

## A Wonderful Tradition - FLEX Generations

By Karmeca Fisher, ASSE Host mom (Edison, Nebraska USA) of Exchange Student Aizada (FLEX Kyrgyzstan)

Karmeca and her family hosted a FLEX student from Moldova when she was in High School. This year, she became the host mother of FLEX student Aizada from Kyrgyzstan. Two different yet similar rewarding experiences.

### Experience as a host sister:

"I never knew my host sister from Moldova in my senior year of high school would turn into my best friend for life. I often wonder what would have happened



ASSE host mom Karmeca as a teen with her FLEX host sister, Olga from Moldova

if my family hadn't hosted Olga. So many wonderful memories and experiences would have been missed including a trip to my host sister's home country to learn-in turn-about her life in Moldova. Her family felt like mine as well! What a small world it becomes when we open our hearts and homes to others."

### Experience as a host mother:

"My elementary-aged son and daughter have always been curious about other cultures and languages and so when asked to host a student last winter I knew the answer immediately! Aizada has shared with us the uniqueness of her country Kyrgyzstan and also the amazing similarities between two countries a world apart! Her positive attitude towards helping around the house as well as the community has really encouraged my kids to also be the good in the world. Their laughter, when all three are together, warms my heart completely and confirms that hosting an exchange daughter will forever change our lives for the better."



ASSE host mom Karmeca (Edison, Nebraska USA) with Aizada, ASSE Exchange Student (FLEX Kyrgyzstan)

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## The Octagon Barn

By Ivan, ASSE Exchange Student (Spain) living his exchange experience in Akron, Michigan, USA

My host sister and I participated in the Octagon Barn Festival (Gagetown, Michigan USA). We had the responsibility of telling the public the way schools were in the past, especially the one found there, in the Barn.

It was fun and a really good experience. Watching each other dressed up like the people of the past made it even better. Our way of thinking has changed a lot since then. We truly learnt how the school worked through just having a good time acting with great kids.

While we were not acting we were able to see the incredible festival taking place. The thing that caught my attention the most was that we were offered the opportunity of doing activities that I thought I was never going to do such as milking a goat. That was the most impressive one for me.

I also liked learning the existence of a new musical instrument, the dulcimer; shucking corn; drinking homemade apple juice; eating popcorn; visiting a house of

the past where the toilet was in the kitchen; and last but not less important, watching the different posts where you could find

things related to the festival. I was able to find a kind of candies that came *Continued on last page...*



ASSE Exchange Student Ivan (Spain) with his host sister in period costume at the Octagon Barn Festival (Gagetown, Michigan, USA)

### Editor's Box

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed your wonderful articles and photographs. Without you, there would not be any ASSE News! Tell us about yourself and you may possibly find yourself highlighted in the next newsletter or posted on the ASSE or World Heritage Facebook page. Pictures are encouraged to be sent by email. Let us know the fun things you are doing as a student, host family or Area Representative.

Please send your best photograph and article to:  
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Until next edition,  
Mary Loving ASSE News Editor

# A Tribute to Joan Soderquist through the words of her ASSE Exchange Students Children

ASSE and the world have lost a longtime friend, mentor and colleague. Her influence and kindness will live on through the many exchange students she so faithfully nurtured.

“I love your big heart that let me live with you and treated me like I was your own daughter. When I think of you, your great sense of humor is what first comes to mind.”

~ Lisa, Sweden

“I have countless memories from my time that I spent with Joan, Pat and Erik that I gratefully hold on to.”

~ Dennis, Germany

“The time that I have spent with you and your family is what I will always cherish as one of the best experiences of my life. Joan was a mother, a friend and a mentor to me. She gave me confidence to believe in myself.”

~ Mirza, Pakistan

“Growing up, there are moments or periods in time that shape you... my time with Joan,

Patrick, Erik, Kristin and Betty (and Henry the dog and three cats) is such a period for me...learning values like sharing and caring for other people: Values that I try to pass onto my three sons today.”

~ Johan, Sweden

“Joan was a woman of many talents, and a great teacher; she taught me that girls are as strong as boys and women are much stronger than men...She taught me how to love each other and take care of each other like family.”

~ Katharina, Germany

“I am privileged because I knew Joan and I was one of her many exchange students. Joan taught me that home is not a place or a house or a building; home is to be in someone's heart. Joan will always be my role model in mastering challenges, working hard, practicing altruism, and being a good mom.”

~ Carolin, Germany

*May each of you have a legacy as rich as Joan's.*

# Quebec Language Camp

By Josée Denis, ASSE Area Representative / Assistant to the Director

Beginning student exchange is not always easy especially when you do not speak the language of the host country. The language camp serves as a springboard for this new adventure.

“The camp is a good experience to make friends from all over the world. I could learn French and visit different places,” says Romina from Mexico.

French lessons, cultural and historical activities, tourist attractions, and traditional music are all things the ASSE Exchange Students to Quebec, Canada experienced during the 10 days of Language Camp in Compton, a small community in Quebec.

Au début, un échange étudiant n'est pas toujours facile spécialement lorsqu'on ne parle pas la langue du pays d'accueil. Le camp linguistique sert de tremplin pour cette nouvelle aventure.

