR FRIENDSHIP STORIES FINALIST  
MEET NEW FRIENDS AND WEATHER TOUGH TIMES**

BOSTON (April 28, 2015) – As Road Scholar celebrates 40 years as the leader in lifelong learning, the not-for-profit organization invited participants to share stories that highlight friendships and relationships that were made or strengthened on its iconic learning adventures. Patricia Timpanaro of Kingwood, Texas has an incredible story to share.

Patricia's 41-year-old son was in desperate need of a kidney transplant. Her daughter-in-law traveled extensively for work, so Patricia was indispensable as a nanny for their four children, ranging in age from three to seven. An avid tennis player, she signed up to attend a Road Scholar learning adventure at Indian Wells as a solo female traveler to take a much-needed break during a very stressful time.

“Even though I signed up to attend the tennis program by myself, I knew I would feel comfortable and welcome,” she said. “The Road Scholar community is renowned for being inclusive and I was not disappointed. While there, I was ‘adopted’ by a group of ladies who were traveling together from California. They took me under their wing and their companionship really lifted my spirits.”

Patricia's story has a happy ending. Her son received a successful transplant. Shortly thereafter, she signed up as a volunteer for Donate Life Texas, an organization that educates people about transplants and how to register to become donors. After her son was well on the road to recovery, she and her new friends decided to celebrate by enrolling in the same program to Indian Wells the following spring. Patricia credits her new friends with giving her moments she will treasure for a lifetime.

“When we thought about how to commemorate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we knew that friendship and learning would be at the core of our celebration,” said James Moses, President and CEO of Road Scholar. “Stories of friendship, love and personal growth from the 12 Road Scholar participants are uplifting and wonderfully illustrative of the deep relationships that form when people come together to learn — friendship and learning are integral parts of the Road Scholar experience.”

Patricia is one of 12 finalists from around the country who, if selected, will win a \$5,000 Road Scholar gift certificate. Voting is already underway and remains open until July 31, 2015. If you'd like to vote for

Patricia, please visit our online voting page at [www.roadscholar.org/friendscontest](http://www.roadscholar.org/friendscontest). Everyone is allowed to vote once each day. The winner will be announced in our September North America catalog.

**About Road Scholar**

Not-for-profit Road Scholar's mission is to inspire adults to learn, discover and travel. Our learning adventures engage expert instructors, provide extraordinary access, and stimulate discourse and friendship among people for whom learning is the journey of a lifetime. Since inception, more than 5 million people have enrolled in our 5,500 iconic educational adventures offered annually in 50 states and 150 countries around the world.

Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.roadscholar.org/press](http://www.roadscholar.org/press).

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