

SUMMERWOOD LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Summerwood Winter Festival



The Winter Festival, held on Saturday, December 1 at Club Summerwood, was a fantastic way to wrap-up the end of year with festivities for the whole family. This year's event included an angel tree, camel rides, holiday crafts, door prizes from the participating vendors in the Holiday Boulevard of Business, games, horse drawn carriage rides, inflatables (bounce houses), photo booth- courtesy of LifeHouse Community Church, marionette show, Mudpie, My Gamerz Lounge (new this year), petting zoo, professional photo opportunity, Santa, Summer

Creek High School's Choir and drill team The Starlettes, plus a trackless train! Food vendors at this year's event were Chick Fil A, Taco Flores and a new addition to the event, Nothing Bundt Cakes!

The winner of the \$100 Visa gift card was Willie Sanders! Congratulations Mr. Sanders!

A very special thank you goes out to the volunteers from Summer Creek High School's Future Women of America and the ROTC! Their service is very much appreciated!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Situations.....	911
Harris County Sheriff's Dept. (Dispatch)	713-221-6000
Constable - Precinct 3.....	281-427-4791
Houston Fire Station #105.... 14014 W. Lake Houston PkwyHouston, Texas 77044	
South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch).....	281-459-1277
Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1).....	281-820-5151
Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
After Hours.....	281-221-5000

UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS

Public Utility Commission Consumer Hotline ..	888-782-8477
Entouch Systems.....	281-225-1000
(Telephone, Cable, Alarm Monitoring)	
AT&T.....	800-288-2020
CenterPoint.....	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
MMIA (Water District Operator).....	281-651-1618
Garbage Pick-Up (Republic Waste)	281-446-2030
(Pick up on Mon. & Thurs - Garbage must be out by 7 a.m.)	

SUMMERWOOD MARKETING

Summerwood New Home Center	281-225-0025
16402 Boulder Field Lane; Houston, TX 77044	

SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary	281-641-3000
Lakeshore Elementary	281-641-3500
Post Office.....	713-695-2690
4206 Little York, Houston, TX 77078	

NEWSLETTER INFO

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Rachael's



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Happy New Year Summerwood!

Houston's Economy Ranked Number One in the U.S., 40th in the World

"The Brookens Institute"

It was great to see so many neighbors and friends out and about over the Christmas holidays. 2012 finished strong as reports surfaced from The Brookens Institute that Houston's Economy Ranked #1 in the United States and 40th in the World. Our local economy continues to be blessed with new job creation, companies moving into Greater Houston and surrounding areas, bringing more buyer activity to the area. We also experienced a slight uptick in home prices in the local market as the demand for housing picked up. Forecast reports show that the local market will continue to be strong. The activity we saw in December with sellers contacting us about marketing plans and pricing as it relates to their home, shows consumer confidence continues to get stronger. The last quarter of 2012 continued the trend of local buyers moving up to larger homes. Homes in Summerwood priced \$175,000 and below continue to be a hot commodity, as we see multiple offer situations continuing to occur. In 2012, I personally had 12 competing offer situations. The 3 years prior to 2012 competing offers were pretty much non-existent.

If you are considering listing your home, call me to schedule a time to discuss my proven marketing plan and take the next steps to work together to get your home **SOLD**. My personal portfolio includes over 438 sold homes, 64 homes **SOLD** in 2012 with closed sales of over 13.5 Million Dollars this year. My listings sold for **98%** of list price. If you want your home **SOLD**, speak to me about listing your home.

As your Buyer's Agent I handle all facets of the real estate transaction including, negotiation, choice of lot, floor plan, neighborhood, schools, all paperwork, etc., always having an eye towards resale of your home. Call me for a consultation on the benefits of having a Buyer's Agent, especially with New Construction! The Builder Salesman works for the Builder, NOT you! Want the best price when you are buying a home? I will get it for you! I also offer a **Free Local Move!** (Restrictions Apply, Call for Details).

I am Relocation Certified and I am qualified to handle your relocation needs. Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene is a Cartus Network Broker as well as many other relocation companies that you may be affiliated with.

Thank you for the feedback that many of you have provided over the years on the articles that we have written. If you have a topic you would like me to discuss, please send an email to rebekah.snipp@garygreene.com. I am always looking for topics my neighbors have an interest in learning more about via this newsletter. I appreciate the opportunity you provide to me to earn your business and referrals. Thank you and May each of you have a blessed 2013!

