Hosting an international student offers benefits, awareness on both sides

Have you ever thought about hosting an international student? Perhaps you know someone who currently hosts or who has hosted an international student in the past.

International Education Management (IEM) provides access to an American education for high school students from around the world. We are currently seeking reliable and nurturing families to host international high school students to attend La Jolla Country Day School starting in Fall 2015.

Most of the students come from China and are between the ages of 15 and 17. They are proficient in English, are highly motivated to succeed during their studies in the Upper School and hope to continue their education at top-notch colleges and universities in the United States.

There are several benefits to being a host family with International Education Management. IEM's Homestay Program offers families an amazing opportunity to inspire a child and develop a stronger cultural awareness and appreciation.

As you open your heart and your home to an exceptional young global citizen from another country, you are afforded a priceless opportunity to share your culture, and experience a new culture right in your home.

The long-term commitment of an academic year also allows time to forge meaningful and lasting relationships with your student. IEM understands the time and dedication that goes into hosting a student, so host families receive a monthly compensation of $1,000. The compensation is paid per student and is meant to help cover additional expenses including groceries, utilities and gas. IEM also provides 24/7 support to guide our host families throughout the experience.

We maintain constant contact with you, your student, and your student's native parents in order to help create the best homestay experience possible for you, your family and your student.

Living with an American family is integral to the success of the international student's stay. "The student benefits from total immersion in an English-speaking environment," says Andrea Gentry, Student Services Coordinator at International Education Management.

"But the benefits go beyond learning English. The student is also learning to live in America. There is no better way to learn the subtleties of a society than by experiencing them firsthand in the microcosm of a family."

Families who would like to learn more about opening their homes to an international student may contact IEM at 888-505-8941, ext 315, or via email at homestay@educationm.com.

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‘Commotion by the Ocean’ rock show on May 16 at Boys & Girls Club Polster Branch

Young bands will rock out at the seventh annual “Commotion by the Ocean” show on from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Boys and Girls Club of San Dieguito's Polster Branch in Carmel Valley.

The rock and roll picnic concert is family- and community-friendly and will feature 14 student-created bands from the Youth Arts Academy, talented young musicians who have a passion for music.

The event will also feature food trucks Red Oven Pizza, Woody's Burgers and Kona Ice. All proceeds from the fundraiser support this program, which includes concert bands, private music lessons, a recording studio, musical theater and photography classes.

Tickets are a $5 donation and are available at the Youth Arts Academy, online at YouthArtsSD.org/events or at the door. The Boys and Girls Club Polster branch is at 3800 Mykonos Lane.