

We are asking every member of our Club to carefully read this message and give it your serious attention

Our Youth Exchange Committee Needs YOUR Help!

A KEY INGREDIENT in a successful Rotary Exchange program is finding families who are willing to open their homes and hearts to a young person from another country. Hosting an Exchange Student provides an opportunity to develop a lifetime of friendships and to broaden a family's horizons...families get to know and understand another culture and make a new friend from another part of the world. In the words of a local former Host Mom:

As a host family, we have hosted many wonderful students... from Finland, Poland, Argentina, Slovakia, Bolivia, and Germany. We have had the fun of introducing them to various things from new foods, to roller coasters, to Niagara Falls. It is always fun sharing our family customs and traditions with the students and learning about their families and cultures as well. It is always nice to see familiar things through someone else's eyes.

The Youth Exchange Committee is asking your help in finding host families for our Inbound students during the current, 2019-20, school year. In particular, we need host families residing in the Ithaca City School District. We're asking you to consider this opportunity for your family, and, if this is not right for you, please look for and ask friends or relatives who might be interested. Please contact Linda Brisson lbrisson5@gmail.com or Marshall McCormick marshall@fingerlakeswm.com for more information and with the names and contact information of any families interested in this opportunity.

This year our Rotary Club has been working to expand our Youth Exchange program, which, like many Clubs in our District, had diminished in recent years. Members of the Youth Exchange Committee have been working hard and we are achieving some success. We currently have Inbound exchange students in both Ithaca and Lansing High Schools and an Outbound Exchange Student from Lansing HS in Denmark. Our Committee recently conducted Club Level Interviews for area students who wish spend the 2020-21 academic year as an Outbound Exchange Student. We are sponsoring 4 candidates at District Level Interviews next month.

Thanks so much! Together we can strengthen and expand this wonderful program!

— *Mary and Linda for the Y.E. Committee*
October 15, 2019