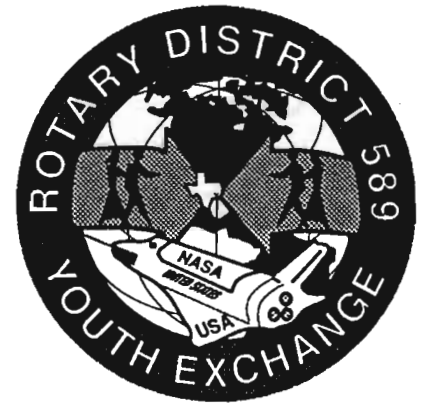


# YOUTH EXCHANGE INTERCHANGE



Vol. II, Issue 1

A Newsletter of District 589 International Youth Exchange

Spring '90

## One Man

Dr. David Taylor, D.D. S., of Space Center Rotary Club has once again made District 589 an innovator among Rotary International Youth Exchanges. Our district is the first in the United States and most probably, the free world to host high school students from the Soviet Union, East Germany and Hungary on our short-term exchange. To do the story justice, we must turn the clock back three years.

Dr. Taylor had been asked by Chairman Harold Jones to start a short-term youth exchange program. To the amazement of the district committee, he wrote to 40 candidate countries and his proposal was accepted by 12 of them. He negotiated each exchange through letter and via telephone. His efforts meant that approximately 150 youngsters would be coming to the district for from four to six weeks. (A logistics task of no small undertaking.) Not only did Taylor make it work, District 589 became and remains the example throughout two Rotary International Zones of how to conduct short-term exchanges.

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## District 589 Youth Exchange Continues To Lead Rotary World Toward "Peace Through Understanding"

After achieving success with the Hungarians and the United States government, Dr. David Taylor, Space Center Rotary Club prepared for the ultimate challenge. He wanted to establish a home-to-home stay for high school students between the United States and the Soviet Union. This has never been done.

These monumental efforts begun in 1988 about this time have been approved within the last three weeks. We finally received acknowledgement that the exchanges would indeed occur this summer. Congratulations to David and all who have made these exchanges possible. It is indeed a giant step toward "achieving world peace through understanding!"

### *Get A Piece of the Rock. . .*

Pearland Rotarian Gert Bahlo (husband of Marta Bahlo) came from East Germany and has been instrumental in our Hungarian, East German and Soviet exchanges. He is offering District 589 Rotarians a piece of history and an opportunity to continue the Youth Exchange Committee's efforts to achieve "World Peace Through Understanding."

Gert had occasion to visit the Berlin Wall as it was being taken down and brought back pieces of it. He has offered these pieces to the District Committee to auction off to raise money for benefitting needy students.

Ten pieces along with certificates of authenticity and pictures of Gert at the Berlin Wall are being offered in silent auction bids during the conference. Please bid and help us continue these efforts on behalf of your district. Winning bids will be announced at the last meeting of the conference.

The District 589 Youth Committee thanks the Bahlo family for its involvement and, its generosity. Dedication like this is what has made our program a success. This is a Rotary program that usually involves the whole family and it offers tremendous interpersonal rewards.

## Four students to spend year abroad

The District 589 Youth Committee met Saturday, December 9, 1989 to interview and select candidates to participate in the long-term youth exchange for the 1990-91 year. Seven individuals representing five clubs were chosen, four elected to go. They are Sandra Ezell (Brazosport), Ashley Spann (Alvin), Windy Johnson (Tomball) and Sydney Scott (Tomball).

Ezell and Spann have elected to spend their year in Germany, Johnson will be going to France and Scott will live in Spain. The students will be going to orientation camp the first week of June to prepare them for their overseas experiences.

The District Committee is proud of our selections and wish each a delightful and event filled year as ambassadors of District 589, Texas and the United States of America.

# SHORT-TERM EXCHANGES

This summer will be special for over 40 young people in District 589 as they journey to a foreign country for up to four weeks. Upon returning, they will host foreign students in their homes. These youngsters will experience more than an ordinary vacation to a foreign land; they will be made a member of a family in a foreign culture. Hopefully, they will learn far more about the country and its people than an ordinary tourist. They will show a student from the family who hosted them their typical American lifestyle. It is an extraordinary chance to explode myths on both sides of the ocean.

Rotarians on the International Youth Exchange Committee in District 589 and their counterpart Committees in England, Wales, France, Belgium, West Germany, East Germany, Spain, Finland, Norway, Hungary and the Soviet Union have recruited and matched students to participate in the program.

Last year's trail blazing exchange with Hungary is being followed up this year with exchanges involving the Soviet Union and East Germany, involving Rotarians in the newly formed Clubs in those countries. World peace through understanding is the primary objective of this effort.

Visitors to our District from abroad will have Rotary sponsored events available to supplement the activities offered by the host families. Among them will be a tour of NASA, the Medical Center, the Houston Ship Channel, Downtown Houston, the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham, the Cy-Fair Rodeo and a beach party. In addition, several Clubs will be sponsoring activities for the students staying in their area.



The cost to the participating students is kept to a minimum. They furnish their airline fares, group insurance coverage, and a nominal application fee to defray the costs of operating the program. Some Rotary Clubs offer scholarships covering all or a portion of these costs in order to make the program accessible to more students.

In a world becoming increasingly international, it is important for our youth to understand and appreciate foreign cultures. It is no longer possible to remain in blissful isolation and ignorance of the rest of the world.

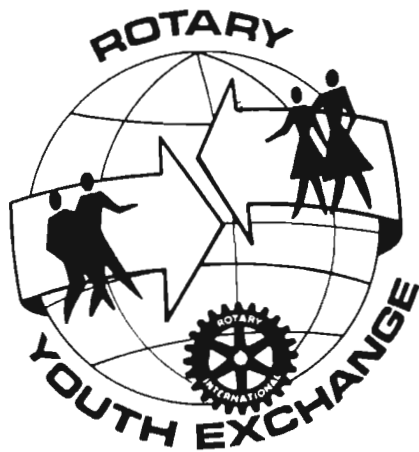
This Rotary program is helping to meet that need, not only for the participants, but also through the others who come into contact with the participants and their special guests.

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## *International Youth and You*

Rotary's International Youth Exchange Program offers the opportunity for Rotarians and their families to participate as individuals or as a whole family. It is the only program that encourages the children or grandchildren of Rotarians to become involved.

Families can send their children and/ or share their homes with students from around the world. This broadens everyone's understanding because we are able to appreciate the similarities and differences of the respective cultures. Rotarians can serve as a Youth Exchange Officer, a committeeman, or a counselor for the exchange student. The club-level Youth Exchange Officer serves as a facilitator placing information in the High School and informing the club as to the activities of the District Youth Exchange Committee. Additionally, he will process applications of students from his club's territory. Committee volunteers aid the district committee executing activities for all the exchange students in the district.



## **Get Involved!**