



# IFYE NEWS

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*Established as International Farm Youth Exchange® in 1948*

## 2024 Chile/USA Pilot Exchange Program

Thanks to many IFYEs and other volunteers, supporters, and sponsors, we were able to send four Outbounds to Chile for three months. Through this program, we also were able to accept six Inbounds for a little over two months each beginning the last of September. This IFYE NEWS includes some activities regarding each of the 10 exchangeees, as well as reports from two of the Outbounds. You will also be able to find some postings on our IFYE Facebook page, as well as individual reports on some of the Outbound exchangeees' individual pages.

Many thanks goes to Andres Rodriguez – Agricultural Attaché, Fernando Vasquez – Information Officer, and Adin Burdin – Agricultural Specialist at the Chilean Embassy in Washington, DC for their help with coordination. Many thanks also go to Virginia Tech; Virginia Cooperative Extension Service; IFYE State Coordinators/volunteers/alumni associations/host families in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Virginia; as well as our Chilean counterparts in Chile for their coordination and support of this program. It could not have occurred without you. Now, on to the program and more about these young exchangeees and their activities while on program.

After the Inbounds and Outbounds met for orientation in the DC area on Sept 23 and 24, all 10 participants headed to their home or school stays the next day. The following contains some excerpts from letters/postings and photos from their program this fall. Please see additional information on pages 3, 4, and 9.



*Sept - Outbounds arriving in Santiago, Chile  
(L to R) Annalise “Annie” Pelletier (CO), Spencer Gee  
(VA), Diaz Romero (VA), and Rebecca “Becca” Pratt (IL)*



*Sept - Inbounds: Arriving at Dulles Airport listed below with their  
hosting states (L to R) Luis Lafuente (IL/IN), Dafne Pizarro (CO),  
Bastian Armstrong (VA), Victor Moisan (KS), Wilson Puenaque (VA),  
and Natalia Nunez (VA)*





*Carolyn Hansen,  
President -  
IFYE Assn of the USA,  
Inc*

## THANKFULNESS AND GRATITUDE

It's November and I sit here wondering where the year has gone. Ten months have flown by as if they were days. I wonder how many of us share this same thought!

It's time to reflect on the past year and plan for 2025. IFYE has experienced a time of review, evaluation, and strategic thinking. We have several major issues facing us.

**Financial stability** tops the list. As we have stressed over and over, to operate a program such as ours, we need to look at how to pay for a National Program Director

to administer the program – from recruitment through debriefing. We were able to conduct a pilot with Chile on a shoestring budget with several alumni joining together to accomplish the work of what a program director does. I am thankful that our alumni stepped up to ensure the exchange came to life.

I am filled with gratitude that IFYE alumnus Mark Zeug issued a challenge to our membership to match donations up to the amount of \$25,000, making a total on the challenge of \$50,000 to IFYE. I am also appreciative of many of you who have answered Mark's challenge.

It appears that our Annual Giving Campaign (AGC) goal, combined with the Mark Zeug Challenge, totaling \$100,000 is on track to be reached. Our alumni have always given generously and invested in the program with their contributions.

**Leadership and National Committee Volunteers** – It is no secret that those of us from the 60's, 70's and 80's have laid the groundwork for leading the organization in the past and present. I am thankful for your leadership and how you have worked tirelessly to build this organization. Now it is time for us to recruit our younger alumni for the work that is needed on the Board of Directors and Committees. We are grateful for the recent infusion of new ideas and commitment of several alumni from the 90's and 2010 – 2023. They have contributed by taking a deep look at how we market IFYE and are thinking about how to leverage the constraints faced by today's collegians and young adults to provide variations of our program that will better meet their needs.

You're probably tired of hearing the pitch that we need more volunteers; but it's true. We need at least five new Board members to help instill next year's committees with fresh ideas to supplement those that work now. Please consider how and where you can make your investment of time to the organization.

**Recruitment and retention** – We seem to hover around 8-12 participants each year and pine for those IFYE classes of 50-80 who traveled to all parts of the globe. Upon return,

we frequently do not hear from our new alumni for some time, or they do some of their required presentations or activities for the organization and then become less active for some time. Make no mistake; I am thankful for our recent alumni. They are intelligent, compassionate, and driven in their personal and professional lives. We all know that volunteering, while establishing a career and perhaps starting a family, is difficult. I would be grateful if we can somehow put our thoughts together to see how we can retain our newer and "youngish" alumni and engage them in organizational work for IFYE.

**Welcome and bye-bye for now** - Of course, there are other issues that need to be addressed, and this is a good start. Let me end on a very positive note. I am very thankful that we have two new Board members joining us, **Judiann McNulty** (1979 IFYE/YDP Montana to Guatemala) and **Traci Sherlock** (2022 Kansas to Norway). Earlier this year, we welcomed **Marty Orris**, **Pat Donahue**, and **Cora Loera** to the BOD.

