

Language & Friendship Newsletter



FALL 2019

L&F Experiences = Reaching Language Acquisition Goals

Language teachers are aware of ACTFL's 5 Cs - **Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities** - and always have them in mind. At Language & Friendship, we continuously strive for student language acquisition and aim to support teachers' endeavors through all of our programs.

All of us at L&F have worked in the field of education. We care about teachers, students, best practices, pedagogy, and language acquisition. L&F programs support the important work that you do in your classroom! Let us help you prepare your students for life in a global and multilingual world!

As always, we hope you enjoy reading about the impact of an L&F experience in this issue!



Here are our **FIRST PLACE** photo contest winners - showing us another "C" or two - clever and creative!

Right: This view never gets old! Jared Beek, Jefferson HS, Bloomington, MN, contemplates (another C!) the grandeur of Machu Picchu.

Bottom left: Being immersed in the life of a host family is one of the best ways to achieve language acquisition. Haley Mudge, Norwalk HS, IA, took a moment to snap this gem while out for a stroll with her host family from Vannes, France.

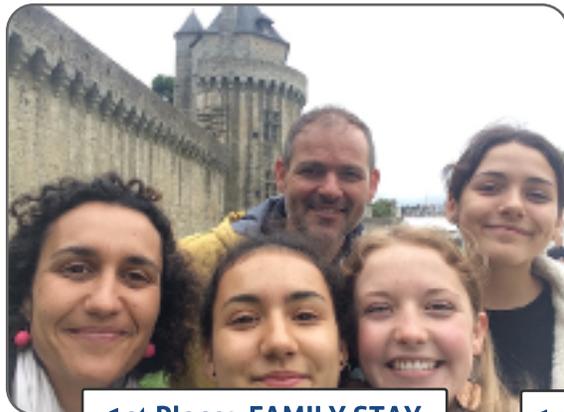
Bottom middle: Teague Winsell caught the moment when his teacher, Audrey Gagnaire, really *kicked off* their program in France! They are from the L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School in St. Paul, MN.

Bottom right: A big part of hosting is sharing one's pride in their own culture. The McAllister family from Marion, IA, and Lucie, from France, shared their Hawkeye pride in our photo contest for host families.

Look inside for more photo contest winners!



1st Place: TRAVEL & CULTURE



1st Place: FAMILY STAY



1st Place: TEACHER IN ACTION



1st Place: HOSTING

Language & Friendship provides educational programs including short-term travels, language-immersion family stays, and hosting opportunities.

**FRANCE • MARTINIQUE • QUÉBEC
ARGENTINA • COSTA RICA
PERU • SPAIN
HOSTING IN THE USA**

Experience the
L&F DIFFERENCE!

Improving Communication in Authentic Settings

Communication

"Communicate effectively in more than one language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes"

Communicating with native speakers is at the heart of L&F programs: staying with a host family abroad; navigating a museum tour with a native guide; or sharing in English with a student visiting from another country. Our focus on language and friendship requires an immense amount of effective communication resulting in meaningful exchanges with the people we meet along the way.

Top left: A post-game photo for students from Maple Lake HS, MN, and their host families in Valladolid, Spain. Luckily, the rules for *fútbol* are universally understood.

Top right: After intently listening to their cooking class instructor, these students from Andover, Lakeville, and Coon Rapids, MN, reap the rewards of a tasty *crêpe*!

Bottom left: "Louis's sense of humor was more evident as he became more comfortable speaking English." ~ Rowland family, Helena, MT

Bottom right: Students from Perpich Center for Arts, Golden Valley, MN, collaborate (another CI!) on a classroom activity with their hosts from Nantes, France.



Language. Friendship. Simple as That!



"I was with my host brother, Elliot, and some of his friends. We got along super well and it felt good to feel like you fit in with people who talked completely different than you. It was fun to be in the heart of the language that I've been studying for the past 4 years. My French improved a ton."

~ Martin Kurlle, Amery, WI, center, with his host family and friends.

"The ease of communication with L&F is one of the many reasons we LOVE working with L&F!"