Respectfully,

Rebekah Snipp

Realtor

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Rebekah Snipp



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Summerwood Holiday Decorating Contest

Yard of the Month – January 2013

The Beautification Committee would like to congratulate the January Summerwood Yard of the Month Winners!



THE AUSTIN FAMILY OF MORNING LODGE LANE



THE CRENWELGE FAMILY OF BREEZY MEADOW LN

They will each have a "Yard of the Month" sign displayed in their yard for the month of January, and will also receive a \$50 gift card to Lowe's!

Note: The Summerwood Beautification Committee will suspend the YOM contest during the remaining winter months and will resume the contest in the spring.

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New Year's Resolutions for Real Estate

As the year winds down, consumers are looking forward to the New Year and have started planning their real estate priorities. Undertaking a home improvement project is the most popular resolution for Americans looking to upgrade their homes. Here are the remaining top real estate **New Year's resolutions**:

- Undertake a home improvement project
- Start saving money for a down payment
- Improve my credit so I can get pre-approved
- Purchase a home or investment property
- Refinance or modify my loan
- Learn more about local real estate market



What's Your New Year's Resolution?

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Club Summerwood Decorations

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*Robin beautifully decorated
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Summerwood Fitness Centers

Hopefully, you have had a chance to take a look at the changes and additions made to the fitness center this year. We have received lots of positive feedback about the improvements. This is a good opportunity to review the rules associated to the use of the fitness center. Please take a moment to review the rules.

FITNESS CENTER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

*Use the Fitness Center equipment at your own risk.
Hours available between 4:00 AM. - 11:00 PM*

1. Only Adults and Teens 18 years and older are allowed to use the gym equipment. Children under 18 are not allowed in gym area due to safety regulations.
2. Personnel Trainers/ Physical Therapists are prohibited from providing any services in the Fitness Center.
3. A homeowner must accompany their guest at all times when using the Fitness Center (limit 1 guest per homeowner).
4. Please wear supportive exercise shoes (aerobic, walking, or running shoes) and appropriate exercise clothing (shirts are required at all times).
5. Return equipment accessories (triceps rope, ankle strap, nylon handle, misc. cable attachments) to proper location after use.
6. If you need to talk on your cell phone during exercise please be considerate of others and step away from the workout area.
7. The Fitness Center is monitored by cameras and a breach of these rules will result in the suspension of the use of entrance cards or fobs.
8. Report any problems or malfunctions to the Community Center staff or call C.I.A. Services at 281-852-1700.
9. Foul language will not be tolerated.



Summerwood Crime Watch Committee

*Thanks NNO Committee Chairmen
and Active Block Captains*

The Summerwood Crime Watch committee celebrated another successful year in 2012 with an appreciation breakfast for National Night Out committee chairmen and active block captains. The breakfast was held at Manuel's Restaurant and was the culmination of the year's activities.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00 PM at the central community building (by the pool). All residents are invited to attend!



2013 SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, Mar 23 - Spring Event
Saturday, April 20 - Garage Sale
Saturday, May 4 - Casino Night
Thursday, July 4 - July 4th Parade
Tuesday, Oct 3 - National Night Out
Saturday, Oct 26 - Fall Festival
Saturday, Nov 2 - Garage Sale
Saturday, Dec 7 - Winter Festival

For more
information check
out
www.summerwoodlife.com



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Congratulations to Photos of the Month Winners!

Summerwood Beltway Entrance Decorated for the Holidays
Submitted by Harry McDaniel of CIA Services



December Christmas Decorations
Submitted by Murphy and Judy Hingle of Castlecombe



Have you recently taken a great photo of your family enjoying the outdoors in Summerwood? Maybe you have taken a photo of one of our amenities or perhaps a particular landscaped area that you enjoy? We'd love to see your favorite Summerwood photo!

Please email it to: summerwood.newsletter@gmail.com and include your name and address along with a short paragraph about why the photo is your favorite. The winner will have his/her photo in next month's newsletter!

Summerwood Elementary Carnival Coming Soon

Spring Carnival planning is already in full swing at Summerwood Elementary! The carnival will be held March 2, 2013. If you are a local business owner who is interested in reaching out to our community by supporting our school, please contact Aimee Williams at aimboat@gmail.com or Mary Impelman at impelman@entouch.net. We are looking for any sort of participation including sponsorship, in-kind donations, reduced cost or fee for service provision of carnival games, rides, entertainment or attractions (i.e. bounce houses, mobile gaming setups, etc).



