

## **Hosts and Hearts Needed for Youth Exchange**

Ever wanted to make the world a better place, to create and foster a spirit of understanding among peoples of the world?

You can do it through Lions Clubs International Youth Exchange program – and you can do it now.

Lions District 5NE is hosting the annual MD5 Youth Exchange Camp July 3-9 at Wesley Acres Bible Camp north of Valley City. The camp theme is “Exchanging Peace at Wesley Acres.”

Host families are needed for the international students. Approximately 20 youth will be here from other countries to spend a week with 20 youth from North Dakota, South Dakota and Saskatchewan.

The typical stay is four weeks, which includes the week at the camp. Host families will pick up their chosen youth at Hector Airport in Fargo. You chose your youth by reviewing a bit of information about them from their application form. You also fill out a host application form and the exchange begins. Usually the host family and youth are in touch by e-mail and other media before they set foot in Fargo.

Camp registration for the students begins at 4 p.m. July 3 and concludes at 11 a.m. July 9. The host family makes arrangements for transportation.

Most often students arrive in the week before the camp and stay for another two or so weeks following camp. All youth speak English and have international health insurance. Youth are aware of the camp and exchange policy of no smoking and no drinking. They live with you as a member of your family, doing what you do.

Host families do not have to be Lions but must be recommended by Lions. The youth are sponsored by Lions Clubs in their host country. You do not have to have teenagers at home to be a host.

The youth, whose ages are 15-18, are talented, adventurous and interested in knowing about their host family, community and country.

Please contact Paul Van Ness, Youth Exchange chair, at 701.984.2374 or e-mail [sirknight2004@hotmail.com](mailto:sirknight2004@hotmail.com), or Katrina Wendel, Youth Camp coordinator, at 701.330.0995 or e-mail [kwendel@nd.gov](mailto:kwendel@nd.gov).