We are grateful to all members of the Board of Directors, and we send a world of appreciation to **Russ Mauch**, **Sheri Swackhamer**, and **Rachel Manning** who will be leaving the BOD in December. Their contributions and commitment to IFYE run deep and they have left their handprints on the organization. We also owe gratitude to our Administrative Assistant, Theresa Chambers, who has diligently worked to improve our systems and always has great insights for the organization.

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Stay tuned for the December issue of IFYEs in Touch regarding an update on the Farm Bill.

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### [USB Soybean Magazine \(Fall 2024\)](#)

Check out the article on IFYE in the Fall 2024 USB Soybean Magazine on pages 18 and 19 featuring "Soy Faces"

- Steve Censky (Minnesota to People's Republic of China and Taiwan 1985)
- Carmen Calhoun Censky (Kansas to Norway 1985),
- Jackson Tubbs (Iowa to Germany 2022), and
- Meghan O'Reilly (Ohio to Taiwan and Zambia 2023).





**Excerpts: Introduction to Chile and [Liceo Bicentenario](#)  
[People Help People in Pilmaiquen](#)**

Annie Pelletier  
Oct 12, 2024

*The following article highlights some of the information included in Annie Pelletier's reports back from Chile where she and Rebecca Pratt are participating as Outbounds on this exchange program. [Ed.]*

As expected, this IFYE trip has not been anything like what I have heard IFYE trips are like. However, the knowledge and emotional depth gained as a part of the experience has been more than expected.

- On the drive to the school from Puerto Montt, I noticed the amount of green grass right away. Even though it is early spring, the plants look fruitful. Snow rarely falls in the area around Pilmaiquen, though it does get cold in the winter. The surrounding farms have numerous dairy cows ... with the majestic Andean mountains in the background. The fields are dotted with Bandurrias, ibis birds that are striking in color and have a long curved beak. Houses are plentiful as the area is far from a wilderness, and they each have their own character. ...
- When Rebecca and I first got to the school in Pilmaiquen, it was a gray day, rainy and windy. This is typical for spring in Patagonia we are told.
- We sat down among the staff of the *liceo*, the Chilean word for high school, and were interrogated about what we wanted to get out of the exchange. Having little idea of what we were getting into, Rebecca and I were surprised that they wanted our opinion about what we would do on a daily basis. We told them that the reason we are here is to expand our views of the world and help the people in Chile to do the same. I hope to learn about culture in general as well as agriculture techniques in Chile, and we have already done both.
- Even families that live very comfortably have small houses. Almost every house has a Chilean flag waving in its yard, illustrating the high sense of nationalism Chileans have. They are proud to call their country home, and rightly so. In all aspects of society, their pride shows through, including the high school.
- At the school, the students can choose to specialize in gastronomy or agriculture in addition to regular classes. This means that they know more about one field and don't mix much with the other students in class, even in regular classes like math. ...
- On one occasion, Rebecca and I had to present ourselves to the men in suits and it was stressful because there was a lot of tension in the atmosphere. We told them where we were from and why we were in Chile and they appreciated the effort.
- Outside the main building, there is a small soccer field and fifteen hectares of farm behind it. On this farm, there are thirty dairy cows, three calves of varying ages, about

twenty pigs, a multitude of free-roaming dogs and a few cats. There is also a greenhouse that is uncovered in the spring and will house many vegetables including tomatoes, basil, and broad beans. Potatoes are planted in fields that rotate to become grazed by the cows the next year. One field serves permanently to grow peonies.

- Before heading to the farm in agriculture class, the teachers are required to go over safety for the day's activities and they do so in the equipment shelter.
- When all the students have changed into their agriculture outfits, the class sporadically saunters to one open barn to hear the ten minute safety briefing. The students break off into groups to complete different tasks including changing the calves' bedding, clearing blueberry bushes from the fields with a hacking tool, shepherding the cows into the automated milking machines, fixing electric fencing, and recently, planting potatoes. Rebecca and I have helped with all of the above except for the milking process.
- The school uses a drone to spray pesticide and fertilizer over the fields, which makes the process much easier.
- One class that is highly popular among the students, is gastronomy class. The students have fun and are proud of what they make. A wide variety of foods are made in gastronomy class, including main entrees and desserts. Rebecca and I especially love the dessert called *cocada*, which is lemon cake crumbled into *manjar*, balled and dipped in chocolate. *Manjar* is a popular spread in Chile that has a buttery caramel taste. It is absolutely delicious! The students make some delectable dishes, most of which they tell us they make at home on a regular basis.
- The English classes have been fun for Rebecca and me to attend, because it is the one time where it is expected for us to speak English. We have done a few presentations about where we come from and what our hobbies are, and that has been fun because the students are so interested in who we are.
- Despite the fact that English is everywhere in Chile, few people speak it. A lot of young kids and adults alike listen to music in English and there are many signs in the towns in English. One of the students who speaks very good English told me that her family raised her to be bilingual and recognize its importance.
- One thing that I have noticed about my perception of the culture in the U.S. compared to Chile is that there is much more value given to being bilingual in Chile. It makes me feel like I have been living in a bubble, at least partially ignorant to the rest of the world. I grew up around many Spanish-speaking people and have not especially sought out their culture. This makes me even more glad to be here in Chile, soaking up every experience.