~ Pam Anderson, Tracy HS, MN

"The most rewarding part of the program was when the students described life with their host families, and how they were able to communicate. Some of my students had weak speaking skills and after the program I noticed a great increase in what they could do."

~ Linda Meyer, Appleton North HS, WI

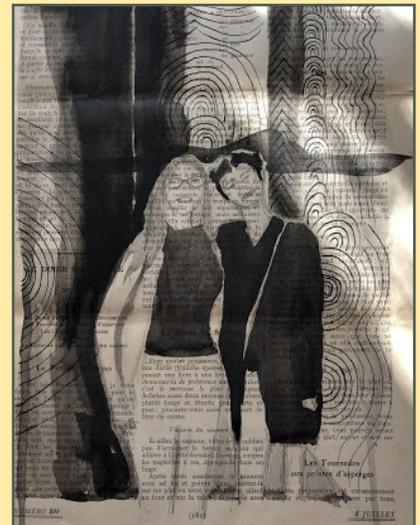
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Communicating one's feelings isn't always done verbally!

"The day after I had visited le Cairn de Gavrinis with my host sister and mother, they took me to the art club they often attend. When my sister and I arrived, my host mom had already finished her work: a beautiful ink painting of my sister, Clemence, and me in le Cairn de Gavrinis! It is definitely my favorite souvenir from my trip!"

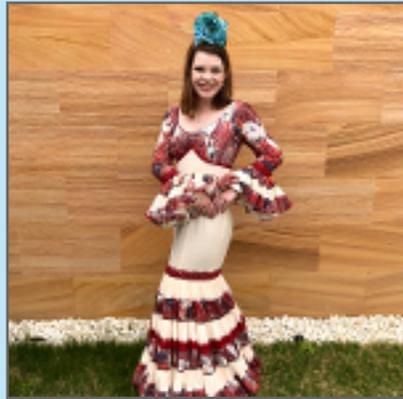
~ Joslyn Sperry, Norwalk HS, IA

Joslyn and her group were on a 15-day program traveling to Amboise, Mont St-Michel, Bayeaux, and Paris, and also included a 6-night family stay in Vannes (Brittany).



2nd Place: FAMILY STAY

Exploring Culture with First-Hand Experiences



Cultures

"Interact with cultural competence and understanding"

Products, practices, and perspectives come alive when students can investigate and experience them firsthand! A cultural faux-pas, an interesting warning sign, or even bus advertisements can all offer a glimpse into a complex culture. Many L&F participants report having their eyes opened to the world and its different cultures through travel and hosting.

Top left: The Beane family from West Bend, WI, immersed their Spanish student, Carla, in the Green Bay Packer culture!

Top right: Flamenco is an integral part of the Andalucían culture. Emily Tesch, from Appleton, WI, donned a flamenco dress while with her host family in Dos Hermanas, Spain.



Bottom left: Architecture is a focal point of a region's culture. Students from Sedro-Wooley HS, WA, became one with the Gothic-style arches of the Bayonne Cathedral. They toured the Basque areas of France and Spain, spent time with host families in Toulouse, and topped off their France visit in Paris.

Bottom right: Students from The Webb School, Bell Buckle, TN, enjoyed a wintry visit to Québec, participating in the seasonal activities of dog-sledding and snowshoeing.

Inaugural Peru Programs a Hit!



2nd Place: TEACHER IN ACTION



Elizabeth (Coordinator of Programs to Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru) was excited to plan 3 very different Peru programs in its inaugural year. While all programs included Lima, Cusco, and Machu Picchu, each group had a unique twist:

Travel + Family Stay: Spanish teacher, Mike Takalo (above left) and his students from Jefferson HS, Bloomington, MN, traveled on our standard Travel + Family Stay program. Per Mike, "Students said the family stay was the highlight of the trip - over Machu Picchu!"

Adult Learners Travel Only: Heidi Kreutzer and Dr. Jeffrey Judge from Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN, designed an in-depth program for their adult learners (above right). Additional sites visited during this program included Puno, Lake Titicaca, and a cultural day spent learning about the Quechua language and indigenous communities in Peru.

