**Email Template For Faith Based Communities**

**No Previous Phone Contact**

**ACTION ITEM: EMAIL**

Dear **<<insert youth pastor name>>,**

My name is **<<insert name>>** and I workwith Youth For Understanding (YFU), one of the world’s oldest and most respected nonprofit intercultural exchange organizations. Each year, YFU unites international high school students who wish to experience life in the US with host families. We believe these exchanges enrich not only the students’ and families’ lives, but also have a positive impact on communities and congregations, such as yours.

Incoming YFU students are bravely preparing to leave behind their family, friends and all things familiar so that they may experience life in the USA. However, one thing that will be hopefully familiar to them is the comfort of worship with your congregation. Many YFU students state they would like to attend worship on a regular basis with their new host family. We hope that you will be willing to reach out to your congregation with this invitation to host one of these exceptional students.

Could one of these exchange students will be a welcomed addition to a family in your congregation this August? Nearby schools are currently enrolling YFU exchange students and trust in YFU’s commitment to quality programs, high safety standards, and strong network of support for both students and families. For every family and student, YFU is with them every step of the way.

Will you share this opportunity at your next service by printing the below for your bulletin or posting in your listserv? YFU also has a [PowerPoint slide](http://online.yfuusa.org/media/FDLounge/Docs/eKit/HF/churchSlide_exchangestu2016may-slide.pptx) and [Social Media tool](http://online.yfuusa.org/media/FDLounge/Docs/eKit/HF/church_hostExchangeStudent2016.jpg) available for you to share. You will also find attached, profiles of students needing host families in your area. If you or any of your congregants are interested in speaking with me, I am available at **<<email and/or phone>>**.

International study abroad programs for American students and volunteer opportunities with YFU are also available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

# << INSERT NAME>>

**<<insert listserv/bulletin from below>>**

**<<insert relevant student profiles>>**

**Bulletin Options:**

# Option 1:

**YFU international students are coming to the <<name>> community.**

Youth For Understanding USA (YFU), a nonprofit exchange organization, hopes that you can share your passion for community and social responsibility by opening your home to a student from a different country this school year. These exceptional young people will want to learn about our congregation’s and your family’s traditions, experience American culture, and build bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime.

Host families of all shapes and sizes welcome YFU students into their home as if they are one of their own children. YFU exchange students bring spending money and have health insurance. They come prepared to follow family rules and want to become a part of the community. A nationwide network of more than 1,500 volunteers support each student and host family. These trained volunteer’s work to ensure that both students and families have an incredible experience during the program year.

YFU students and their families trust Youth For Understanding because of its reputation for quality, high safety standards, and strong support network. As one of the world’s oldest and largest exchange organizations, YFU has provided study abroad opportunities to more than 260,000 high school students for 65 years.

The YFU community is excited to promote international and interpersonal friendships in **our community.**  International study abroad programs for American students and volunteer opportunities with YFU are also available. If you are interested in learning more, call YFU’s local Field Director, **<<FD name>>,** directly at **<<phone>>** or reach via email at **<<email>>**. Additional information and an online application are available at [**yfuusa.org**](http://www.yfu-usa.org/).

"We are strong believers in the power of the exchange experience. When our children were younger, we felt that exchange students opened their eyes to people from different countries and family backgrounds. Our children are adults now, but we still feel that we can offer exchange students a positive American experience. We hope that real-life experiences here in the US will help increase understanding and reduce stereotypes. This may sound trite, but we truly feel that the people involved in student exchange are doing their part to work towards world peace. Without doubt, hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience!**"**

Youth For Understanding USA is a registered nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

# Option 2:

**Share Your Home, Change the World**

Host a YFU Exchange Student

Hosting a YFU exchange student is an enriching experience for the entire family. Students from 60+ countries around the globe are eager to become a member of an American family and our congregation for the 2016-2017 school year.

Your family can share its unique traditions and provide the opportunity of a lifetime to an open-minded, brave teenager from another country.

YFU welcomes families of all shapes and sizes to host. Explore this global adventure at home and apply online at [**yfuusa.**](http://www.yfu-usa.org/)[**org**](http://www.yfu-usa.org/) or contact your local Field Director at **<<email or phone>>**. International study abroad programs for American students and volunteer opportunities with YFU are also available.

"All I can say is that hosting a student - even an arrival student - changed our family's lives and it was one of the best decisions I could of ever made. Thank you YFU for giving me and my family the chance to share our lives and getting a chance to gain a friendship that will last forever."

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