

- SERVAS INTERNATIONAL NEWS BULLETIN -

- News from Servas International Executive Committee (Exco) -

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SLINCOME STABLE 2016-2017

Servas International received income from stamp fees to the value of 57 699 Swiss francs (CHF) during the 12-months financial year between April 1 2016–March 31 2017. The income for these twelve months was at approximately the same level as the previous financial year between April 1 2015–March 31 2016. SI's income from stamp fees was 57 760 Swiss francs for this period.

Servas International had to March 31, 2017 spent a total of 64 095 Swiss francs on development costs on the ServasOnline Project – formally called SOL – which we now hope to complete by March 31 2018.

The cash resources which have been built up over many years of careful stewardship stood at 412 367 Swiss francs at March 31, 2017. This has enabled the organisation to meet the substantial capital expenditure for ServasOnline.

This is shown in the 2016–17 Financial Statements posted on servas.org. The Financial Statements have been posted together with other documents for the November 2017 Servas International distant vote for approval of the 2016–17 Audited Accounts.

You can download the Financial Statements and other documents mentioned above on these weblinks:

https://servas.org/en/distant-vote

https://servas.org/sites/default/files/uploads/distant_vote/2017/SI_FY_2016-17-Fin_Stt-1.pdf

It can be noted that these Financial Statements are the first for many years to be completed and audited within six months of balance date. This achievement was made possible thanks to a joint effort by the Servas bookkeeper, the current and past SI treasurers and by the SI Internal Audit *Committee (SI IAC)*.

Jonny Sågänger

President, Servas International

TIME FOR SI GA 2018 ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Many elections are to be held in October 2018 at the Servas International General Assembly (SI GA) in the Republic of Korea. Over the coming months the Nominations Committee will be accepting nominations for positions on the next SI Executive Committee (the global Servas board) and for elected SI officers in the Conflict Resolution Committee, Audit Committee, Development Committee, etc.

Nominations will remain open until immediately before the elections, which take place during the SI GA. It is important, however, that National Groups consider possible nominations well before the SI GA, so active Servas members can come forward, even though they may not be able to attend the GA in person.

If you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate for one of the positions or would like nominate someone else, please contact the SI Nomination Committee by email to nominations@servas.org.

Susanne Thestrup (Denmark), Dianne Peterson (Singapore) and Norma Nicholson (Australia) were elected to SI Nominations Committee by acclamation at the SI GA 2015 in New Zealand.

SI TREASURER RESIGNS

The Servas International treasurer William D'Souza will resign due to increased workload in his professional life. William's decision is final, but he has promised Servas International's global board, SI Exco, that he will stay in his position until the board find someone to replace him. Exco will immediately start the recruitement process to find William's successor.

Please read the recruitment ad below.

The search for an assistant treasurer continues.

Jonny Sågänger

President

Servas International

on behalf of SI Exco

SI ANNUAL REPORT NOW ON SERVAS.ORG

The 2016 Servas International Annual Report is completed. The file can be downloaded on the webpage https://servas.org/en/community/board-and-management/administration

. You download the report by clicking on the words "2016 SI Annual Report".

If you have problems with the weblink, you can also find to the file if you go to www.servas.org, click on main menue "Community", continue to "Board and management" and go to

"Administration". On this webpage you click on the words "2016 SI Annual Report".

The report is mainly in English.

Please feel free to forward this information to all Servas members. Any questions about the report can be sent via email to the SI General Secretary Penny Pattison at generalsecretary@servas.org.

SERVASONLINE - A GLOBAL SOURCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

After years of hard work and planning ServasOnline went live last year, achieving many aims in developing and running Servas, keeping it a dynamic and vital organization.

These days Servas is present in many member groups and countries worldwide. Before ServasOnline, each individual group had their own host list and information sources, if at all. Unfortunately, not all countries have a well-established Servas member group and quite a few do not have even a local active person who can coordinate Servas and be the Point of Contact (POC) person there. And some others do not have any Servas representation at all in the country.