Family Stay + Service: Spanish teacher, Lisa Geddes, Lopez Island HS, WA, added a community service project with the people of the Misminay community.

SPAIN

- ✓ Fixed & Custom Itineraries
- ✓ Family stays
- ✓ Immersion for Individuals

PERU

- ✓ Fixed & Custom Itineraries
- ✓ Family stays
- ✓ Fully guided

ARGENTINA

- ✓ Fixed & Custom Itineraries
- ✓ Family Stay + Excursions
- ✓ Fully guided
- ✓ Immersion for Individuals

COSTA RICA

- ✓ Fixed & Custom Itineraries
- ✓ Family stays
- ✓ Fully guided

Costa Rica: 2019 UN Champion of the Earth

It isn't surprising that the United Nations named Costa Rica as the 2019 Champion of the Earth in September 2019.

"Costa Rica is on the road to be carbon neutral in the next couple of years. It is always great to share our ideas on sustainability with L&F groups. We are committed to the continued enjoyment of everything nature still provides for us. And we combine with the opportunity for lots of adventure and a welcoming family stay!"



~ Michael, L&F land operator in Costa Rica

People: The Heart of Every Community

Communities

"Communicate and interact with cultural competence in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world"

Teachers can feel at a loss as to how to meet this standard in their classroom or community. Let L&F programs help you engage this standard by bringing students from France, Spain, and Argentina to your community! Or, consider the opportunity to engage with a community abroad when your students experience a family stay.



"We thoroughly enjoyed our conversations with Gabriel and hearing differing perspectives. My kids' worlds are much larger. Hosting a person is far different than taking foreign trips. It's impossible to convey the value of individual relationships."
- Boydston Family, Sehome HS, Bellingham, WA



Host families in the community of Alcalá de Henares (Madrid) are ready to greet their visitors from Amery HS, WI.



"Our experience with Language & Friendship was phenomenal. L&F provides a very detailed information packet for principals. After the exchange, my students were still Instagramming and Snapchatting with their new French friends. My host students can now be a cultural resource about French products, practices, and perspectives because of the connections made with their French visitors."

~ Janice DeNure (right), Eureka High School, MO, pictured with Mary Rose Doisneau (left), who has been bringing her students through L&F since 2010.

IMMERSION FAMILY STAYS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Our 3-Week Summer Immersion Family-Stay Program is ideal for students who are ready for an extra challenge and who want to grow a deeper sense of intercultural awareness.

FRANCE - SPAIN - ARGENTINA

\$3695 includes flight, family-stay placement, travel medical insurance, preparation materials and support from L&F in the USA and abroad.

Short on time? Long on adventurous spirit?

NEW! 8-Day Spring Immersion Family-Stay \$1895 from Chicago; \$1995 from Minneapolis

Contact L&F for more info!

Below, Juliet Ali-Caccamo, Central HS, St. Paul, MN, and her host family in Villa Carlos Paz, Argentina. Julia will host her "sister" this coming February!



2nd Place: HOSTING



3rd Place: HOSTING

Is YOUR COMMUNITY hosting?

The Miller family from Minneapolis, MN (above left), and the Starkweather family from Fort Collins, CO (above right), represent just a small glimpse of the many families and the many communities who welcome the L&F hosting program.

L&F has been offering hosting programs since 1988. Take a look at these numbers!



over **10,000** visitors hosted



in **25** states (so far)

HOST FAMILY EVALUATIONS 2019



Contact us to see how you can get your community involved in winter or summer hosting - the experience is only 2-3 weeks and the positive impacts are long-lasting!

Bridging with Language

Connections

"Connect with other disciplines and acquire information and diverse perspectives in order to use the language to function in academic and career-related situations"

L&F is exploring new interdisciplinary options. What kind of new approach could you take to include more interdisciplinary connections? Art? History? Fashion? And, of course, we can't forget about all of the wonderful connections that are made between students, host families, teachers, family-stay coordinators, etc. These continued connections can lead L&F participants on extraordinary journeys.