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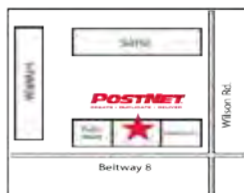


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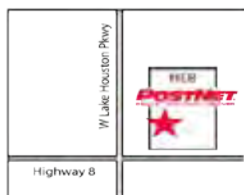
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Standardized Testing Secrets

*Submitted by Lisa Bender, Summerwood Elementary Counselor
(Taken from Home & School Connection)*

Confident. Prepared. Relaxed. Well rested. These are the traits of successful test takers. How can you ensure that your child does his best on standardized tests? Below are helpful tips to try before, during, and after.

BEFORE

Understand the purpose

Your child may wonder why he has to take standardized tests. Let him know the tests measure how students in his school are doing compared to other schools and districts. The tests also show areas he needs to work on and how his skills have changed over time.

Reassure your child

Standardized tests can be very different from classroom tests. Some questions are often expected to be too difficult for the average student. Reassure your child that he can score well even if he misses a few questions.

Get in shape

Getting a good night's rest and eating a healthy breakfast are import test taking tools. A well-balanced breakfast will give him energy on test day and a good night's rest will help him remain focused on the test.

DURING

Reinforce test taking strategies

Encourage your child to follow directions and read every question on the test. Also, time is monitored during testing but the student should not spend too much time on any one question. It is okay to make good guesses on questions he doesn't know the answer. One mistake many children make is getting the questions and answers out of order. Every few questions, he should make sure he is on the correct row. If time permits, he should go back and check his answers.

AFTER

Celebrate

Finishing a standardized test is an accomplishment! Test taking requires a lot of mental energy. Give your child plenty of time to relax and wind down. It's important to tell him how proud you are of his hard work.

Share results

When you receive a copy of your child's scores, make sure you understand what they mean. Your child's teacher will be able to help you interpret the scores. Your child may have lots of questions regarding his scores. Again, remind him that standardized tests are a tool to help him learn.



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JANUARY MEETING

Lake Houston Ladies Club will have their monthly meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest in Humble, TX 77346. Dwayne Ulrich will be presenting a program called: Self Defense for Women. Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization that welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Several Interest groups are available which include: Readers Choice, Bridge, Bunco, Lunch and Look, Movie Group and Supper Club. Come and join us! Please call Carol at 832-671-4475 for reservations by January 15 before 5:00 p.m. Call Hestor at 281-852-1442 for more information about the club.

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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March 2nd - Math



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Life on Summerwood's Lake Anne

by Summerwood resident, Jeannie Walker

Now that all of the kids are in school, the fishing has tapered off on Lake Anne, but the duck and goose watching remains in full swing. With the great temperatures and cloudless skies, these are perfect times for our feathered friends. More and more people are feeding them corn so they do not seem to be as fat, and really seem to be more energetic. We see them flying around more to get from one side of the lakes to the other rather than just swimming in the water or running/walking on the ground. The Egyptian geese population was increasing to an alarming number of 20, but most of them seem to have flown on to other habitats. It was funny--- they never seemed to be having offspring, but were multiplying like crazy. They are gorgeous with their pink legs and faces; and they look completely different when flying than they do on the ground.

We acquired two "teenager ducks" on Labor Day and have really enjoyed watching "Duckies" (that is what "their" name is) grow and become acclimated to the wild life. Mary and Paul, of the Lakeside Subdivision on Lake Houston, raised them all summer from one day old babies. Their Summerwood Pool lifeguard grandson found them when they had just hatched. He and other lifeguards never found

the babies' parents, so he took them home to their new mom and dad. "Duckies" had a great life there and were quite satisfied to live a pampered life. But Mary and Paul wanted them to be "ducks", so they brought them back here to their birthplace on Lake Anne. Even though Mary and Paul still come to the lake to "love" on them EVERY day, all of us have enjoyed watching them grow into fine big ducks. It did not take them long at all to learn the "pecking order" on the lake and we are sure that they are looking forward to moving up in that order.

Even though we are enjoying the fall duck/goose watching, we do miss our fishermen of last Summer. When school began, these fine young men, all of which are great students and athletes, have had to cut down on their hobby of fishing and get to their school and after school activities. They were all expert fishermen! One day as I was watching from my yard, a group of them caught so many fish in 15 minutes that I got tired of counting. We look forward to next summer when Leo, Tyler, Trey, Calloway, Jacob, Aiden, Bailey and Gavin will be out of school and back to fishing. There were others, but I failed to get their names; I apologize.



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Spring Credit classes at Lone Star College-Atascocita Center are listed below.
Registration is in progress; classes begin week of Monday, January 14.