*Becca enjoying one dessert made in gastronomy class which is a meringue with wine.*





2024 Chile/USA Pilot Exchange Program  
Continued from page 3  
Continued on page 9



**Column 1:** Outbounds visiting La Moneda - Chile's "White House"; Diaz and Spencer (center) working with students pruning; Annie - eating lunch with students; Virginia's Inbound Exchangees toured the Virginia Tech Agriculture Research Station in Steels Tavern, VA.; Diaz and host relaxing over snacks  
**Column 2:** Spencer enjoying an ice cream; Luis with host father Bruce Herr (IN) using a skip loader to move pallets; Daphne with cider donuts at the Robart host family in Bennett, CO; Becca milking cows; Becca and Annie fishing on the Bueno River  
**Column 3:** Natalia with Moga host family (Nancy was a 1974 IFYE to New Zealand); Victor relaxing with the Buddy Waldren-family cat; Victor helping host dad John Payne (KS) with wheat planting by filling the drills with seed wheat for planting the 2025 wheat crop  
**Column 4:** Wilson with horse at host family; Bastian in the dairy; Dafne and the Dempsey host family (CO) on Harry Potter Night at the Rockies' game

### Inbounds and Outbounds on Program



## How Agriculture-based Learning Opportunities Impact the World

Raine Esparza (Texas to Thailand 2023)

The eleventh guiding principle of the IFYE program is to value the connection between agriculture-based learning opportunities and how they impact the world. As I come up on the one-year anniversary of my trip to Thailand, I can't help but reflect on how meaningful those opportunities were for me and my understanding of global agricultural issues, supply chains, and efforts to improve sustainability.

Along with my fellow IFYE representative Delaney Smith, I ...

- stayed with six host families in five provinces over the course of three months.
- harvested edible algae in Kanchanaburi, helped a host family pack rice into sealed plastic bags at Sukjai Organic Farm in Lamphun, and assisted with vermicomposting<sup>1</sup> (worm composting) at Smile Lemon Farm in Chachoengsao province. (NOTE: More information on both Sukjai Organic Farm and Smile Lemon Farm can be found online.)
- had the opportunity to tour farms that produced coconuts, rubber, bananas, and [durian](#), as well as to observe some of how those crops were processed.
- sat in on meetings for agricultural cooperatives, helped members of a women's rural cooperative fry rice crackers for sale, and visited a 4-H chapter to learn how the club members developed leadership skills through farming and entrepreneurship.



Raine holding newly vacuum-sealed rice at Sukjai Organic Rice in Lamphun

### *Learning Firsthand about Agriculture-based Learning*

Overall, these experiences with local agriculture were invaluable. While I had taken classes on sustainable agriculture before going to Thailand, seeing firsthand where products like rubber and rice came from and getting a sense of the work it took to transform the raw product into something packaged for international sale gave me new perspective on the interconnectedness of our food systems.

In the same way, the chance to observe Thailand's network of agricultural cooperatives helped me understand how communities could work together to become more resilient and self-reliant in the face of environmental and economic challenges.

The agriculture-based learning opportunities through the IFYE program were especially impactful. These opportunities combined the chance to gain firsthand understanding of crops that I would not have encountered in the United States with the experience of navigating a new culture and language. This meant that every facet of each learning opportunity required extra adaptability and effort to understand.

### *Communication Barriers*

At times, communication barriers meant I had to rely on context clues or nonverbal communication to figure out how I could help with a task. At other times, sitting in on larger meetings meant I had to resort to using a translation app to transcribe what was being said. This resulted in my having to sort through my notes later to fill in gaps in my understanding of what the meeting had been about.

### *Memories*

This immersion created memories about understanding the amount of work that went into foods at the grocery store that I previously took for granted. I know I'll carry these far into the future, whether in a job working with sustainability or in my daily life.

I'll always be grateful to IFYE Thailand for its outstandingly organized program, and to IFYE USA for the opportunity to go abroad and act as a representative overseas.



Delaney (left) and Raine (right) helping with vermicomposting at Smile Lemon Farm in Chachoengsao

<sup>1</sup> *Vermicomposting is a process that relies on earthworms and microorganisms to help stabilize active organic materials and convert them to a valuable soil amendment and source of plant nutrients. Vermicomposting | NC State Extension*

## It's a Small World!

Anita Sandahl Keys

1983 IFYE Representative, Nebraska to West Germany

The IFYE world is full of “small world” stories. Let me share a “small world” story that began in 1983 when I was an IFYE Representative from Nebraska to West Germany, as it was known then.

Jump ahead to the fall of 2023, when a Nebraska IFYE Alum went to the airport to pick up Nebraska’s inbound IFYE from Germany, Marie-Theresé Gruel. One of her first questions was, “Do you know Anita Keys?” Well, of course! Here in Nebraska, our active IFYE Alumni group is close.

