

American Field Service seeks family to host exchange student

By CARL STODDARD

Would you like to take a foreign exchange student into your family's home for a year?
Southfield-Lathrup High School's chapter of the American Field Service

student exchange program is looking for a family in the Southfield School District to host a foreign student next fall.
The Southfield AFS is also looking for parents to help sponsor and support the local chapter.

Persons eligible to host a student must be residents of the Southfield School District, but do not need to have a student enrolled in the school system.
Families hosting a student will be required to provide the student with a room, meals and some spending money. All other expenses will be provided by AFS or the school.

Persons interested in being interviewed as possible host families may contact Mrs. Smith at Southfield-Lathrup. Also, families interested in supporting the exchange program but not actually taking a student into their homes should also contact Mrs. Smith.

Richard Leland, assistant principal at Southfield-Lathrup, is the person responsible for bringing the foreign exchange program back to the high school. A previous program at the school had withered.

Southfield-Lathrup now has one foreign exchange student who came to the school through AFS, although he was originally intended to go to Groves High School in Birmingham. The student is Jukka Hastas of Finland.

OTHER exchange students at Southfield-Lathrup are Cami Carlsson of Sweden, Anne Willemsens of Belgium, Sara Fryd of Argentina, and Juan Cervantes of Mexico.

The other exchange students, Leland said, are at Southfield-Lathrup under the auspices of various exchange programs. AFS, however, is the only program that offers school ships and is based on academics, he said.

Mrs. Smith said AFS has done an excellent job of matching students with host families. This reduces the likelihood that a visiting student will want to return home before his stay is officially completed, she said.

This contrasts sharply with some exchange programs.

One exchange program is reported to have been recruiting host families at Detroit Metropolitan Airport as the student were arriving.
AFS started during WW I as a volunteer ambulance service to assist France in the care of wounded soldiers. The AFS was moved in during WW II and later expanded to its present program.

AFS is now operated largely by volunteers. In the United States there are 400 field representatives, 2,000 local chapters with more than 30,000 members and more than 2,600 host families who receive students.

In most cases, the local high schools provide tuition, instruction and extend counseling services to arriving students. Local chapters are there to help with counseling, medical care, small expenses and other necessities.

ACCORDING TO Mrs. Margaret Smith, a librarian at Southfield-Lathrup and a faculty advisor to AFS, the exchange program is one of the best of more than half a dozen programs available AFS, she said, is very careful in matching prospective exchange students with prospective host families.

AFS guidelines point out that it is not important where the host family lives or what the host parents do for a living. What is important, the guidelines noted, is that the family be rich in four areas: warmth, breadth of interest, flexibility and humor.

Exchange students would be expected to act and be treated like a member of the family, Mrs. Smith said.

Dropout rate down in district

SOUTHFIELD—According to a recent state report, Southfield schools have one of the lowest student dropout rates in Michigan.

A recently published report, prepared by the Michigan Department of Education, listed dropout rates for the following areas:

Southfield Public Schools: 3.73 per cent.

Oakland County schools: 5.83 per cent.

Detroit Area schools: 5.41 per cent.

Schools in Michigan: 6.46 per cent.

Dropouts included all students removed from school membership prior to graduation for any reason other than illness or death.

According to the Southfield Board of Education, the low dropout rates in the district reflect the interest of parents in the communities of Southfield and Lathrup Village in the values of education and in the community.

The report was published in "Public High School Dropouts in Michigan, 1972-73."

Emanuel sets theater night

SOUTHFIELD—The Temple Emanuel Synagogue will sponsor an evening at the theater to see "Witness for the Prosecution" by the Village Players of Birmingham, 752 Chestnut, Birmingham, at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8.

After the performance, snacks will be served at the Northwest Inn in Berkley.

For information, call Martha or Ben Alalou at 559-8435.

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