"Hosting makes you realize how good it is to see someone else's culture and it puts yours in perspective. Also, we have a wonderful person that has been added to our family. We can't wait to go see Maxence in France!"

~ Patterson-Gravely family, Helena, MT

Connect with other Disciplines and Expand Knowledge

Consider collaborating with your colleagues. Spend a few days exploring together. When the language students are with their host families, the other students can delve deeper into their art/history/music explorations.

"It was wonderful having both French and Art students on the trip together. Students brought many different perspectives to the trip, and their goals were very thoughtful and understanding of everyone's lingual ability. It was a lively and fun atmosphere to have on an unforgettable trip!"

Leo Mironovich, French teacher, joined forces with his colleague, Jessica Janzer, Art teacher, from Dominican HS, Whitefish Bay, WI.



L&F Connections Recognized Around the World

We aren't the only ones excited to share connections made through L&F programs.

Spanish students from Roosevelt and South high schools in Minneapolis, MN, spent a week with host families in Brea de Aragón near Zaragoza, Spain. The local paper featured them with this photo (left): *"Es una experiencia con el fin de aprender el idioma español y las costumbres de la región. Se hayan acogidos por familias con las que comparten las tareas diarias. Los estudiantes podrán conocer en persona la forma de vida de las familias."*



Nikki Snyder-Roberts, Spanish teacher at Owatonna HS, MN, traveled to Costa Rica for the 4th time with her students. Her local paper featured their experiences, from the travels to the family stay to the green practices of Costa Rica. Nikki also reconnected with her host family with whom she stayed during previous travels.

FUN FACT: French teachers from Owatonna, South, and Roosevelt (the same schools as above) will be traveling to FRANCE in 2020. These communities have long traditions of travels (both French-speaking and Spanish-speaking) and hosting with Language & Friendship!

"If you are looking for a personal connection and an organization that checks off all the boxes on details, L&F is the company for you!"

~ Kim Fynboh, Spanish Teacher, Maple Lake HS, MN

"Favorites: Baby alpacas in hats, gaining a new family in another country, and life-long connections!"

~ Siri Dye, Lopez Island HS, WA, on her Peru program

"Eric is coming back and spending the month of July with us! We are so excited to have him back 'home.'"

~ Brasel family, host family from Fargo, ND



Connections Behind the Scenes

L&F works with wonderful land operators abroad who share our same passion for providing authentic experiences for our groups.

This summer, we had the pleasure to welcome Claire, one of our land operators in France, to Minneapolis for a brief visit. The L&F team gave her a highlight tour of the Twin Cities.

Left: Claire, Laurence, Liane, Jennifer, and Julie enjoy a beautiful Minnesota afternoon on the banks of the Mississippi river.

Compare & Contrast

Comparisons

"Develop insight into the nature of language and culture in order to interact with cultural competence"

When reading program evaluations each year, L&F staff members are constantly reminded about the many opportunities for cultural and linguistic comparisons when traveling and hosting. Check out some of our favorite insights from students, host families, and more!



"The most rewarding part of the program was seeing them explore French culture for the first time. Their observations and questions were so fun to hear."

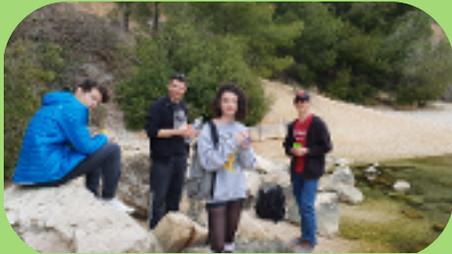
"There is no better classroom than an immersion experience in a French-speaking country!"

~ Ellen Onsrud, Lake Mills HS, WI

Ellen traveled with her students to Paris (left) and they were welcomed by host families in Cagnes-sur-Mer in the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Travels Lead to New Perspectives

Most L&F travelers go into their travels with one mindset ("I can't wait to see the Eiffel Tower!") and come home with a whole different perspective ("I have a whole new family in France!") We asked some of our scholarship recipients to share their perspectives of their L&F program.