ACCT 2401 Principles Of Accounting I Class 2890 TTh 9:30–11:50a	ACCT 2402 Principles Of Accounting II Class 2892 TTh 7:00–9:30p	ANTH 2351 Cultural Anthropology Class 13447 TTh 11:00a–12:20p	ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation Class 15816 MW 6:00–7:20p	BCIS 1405 Business Computer Apps Class 16018 TTh 1:30–3:25p	BIOL 1408 Intro Biology I (Nonmajors) Class 6837 TTh 6:00–8:50p Class 15838 Online/Lab..... F 9:00–10:00a	BIOL 1409 Intro Biol II (Nonmajors) Class 6981 MW 6:00–8:50p	BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Phys I Class 6533 TTh 6:00–8:50p	BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Phys II Class 6591 MW 6:00–8:50p	BUSI 1301 Business Principles Class 2894 TTh 1:30–3:00p	COSC 1401 Intro to Computers Class 16014 TTh 1:30–3:25p	EDUC 1301 Intro Teaching Profession Class 3233 Hybrid MW 12:30–1:50p* Class 3236 Hybrid Th 5:30–8:30p*	ENGL 0304 Dev Reading I Class 13332 TTh 8:00–9:50p* Class 13334 MW 9:00–10:50a*	ENGL 0305 Dev Reading II Class 13362 TTh 10:30a–12:20p*	ENGL 0306 Dev Writing I Class 13378 TTh 6:00–7:50p* Class 13380 MW 11:00a–12:50p*	ENGL 0307 Dev Writing II Class 13794 TTh 8:30–10:20a* Class 13813 MW 12:30–2:20p* Class 13815 MW 6:00–7:50p*	ENGL 0308 ESOL Language Skills Class 8267 Late Start TTh 8:30–10:30a* Class 8270 Late Start TTh 8:30–10:30a*	ENGL 0372 ESOL Writing II Class 8321 Late Start TTh 10:40a–12:40p*	ENGL 0373 ESOL Writing III Class 8328 Late Start TTh 10:40a–12:40p*	ENGL 1301 Comp & Rhetoric I Class 10797 TTh 9:30–10:50a Class 10798 TTh 11:00a–12:20p	ENGL 1302 Comp & Rhetoric II Class 11221 TTh 8:00–9:20a Class 11222 TTh 9:30–10:50a Class 11223 TTh 6:00–7:20p
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GEOG 1303 World Geography Class 14111 W 6:00–8:50p	GOVT 2301 American Government I Class 12343 MW 8:00–9:20a Class 12346 TTh 1:30–2:50p	GOVT 2302 American Government II Class 14105 MW 9:30–10:50a Class 15154 M 6:00–8:50p	HIST 1301 US History to 1877 Class 3928 MW 11:00a–12:20p Class 3929 TTh 9:30–10:50a	HIST 1302 US History Since 1877 Class 12279 TTh 8:00–9:20a Class 12282 MW 12:30–1:50p	HIST 2301 Texas History Class 12294 TTh 11:00a–12:20p	HUMD 0330 College Success: 1st Yr Exp Class 12857 TTh 4:30–5:50p Class 16005 MW 4:30–5:50p Class 16006 TTh 7:30–8:50a Class 16007 TTh 1:00–2:20p	MATH 0306 Pre-algebra Math Class 11533 MW 9:30–10:50a Class 11534 TTh 6:00–7:20p Class 11535 TTh 8:00–9:20a Class 14106 TTh 1:30–2:50p	MATH 0308 Intro Algebra Class 11586 MW 11:00a–12:20p Class 11587 TTh 6:00–7:20p Class 11588 TTh 9:30–10:50a	MATH 0310 Intermediate Algebra Class 11654 TTh 11:00a–12:20p Class 11655 MW 6:00–7:25p Class 14093 MW 8:00–9:20a	MATH 1314 College Algebra Class 11702 MW 9:30–10:50a Class 11704 MW 6:00–7:20p	PSYC 2301 General Psychology Class 7017 T 6:00–9:00p Class 7018 MW 11:00–12:20p Class 7019 TTh 9:30–10:50a	PSYC 2314 Life-growth/Devel Class 13434 MW 12:30–1:50p Class 13439 W 6:00–8:50p	SOCI 1301 Principles of Sociology Class 7015 TTh 9:30–10:50a Class 13442 M 6:00–8:50p	SPCH 1311 Intro Speech Comm Class 15067 TTh 9:30–10:50a	SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Comm Class 15068 TTh 11:00a–12:20p
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* = Additional lab hours may apply.

