

## Memorable Experience: Kids serving as Hosts

### Statement of Experience

Anna Davidson and her family participated in the German-American Youth Exchange Program in 2015 and she contributed the following statement:

In the summer of 2015, my son approached me about some students from Dortmund needing a host family for a few weeks. We had considered hosting a student at various times while the kids were growing up, but weren't quite ready to make a year-long commitment. However, this opportunity was perfect. Host for a few weeks in the summer when I and my kids had more time. My son had just finished his freshman year in college and was considering majoring in German. My daughter was entering her senior year in High School and did not speak German. I was excited at the prospect of my son having the opportunity to practice German and I knew that the exchange student would get plenty of practice with English as my husband and daughter do not speak any. We agreed to host one boy. At the last minute, we were asked to host a girl as well and it worked out perfectly! Each of my children was a host and both really enjoyed it.

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The program was well set up and flexible. We took part in most of the planned activities and enjoyed them. Both students were well behaved and respectful. My son maintains contact with both students and hopes to visit them when he is in Germany next semester for his study abroad. My daughter enjoyed talking to them and learning about school life in Germany. My son loved talking about soccer "Fussball" with his exchange student and uses the Dortmund scarf he was given each winter. We had several events that included all of the exchange students and I know the students appreciated these times to be able to compare notes and see their friends.

For us, we had no conflicts or difficulties. I would absolutely recommend hosting a student. Three weeks was perfect for our family, but I am sure a longer time could have worked as well. It was a pleasure to meet these students. Both sent wonderful thank you packages complete with pictures and other things. They would be welcome to visit us any time again.



From left to right: My husband Bruce, Erika, Jan, Celine, Carl, Anna.