Not only do the Nebraska IFYE Alumni know me, the first host family for Marie-Theresé was in the Sandhills of Nebraska, within an hour of our ranch. Out here, we consider that neighbors! Marie-Theresé had a great IFYE experience staying with the Schneidereit family of the German Valley community north of Brewster. How fitting!

Marie-Theresé had the chance to visit the ag classroom where I was substitute teaching and share a bit about her home country of Germany and her agriculture experiences. When I was a vendor at area craft fairs, Marie-Theresé came to the craft fairs and did some gift shopping for friends and family back home.



(L to R) Seonyong, Anita and Marie-Theresé

During the Ag-Ceptional Women’s Conference hosted by Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE, Marie-Theresé, along with Inbound IFYE from South Korea, had the opportunity to speak with the group about IFYE and their home countries.

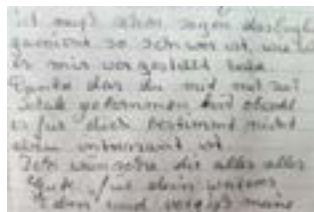
Marie-Theresé had fun looking at the journal I had written during my IFYE experience in West Germany, especially the parts that included her family. The Göbbert family were my 7<sup>th</sup> host family in Häuslingen. Her mom, Christine, had even written a paragraph in German in my journal on 29 Oktober 1983. Marie-Theresé’s Aunt Anngrit was also my host sister and an IFYE from Germany to America.

Translation of journal excerpt at top of next column: “I have to say that English is not as difficult as I thought it would be. Thank you for coming to school with me, although I’m sure it’s not too interesting to you.

*I wish you all the best for the rest of your life and please don’t forget my family so quickly because we will definitely still be talking about this nice and lovely girl (Fräulein) from America (Nebraska) at 3-4 years time.*

*Bye and have a lot of fun in Ludwigslust (West Germany). Your sister for, unfortunately, just 3 weeks*

*Christine Göbbert”*



(Journal translation by Marie-Theresé Gruel, daughter of Christine.)



Who’d have thought that one day Christine’s daughter would become an IFYE and have a host family in Nebraska close to her “sister” Anita. Yes. “It’s a small world after all!”

Marie-Theresé Gruel

2023 IFYE Representative from Germany to USA

2024 IFYE Representative from Germany to Slovenia

Family and friends all around the globe; that’s always been a dream of mine. Since I became an IFYE almost exactly one year ago, this dream started to become reality.

I first got to know the IFYE-programme as a young girl through my aunt Anngrit who went to the US 40 years ago. But my family learned about the IFYEs a few years earlier when they took a girl from the USA in (Anita Sandahl). My mom still remembers this time, when she was a teenager and as the youngest of five, was left behind when Anita and mom’s older siblings went out to show her more of Germany than just the small town they lived in. My grandparents’ house was always full of people - neighbors, friends, and family. Some young folks from the other side of the world didn’t cause any more trouble.

So, it comes as no surprise that after completing my bachelor’s degree, I knew I had to get outside of my everyday life and see the world.

The committee accepted my application and told me that I could travel to the US. Two days before my departure, my aunt gave me an envelope from her Christmas correspondence with the contact info of Anita Keys in Nebraska “in case of emergency.” After a wonderful first stay in Georgia, I flew towards my next host family in Nebraska. When I got picked up at the airport by Barb Bierman Batie we were chatting - only to find out that I knew the [German] IFYE she and her family took in about 10 years ago. I told her that my family once took in an IFYE from Nebraska and asked if she might know Anita Keys. She was delighted to hear the story and told me that Anita was basically a neighbor of my host family. I was determined to try and meet her.

Amy Schneidereit, of course, knew Anita and helped me to set up a meeting. Meeting her was just one of the highlights of my time as an IFYE. Anita gave me her journal to read my mom’s entry in it.

It was really moving to read the same things that my host siblings said to me. I took part in the roundup of the cows



on the Schneidereit's summer pasture at the Niobrara which took three days and is a memory, which I will forever cherish. Teaching my host siblings a few German lessons and taking part at preg-checking, also at the neighbors' ranches was hard work and a lot of fun. Furthermore, I got the chance to speak to the wonderful audience at the Ag-Ceptional women's conference in Norfolk, NE about the IFYE programme and tell them how much passion goes into being an IFYE and how this organization forms lifelong connections.

I have already been back for a few weeks to the US and this time together with my cousin (Angrit's son), who got to experience the "small world."

The small world doesn't just end in the US, I have been to Slovenia as an IFYE from June until August 2024, one of my hosts there has been to Germany on an exchange 10 years ago and was staying in a town just 20 minutes from where I live; what a surprise!

### **The Unexpected Exchange Student**

*Amy Schneidereit (Nebraska)*

*2023 Host mother to Marie-Theresé Gruel*

As a rural homeschool family, our three teenage children had recently started talking about how they wanted to host an exchange student. They had never really had any opportunity to see much of the world outside our ranch community. But being that their mom had been a pilot in the Air Force, they had heard many of my stories from faraway lands.

