

Memo

To: Ms. Ruscio

From: Mr. Van Etten



Date: 30 March 2012

Foreign Exchange Program Approval for PEACE –
Pro-American Educational And Cultural Exchange

I have received information from Dolores Forte, a representative with PEACE seeking district recognition of this group for the purposes of placing foreign exchange students with the district. I have reviewed the information provided. I am placing it with this memo so that you or others will have the information to review.

PEACE has previously placed a student with us in the 2010-2011 school year. The placement was very positive for the exchange student as well as students here at Homer. Prior to placement, several steps were taken to review our desire to work with the organization. While there have been issues with PEACE's initial attempts to come to Homer High School to recruit students for the purpose of participating in an exchange, either as host or ambassador, the placement of the exchange student was positive.

I requested information from schools that had recently participated in an exchange with PEACE. I spoke with Jeff Jordan principal at Falconer High School, Falconer New York and Tom McGlenn, principal at Archbishop Walsh High Olean New York. Each school is currently hosting at least 1 exchange student from PEACE. Both described positive interactions with PEACE. Each stated that both students and families have been provided with support from PEACE during the exchange process.

Based on our own positive experience, a system of supports for the exchange student, host family, and school, and the references provided from schools currently hosting, I would recommend the district add PEACE to the list of agencies we are willing to accept foreign exchange students from.

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, DC 20522
www.state.gov

January 31, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that *ProAmerican Educational and Cultural Exchange* located at 40 Water Street, New Philadelphia, PA 17959, is a Department of State designated high school sponsor for the J-visa exchange program. *ProAmerican Educational and Cultural Exchange* is in good standing with the Department.

The Responsible Officer of *ProAmerican Educational and Cultural Exchange* is Mr. Richard Page. He can be reached at (570) 277-6621.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen S. Hawkins".

Karen S. Hawkins
Division Chief
Private Sector Programs Division
Office of Designation

Pro-American Educational And Cultural Exchange

"Uniting The World Through Our Children"

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OUR MISSION. . .

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is an interdenominational, Christian-oriented program promoting an ecumenical mission of international goodwill and understanding through foreign student exchanges. We seek a spiritual unity and bonding of families, schools and communities across all national borders.

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is committed to the development of Godly leaders. We invite educators, parents, and religious leaders to join us to serve our students' academic, emotional and spiritual needs by creating a loving and moral environment in which to learn each others histories, cultures and languages so that we may live and work together in harmony.

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. also makes donations to various Catholic and Protestant churches, radio and television ministries, international missions and provides scholarships to worthy students. While we primarily seek students and families with a Biblical world and life view, all who share our goals are welcome to apply and will be fully considered.



Student Speech

40 Water Street, Suite 700, New Philadelphia, PA 17959

phone: 800-377-2237 / 724-770-0607
Supervised by the Bureau of Educational And Cultural Affairs
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Pro-American Educational And Cultural Exchange

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Program and Philosophy...

The Pro-American Educational and Cultural Exchange began in Autumn of 1988, conceived in the hearts of two family members brought together by their "mutual" daughter, Karen. She was the first exchange student hosted by the Pages in 1986. Their dream was to start a foreign exchange program led with empathy and wisdom attained only through first-hand participation in the exchange experience as parents.

P.E.A.C.E., Inc. was chartered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1988 as a nonprofit, international organization for the purpose of educational and cultural exchange and is a private foundation, as allowed for under section 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is designated by the United States Department of State/Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs.

Governments around the world have supported the concept of international youth exchange since its inception shortly after WWII. Designed to begin healing the wounds of the war by the interchange of Japanese, German, and American teenagers, the concept was such a success that it spread worldwide. Since cultural exchanges are an official part of U.S. foreign policy, sponsoring agencies are directly regulated by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (BECA), Department of State, to insure the integrity of the programs with strict minimum standards of operating procedures and reporting. The Exchange Program will assist in obtaining admittance into the United States.



Richard Page, Director

**40 Water Street, Suite 700, New Philadelphia, PA 17959*
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