To be able to support and help these countries, a POC is needed to provide answers, guide, interview and accept new members and provide Letters of Introduction. The POC can be a volunteer from around the world, not necessarily living in the same country, perhaps in a neighbouring country.

And now, thanks to ServasOnline, with information in one single, global source, this volunteer can – mostly by herself or himself – access better tools and provide better and faster support. The ServasOnline system can help a volunteer to "adopt" a country and contribute to its development.

According to Bernard Andrieu, the Project Manager for ServasOnline, the new system and the POC method has been useful in efforts to establish Servas in Albania, Cambodia, Iceland, Egypt, Myanmar, Armenia, Estonia and Moldova.

A single, global source of information brings us all closer to each other, allowing us to help to the places most needing support.

And not only for these countries. If an National Secretary or Main Contact can't find someone in their own country to replace or back them up for a certain time, they can authorize a POC volunteer to act for them.

So why wait to volunteer? Any Servas members can help by becoming the POC for countries needing support. ServasOnline can forward all letters and registration requests to you and hopefully someone you interview and approve today will become a Main Contact in their country later on.

Thanks to ServasOnline, no matter where you live and no matter what your role in Servas is, you can always help Servas to grow and support more countries in becoming active.

ServasOnline will guide and help to make this activity fast and efficient.

Servas and ServasOnline are waiting for you!

Any questions? Send an email to <u>president@servas.org</u> with the words "Servas Point of Contact (POC)" in the subject line.

Jonny Sågänger

President, Servas International

RESOLUTIONS MADE AT RWANDA MEETING



The African Servas meeting covered, among other topics, progress of transition to ServasOnline and resource-mobilization strategies for the development of Servas in Africa.

Photo: Popoune Sesonga, photographer and film-maker, Servas Rwanda member

From 26 to 31 August 2017, Servas Rwanda, with the support of Servas International, hosted the Servas Africa Regional Conference at two locations - in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, and Kigufi in Rubavu district, western province of Rwanda. The theme of the conference was: Sustaining Servas in Africa: Strengthening National Networks and Building for the Future.

The aim of the conference was on how to sustain Servas in Africa. The following resolutions were made:

- Servas country networks in Africa committed to improving communication among members by setting up a WhatsApp group for the National and Deputy Secretaries of Servas in African countries. A WhatsApp group for younger members will also be created and managed by young people from Kenya and Rwanda.
- Servas country networks in Africa should let Africans know more about Servas. This will involve increasing peace activities, volunteer work, promoting social cohesion by engaging more with hosts within our countries and other member countries.
- While aiming to let people know about Servas, we should keep it small so as not to lose the meaning behind Servas. Recruitment of people who are willing to make Servas grow.
- People should have a sense of belonging to Servas and be willing to participate in all activities and have a passion for the Servas cause.
- Promote work on exchange programmes, e.g SYLE, between countries. This will aim to change perspectives that people may have of African countries.
- Everyone should plan ahead for the October 2018 South Korea SICOGA in order to avoid inconveniences, e.g. visas.
- Each Servas country network will appoint a ServasOnline officer to support members in using ServasOnline, as it was noted that very few members in Africa use ServasOnline.
- The main ideas for a Servas in Africa development strategy will be presented in 2018 SICOGA in South Korea.

The next Servas Africa regional conference will be held in Kenya in April 2019.

The regional conference meeting in Rwanda in August gathered 39 members of Servas representing 11 countries (four from Cameroon, one from Tanzania, three from Uganda, eight from India, two from Australia, one from German, three from Malawi, three from Kenya, three from Democratic Republic of Congo and 11 from Rwanda).