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A Focus On Resolutions

By: *Concentra Urgent Care*

The New Year is a great time to make healthy lifestyle changes. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the most common resolutions focus on losing weight, getting fit, quitting smoking, and reducing stress. These are important themes that can reduce your risk of disease. Here are ways you can achieve your goals this year.

LOSING WEIGHT

A weight loss of five to seven percent of your body weight can improve your health and quality of life. It can also help prevent weight-related health problems, like diabetes. Changing your eating habits and increasing your physical activity are keys to successful weight loss and help to maintain optimal weight for the rest of your life. Create a plan for healthy eating and increased physical activity, while taking in fewer calories than you use. Your healthy eating plan should include:

- Taking into account foods you like and dislike
- A focus on fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains
- Fat-free or low-fat dairy products such as yogurt, cheese, and milk
- Protein sources such as lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts
- Avoiding saturated and trans fats such as animal fat, butter, and hydrogenated oils
- Staying away from foods high in sodium and added sugars

For more information on weight management and improving

nutritional practices, visit the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at www.win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/for_life.htm.

GETTING FIT

Regular physical activity for at least 30 minutes each day, or broken up into several shorter periods of 20, 15, or 10 minutes, can help you lose weight, keep it off, and stay fit. It can also improve your energy and mood and lower your risk for heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers. Try some of these physical activities:

- Walking (15-minute miles or 4 miles per hour)
- Biking
- Tennis
- Aerobic exercise classes (step aerobics, kickboxing, dancing)
- Yard work or house cleaning (gardening, raking, mopping, vacuuming)

Taking the first step can be the hardest part. Start slowly, at a level that is comfortable for you and add activity as you go along. Sometimes, it helps to have a friend or activity buddy when you start out. It is recommended that adults get at least two and a half hours of moderate physical activity each week. Strengthening activities, such as pushups, sit-ups, or lifting weights, at least two days per week are also encouraged. For more information on getting fit, visit the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports at <http://fitness.gov/>. Happy New Year from Concentra Urgent Care!



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PERFECT TIME FOR COOL SEASON HERBICIDE

It's finally time to use the cool season herbicides I've referred to on the GardenLine radio program. If you know what I'm talking about but just need the names of the products, they are Fertilome's Weed Free Zone and Bonide's Weed Beater Ultra. These herbicides are specific for broadleaf weeds like Clover and Virginia Buttonweed. They will not control any "grassy" weeds. The perfect temperature range for usage of these two cool-season herbicides is roughly between 75 degree highs and 40 degree lows.

But there are some caveats that must be respected for these herbicides to work properly. The one constant in weed control, whether it's a cool season herbicide or a regular post-emergent herbicide, is to use a surfactant. Surfactants help herbicides do their job because most water in our area is considered hard. Hard water tends to just roll off leaf surfaces. There are two ways of adding a surfactant to most herbicides. The simple way is add about a tablespoon per gallon of dish soap to the mix. The professional grade way is to use a relatively inexpensive commercial

surfactant like Hi-Yield's Spreader Sticker or Bonide's Turbo. The other important step would have to be "HOW" it is applied. You should use either a pump-up sprayer or a hand-held trigger sprayer. Avoid the use of Dial-N-Spray hose sprayer because you cannot be as precise with the spray, and over-use of such products on the entire yard can cause a yellowing of the grass. Spot treating is paramount with these controls. There are some concentrates available in a "Ready to Spray" formula that you hook on the end of the hose. If this is the only thing available, concentrate on that spot treatment. That means you've got to be quick on the switch with the ON and OFF lever.

Excerpts from this tip sheet are reprinted by permission from Randy Lemmon at www.randylemmon.com.

GardenLine with Randy Lemmon

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TRAVEL THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOMETOWN

Host a Foreign Exchange Student

By Vicki Odom

Who hasn't dreamed about walking among the Egyptian pyramids, or soaking in the sun on a beach in Spain, or wandering along the Great Wall of China? Every parent wants to give their children a taste of the world, but the economic reality of international air travel for a family, not to mention hotels, passports and food, makes it tough for most of us to consider except in our daydreams.

There is a way to give your children the world - without leaving your living room. How? Host a foreign exchange student from a country you've always admired! Fascinated by France? Curious about China? Intrigued by India? By welcoming an international student from one of these countries into your home, you instantly open a portal to a far off land.

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English - and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes - families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Heather Wells, Regional Director of Ayusa, a non-profit that promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who

works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

"Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience - for the student, the host family, and the host community," says Wells. "There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home."

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2013 - 2014 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



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