

# final thoughts...

We look forward to seeing you in the USA and making you a part of the World Link exchange family. Our staff are dedicated to making your American experience a good one and one that you will value for years.

*Curtis Stutzman*  
President/CEO

*Lana Stutzman*  
National Program Manager

Global Connections are projects that World Link students do that cross borders and help to bring inter-cultural experiences to everyone and not just those participants of exchange programs. World Link will provide you with the training that you need to be an active part of the "successor generation" in your country. The end goal is for you to be a "change agent" in your country and a leader in your chosen career. By living in two cultures, you become a "Global Citizen" with abilities to travel and work across borders. Opportunity awaits you during a time in your life when you are most open to new ideas and developing your character.

Through involvement in school clubs, like Simona Ristovska from Macedonia (upper photo) who was a member of the FFA Organization in her school, you will discover and develop your own leadership skills. These skills, and the rewards and recognition that you receive from superior participation and achievements with World Link and your program that will be useful to you go for an advanced degree. You will also find the skills and experiences that you gained from the program to be useful in alumni activities that will benefit your country like the Georgian alums distributing 14,000 eyeglasses in refugee centers in 2009.



## Global Connections>>>



To learn about what World Link students are up to this year, visit our Website at:

[WWW.WORLDBLINKINC.ORG](http://WWW.WORLDBLINKINC.ORG)



Welcome>>>



2010

[WWW.WORLDBLINKINC.ORG](http://WWW.WORLDBLINKINC.ORG)

# WELCOME TO WORLD LINK EXCHANGE WITH PURPOSE

## Our Cluster Regions >>>

- Central California
- Northern California
- Eastern Iowa
- Central & Northern Illinois & Indiana
- Central Ohio
- West Texas
- Central Colorado
- Southern Minnesota

## Your Placement Organization Providing You With Opportunities

World Link focuses on providing our exchange students with opportunities to gain skills and experiences in the USA that they would not have at home. That can mean living in a different culture and environment than home, taking different types of classes in your U.S. school and learning new skills, concepts and ideas that can benefit your career and your community.

World Link works hard to provide participants and the governments that sponsor the programs with a quality experience. Host

World Link places students primarily in small towns and rural communities where exchange students are most welcomed and embraced by the community.

Families are carefully screened and schools are chosen where opportunities for you to integrate into American culture with all of its diversity is possible. World Link students are required to join school clubs, get involved with leadership development activities and

"100% of World Link Students would recommend this program to their friends."  
*2009 E-Goals Report*  
*U.S. Department of State*

In these towns of 5,000 to 25,000 people, there is one high school and a closeness and community unrivaled in the larger cities. This nurturing environment is the perfect place to experience the "real America".

make new friends through sports and after school activities. World Link will encourage you to learn to help disadvantaged groups through volunteer service with the opportunity to achieve a Presidential Volunteer Medal for outstanding voluntary service. All of this while making new friends, experiencing new things and having fun.

Students on the World Link Program experience real change in their abilities to speak in front of groups, organize activities and affect change in their communities. World Link students are problem solvers and creative thinkers that can evaluate a situation and produce an action plan to solve local problems with your own involvement.



## Your Health & Accident Insurance Policy



World Link subscribes to the official health and accident insurance policy provided by the U.S. Government for exchange students on J-1 Visas. You are automatically enrolled in the policy and will receive your insurance identification

card with your welcome packet when you arrive to your host family in the USA. This policy, paid for by the project, covers you in case of illnesses, accident or any incident that requires medical treatment, a doctor's care or hospitalization. The policy does not cover:

- Pre-existing conditions
- Eyeglasses
- Dental Care
- Medication for an existing condition

Policy Amounts:	
Basic Medical:	
Maximum Benefit Per Accident:	\$50,000
Deductible Amount per Injury:	\$15.00
Medical Evacuation:	No Limit
Repatriation of Remains:	\$10,000

World Link has emergency funds to cover some of these non-covered expenses. Contact your hub office if you have questions or visit <http://usdossevencorners.com>.

Learn to Lead >>>

## Leadership for Your Future

*A leader is someone that has a vision for change and the ability to motivate others to help achieve that vision. World Link will help you become a leader.*



### Communication

English is the international language of business and a year in America will provide you with the language skills and communication style to take on your chosen career.

Your program achievements will be monitored, reported and rewarded by World Link. Participants who excel in program activities will receive special recognition, awards and participation in advanced training. At the end of the year, you will receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate based on your participation level. Other award certificates and cash and prizes will be given.