Source: Fidel Rutayisire, Servas Rwanda National Secretary

FIRST YOUTH MEETING IN ITALY



*International Servas Youth Summer Camp in Italy, August 2017.*Photo: Raffaella Rota, Servas Lombardia Coordinator

On 20 August around 40 youngsters from Italy, Spain, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Peru and Portugal began their experience of getting to know the culture of Italy and discussing current issues such as human rights and migration.

Here is an edited and shortened version of an article written by Lisa Hollstein from Servas Germany:

The aim of the meeting was to discuss Servas Youth on an international level, while having fun and making friends from all over the world. Servas Italy and Servas Spain organized a week full of activities, including:

- doing crafts
- discovering the local surroundings
- enjoying Italian food

Among the topics the group discussed were human rights, migration and the Mafia - in a playful way. You might expect that to be tiring, but we assure you none of the presentations was boring. Find Lisa Hollstein's full report on the Servas International open Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/Servas.International/

You can also watch a video the from Servas Youth Summer Camp in Italy. The video is made by Loukas Konstantinidis who is 18 years old and has participated at Servas Youth international summer camps since 2013. You can watch the video in two ways:

a) Go to Youtube (this video doesn't have the logo of Servas at the end):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vN5uHgUciek

b) Go to this WeTransfer.com weblink and download a file with the video to your computer: $\frac{https://wetransfer.com/downloads/ea19df6e71b20fb33fe6d591826e8ea720170920150859/01fde045}{5b0d59d5fa314693698a185820170920150859/65892c}$

Jonny Sågänger

President, Servas International

UN EVENT: MIGRATION A CHALLENGE FOR PEACE?



MODERATOR:

Daniela DÖNGES

Servas International UN representative in Geneva, Middle East expert

OPENING REMARKS:

Danielle SERRES

Servas International Peace Secretary

«Migration: A Challenge for peace?» To what extent does migration threaten peace, and what solutions exist to respond to the crisis?

Servas International Representatives at the UN organized a side-event in Geneva on the 20th of September 2017. Servas aims to promote peace by building a network of goodwill and understanding that provides opportunities for personal contacts among people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.

Migration is a form of border crossing, like travelling. However, travelling is seen as a factor of peace promotion, whereas migration is sometimes seen as a challenge for peace.

The event at the UN took place on the eve of International Peace Day on September 21, and was included in Servas International Week.

Whenever peace is threatened, Servas is highly concerned!

Danielle Serres, Servas International Peace Secretary

SERVAS NOW IN ALBANIA

Servas in Albania has been set up by two enthusiastic members, Violla Balla and Gerti Pishtari. They both found out about Servas on Facebook and our website servas.org. Then they contacted Servas through ServasOnline. Although Servas Albania is only a few months old, they've already had several travellers. It's no wonder, it is a very beautiful country.

Ewa Dzierzawska, SI Development Committee

PEACE SCHOOL IN THE NEWS



Servas Turkey's yearly Peace School Programme in Ekinci Antakya, Turkey.

Photo: Hazal Orhon

Servas Turkey organized their yearly Peace School Programme in Ekinci, Antakya, Turkey, from July 6 to 16. Turkish newspaper *Gazeta Duvar* reported on an event where local and international Servas volunteers meet in a village to share experiences. Gardens, backyards and streets form the Peace Campus, where the volunteers share their knowledge with local children aged 5 to 14. The topics range from peace, languages, music, dances, nature, recycling, human rights, drama, toymaking, drawing, traditional games, making short movies, photography and astronomy. Local families host the volunteers so they can experience Turkish culture, family life, food and customs. In exchange, volunteers share their own cultures with their hosts.

The Gazeta Duvar newspaper article can be found with an English translation at http://atesnaar.blogspot.com.tr/

On this Facebook link you can read about previous Peace School events: http://www.facebook.com/groups/95345139652/?fref=ts

If the link for detailed information and the archive doesn't work, search on Facebook with "Live with us share with us"

Mehmet Ates is Coordinator of the Servas Peace School, and the next Servas Peace School Programme in Ekinci, Antakya, Turkey, will take place July 6-16 2018.