Our three older children had gone to public school, and we had the opportunity to host an exchange student from Kyrgyzstan for a year with another more traditional exchange program involving high school participation. Now that we were homeschooling, we did not think that would be a good fit for our family anymore. The nearest public school is over a half hour away and we rarely head in that direction. The kids were disappointed, as was expected.

Imagine our surprise when we were asked to host an IFYE exchange student at the last minute! We had no idea what IFYE was. This was a perfect fit for our family as we all have a part in running the family ranch. We were so excited to find out there was a program where we could host an exchange student centered around having them share in our experience of the family ranch.

We quickly threw ourselves into preparing for her arrival. There was not much need for that, as it was immediately obvious that she just fit right into our lives. Marie-Theresé helped us pick our potatoes quickly before the snow flew and fly it did. Before we knew it, we headed into town to find some warmer work clothes for her!

She soon put her work clothes to good use as we had to round up our cows on the Niobrara River. That is rough country, and it takes three good days of riding on horseback to get all the cows found and headed home. I think Marie-Theresé was thankful for her trick-riding horse lessons earlier in

life back in Germany as they obviously came in handy for dodging all the cedar branches.

Not everything we do is about work. The kids soon had their ponies pulling Marie-Theresé around on a sled in the snow. Marie-Theresé experienced a football game when our neighboring family offered to take her.

One of the highlights of our exchange experience for me was when Marie-Theresé offered to teach the kids German lessons while she was with us. And they are still taking German lessons, only unfortunately online now. Marie-Theresé also spoke at our homeschool Co-op group. Many of the homeschoolers are from agricultural families and were very excited to find out about the IFYE program for the same reasons our family was.

We were again unexpectedly asked to host Marie-Theresé for a little longer than expected. This led to the opportunity to share in celebrating Thanksgiving with Marie-Theresé. We just kept on celebrating until the departure of her airplane which took her back to Europe. But she didn't stay away for long. She and her cousin came back in the spring to continue her ranching experience, rounding it off with branding season which is the highlight of social life in our area. We look forward to continuing our exchange experience with Marie-Theresé in the near future. My oldest daughter is, hopefully, to be stationed in Germany next year and we are already planning a family vacation to visit both her and Marie-Theresé! So, I will not end this story, only add to it with a... *To Be Continued.*



*Host mom Amy with Marie-Theresé*



*Schneidereit host siblings with Marie-Theresé during roundup*



**2025 National IFYE Conference**  
**May 29-June 1, 2025**  
*Barb Batie, Co-chair*

IFYE family, one and all, are invited to Loveland, Colorado to join in fun and fellowship during the USA 2025 IFYE National Association Conference.

All modes of transportation will allow conferees to reach the Embassy Suites Loveland Hotel, Spa and Conference Center in Loveland, Colorado, whether you choose to fly, drive, or take a train,

We have reserved a block of 70 rooms at the Embassy Suites, room reservations will open when the 2025 conference registration goes live in early January on the IFYE website [ifyeusa.org](http://ifyeusa.org).

When the conference registration opens on the IFYE website, there will be additional information about the conference daily schedule and times, silent auction, pre- and post-conference options, childcare, hotel information, and transportation options.

**Hotel tips:**

*If you are not familiar with Embassy Suites, these hotels feature two-room suites and a complimentary cooked to order breakfast each morning. For budgeting purposes the rooms, with local lodging and sales tax, will be \$181 per night. This rate will also be good for three days before and three days after the conference if you decide to extend your stay. There will be free parking for all conference attendees, even those who drive in for a day, you just use a QR code in the parking lot and IFYE will provide the passcode.*

*All meetings and workshops will be in the connected John Q. Hammons Conference Center. As a bonus, the Embassy Suites has an evening manager's reception from 5:30-7 p.m. seven days a week with light snacks and a good variety of beverages. Embassy Suites is part of the Hilton Hotel chain, and we suggest if you aren't already, you become a Hilton Honors member. It makes everything about staying there easier and it's free to sign up.*

*As you research ways to travel, if flying, you will need to fly into Denver International Airport as there are no commercial flights into the Northern Colorado Regional Airport at Loveland. More information on shuttles will be included on the website when registration opens.*

**Daily program outline:**

**Thursday, May 29:**

Events will begin at noon with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch and gathering in the conference center for any 1975 IFYEs and others planning to attend. A room has been reserved for the 50-year group from noon until 5 p.m. The meal menu will be available when you make your registration for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering.

Any other honor classes who wish to gather that afternoon are asked to please contact Barb Batie at [bbatie@ifyeusa.org](mailto:bbatie@ifyeusa.org) or call or text her at 308-325-2247. We have two hospitality rooms, and we can open those for your honor year for visiting anytime from noon-5 p.m. Honor class table tents will also be available upon request to place on a table or tables during any group meal.

Evening activities will include a reception and opening ceremony.

