

## Karin Keller, the Club's RYE Student Experiences Brazil

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Karin Keller, the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise's 2013-14 Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange Student, began her year long experience in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Karin is the 25th student that the club has sponsored since the club was chartered in 1986.



Karin is being hosted by the Rotary Club de Sao Paulo – Imigrantes located in Sao Paulo and the Rotary District of 4610.

Karin graduated as a bilingual student this past June from Kelowna Secondary School. She is the daughter of Susan and Leo Keller of Kelowna.

In a message received in October, Karin shared that she was enjoying her first host family, Carlos and Juaciara Gomes Xavier do Santos who both work and own two tires stores. She has three siblings, Elter, Carla and Shayla, who are all married. Elter and Carla spend a great deal of time with their parents giving Karin the opportunity to get to know and appreciate them. Shayla lives in Rio de Janiero and has not yet been home to enable Karin to meet her.

In expressing her first impression of Sao Paulo, Karin provided the following description:

*This city is absolutely massive... and nobody knows how to drive. The first thing I saw was a typhoon of water coming down from the sky, also known as rain! It was incredible. Palm trees swayed, cars honked. It is the beautiful exotic tropics sandwich beside a massive metropolis. The town is huge. Absolutely the most incredible, beautiful and eccentric place I've ever been. Cobble stone, concrete and tar litter the street in unorganized patterns. Buildings loom above you in all shapes, sizes and colours. The rich and poor live side by side in an absolute visual phenomenon. It's incredible. I was told by many that Sao Paulo is ugly, but they were wrong. It's beautiful, magnificent actually. Also, every day I eat incredible tropical fruit that I've never even heard of and every fruit is enormous in size and delicious. The people are determined to make you feel at home wherever you are. The people are a dream; they are beautiful, patient, welcoming and wholeheartedly accepting. I love every moment in Brazil. I'm so blessed to be here.*



**A biography and more about Karin's planned GSE experience in Brazil is available by going to the Service Areas and Committee Site Page, followed by the Youth Program and Rotary Youth Exchange Program Related Pages. Here you will find a download entitled, "Karin Keller, 2013-14 Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Student."**