Source: Mehmet Ates, Coordinator of the Servas Peace School

CONTRIBUTIONS TO 2018 PEACE CALENDAR

Servas International is putting out a call for your contributions about initiatives related to peace for the 2018 Peace Calendar. Please send good quality photos with a caption to describe the photo to peacesecretary@servas.org by October 30. You might also be able to get involved in putting the calendar together.

ETHICAL CHARTER FOR SERVAS TRAVELLERS

As a host and traveller network, Servas has the potential to contribute to protecting the environment and raising awareness of environmental issues. We promote an ethical way of travelling compatible

with sustainable development. Please send your contribution to the ethical charter for the Servas traveller project to peacesecretary@servas.org 'Travel peacefully and walk lightly on the earth'.

NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEES: BRITAIN, AUSTRALIA

SERVAS BRITAIN BOARD

Servas Britain has had their Annual General Meeting (AGM). After the AGM the current members of the Servas Britain board are:

Ruth Allen, Joint National Secretary (External affairs)

Barbara Forbes, Joint National Secretary (Internal affairs)

James Clevenger (Treasurer)

Alison Newbery (Membership Secretary)

Vicki Edmunds (Travel Secretary)

Jenny Sturt (Newsletter and Website)

Mike Atkinson (Recruitment and Promotion)

Lindsey Green (Regions Coordinator)

Carol Allen (Peace Secretary)

Company Secretary: Bob Turner

Independent Examiner of Accounts: Jonathan Hall

Retiring: Peter Woodall as Independent Examiner of Accounts

COLIN FINGER NEW SERVAS AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT

Ralph Leutton has resigned as President of Servas Australia due to the pressure of business and other commitments. Ralph was elected at the AGM in 2015. The Board of Servas Australia thanks Ralph for his work as President in the Servas Australia Newsletter (August 2017).

At its Board meeting on August 9 2017 the Servas Australia Board appointed Colin Finger as President until the Annual General Meeting in March 2018. Colin Finger is the current Victoria Host Officer and will also continue in that role.

Servas Australia Board Members: President: Colin Finger; Secretary Lauren Gordon; Treasurer: Ernie Catchlove; Peace Secretary: Chloë Mason; Regional Board Representatives: Sandra Daly (ACT), Barbara Mawson (Tas), Craig Melrose (NSW), John Wishart (SA), Hilary Wiffen (Qld), Coralie Mills (WA) and Colin Finger (Vic).

Source: Servas Australia Newsletter – August 2017

AD: SI LOOKING FOR NEW TREASURER

Servas International (SI) is looking to fill the position of SI Treasurer. Our current SI Treasurer William D'Souza will resign shortly due to increased workload in his professional businesses. The SI Treasurer is a volunteer position and the SI Statutes allow for the appointment of a replacement person until the next SI General Assembly, in case the elected SI Treasurer is unable to complete their term of office.

The SI Treasurer is a member of the SI Executive Committee (SI Exco) volunteer team, which is responsible for managing the affairs of Servas International, having an annual budgeted income of approximately CHF 60,000. The income for the organisation comes from membership fees paid by Servas members in National Servas Groups in the form of an SI stamp placed on their Letter of Introduction before travelling with Servas.

The prospective incumbent will have the support services of the book keeper based in Bangalore and he will responsible for the following functions:

- 1. Accounting for multi-currency payments (both operational and capital).
- 2. Issuing of Traveller Stamps as per National Group requests and accounting for stamp payables after adjusting for returned unused stamps.
- 3. Budget formulation and ensuring that the approved expenses are covered within the budgeted allocation.

- 4. Preparation of payments for approval online with Credit Suisse (SI official bankers)
- 5. Overseeing the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements and schedules as well as coordinating with both the Internal Audit committee and External Auditors for smooth audit compliance and reporting.
- 6. Advising SI Exco about the current financial status at their meetings and of any matters of importance that may have a bearing on the pending decisions.
- 7. Participating in the monthly SI Exco teleconference calls and normally annual face-to-face multi-day meetings, and being an integral part of SI Exco in its decision making process.

