

# EXCHANGES THAT CHANGE LIVES

## Help young leaders discover their strengths through a New Generations Service Exchange

As the New Generations Service Exchange organizer for District 5490 (parts of Arizona and California, USA), Joe Waesche, along with his family, has hosted four participants, from Brazil and Russia.

Waesche's interest in the program began in 2008 when he stayed with fellow Rotarian Rui Carvalho de Almeida while attending a Youth Exchange Officers conference in Brazil. Waesche and his wife met Almeida's daughter, Bia, a university student returning from an exchange in Denmark. She and another Brazilian student became the first two students the Waesches hosted.

New Generations Service Exchanges provide an excellent opportunity for young professionals in your district to discover their strengths and use their skills to help others. Formerly called New Generations Exchanges, the program has been retooled to emphasize a strong humanitarian or vocational service component, and expanded to embrace a wider range of participants.

The exchanges are now available to people ages 18 to 30. They can be reciprocal or one-way, can involve an individual or small groups, and can last anywhere from three weeks to six months.

The exchanges are overseen by a district's New Generations chair instead of its Youth Exchange committee, whose administrative responsibilities include the strict youth protection practices necessary for student exchanges involving participants 18 or younger. Here are tips on making the most of the expanded program:

**Work with your New Generations Service chair** to establish your district's program. Since the scope of the program has changed, districts will need to create a new application process, including a timetable, cost, and screening process.

**Collaborate with district leaders, locally and abroad.** New Generations Service Exchanges can build on Rotary Friendship Exchanges, Group Study Exchanges, and your district's international service activities. Working with other district leaders can help you identify service opportunities in your area, as well as potential partner districts.

**Promote New Generations Service Exchanges.** Form a group of young adults, including your district's Rotaractors and Rotary alumni, who can offer advice on how to plan an attractive exchange, identify applicants, and

New Generations Service Exchanges allow young professionals to discover their strengths while learning a new culture.



promote the exchange program to people unfamiliar with Rotary. Then, promote this opportunity to your district's Rotary clubs as well as universities, companies, nonprofit organizations, and young adults in the family of Rotary. An exchange could be an excellent opportunity to show a prospective member what Rotary is all about.

apprenticeship, to focus on an individual's profession or area of study, and place him or her with a business for up to six months. Or you can build an exchange around a group of people who will perform multiple activities involving a single profession.

➔ **Contact**  
[newgenerations@rotary.org](mailto:newgenerations@rotary.org).

**Customize each exchange.** No two New Generations Service Exchanges are the same. Older participants may be more comfortable with hotel or hostel accommodations than with traditional home hosting. You can use an exchange like an