



To: OSAA
From: AFS USA Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to Jona Korfer from Germany, an international high school student on program with AFS USA. He is on an AFS program for one semester.

AFS USA's mission and purpose is to build bridges of understanding between cultures to create a more just and peaceful world. All the students who apply to go on an AFS program do so for the purpose of experiencing another culture and sharing their own with the community they are assigned.

No student gets to decide what country they will end up in, nor do they decide what family they will be hosted with. In Jona's case, he applied to go on program in America, and two other countries. He was selected, by AFS USA to come to America because of his English speaking skills and his willingness to be open and share is own culture with an American community.

The Department of State gives AFS USA a deadline to find homes for each of our students. In no way was Jona's placement planned on anything but the fact that the Nuzums were willing to host a student who otherwise would not come on an exchange program. In fact, he was slated to be hosted in Alaska but the family fell through. The Nuzums were generous enough to say "yes" and host Jona for the cultural experience and of the goodness of their hearts. No AFS USA family is paid to host. They are volunteers. They provide all the necessities they would their own child as a host family.

His placement was based on the willingness of the Nuzum family to host him and care for him while he is in America on a cultural and academic experience only, nothing more.

If you would like further information from me regarding AFS USA, our mission, our values or our long, distinguished career of building cultural bridges, please call or email me directly.

Sincerely,

Shaun Sullens

Shaun Sullens
Team Development Specialist
Columbia Pacific Team
email: ssullens@afusa.org
Direct Line: 646-381-3384
toll-free: 800-876-2376, ext. 3384
Cell: 503-894-0367 . Fax: 646-937-6002
AFS USA - 120 Wall Street 4th New York, NY - 10005