The volume of work is expected to average less than 30 hours per month. During and leading up to the period of the triennial General Assembly more hours may be required.

The prospective incumbent will need to have accounting knowledge and to advise the book keeper when required. As an integral part of SI Exco, they will participate in decision making, and contributing the financial perspective to the SI Exco discussions. The accounting records and financial statements are generated by Tally, an English based Accounting Software. The SI Banker is Credit Suisse based at Zurich Switzerland and the SI Treasurer will be one of the authorised signatories to the bank account. He/she should be computer literate and conversant with international payments and online banking.

If you know of a suitable person in your Servas National Group, please pass this bulletin onto them as soon as possible and advise the SI Exco also at exco@servas.org. We would like to talk to them and explain further the position. We can provide a detailed list of duties on request.

Applications should be sent to the email adress president@servas.org by October 30, 2017. Jonny Sågänger, President Servas International

AD: SI RECRUITS ASSISTANT TREASURER

Servas International (SI) is looking for an assistant SI Treasurer. The person we're recruiting will assist the SI Treasurer William D'Souza. The assistant SI Treasurer is a volunteer position.

If you know of a suitable person in your Servas National Group, please pass this ad onto them as soon as possible. Questions about the position will be answered by William D'Souza, who will also provide a detailed list of duties on request.

William D'Souze has announced that he will not be running for SI Treasurer for the next mandate period 2019-2021. Elections for SI Treasurer and other positions in SI Exco will be held at the SI General Assembly in October 2018.

Applications should be sent to the email adress treasurer@servas.org with cc/copy to president@servas.org by October 15, 2017.

AD: WEBSITE DEVELOPER FOR SI WEBSITE

Servas has developed a collaboration platform called ServasOnline. The first release of ServasOnline is now on line.

ServasOnline is a multilingual website, regularly publishing news from member countries in four languages.

In the members dedicated section of the website, members have access to the database of all members worldwide. Members can select and contact other members all over the world to meet them during their travels.

The website is built with the Drupal CMS (Content Management System) and mySql.

Responsibilities:

Servas International is recruiting a website developer for our website servas.org.

As Website Developer (company or individual) you will be responsible for maintenance and enhancements to the ServasOnline website.

You will report to and work in close collaboration with the Servas Application Manager (currently Bernard Andrieu).

Your activities will cover:

- Continuity of operations (24/7) in collaboration with the system manager in charge of the Servas server (ICT Team)
- Corrective maintenance (bug fixes)
- Improvement of the application (major changes are planned as part of a second release) based on change requests from the Servas App Manager
- Alerts, suggestions and recommendations for better use, user-friendliness, technical coding, performance, responsiveness of the website
- Assistance to the Servas Web Editor in updating web content
- Preparation of communication and training documents related to the application usage and to changes, in collaboration with the ServasOnline Team

Key Skills:

- · Good communication and training skills
- Fluent English; other languages such as French, Spanish, German are a plus
- Technical skills: Drupal 7, PHP, mySQL, Linux, HTML, CSS, bootstrap, jQuery.

Additional Information

- Communications mainly in English through the ServasOnline website, email, phone, video chat, voice call services, the cloud
- You will work on a teleworking basis
- Our estimate is that this job requires a part-time activity
- Experience with NGO is a plus

About Servas

Servas International is a worldwide non-governmental organization which runs a traveller-host hospitality programme based on values of tolerance between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.

Read more about Servas: servas.org/

Send your application to Bernard Andrieu, ServasOnline Project Manager by email berno.andrieu@orange.fr

AD: APPLICATION MANAGER FOR SI WEBSITE

Servas has developed a collaboration platform called ServasOnline, which is now up and running. ServasOnline is a multilingual website, regularly publishing news from member countries in four languages.