**Friday, May 30: Tour Day**

*Wear casual clothing suitable for the tour you select and comfortable, sturdy walking shoes. When registration opens in January, tour reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.*

*\*Please note we regret that the local bus companies do not provide handicapped accessible vehicles. If this is a consideration for you, we will work with you to use your own vehicle or find an IFYE that can accommodate special needs transportation.*

*For those with walkers or canes, we will reserve seats in the front of buses to ease getting on and off at tour stops. We will have a line on the registration where you can denote special transportation needs and mobility concerns.*

**Tour 1 – Ag Tour**

The Ag tour will explore some of the Front Range's variety of agriculture. Stops will include Root Shoot Malting, a fifth-generation family farm and malthouse that provides barley, wheat, rye and non-GMO corn to craft brewers and distillers. Also a dairy and a stop at the area's FFA Foundation Farm. A catered lunch will be provided at one of the stops. This tour will involve some walking and some areas that won't be handicapped accessible.

**Tour 2 – Arts & Culture**

This tour will head to downtown Loveland where participants will split into two groups to alternate visits to the Loveland Museum and the Rialto Theatre. The Loveland Museum has a rotating schedule of temporary art exhibitions and also contains several history exhibits. This space is handicapped accessible.

The Rialto Theatre opened as a silent movie theater in 1920 and is currently Loveland's premier performing arts venue. While mostly handicapped accessible, there may be one or two places that wheelchairs might not fit due to the historical site designation.

Time will be provided after the tours to browse through the historic downtown and to have lunch on your own. Loveland has created a diverse public art collection, and several pieces are in the downtown area. After lunch, the tour group will depart for the Benson Sculpture Garden, the city's largest outdoor sculpture venue. This is also handicapped accessible via garden paths.







### Tour 3 – Rocky Mountain High

The Rocky Mountain tour will be a full-day tour to Rocky Mountain National Park. Given the unpredictable spring weather in the Rockies, we cannot guarantee that Trail Ridge Road will be open by May 30. But even if it isn't, stops will be made throughout the lower elevations of the park. A boxed lunch will be provided and, weather permitting, participants will be able to eat outside at one of the area's campgrounds. A final stop will be at the historic McGregor Ranch, established in 1873 as a Colorado Homestead Ranch. Please be advised this tour will involve being at high altitude for several hours and seeing many of the stops will also involve walking over uneven terrain.

### Tour 4 – Ft. Collins

This tour will include a 45-minute tour at New Belgium Brewery, a tour of Otterbox, a privately owned consumer electronics accessory company that primarily produces cases for mobile devices, a tour of the Colorado State University Campus and a stop at Four Rivers Equipment, which sells John Deere construction equipment. Where lunch will be held is in the works. This tour will involve walking and standing, but for the most part should be handicapped accessible.

### Evening Activities

Conference participants will be encouraged to attend the hotel manager's reception. A buffet meal will be served in the conference center, followed by entertainment and a dance with a local country-western band.

### Saturday, May 31:

- Annual association business meeting in the conference center.
- Children's activities for those age 5-12 to be provided in a conference center room by area 4-H members.
- First workshop
- Buffet lunch and break time
- Second workshop
- Free time and hospitality suites open.
- Conference participants will be encouraged to attend the hotel manager's reception, wear any international costumes.
- International banquet, followed by speakers, entertainment and the closing ceremonies.
- The hospitality suites will be open following closing ceremonies until midnight.

### Sunday, June 1

Memorial service and official farewell

Hope to see you in Loveland, Colorado.

Barb Batie Co-chair      Faith Kroschel Co-chair

## Hola, from Chile!

Spencer Gee and Diaz Romero

October 2024

Hola! Diaz and I are officially on our third week in the country of Chile. After a brief stay in Santiago to participate in a short orientation and visit the United States Embassy, we flew south to the city of Los Angeles. The city is home to the [Liceo Agrícola El Huertón](#) - a technical high school for students between the ages of 13 and 18 that focuses on agriculture and electricity.

During the week, both of us participate in practical agricultural classes in the morning to gain hands-on experiences on the Chilean farm (*campo*). My favorite has been getting to prune a wide variety of fruit plants, including blueberries (*arándanos*), hazelnuts (*avellanas*), and apples (*manzanas*).



Diaz has really enjoyed getting to attend the agriculture mechanics (*mecánica agrícola*) classes, which have us driving tractors and repairing irrigation line.

In the afternoons, we head back inside to assist the school's English team with practice for their competition later this year. Practices involve improvement in pronunciation, spelling, and retention on both sides as we continue to improve our skills in English and in Spanish.

These practices also allow us to share a little bit of our American culture with the team, including sweets and 4-H stickers.

On the weekends, we spend our time with the school's teachers. These teachers introduce us to their friends, family, and customs – and are how we continue to learn about the Chilean culture in the community. In the past few weeks, they have brought us to a local beer festival, a traditional Chilean rodeo, and a therapeutic horse-riding clinic for youth.

