

Três Pontas, July 20th, 2009.

Dear Springfield Rotarians,

Since my graduation we don't "chat"... How is everything up there?

Well my sister just got back from the States... she was an *exchange student* at Lawrenceburg, TN... and talking with her... listening everything that she learned just made me think about my year... my experience...

Every time I write to you I say...how important my exchange year was, how much I learned, how much I enjoyed and how this experience changed and improved my life!
Well today it couldn't be different...but I want to say more... I would like to share with you and show to you all how important this program is, and how important each of you is in keeping this chain.....

The *Youth Exchange Program* is a wonderful project... You give the chance for child from all over the world to know a different culture, learn a language, get involved with community work and be part of lovely families! And there's more and more... like you as well get a chance to learn all these things... it's a double way street....

But the important message I want to share is that there are no recipes for a magic *exchange year*.... It doesn't matter if the host family doesn't have kids, or if the kids are old, or too young; if the parents are a bit old or too young; or if they don't live in the right school district. Maybe you'll think: "We don't do a lot of stuff" or "We don't want to entertain the YE all the time", or even "We don't have an extra bedroom", even more "Our house is too small", and there are more things like: "My husband (or wife) is gone all the time". "We have boys and don't want to host a girl". "We have girls and don't want to host a boy". "What if we don't get along?" "What if the student doesn't like what I cook?" "What if their families have maids?"

Please don't keep these thinking's... Because first of all the **YE is willing to learn!!!** Everything that is different it's better!!!! The YE purpose is to get involved with his/her new reality!!! He/she will love everything!!!!
Second...the only important thing... the one that really matters to host an exchange student is to have the desire to share your lives, to open your heart to adopt a child for one year to make him/her part of your family!!! This is the only thing that matters, the other things are just "excuses"... And I know that our club has this feeling, because I felt a member of this big family!!!

So I would like to thank you once more, for doing this wonderful job and thank you for keeping this chain alive, strong and circling.... Like our Rotary wheel.....

Love you all!!!!!!!

And don't forget that here in Brazil there's a young lady that is so grateful for all you've done to me and that it you'd be very happy to host you all!!!!!!!

Have a wonderful week and keep in touch!!!

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