

Rotary Youth Exchange



Please Consider Hosting an Exchange Student!

As a host family of a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you will add to your family for several months a carefully selected, Rotary-sponsored young person from another country, absorbing, sharing, and exchanging information with her or him about life in a different culture.

With the help and cooperation of the Hollis Brookline High School, the Hollis Brookline Rotary Club has prepared this page to inform HBHS parents about the opportunities that are available each year to serve as one of the two (or three) host families that will “adopt” for about half (or one-third) of the time a foreign student who will attend HBHS for a full school year as part of Rotary Youth Exchange.

Hosting is an amazing opportunity. Involvement with an exchange student challenges a host family to become familiar with another culture, and it provides an opportunity to share a student's hopes and ambitions. These challenges and opportunities promise to enrich the lives of every member of your family.

Your family could have a student from one of 40 or so countries living in your home. Not only will you provide an unforgettable experience to a student from abroad, but you also will educate your family about the larger world that's out there.

A host family provides room and board for the exchange student and exercises general parental supervision, just as you would for your own children. You will involve him or her in the family's daily household chores and recreational activities, just as all other family members are treated. You will:

- **If you are the first host family, meet your exchange student at the airport on arrival and make her/him feel at home as part of the family;**
- **Help the student master the language;**
- **Involve the student in obligations similar to those established for your own family members;**
- **Help the student meet Rotary obligations, which include attending monthly Rotary functions, Club meetings, and occasional other Rotary activities;**
- **See that the student meets other young people;**
- **Provide a safe environment for the student and ensure the student's safety;**
- **Be tolerant of cultural differences and willing to change your own ideas.**

Rotarians work to take care of the logistics of the exchange. HB Rotary and the Rotary District (which oversees 60 Clubs in New Hampshire and Vermont) arrange school enrollment and other educational matters with HBHS. HB Rotary appoints a Rotarian counselor and arranges a monthly allowance for the student. The Rotarian counselor maintains contact with the host family and the student throughout the exchange.

For more information, please email the Club at info@hbrotary.org, or leave a message at (978) 743-6143.

“What a wonderful opportunity I was given, from both the Rotary club and my family, to spread my wings, taste the culture, and live the life.”

– U.S. exchange student to Australia