

My name is Sandi DeLuca and I am a volunteer with the AFS Intercultural Programs. Today I'd like to share with you the story of how this organization changed my life for the better and why I believe hosting a foreign exchange student this year could be one of the most rewarding experiences you'll ever have.

AFS is the one of the world's largest volunteer-run organizations and was originally started by a group of Volunteer Ambulance drivers following WWII. We've now been around for over 60 years, continually working toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, school, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

That's six decades of history and experience in international education with an exceptional record of safety, security, and service to students, parents, and educators – longer than any other organization of our kind.

My own personal journey began with AFS when my son Anthony wanted to go on exchange. I decided to get involved locally and found that I was really the one interested my son never went on exchange but I have now been volunteering for over 6 years.

I have chaperoned students to India, Australia and several other countries

AFS is inviting local families and individuals like you to participate by opening your homes to the world by hosting AFS Exchange Student. You'll have the opportunity to

- Gain access to the AFS family network and find helpful AFSers where ever you travel!
- Make strong connections with your student that will last a life time, and which may encompass several generations!
- Expose yourself and your family to a native speaker of one of several different languages and gain a deeper understanding of another culture.
- Become an ambassador for your community, strengthening our countries public diplomacy program and building bridges of cultural awareness around the world.

We are looking for host families in Medocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties to host one of 2300 AFS Exchange Students arriving in the U.S. this August and September.

These exchange students are eager to attend a local high school, live with a host family and discover what America is all about. Families may host for a semester or the academic school year. To find out more you can call us at 1-800-876-2377 or visit us online at [www.afsusa.org/hostfamily](http://www.afsusa.org/hostfamily)

Sandi DeLuca for Community Comment.