

September 2017

Massachusetts Bay

Your Local AFS Newsletter

Hello Mass Bay volunteers!

Huzzah! We have finished hosting season, met our goal, and got our students here on time! Thank you to all the host families, hosting volunteers, interviewers, liaisons, and those wonderful orientation volunteers that have made this year start off strong!

I look forward to continuing this year with you all as we work on sending local students abroad, and supporting our students and families – and **I hope to see you at the retreat in October!** More information about the retreat is on page four.

-Noelle

Mass Bay Districts	Original and *Modified Hosting Goals	Total Students Placed	Remaining
Cape Cod	5	4	1
Greater Providence	11	8	3
North Shore	13	16	-3
Metro West	13	12	1
Southeast	15	16	-1
Total	57 *53	56	1 *-3



Liaisons

Monthly Contact Report:

Type	Aug	Sept
Host Family	88%	18%
Hosted Pax	100%	22%

We are starting off right! 100% contact for students – thank you to Donna Crumley for submitting contacts for all our students from Arrivals camp! 😊

Liaisons, if you have -not- made contact yet with your student or family please do so at your earliest convenience and please make sure to log it so you can get credit for it.

Hosting

We have placed 56 students in our area team! Our original goal was 57, and our moderated goal due to an application shortfall became 53 – so we surpassed our goal and did it all before the August 31st deadline. Fabulous work! 😊 😊 Special shout out goes to the North Shore and Southeast districts who placed over their goal – both have 16 students each!

Monthly Contacts with MyAFS

While liaisons must make monthly contacts every month by phone or in person, there are a few additional visit requirements.

Students and families will need **in-home** visits within 60 days after their arrival for students with permanent families, or every 30 days after their arrival for students who are staying with welcome families - until they are in a permanent home.

For students that arrived in August the 60-day visit would need to happen by October 7th, and for students that arrived in September the 60 day visit would need to happen by November 5th.

30/60 visits are required in-home visits. **The visits will only count if a volunteer other than the host-family interviewer does this visit.** This helps to ensure that two separate volunteers have been in the home and have spent time with the family. Please let me or your Support Coordinator know if you need help arranging for another volunteer to do your in-home visit.

For more information about the 30/60 visits check out [this article](#) on MyAFS.

Sending

Last year we did about 50 sending outreach events in Mass Bay. Most of these were done by AFS staff with help from returnees and hosted students, and some were done by AFS volunteers or hosted students on their own We sent 13 students abroad – 5 for the year, 3 for the semester, and 5 for the summer (this is not including students on Sponsored Programs).

Here are our goals for this year:

Year	Semester	Summer
10	3	6

Happy Birthday!! 😊

- ★ Clemencia Aramburo, MW
- ★ Caroline Beauparlant, NS
- ★ Sadie Burnham, NS
- ★ Donna Crumley, SE
- ★ Kathleen Cullinan, SE
- ★ Marcia Goldfinger, MW
- ★ Hannah Karp, NS
- ★ Carole McCorry, SE
- ★ Kristin Nelson, MW
- ★ Brad Smith, SE
- ★ Kathleen Teehan, SE



Sending Continued

I think we can absolutely achieve these goals, and send more of our local students abroad, but only if we become more engaged with the sending process in Mass Bay through volunteer involvement and the participation of our hosted students in cultural and sending presentations. **Sending students abroad ensures that we provide true cultural exchange to our communities** – and, it's genuinely fun to pass these opportunities on to globally minded people in our communities!

In order to increase our sending involvement I am looking for a few foundational pieces:

1.) **We could use more sending interviewers!** If you are interested in getting in touch with students looking to go abroad, please send me a message. Students that progress far enough in their application must have an “informational session” with a volunteer – this can be a great way to meet local young people interested in broadening their horizons and helping them along in their journey.

2.) We could use one (or many!) “**sending interview coordinators.**” This is a volunteer position that doesn't necessarily do the interview, but helps to hook up sending interviewers with the interested students that need informational sessions.

3.) We would love help with organizing and running **presentations!** These events could be informational presentations or tabling events at your local high school or library, and they are best when we can involve **returnees** and **currently hosted students**. You do not have to do the presentations, but if you are interested in contacting your local high school or coming along to an event – let me know! ☺ The more the merrier!

Project: Change is Back!

Project: Change is a scholarship contest for 8th-12th graders that asks “what change would you make in the world?” Students can submit their original idea for a two-week volunteer project that could take place in select countries and that addresses one of 5 global issues. They have friends and family vote for their idea, and the top 200 vote-getters are then judged based on feasibility, creativity, and entry quality. The grand-prize winner is awarded a full scholarship for a summer program that is designed around their specific volunteer idea, and additional winners are given full scholarships to also participate in the program.

**Contest opens for submissions: September 21st
Submission period closes: December 18th**

Go to <http://www.afsusa.org/project-change/> to learn more

AFS Next

These are a new line of programs for participants 18 and older. By working with other partners in the Sentio network, a global network of high quality intercultural organizations, we are able to offer an extensive catalogue of programs to our 18+ applicants that include college credit programs, internships, group tours, and volunteer abroad programs.

Go to <http://www.afsusa.org/afs-next/> to learn more!



The AFS New England Retreat!

AFS New England Retreat

Saturday, October 14th – Sunday, October 15th

Berkshire Outdoor Center

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA

RSVP



Fabulous Opportunity for all Mass Bay Volunteers!

ALL Mass Bay volunteers are invited to come join together for a weekend retreat in the beautiful, **peak-season** Berkshires with other AFS volunteers from Maine, Vermont, western Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

This is an amazing opportunity to meet other volunteers and AFS staff both in and outside of Mass Bay. **This retreat is meant for ALL volunteers** – from experienced leaders with years of experience, to those who are new to AFS, and those in between!

We will be doing conflict resolution training (great for liaisons!), and practicing intercultural learning. We will also learn about different facets of AFS like sending, support, Sponsored Programs, and have time to talk about how we can work even better as a team.

There will be ample opportunities to get to know one another, enjoy each other's company, make connections to those in our AFS community, and hang out around a very seasonally appropriate campfire.

Team building, community building, we're going to do it all 😊

AFS volunteers do so much – it is only right that you reTREAT yourself!

Please [click here](#) to RSVP by September 26th!

I for one am really looking forward to this – and seeing you there! 😊