### Public Speaking

Through country presentations, you will learn valuable techniques for expressing your views to groups through public speaking. You can practice this valuable skill through school club competitions and discover the talent that you have to influence others and motivate them to action. Come, find the leader in you.



### Diversity

America is a Melting Pot of different ethnic groups, religions and races and an opportunity for you to be exposed to and appreciate diverse opinions and cultures. World Link will provide you with opportunities to interact with Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans and many other ethnic groups to learn how all of these different cultures have melted together into American culture. Learning tolerance for diversity is a leadership trait.

## Experiencing America:

*Experience American culture by living with a host family, participating in World Link Program activities and getting involved in your host school and community. Your cluster group will be your ticket to experiencing American culture and getting to know the real America.*



### Cluster Activities >>>



Cluster groups are students placed in a 120 mile radius of each other and have a coordinator that is in monthly contact with the participants and helps to organize activities. Your local coordinator will work with your regional coordinator to organize the regional meetings listed on the right side and to be your contact point for the program. Your coordinator will have visited and trained your host family prior to your arrival and will work with you to make sure that you get a good start on the program, including your enrollment in classes and being prepared for your first day at an American high school. The National Office will monitor and assist your local coordinator in conducting your program and in reporting your achievements to the sponsor of your scholarship program.

## Arrival Orientation

Upon arrival, you will have an orientation with your cluster and local coordinator. You will learn about your calendar of events and activities designed for your cluster group. The program will include a public speaking workshop to prepare you for your cultural presentations.

### Help Others >>>

## Community Service and Volunteerism:

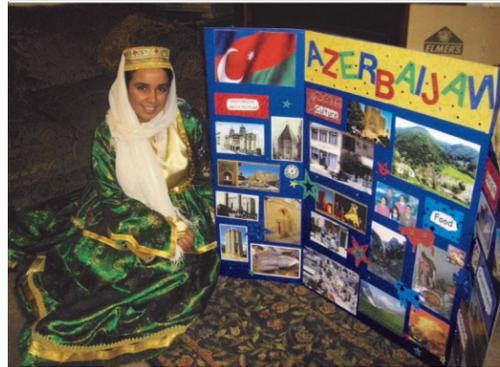
*One of the important aspects of a civil society is other citizens joining together and aiding groups less fortunate than themselves. Many important things happen with the aid of volunteers helping out in a community through environmental projects or aiding disadvantaged groups. World Link will encourage you to participate in community service activities with other Americans in order to experience how this might be accomplished in your country.*

*After getting some experience with volunteer work, we will provide the most active leaders in the group with special training to develop projects that connect current program students with alumni overseas and implement projects that reach across borders and benefit groups through the exchange of ideas, materials and skills. These Global Connections Projects will provide a framework for the important alumni activities to come in your home country*



## Share Your Culture:

Come prepared to share your culture with Americans. Chances are they are not very familiar with your culture and your presence in the country is a golden opportunity to educate Americans about your lifestyle and customs. Bring items, digital photos and native costumes to help make your presentations to groups more interesting and memorable. You will become a local celebrity through your country presentations and learn public speaking skills.



Don't be surprised if the America that you come to know as a part of an exchange program is not the one that you were expecting to see. Exchange is learning about the real culture and not the one that you think exists because of what you see on the television news or at the movie theater. Just like Americans will have many misconceptions about your country, you will also have some about theirs.

### Common Question >>>

**Q: Will I Be Able to Travel?**  
**A: World Link Allows Travel.**

*World Link allows students to travel as opportunities arise with school organizations and clubs, with host families and certain other approved individuals and groups. World Link does allow visits to family relatives and friends at your own expense and with approval of your host and natural family. Some regional clusters organize optional trips and World Link will hold regional mid-term and re-entry programs that will allow you to see some sites too. Some travel opportunities can be earned by superior participation through the World Link's rewards and recognition program.*



## At Mid-Term:

The Mid-Term program comes in January and is an opportunity to see what you have accomplished and what more you wish to do during your year in America. During Mid-Term you will have a "diversity immersion" to experience a diversity issue and then you will be asked to write an essay applying what you have learned to your home country through a Melting Pot Essay Competition.

## Re-Entry Program:

Approximately one month prior to returning home, you will again meet with program staff and prepare for the challenges of returning to your home culture after living in another culture for a year. You will learn what pitfalls lie ahead in returning home and techniques that you can use to make the return go more smoothly and yet keep your connections to your American friends.