



**10 AM
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Woodland Hosts International Students

Press Release

Woodland, Ca —August 30, 2024 —The Woodland Rotary Noon Club announces that on August 24 & 25, 2024, five students from all around the world were welcomed to the United States. These five students came from Belgium, Bolivia, Italy, Germany, and Thailand. They are a part of Rotary’s Youth Exchange Program, which is sponsored each year by Rotary International. Districts 5160 and 5180 and their host families support these students while they are here. The students live with local families and attend local high schools for an entire academic year. This Cultural Exchange Program was first created in 1927, but then later became an official program of Rotary in 1972. Each year it is estimated that 8,000 students are sent around the world to learn about other cultures and create lifelong relationships.

The students come to the United States on a “J Visa,” which allows them to remain in the United States while attending School. While here they attend various conferences and club meetings, all with the intent of sharing cultures and building better friendships. When their academic year is finished, the students return home to share their memories of life here in the United States.

Exchange Students are carefully selected. They normally come with stellar academic performances from their native countries. The host families are fully vetted to ensure safe placement for the students. Rotary then has adult overseers that monitor students and families to help if problems occur. Students have extremely strict rules that they must follow

while in the United States. These rules include acceptable academic performance, avoidance of drugs and alcohol, driving a motor vehicle and even dating while here.

These five students and their host families came to Woodland as a part of their orientation. They received eleven hours of training to help them all have a pleasant experience. The event was held out at the Wild Wings Golf Course Club house known as “The Nest.” The Woodland Rotary Noon and Luna Vista, Redding East, and Vacaville Clubs provided the food sufficient to feed the 25 persons in attendance. Dignitaries were also on hand to welcome the students. District 5160 & 5180 Governors Daniel Geraldi & Steve Turner were in attendance.

Past President and Current Inbound Coordinator for the Youth Exchange Program for District 5160 said “Programs such as these helps make the world a little smaller, and generally leave the students and their host families with loving memories that last a lifetime.”

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(Names withheld due to their ages)