



*Reflections*  
*International, Inc.*  
**EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM**

REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC  
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## Dear Friends,

My name is Hartmut Weithe, and I am the founder of REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

I want to thank you for your interest in hosting a student from *Germany* or *Switzerland* as part of the

REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC. Exchange Student Program. I

know from personal experience that this program offers the opportunity to enrich the lives of everyone involved: the students, the hosts, the teachers, and the community. As the students come here to live in what is for them a foreign culture, they bring their own culture (foreign to us) with them, and so allow us to glimpse into life outside the Midwest without having to travel anywhere. While the student is the one who is expected to adjust, the hosts can learn a great deal if they so choose. This program is our small contribution to bringing people from around the globe together for better understanding and appreciation of one another, so we can learn to live together peacefully. Students of high school age seem to be ready to review and maybe revise their perception of the world, which seems to be exactly the right time to broaden their view by placing them in totally new, yet safe surroundings - a home like yours.



## What is REFLECTIONS?

The interest in developing a foreign exchange student program has grown out of my personal experience. Our family hosted a high school student from Germany in the 1993/94 school year, and we watched how our German daughter grew and blossomed in her year here. We feel we want to make this experience available to other students as well. Our program brings German and Swiss students to Wisconsin, where they spend up to one school year living with an American family, while attending High School. As a German national who moved to this country in 1979 to become an American, I feel am in a good position to facilitate this, as I know both cultures well and am fluent both in German and English. I believe the high quality of life here and the friendliness of the people I have met in Wisconsin represent the best of what America has to offer.

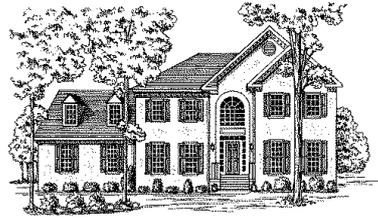
In 1996 I founded the REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL exchange student agency, and in 1997 REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC. was incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation, and has been designated the sponsor of an Exchange Visitor Program by the U.S. Department of State, the federal agency which administers exchange programs.

We accept only a relatively small number of students into our program, so that we can guarantee a high level of individual attention. In 2012 we were fortunate to add Ms. Jennifer Rickling to our staff. Ms. Rickling is our local representative who is dedicated to help our students as well as their hosts to make this a successful and enjoyable experience. Unlike myself Ms. Rickling is a real Wisconsin native and has lived here all of her life, but, of course, like many Wisconsinites, she has genuine German roots.



## About Being A Host

As a host family you will be asked to accept the foreign student as a member of your family, and provide a loving home for the duration of his/her stay in this country.



Some of them will be here for a whole school year, some

only for 5 months. You should think of your student as your son or daughter, not as a guest.

This generosity, however, does not extend to money matters. While it is the responsibility of the host parents to provide room and board, the students are expected to pay for all other expenses out of their monthly allowance provided by their natural parents. REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL students are covered by health and accident insurance, any additional medical costs will be paid by the students or their natural parents. Foreign exchange student programs are very much encouraged by the U.S. government, and the IRS permits you to deduct \$50.00 as a charitable contribution for each month a student lives in your home.



## About The Students

The students come from *Germany* and *Switzerland*, they are between 15 and 18 years old, and they will attend high school in *Wisconsin*. To qualify for the REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL Exchange Student Program the student must be recommended by their school overseas, and then they are interviewed by myself and our representative in *Germany* or *Switzerland* to determine if they are compatible with our program. They have to be good students, know English, show a curiosity about American life and culture, and a willingness to adapt to new surroundings. Two orientation meetings for parents and students, prior to departure, will prepare the students as much as possible for their life in *Wisconsin*. The earlier the host family and the student get in touch with each other the better, so they can begin to develop a relationship before they actually meet.

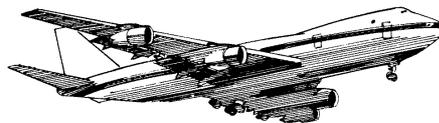
## **How Do You Become Host Parents?**

The first step is to fill out the Host Parent Application form and the Host Parent Agreement form and send it back to us. In addition we need two letters of reference. Once we receive your letters of reference, we will schedule a personal interview with you in your home at a time that is convenient. This allows us to get acquainted, and it also gives you the opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

Once you have been accepted, we will make every effort to find a student that is a perfect match for your family. We recommend you start corresponding as soon as you receive your new son's or daughter's address. You may want to send photographs of your family, your home, the school, whatever you think might be helpful in getting acquainted.

## When The Students Arrive

The students will arrive in August, flying in from Europe to Chicago, Illinois. Representatives of REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL will meet them at O'Hare Airport in Chicago and bring them to Wisconsin.



The following day we have an orientation meeting with all hosts and students together in a central location, when you will meet your student for the first time. After the orientation is over it is time for you to take your German or Swiss son or daughter home.

In the year to come we will contact you at least once a month to ensure that things are going smoothly. Of course, we are here for you all the time, and you can contact us any time you feel that is necessary, to straighten out a difficult situation, or just to have a chat.

REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL will organize several trips during the course of the school year, which are not mandatory, but give the students an opportunity to do some sightseeing and to meet with fellow exchange students. For some of these events it may be possible for your natural son or daughter to participate also, if they wish to do so. These events will be announced well ahead of time so you can plan around them.

We hope we have given you a pretty good idea of what the REFLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL Exchange Student Program is all about. We hope to welcome you aboard soon.

Sincerely,



Hartmut Weithe