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To Whom it May Concern:

I am the host mom for Tunyarat Janggate, a sixteen-year-old girl from Thailand. We first met Tunyarat last October when she came with her middle school class on a 10-day academic/cultural program. She was so enjoyable that my husband and I connected with her exchange program and offered our home to her for a year as an exchange student in the local high school.

Tunyarat is adjusting quite well to our home, the community and her school. Her grades are good and she involves herself in school activities. Her Leadership class keeps her especially busy. She spent several days helping prepare for and be a part of Living History Day. Then, she was one of the few students who returned to school during vacation to help clean up after the event. She has volunteered to help in the concession booth before and during football games. She is fully involved during classes, one teacher even telling me how she helps if another student doesn't understand something in the lesson.

At home, she is very quick to help out, loves to tease and is so at ease it is as if she is truly a part of the family. She

enjoys being independent, but loves hanging out with others her age. She feels the struggle of being the "new kid", made more difficult when she doesn't always understand what is being said. But she has a natural intuition and an open manner which draws others to her. She sees some very distinct differences between her culture and ours, but she seems to figure out how to adapt her attitudes and perspectives when necessary while still being very Thai.

Her choice to be on the swimming team is another way in which she challenges herself. From my perspective, being a part of a team may help her feel more connected and, hopefully, help her develop some American friendships. I also feel that it is a healthy way for her to spend some of her after-school time. What an experience it would be for her to do something like this which is totally new to her!

Please give Tunyarat a Hardship Approval to be a part of team sports. It is another way for her to grow and mature as a young adult.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vellie Hall", written in a cursive style.