

February 2019

# Massachusetts Bay

Made up of the Cape Cod, Greater Providence, Metro West, North Shore, and Southeast districts

Hi there,

We have some exciting things coming up as we continue into the spring semester with our hosted kids and prepare for next year's group, and as we start looking at sending our American students abroad. Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events - read on to find out what's going on and how you can get involved!

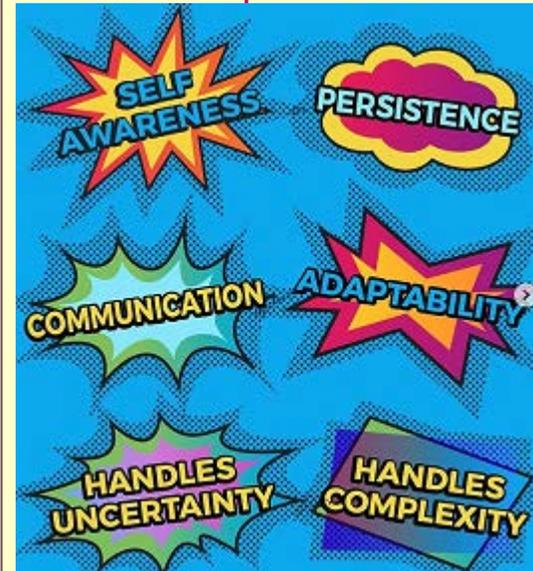
--Noelle

## Hosting Benchmarks

Mass Bay Districts	Hosting Goal	Students Placed	Distance to goal
Cape Cod	5	0	5
Greater Providence	11	0	11
Metro West	13	1	12
North Shore	13	3	10
Southeast	12	2	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>48</b>

Hosting season has begun! We are looking to place 54 students in Mass Bay this year and so far we have a great start with six students already placed! Special shout out to **Deb Gallagher** for placing two students in Southeast already, and **Emily West** for her work with Hingham High School earlier this year which generated a lead who will be hosting next year (and another family in the wings)! This is a great time to start thinking about hosting for next year as we are just getting applications in and schools are open – so if you are interested in hosting or are going to help promote hosting, now is the time to jump right in!

## "AFS Super Powers"



Yup, sounds about right! AFS volunteers are certainly masters at these!

## Compliance is cool Monthly Contact Percentages

Type	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Fam	100%	100%	96%	94%
Stu	100%	98%	96%	92%
Type	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Fam	96%	94%	33%	
Stu	96%	98%	38%	
Type	April	May	June	
Fam				
Stu				

Amazing job this year! Let's keep it going 😊 If you have forgotten to log a past contact, please do so! Please make sure to complete and log your Feb contacts – give those folks a call!

## In the Community

Former AFS host parent from RI, Hannah Overly, has written a book about her family's experiences with their exchange student Rafael – he even has a couple chapters included! [If you are interested, you can check it out on Amazon here!](#)



CBYX student Ilayda with AOC at her internship in DC this month!

RI student and Global Prep returnee Giovanni made a short documentary about his experience in Colombia for his senior project!

[Check it out here!](#) 🎥

### Help Support Eliza's Semester in Chile!

A Mass Bay student in the Southeast District, Eliza, is going to Chile with AFS next fall semester. This thoughtful student is excited to go abroad and is fundraising to help raise money for her trip. For every donation raised on her AFS fundraising widget, Eliza will send the donator a piece of artwork as a token of sincere appreciation! [Click here to visit Eliza's AFS blog and/or make a donation.](#)

Happy Birthday  
February Kiddos!



- ★ Beth Benjamin, MW
- ★ Chris Clyne, NS
- ★ Allie Birchmeier, NS
- ★ Anh Fahey, NS
- ★ Alexander Lopez, NS
- ★ Anne Lyons
- ★ Carol Ritchie, NS
- ★ Catherine Stewart, NS
- ★ Marielle Thorne, MW
- ★ Noelle hey that's me!
- ★ Vanessa Wellington, NS
- ★ Emily West, NS
- ★ Billy Zane

### Upcoming Events – Reach out to me for more details

Event	Where	When
Girl Scout Conference	Newport, RI	March 8th-10th
Canton HS International Day	Canton, MA	March 14th
Support Training	Wellesley, MA	March 24th
Greater Providence Host Fam Appreciation Dinner	East Greenwich, RI	April 7 <sup>th</sup>
Red Sox Baseball Game	Fenway Park	May 12 <sup>th</sup>
Pre-Departure Orientation	Babson College	June 1 <sup>st</sup>



Mid Stay Orientation in Metro West!

