

## » Dilley Family and Sera

Hye Gyo (Sera) has been with us for two weeks now and we have already fallen in love with her and her with us. She is the seventh Rotary student we have welcomed into our home, and it has always been a rich and rewarding experience.

We have been first, second and third host family and each position presents a unique experience. The first host family is the one who teaches all the new things, the 'firsts.' The second family gets to watch the student suddenly move from a little uneasiness to 'I've got this' as the language is easier, he or she understands more about the new culture and develops new friendships. The third family sees the student become well-adjusted and comfortable in the new community as she or he becomes fluently bi-cultural. The students are soaring at this point, often reluctant to think about returning home, yet looking forward to seeing their own families again.

Our family is still in touch with our Rotary children. Some have returned to visit, others have married and have babies of their own, making us Rotary Grandparents!? They will always be 'our children' and this will always be their home.

## » Hursh Family and Milla

We've had the pleasure of hosting Milla, a 17-year-old from Finland. My 13-year old daughter, Camille and I had the very best experience...beyond our expectations! We are a small family, and my daughter has always wished for a sibling. Milla and Camille have developed a bond that will remain for a lifetime, extending beyond Milla's year in Eden Prairie. The other day, Camille said she wishes Milla was her forever, real sister. I think that speaks for itself.



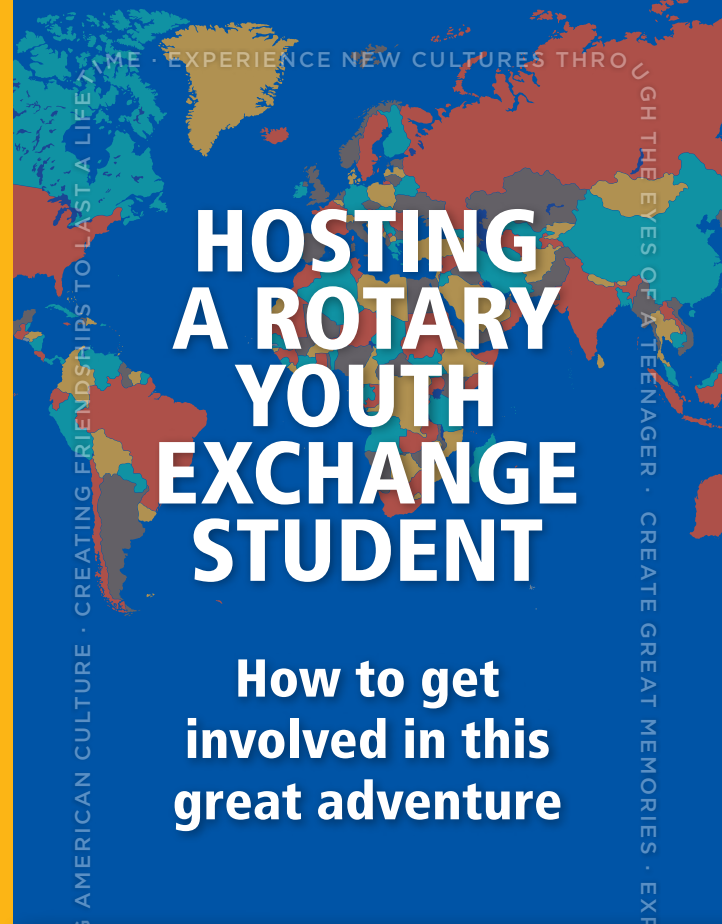
### Be part of something great!

You can learn more from your local Rotary club

Or at our website:  
[northstaryouthexchange.com](http://northstaryouthexchange.com)

North Star Youth Exchange  
612.799.6913  
[info@northstaryouthexchange.com](mailto:info@northstaryouthexchange.com)

**You can make a difference!**  
Host a Rotary Youth Exchange student, and build relationships that last a lifetime!



# HOSTING A ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT

**How to get  
involved in this  
great adventure**



**Rotary**  **rotary youth exchange**  
Districts 5950/5960



## » Become Part of a Great Tradition!

The idea of cross-cultural youth exchange was pioneered by Rotary clubs in Denmark and France in the late 1920s. The program was formally introduced by American Rotary clubs in 1958.

Today, Rotary Youth Exchange serves approximately 9,000 students from nearly 100 countries, building cross-cultural connections that make the world a smaller and better place. Host families are the anchor of the program, opening their homes to provide students with a first-hand experience of life in a new culture.

The North Star Youth Exchange – sponsored by Rotary clubs in Minnesota and Wisconsin – sends dozens of American students abroad and welcomes dozens more students from around the world to the U.S. every year. Local Rotary clubs recruit host families in their communities, with the support of experienced Youth Exchange leaders from the North Star district.



## » The Ideal Host Family

A great host family is willing to open hearts and home to an exchange student. Family size and make-up is less important than a sense of generosity and adventure. Although host families often have kids of similar age at home, it's not required. Families with or without kids, empty nesters, and single parents can all make great host families. YOU are the key to a great exchange experience!

## » What are the host family's responsibilities?

Exchange students typically rotate among two or three families during the year. That means you'll be hosting a student for about 3-5 months. Your main responsibility is to create a welcoming family environment for your exchange student. You provide room and board, exercise the same parental support and encouragement you would give your own children, and get your student involved in the family's daily routines, chores, and activities.

Youth Exchange is about sharing American culture and family life while learning about the culture and family life of the student you host. You don't need to provide elaborate entertainment. Simply make your exchange student part of your family.



## » What support is provided by local Rotary clubs and by the North Star district?

Your local Rotary club supervises the program, helps coordinate with schools and other services, and provides the in-bound student with a monthly stipend. **Host families are not expected to provide spending money.** School lunch fees are paid by the club, and students are covered by their own health insurance.

In addition to direct financial support, your local club provides a support network for the host family and the exchange student, including a student counselor and a Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) able to help with any questions or situations. Club members also provide transportation to required Rotary events.

## » What are the exchange student's responsibilities?

Rotary requires exchange students to attend school and participate in school activities. They are expected to follow your family's rules and help with household chores as do your own children. Exchange students are not permitted to drive and are required to follow all U.S. laws and regulations.

Rotary International carefully screens students prior to acceptance into the program, and conducts extensive orientation programs to make exchange students aware of rules and regulations. (There is a much longer and more specific set of rules for students than we've outlined here.) Serious problems are rare, but if a situation beyond your capacity or comfort level arises, your local Exchange Officer will be directly involved in finding a solution.



## » How do we become a host family?

For more information...

» To begin the application process, contact your local Rotary club or send an email via the North Star Youth Exchange website at [northstaryouthexchange.com](http://northstaryouthexchange.com).

When you're ready...

- » Download and complete the Host Family Application. You'll find it on the website.
- » Expect a standard background check and an in-home interview by a Rotary member.
- » Once approved prepare a place for your exchange student to call home.

At any step of the process, feel free to reach out to the Youth Exchange Officer of your local Rotary club, or to the North Star Youth Exchange team of volunteers.