«Le camp est une bonne expérience pour se faire des amis de partout dans le monde. J'ai pu apprendre le français et visiter différentes places» explique Romina du Mexique.

Cours de Français, activités culturels et historiques, attractions touristiques, musiques traditionnelles sont tant de choses de ASSE échange étudiant au Québec, une expérience canadienne pendant 10 jours à Compton, dans une petite localité du Québec.



ASSE Exchange Students begin their exchange experience in Quebec Canada by learning beginning French as well as being introduced to the culture during Language Camp.

# Tim's a-MOO-zing Experience

by ASSE Exchange Student Tim (Germany) enjoying his exchange year in Huntsville, Texas USA

ASSE Exchange Student Tim (Germany) made an a-MOO-zing acquaintance during the first weeks of his exchange: “My host siblings raise animals for their local 4H club. One of my host brothers picked up his calf that he will raise for the school year and we brought her home. This was only my third time to be around animals and none have been this big. I was a little hesitant to get in the pen with

her but Christian told me that the most important thing to calves is food. He showed me that if I have her feed bucket she will come up to me and eat out of it. I can walk around with it and she will follow me and eventually she will come up to me even if I don't have any food. She is actually very calm and will let me pet her. I have learned a lot in just a short time about cows. It has been a really neat experience so far.”



ASSE Exchange Student Tim (Germany) with his host brother Christian and Christian's calf he's raising for 4H club.

# North Dakota Train

By Shannon Jehlicka, ASSE Area Representative (North Dakota USA)

“Before having our student orientation at the American Legion Hall in Fordville, North Dakota USA, we got to tour the engine house and an engine at Northern Plains Railroad in Fordville where my husband has worked for more than 20 years. The kids were amazed at

how large the engines are up close. They all took turns climbing inside the cab of one of the engines which was in the shop,” says Shannon Jehlicka, ASSE Area Representative.

*Thanks Shannon for showing how much fun can be found in local activities!*



Sitting in the back: Mihailo (FLEX Serbia)  
Front left to right: ASSE Exchange Students Florent (France), Hanas (Faroe Islands), Andjela (FLEX Serbia), Karina (FLEX Ukraine), Michal (FLEX Poland), Nargiza (FLEX Kyrgyzstan) and Anisjon (FLEX Tajikistan)

# ASSE Photo Gallery

ASSE is very grateful to receive so many photos from around the ASSE and World Heritage world! Enjoy the following examples of all of the fun!



ASSE Area Representative Mary Drake and ASSE Exchange Student Veronica (FLEX Moldova) learned about the local history of Canton, Ohio USA by visiting the McKinley Presidential Library and Museum, as well as the local Stark County, Ohio museum which details local history and industries. A hot fudge banana split at the Canton landmark Taggart's Ice Cream Parlor was a special treat!!



World Heritage Exchange Student Viktor (FLEX Ukraine) is taking every opportunity to make a difference through community service. Every week Viktor volunteers with his World Heritage Area Representative Stephenie (Texas USA) at the local food bank.

Viktor says, "It was an awesome experience to help and it's important to help those who are in need. Not everyone lives a perfect life on earth, so you need to support those who are less fortunate."



World Heritage Area Representative, Vanessa (Kansas USA) and her students visited a hot air balloon festival.

"The girls got to hear about how the balloon works. They also were able to get into a basket for a photo op and pull the lever that makes the flame. They all had a lot of fun." shares Vanessa.

Front row: Rebecca (FAO Spain), 2nd row: Luisa (Italy), Pula (FAO Spain) and Sara (Italy) and back row: Matilde (Portugal)



ASSE Exchange Student Corentin (France) enjoyed kayaking in Kodiak, Alaska, USA on the first weekend of his exchange year in Alaska.

He said, "It was a beautiful experience. There were some sea lions and we took lunch on a little beach."



"We're ASSE Exchange Students Ludvig (Sweden) and Nico (Italy). We're sharing a host family and experiencing our exchange year in Burke, a small city in South Dakota, USA. Nico prepared an Italian dish spaghetti alla carbonara for his host family. It was very good and well appreciated!"



Not many people can say they eat dinner with the whole town, but these students can! Burgers in the park happens in New England, North Dakota USA every Tuesday. The community comes together for conversation with friends and neighbors and traditional American food. Hamburgers, hot dogs and don't forget the Bison burgers!!

Pictured from left to right: ASSE Exchange Student Pablo (FAO Spain), ASSE Area Representative Stephanie Frenzel, ASSE Exchange students Eloy (FAO Spain) and Cooper (Australia)



ASSE CBYX Exchange Student Clio (Folsom, California USA) with her host sister in Aachen, Germany.

"When you live your whole life in one country, you don't think how different your behaviors and lifestyle are from people living in another country. No matter how diverse the lifestyles in your community are, you're accustomed to it. Now, experiencing how a different society functions is the epitome of learning experiences for me as an exchange student." says Clio.