We are looking forward to spending the next few months in Chile and sharing more about our experiences with you when we return! We also wish to thank Virginia Tech and Virginia 4-H All Stars for sponsoring this exchange for us. *Note: Spencer and Diaz have just moved on to their second location at Liceo Bicentenario People Help People in Pilmaiquén.*

## In Memoriam

The passing of the following individuals has come to our attention since publication of the IFYE NEWS (Spring/Summer 2024)

LM = Life Member SPIFYE = Spouse of an IFYE

- Virginia Marx Baca** (SPIFYE of Elfago George Baca, Jr (New Mexico to Brazil 1951) May 4, 2024, LM
- Glenn E Bell** (Indiana to India 1966) April 30, 2024, LM
- Landis Simeon “Sim” Blitch** (SPIFYE to Verna Caroline Nelson Blitch – Georgia to Germany 1961) February 2, 2024
- Roger K Borkey** (California to Taiwan 1963) August 2021
- Carol Ann Bouslog** (Indiana to Peru 1968) October 22, 2022
- Harlan H Brammer** (Arkansas to Greece 1954) June 30, 2021
- Carla I Hoyt Brooks** (Utah to Brazil 1960) October 16, 2022
- Herbert Brown** (Kentucky to Turkey 1952) February 5, 2020
- Keith D Burt** (Kansas to Australia 1951) April 7, 2020
- Craig Campbell** (New Zealand to USA) Date of Death unknown
- Kathleen L Carl** (Oregon to The Philippines 1975) November 19, 2023
- Jerry D Cope** (South Dakota to Poland 1980) April 26, 2024
- Kay Bevans Dillard** (Oregon to Turkey 1961) January 1, 2023, LM
- Donald A Dillman** (Iowa to Poland 1963) June 14, 2024, LM
- Larry D Dingus** (Missouri to France 1956) March 30, 2022
- Elizabeth “Betty Jeane” Zmolek Dougherty** (Iowa to New Zealand 1951) March 28, 2013
- Mary Louise Wintermute Dukes** (Iowa to The Netherlands 1952) February 22, 2016, LM
- Dorothy Vanskike Faidley** (Kansas to England/Wales 1951) July 26, 2023, LM
- Lear Flanagan Jr** (Montana to Turkey 1952) May 30, 2024
- Keith E George** (Washington to Portugal 1956) May 6, 2024
- Donald R Hamerla** (SPIFYE to Rita Eickholtz Hamerla – Indiana to Austria 1952) October 30, 2022, LM
- Dana Brown Haynes** (Missouri to Switzerland 1981) October 27, 2024
- Susanne Holdenried Goff** (California to Finland 1957) January 2, 2013
- Von Ray Gordon** (Ohio to England/Scotland/Wales 1955) November 27, 2023, LM
- Nicholas Hadjimarkos** (Greece to USA 1955) Date of Death unknown at this time
- Wilma Fairbourn Hess** (Utah to France 1952) February date unknown, 1969
- Joann E Campbell Jones** (Ohio to Finland 1952) March 28, 2023, LM
- Angela R Heine Kendall** (North Dakota to India 1956) October 27, 2020, LM
- Dawne Sensinger Ladeas** (Pennsylvania to Turkey 1965) December 9, 2023, LM
- Edgar L “Ed” Lakin** (SPIFYE to Peggy Chrisman Lakin – KS to Thailand 1963) September 24, 2024
- Verne L Larson** (South Dakota to Puerto Rico 1953) August 28, 2023
- Roetta Dee Floyd Mann** (Teen Caravan Kansas to Spain 1975) October 3, 2024
- Mary Kennah McClurg** (Wyoming to Finland 1955) March 1, 2023
- Robert H McClurg** (SPIFYE to Mary Kennah McClurg – listed above) November 11, 2007
- James McMullin** (Ambassador from Missouri to New Zealand 1975) August 19, 2024, LM
- L Clell Miller** (Mississippi to Switzerland 1953) February 28, 2022, LM
- Wayne H Nierman** (Indiana to Brazil 1959) May 7, 2024, LM
- Marilyn F Wachtel Olseen** (Iowa to Australia 1956) October 18, 2023
- Sister Mary Padraic (McGreevey)** (North Dakota to Poland 1962) February 20, 2014
- Ron D Petrak** (Iowa to Ireland 1953) June 20, 2024
- Ruth Anne Beard Petrak** (SPIFYE to Ron D Petrak) September 15, 2023
- Jane Austin Preble** (Maine to Sweden 1961) January 3, 2024
- George D Rendell** (California to England/Wales 1951) February 19, 2023, LM
- Nan Davis Sanders** (California – Host Family) September 16, 2005
- Patricia A Dodgen Schaefers** (Arkansas to Sweden 1963) June 6, 2022
- Margaret Ann “Meg” Itle Scott** (Pennsylvania to Norway 1993) March 17, 2019
- Etta Pace Scotter** (Utah to Norway 1959) January 13, 2023
- Alvin J Sherman** (Washington to Austria 1952) January 5, 2024, LM
- Richard W Siderius** (Montana to Italy 1961) November 11, 2023
- Brianna A Spiker** (West Virginia to Japan 1982) August 9, 2024, LM
- Goodrich R Simmons** (California to Ecuador 1953) February 28, 2022
- Sandra Schmucker Sinan** (Pennsylvania to Norway 1953) March 17, 2023
- Lois I Bredlow Spaulding** (Wisconsin to Australia 1954) July 5, 2024
- Cecil R Spooner** (Georgia to Lebanon & Syria 1953) January 19, 2023
- Elaine Serfass Stevens** (Pennsylvania to Germany 1950) August 23, 2022
- Carol Sue Henriksen Stillman** (Idaho to Ecuador 1969) December 7, 2023
- Elizabeth “Liz” Grimble Sucht** (SPIFYE to Leon Sucht – Kansas to Panama 1957) March 30, 2023, LM
- John Tanner** (Wyoming to England/Wales 1956) December 24, 2021
- Darrel Thomas** (SPIFYE to Darlene Dewey Thomas – Kansas to Switzerland 1961) December 7, 2023
- Suzanne E Thompson Voss** (Michigan to Germany 1958) September 3, 2023
- Marion J Tongish** (Kansas to Austria 1952) November 11, 2023
- Stephan H Webb** (Indiana to Kenya 1969) October 18, 2023
- Lorraine Hofmann Weier** (Illinois to The Netherlands 1955) May 30, 2024
- Rosalee A Gould Wheeler** (California to Germany 1957) August 17, 2021
- Joann Kinsey Whitworth** (Texas Host Family) April 2, 2005, LM
- Vallie C “V.C.” Whitworth** (Texas Host Family) July 27, 2016, LM
- Antoinette “Toni” Naples White** (Connecticut to Italy 1956) December 20, 2021
- Joan C Woods** (Kansas to Ireland/N Ireland 1952) February 28, 2024, LM
- Margaret “Claire” Kenyon Young** (Rhode Island to Brazil 1957) December 12, 2007