"The trip to France was the best experience! I think the best part had to be the family stay. It's during that time that I learned that life in France is different but also similar to life here and that honestly, if I could, I'd probably live in France."

~ William Aichner, Menomonee HS, MI;
He traveled with his group to Paris, Normandie, Loire Valley, and spent 5 nights with a host family in Montélimar.



"Through this program I was able to experience life in France as a local. I was exposed to a whole different culture and way of life that I was not used to. I was pushed out of my comfort zone, and I was able to challenge myself and learn new things, especially when it came to talking to native French speakers."

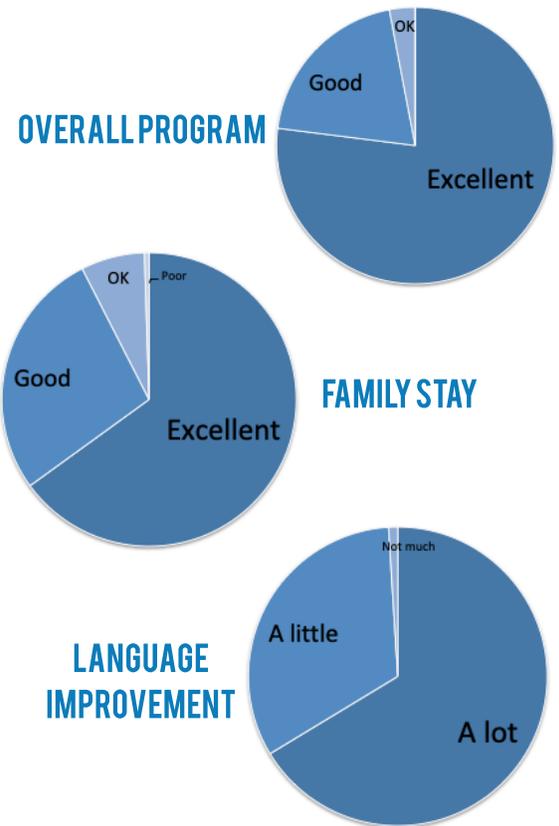
~ Autumn Ayer, Forest Lake HS, MN;
She traveled with her group to Paris, Strasbourg, Annecy, and spent 6 nights with a host family near Lyon.

We rely on the support of teachers, travelers, host families, and friends to keep the Naomi Thomsen Scholarship fund up and running each year. **Send your donation to:**

Language & Friendship
c/o L&F Naomi Thomsen Scholarship Fund
8011 34th Ave, Suite 250
Bloomington, MN 55425

2019 Program Evaluations:

We are proud to share these positive results from feedback from our travelers. Share these results with parents and administrators to demonstrate the value of a language-immersion program abroad.



FRANCE

- ✓ Fixed Itineraries
- ✓ Custom-designed Itineraries
- ✓ Guided itineraries
- ✓ Immersion for Individuals

TRAVEL + FAMILY STAY
TRAVEL ONLY
FAMILY STAY ONLY

QUEBEC

- ✓ Fixed Itineraries of 4-7 days
- Available any time of year
- Fully guided
- Hotel + Excursions

MARTINIQUE

- ✓ Fixed Itineraries of 8-12 days
- Family Stay + Excursions
- Reciprocal exchange required*
- OR
- Hotel + Excursions

As you decide which country to explore with your students, take a moment to compare variations of a phrase within the French language. The simple phrase "I don't understand" is a start!

Standard French: *Je ne comprends pas.*
En créole: *An pa ka kompwann !*

En Québécois: *Hein ? J'catch pas !*
En argot: *Je ne pige que dalle !*

L&F August Adventures

Once all of our travelers returned to their respective countries, the L&F staff took part in their own "hosting" and "family stay" experiences for a few weeks in August. We are now back in the office and ready to help you create your own adventures!

Barb (IT Coordinator): I spent time with my new puppy, Kiki, exploring some local parks and visiting family and friends.