\*FLEX – Future Leaders Exchange, U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored Exchange Student

\*CBYX – Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange, U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored Exchange Student

\*YES – Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study, U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsored Exchange Student

# 2018-2019 Outbound Scholarship Winners!

We are very excited to announce the ASSE and World Heritage Outbound Scholarship Winners for 2018-19 Program Year!

We had another record number of excellent applications this year, and an amazing group of students have been chosen.

All of us at ASSE and World Heritage are very proud of our Outbound program - with good reason!

- We are one of the largest – because we are dedicated to helping American High School Students go abroad!
- Students get to choose their destination country – other programs tell the students where they can go!
- We do not require foreign language proficiency – but our kids come home dreaming in their new language!
- We have the lowest fees that are all inclusive
- We provide multiple scholarships for Outbound Students every year

The Walter Danielson Scholarship – named for the founding father of ASSE – pays for the complete program.

- 100% of the Program Fee
- Domestic Flight Costs to and from the departure gateway
- Spending Money for incidentals while on program
- One optional Field Trip

Global Adventures Scholarship – 90% of the program fee is offered each year. Global Adventures Scholarship winners pay 10% of the program fee, domestic travel to and from the international gateway (students travelling to the USA and Canada will also pay for their international flights) and personal monthly pocket money. ASSE has 4 Global Adventure Scholarship Winners for 2018-19!

How do we choose the lucky winners? These scholarships are intended to provide program opportunity for kids who otherwise would not be able to realize their dream for lack of financial resources – in other words “financial need” is the final qualifier. All of the applicants for these scholarships are amazing, well-qualified kids who have also won because of their overall merit.

## Our 2018-19 winners are...



Kaylee Hessler from Boyceville, Wisconsin is the recipient of the prestigious 100% Walter Danielson Scholarship. Kaylee is spending her exchange year in Mexico. Kaylee is very active in her community and high school. Her hobbies include horseback riding, dancing, volleyball and she is a member of the local 4-H club. Kaylee has already been studying 2 years of Spanish and will increase her knowledge tremendously while in Mexico. Learning about new cultures and learning new life skills is what Kaylee is looking for while abroad – now she has the chance and we are sure she will do the best.



Moira Mosely of Norman, Oklahoma is spending her exchange year in the Netherlands as an ASSE Global Adventures scholarship winner. Moira loves everything about horses, photography and baking. She is a member of the women’s chorus at her high school. She wants to ‘embrace all new experiences’ and she recognizes the importance of the ambassador role she is taking on.



Skylar Ross from Mascoutah, Illinois is a recipient of one Global Adventures scholarship and is spending her academic year 2018-19 in Estonia. Skylar’s family hosted an Estonian student in 2017-18 and was inspired to now go to her host sister’s country to learn even more about the culture and people. Skylar is very talented and plays the clarinet, piano and started to learn the sax! She loves her school’s marching and concert band and all outdoors! As an active member of her community she volunteers with the local FCCLA club and at the Humane Society. We believe she will have an adventure of a lifetime!



Cassandra Chantland of Traverse City, Michigan is looking forward to her exchange year in South Korea beginning this fall on a Global Adventures scholarship. She is active in the school’s Chinese Culture Club and helps regularly at the local Elks Lodge with a variety of tasks from bussing tables, cleaning dishes to helping with serving. Cassie also enjoys reading, skateboarding and videogames. We think Cassie will be a great addition to a South Korean family and learn the language and culture quickly!



Anna Dahlen of Pelham, Alabama cannot wait until her exchange adventure begins in South Korea. She has been awarded a Global Adventures scholarship. She has been learning Korean for 2 years and is fascinated with the history and culture of South Korea. Anna wants to see the world through other people’s eyes and beyond simply just being a tourist. She is an active member of her school’s key club, speech club and girl scouts chapter and enjoys dancing, martial arts and singing. Anna hopes to earn her black belt soon. We believe she will represent the United States very well in South Korea!

*We wish all scholarship winners a successful and exciting year abroad!  
Congratulations from ASSE and World Heritage!*

# Strawberry Picking

**By Johan (Germany) enjoying his exchange year in Sunnyvale, California, USA**

My experience so far is going really well. I found a lot of new friends at my high school already and joined a few clubs. School is not really as complicated here but there is a lot more homework than I’m used to.

School spirit is a very big thing here and I love it. In Germany the closest we got to school spirit was the schools sweater that you could buy. Here there is a lot more clothes

from the school, physical education uniforms and sports teams. It’s very exciting!

My host family takes us on a lot of outings such as an Art museum, to a cinema, whale watching and strawberry picking. Personally I liked the whale watching best. It was a very lucky day because we saw a lot of whales and dolphins. I really like anything that has to do with the ocean.



*Johan (Germany) and his host brother enjoy the opportunity to pick locally grown strawberries!*

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from Spain, my home country, the fruit wheels.

Another part that I liked was the barn and seeing different kinds of animals such as horses or even a honeycomb full of bees.

It was a really good activity which we enjoyed a lot and I got to know the American culture deeply. I learned many different people will help me to make the most of my American experience.



*ASSE Exchange Student Ivan (Spain) learning to milk a goat, an “impressive” opportunity he hadn’t imagined that he would be able to experience during his exchange year!*