**IFYE Association  
of the USA, Inc.**  
*Peace Through Understanding*

**Permission to share my generosity via IFYE’s annual donor list.**

- Yes, IFYE can share my name on the annual donor list.  
 No, I prefer my donation/name remain anonymous.

**2024 IFYE Annual Giving Campaign Postal DONATION FORM**

NOTE: If you wish to pay by credit card, please go to <https://ifyeusa.org> and click on “Ways to Give”

Please check the appropriate box(es) for the support you wish to provide to the IFYE Association. Mail the form and completed action(s) that you have selected and check(s) to: **IFYE Association of the USA, Inc., c/o Roger Sherer, Associate Treasurer, PO Box 452, Bluffton, IN 46714-0052**

(If questions, please contact Roger at [rsherer@ifyeusa.org](mailto:rsherer@ifyeusa.org) or call at 260-273-8188)

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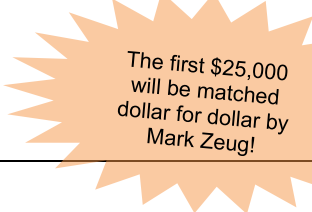
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*(Program participant (list program), Host Family Member, Friend, spouse, and/or Supporter, etc.)*

**Our combined Mark Zeug Match & Annual Giving Campaign Goal for 2024 is \$100,000!**

I wish to support with the following donation:



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	Other Amount \$ _____

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- I have enclosed a check # \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to “IFYE Association of the USA”.
- I am sending stock Donation. *(Consult your Financial Advisor)*
- I am sending QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) from my IRA. *(Consult your Financial Advisor)*
- Please send me (by email) access information to the IFYE website “Member Login Area”.  
 My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is \$20 for the printing and postal mailing of the IFYE Newsletters, Updates, and In-Touch published in 2025.
- Please remove me/us from future solicitation for mailings.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of IFYE**

11/11/2024

The IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. shall make its services, facilities, and programs available to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin, and the Association shall not in any way discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, gender variance, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or national origin.

<https://ifyeusa.org/>



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Find the most tax-efficient way to help you and IFYE.

## Stock Donation

\$	<b>Support IFYE with your in-kind gift of appreciated stock.</b>
\$	Donate the stock directly to IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. You pay no capital gains tax - and neither does IFYE USA, a 501(c)(3) organization.
\$	You may be eligible to get a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the transfer.
\$	Please consult with your personal accountant/financial advisor for the precise impact on your taxes.
\$	For more information: <a href="https://ifyeusa.org/ways-to-give/stock-donation.html">https://ifyeusa.org/ways-to-give/stock-donation.html</a>

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\$	<b>Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):</b> IF over the age of 70 ½, <u>you may</u> wish to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly out of your IRA.
\$	By donating part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year, you do not pay tax on that donation.
\$	This is a tax-wise gifting strategy if you can meet your annual living expenses.
\$	You can gift up to \$100,000 to qualified charities from your IRA in any given year.
\$	To avoid the income taxes normally due on your IRA withdrawal, checks must be sent directly from your IRA Custodian (financial advisor) to IFYE Association of the USA, Inc. QCDs must come directly from an IRA to IFYE..

**Go to IFYEUSA.ORG and click on WAYS TO GIVE and click on STOCK DONATION or DONATE FROM YOUR IRA for forms, and more details.**

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