## Community Placing



It is almost time for us to begin to “**Community Place**” (CP) incoming students. Each year, over 2,000 students are hosted by AFS-USA. This means that each year over 2,000 applications are read by staff and volunteers and end up circulating around in our personal and community networks until the student is matched with a host family. With so many applications making the rounds, we have different ways of keeping

things organized. **Community Placing is one important way to make sure that we can show host families students who are truly available, and who we have picked specifically to be a part of our team.** Hence the term ‘community placing’ - CPing is not placing a student with a family – but assigning the student to our team specifically to place later on. This gives us a pool of students that we are confident in and helps to make showing students to families less competitive since we have these students reserved for only our team.

In order to CP a student, a volunteer should read the student’s application, and if you decide that you think they are a kid with a lot of potential, and would be a good fit for our team, you can enter a request to CP them. I would then review your request, and either accept it if everything fits or reach out to you to discuss it and possibly reject the request if something is off that you may not have realized originally.

Now for the ask: **We NEED volunteers to help with Community Placing!** If you are interested in learning more about this please let me know! I would LOVE to discuss this more with you and walk you through the training.

Community Placing starts March 6<sup>th</sup> for us – let me know if you are interested in helping out!



### FLEX!!

**Update from Sylvia Pertzborn, Director of Sponsored Programs:**

AFS-USA will once more host the **Future Leaders Exchange Program**, commonly referred to as the FLEX program. The FLEX program is a competitive, merit-based scholarship which provides students ages 15-18.5 from Eastern Europe and Eurasia with a yearlong intensive cultural immersion in the U.S. The FLEX program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). Since its inception in 1993, over 26,000 high school students from Eastern Europe and Eurasia have participated in the FLEX program across the U.S. AFS-USA

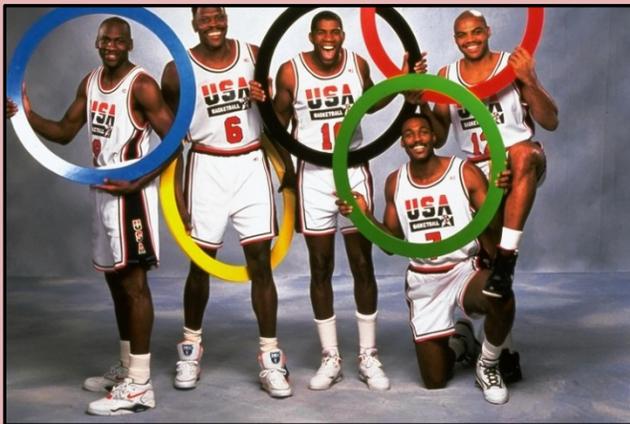
administered the program from 1993-2016, and thus we are eager to once again welcome FLEX students and the variety of countries and cultures that they represent. I am sure many of you have fond memories of FLEX students, and we look forward to creating many more memories moving forward!

For the 2019-2020 academic year, AFS will be responsible for placing approximately 50 FLEX students across the U.S. We anticipate having FLEX applications available in Global Link in the near future. Similar to how we release the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) student applications, FLEX student applications will be released on an on-going basis as they are made available to AFS.



At this time, we do not have the country-specific allocations, so we are unable to answer any questions about how many students we will receive from each FLEX country. We encourage you all to review the FLEX website to learn more about the program: <http://discoverflex.org/>. One thing I think you will all be interested to see is that the FLEX program includes a few new countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

### Volunteer Awards Nominating Period



As you may have seen on [MyAFS News](#), it's time to nominate volunteers and teams for the [Emerging Leader Award](#), the [Mission Award](#), and the new [Dream Team Award](#).

The nomination period for all three awards is February 1 - March 17, 2019. Award descriptions, nominee criteria, and nomination forms are available on each award's MyAFS Help & Learning page.

The [Emerging Leader Award](#) recognizes an individual who shows the potential to be a future leader within the AFS-USA volunteer structure of their chapter or team. The [Mission Award](#) recognizes an outstanding volunteer who has made a significant impact in promoting the core values and mission of AFS through their leadership. And the new [Dream Team Award](#) (formerly known as the Tribute Award) recognizes teams for exceptional and outstanding service that benefits AFS-USA volunteers in more than one area of volunteer development and recognition. Most exciting of all, the team that wins the [Dream Team Award](#) will receive a \$750 prize to be used for volunteer development and/or recognition!