Michelle (Hosting): My friends and family hosted my bachelorette party in my own house. My best friend even cleaned the bathroom while I curled my hair. (That's true friendship!) Skylor and I (and our puppy, Eddie) will host our family and friends for our wedding at home at the end of September!



Julie (Québec & Immersion Programs): Our daughter got married in August, so we hosted several wedding guests at our house from Florida, Georgia and Nova Scotia. After the wedding, my husband and I took a road trip and stayed with friends in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.



Elizabeth (Programs to Spain, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru): I organized a trip to Peru for friends and family. We visited Lima, Cusco, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, and Lake Humantay. It was wonderful bringing together family and friends from both Peru and the US to enjoy good food and Spanglish conversations.

Laurence (Programs to France & Martinique): I had a wonderful mix of being a "tourist" in Paris (saying "Hello" to the the "wounded" Notre-Dame); discovering the city of Vannes in Brittany; and visiting family and friends. We had fun times at the ocean, countryside, and mountains.



Yana (Registrar): I visited family and friends in Ukraine. We had a wonderful time hiking, enjoying campfires, cooking delicious food grown by my parents, and savoring time with each other. My husband and I also enjoyed summertime in Minneapolis - riding bikes and swimming in the lake.



Rachel (Special Projects): We had a summer full of reunions, hosting friends and family, camping, and exploring new places along Lake Superior. And, we geared up for our son's first year in kindergarten. ¡No puede ser!



Jennifer (Director): I brought my daughters to visit Lake Michigan. I grew up spending summers along these shores. We hiked the sand dunes and enjoyed the quaint towns. Creating new memories at the lake while reflecting on times gone by was truly magical for me.



Manon (Programs to France): I enjoyed reconnecting with friends and family in France. My husband and I had a wonderful time going fishing for cockies on the beaches of Normandy, hiking to Lake Lauvitel in the Alps, and following the Wine Route in Alsace.

Liz (Accountant): We had a lovely time on the beaches of Delaware and managed to get all 3 of our kids there at the same time!

Liane (Retired): Liane has been enjoying retirement so far! She has been snuggling grandchildren and hosting friends from France and even got away on an Alaskan cruise. She still organizes programs for adults. If you have friends or family asking you to take them abroad, contact us to help you!

Eager to see our smiling faces in person? Visit us at the following conferences!

IWLA
Iowa City, IA; Oct 4 - 5

FLAM
St. Charles, MO; Oct 18 - 19

MCTLC
Plymouth, MN; Oct 25 - 26

MIWLA
Lansing, MI; Oct 24 - 25

WAFLT
Appleton, WI; Oct 31- Nov 2

TFLTA
Franklin, TN; Nov 8-9

CCFLT
Loveland, CO; Feb 20 - 22

Central States
Minneapolis, MN; Mar 12-14



Two Appletree Square, Suite 250
8011 34th Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55425 USA

phone 952-841-9898
toll-free 1-888-927-0120
info@languageandfriendship.com

*"Do you know what a foreign accent is?
It's a sign of bravery."*

~ Amy Chua

L&F Programs Deliver Cultural and Linguistic Impact



Eliza Carlson and her peers from Greene County HS, IA, take a moment to celebrate their joy at Chambord. Their travels included Paris, Caen, Mont St-Michel, Tours, Arles, and a family stay in Avignon.

Meaningful
experiences to
reach
acquisition
goals!

France
Martinique
Québec

Hosting in
the USA

Argentina
Costa Rica
Peru
Spain

"L&F will tailor a program that will fit your needs. They have family stays and connections. We have students go on massive tours in Europe and who never speak to a person in that culture! L&F is different (and better!) than being a tourist."

~ Coleen Colton, Forest Lake HS, MN



L&F family-stay coordinators and teachers agree: One can always be a tourist. A family stay is a unique opportunity to make a true connection. Lola from Dos Hermanas, Spain, and Iowa City teachers, Carmen Gwenigale and Danielle Eivins, reunite often. Here they are in Sevilla.