

Benefits of the Exchange programs

Statement of Experience

Amy Pearl and her family participated in both programs in 2013 and 2015 and she contributed the following statement:

A friend who has hosted several students encouraged us to participate in the Buffalo-Dortmund Sister City Exchange Program and it was a wonderful experience. My children were able to learn and appreciate the German culture, while giving German students the opportunity to appreciate our culture here in the United States. We had two students stay with us for the summer program, as well as a student stay with us for a semester. Of course, there is a bit of an adjustment at first, but the German students are polite and respectful. Our exchange students were excellent students and eager to get involved in school activities. They spoke English very well and they were even willing to help at home.



Host student Antonia and our daughter

It was also nice that my son was able to travel to Germany to stay with our exchange student's family. They have stayed in touch for the past few years, even playing video games together via the internet! With any commitment like this, there can be some challenging times. The exchange students may have different eating preferences, they might have trouble making friends at school, they might get homesick, they might want to stay out too late on a date. You solve these problems just as you would with your own children – with a lot of conversation and a lot of prayer. Learning that we are more alike than different was probably one of the biggest benefits of the program for our entire family. We are grateful that we were able to be a part of the Exchange Program. We would recommend that other families consider serving as host families in the future.



Grace and Antonia