

# **Rotary D5610 Friendship Exchange Report September, 2011**

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**Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE)** is a program for Rotarians with time and interest to travel. We send a team (usually 4-5 couples) to a District somewhere in the world and that District sends a team to our District. The Rotarian couples are hosted in homes of host club members and we all share our part of the world. It's a fantastic program and D5610 has had excellent exchanges with Australia, England, New Zealand, France, India and Brazil.

## **Currently, we are working on the following future Rotary Friendship Exchanges:**

1. D7030 consists of 13 countries in the Caribbean, including Suriname. At the finish of the matching grant for a Paramaribo School Sanitation project, we plan a Project Safari to Trinidad and Suriname, and visit several projects. January 29-February 9, 2012 openings for D5610, D7610 members (Tracy Settle's club also participated and has another water project in progress.) A copy of the application is attached and will be posted on the District website.
2. District 3520 of Taiwan has sent D5610 an invitation for a Rotary Friendship Exchange. The visit will occur in November 2011. Taiwan will be celebrating its centennial celebration during that time period. District 3520 has indicated that an informal reciprocal exchange can be setup with the host families. Contact John Kittelson at [Kittelson@Prodigy.com](mailto:Kittelson@Prodigy.com) for more information.
3. Since many of our couples are teachers, a summertime exchange with northern European countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark) or Australia would be welcomed. I have a connection with Alan Garside, D9790 Australia, who led the GSE in 2008. And DG Pat has a contact in Norway for the 2012-13 year.
4. India is always interested in an exchange. We have contacts from our recent GSE team.
5. DG Pat has a number of District governors interested in exchanges, which we will pursue.

## **Committee on-going assignments and accomplished tasks to date:**

- \* Currently hosting the Brazil RFE team September 3-17, 2011. Rapid City, Custer, Watertown, Dennison and Sioux Falls clubs are participating. 4 couples and 2 single men are visiting our district. An itinerary will be available at the conference.
- \* Created a Suriname display for the conference and will have information applications available.
- \* Wrote District bio and sent in to RI Matching Board, will be published in the next posting cycle.
- \* Keep a list ongoing of interested District Rotarians, emailed Brazil hosting exchange opportunity.
- \* Added Richard Bot to the committee, referred by DG Pat, and sent him previous reports.
- \* Simplify the application process, visa applications, etc. (ongoing, related to each exchange)
- \* Create a Powerpoint/video that can be easily adapted to each exchange (draft is in progress, need photos of clubs' projects, additional socio-economic data, SD Tourism video embedded)