Servas members have access to the database of all members worldwide. Members can select and contact other members all over the world to meet them during their travels.

The website is built with the Drupal CMS (Content Management System) and mySql.

Responsibilities:

- Ongoing maintenance and enhancements to the ServasOnline application.
- You will report to Pablo Colangelo: servasonlinehlc@gmail.com
- · Close collaboration with the Webmaster.
- Continuity of operations (24/7)

- Corrective maintenance (bug fixes)
- Enhancements to the application (major changes are planned as part of a second release)
- Assistance to the Webmaster in updating web content
- Support to deployment of the application in member countries (including data migration)
- Assistance to members in the use of the application
- Preparation of communication and training documents related to the application usage and to changes

Key Skills:

- · Adherence to Servas values
- Good communication and training skills
- Fluent English; other languages such as French, Spanish, German are a plus
- Ability to multitask and good personal organization
- Technical skills: Drupal 7 (a must), PHP, mySQL, Linux, HTML, CSS, bootstrap, jQuery.

Additional Information

- Communications mainly in English by means of ServasOnline website, email, phone, video chat, voice call services, the cloud, etc.
- You will work on a teleworking basis
- Our estimate is that this job will be a part-time activity
- Experience with an NGO is a plus

Send your application to Bernard Andrieu, ServasOnline Project Manager by email berno.andrieu@orange.fr

AD: EDITORS WANTED FOR SI WEBSITE

With increased Servas activity on the new Servas website (<u>servas.org</u>) and on social media, there's also a growing need for editors. A web editor is needed for each language used on the new Servas website. Currently the languages are English, Spanish, French and German.

We're looking for people of all ages, who have basic, medium or well-developed skills in writing and/or editing editorial texts as well as handling photos, graphics and other illustrations. It's a plus but not a prerequisite to have experience of editorial work on the web and in a content management system (CMS).

We're also looking for people with writing, photography and/or graphic design skills who can work as Servas editor-correspondents around the world. Working in cooperation with the web editors on servas.org and the editor of the newsletters SI News Bulletin and SI News, you will create and edit editorial content from around the world.

Send your application to president@servas.org

Jonny Sågänger, President, Servas International & Managing Web Editor

AD: SERVAS FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATORS WANTED

Servas International's traffic on the social media channel Facebook is growing, so as soon as possible we need to recruit administrators both for the Servas International Facebook Page and the Servas Travelling for Peace public discussion group.

These are challenging and fulfilling positions for people with the right skills and abilities.

Send your application to president@servas.org

Jonny Sågänger, President, Servas International

SERVAS PUBLIC GROUP ADMINISTRATOR

Servas Travelling for Peace is a public discussion group for people interested in Servas International. You don't have to be a member of Servas. Membership in this Facebook group does not make you a member of Servas. www.facebook.com/groups/servas/

Servas Facebook Group Administrator responsibilities:

- Review and approval of new members includes reviewing applicants' Facebook profile for possible spammers
- Daily monitoring of group posts
- Watch for inappropriate posts such as sales, advertising, and promotions not related to Servas and Servas core values, pornography, etc.
- Removal of inappropriate posts and deleting/banning members who spam or continue to post inappropriately.

SI PAGE ADMINISTRATOR

The official Servas International Facebook Fan Page provides news, stories and information on Servas activities around the world. www.facebook.com/Servas.International/

Servas International Facebook Page Administrator responsibilities:

- Monitor and reply to Messages and Notifications if possible or notify Servas Exco of the message if no action has been taken within two days..
- Alerts will appear in your FB's left-hand column list of your pages and groups.
- Approve or deny posts, monitor discussions.

NEWSLETTER IN SPANISH

You can also read the SI News Bulletin in Spanish on the Servas International website.

Would you like to become a member of the translators team? Email Lilly Kerekes, the coordinator: spanishcoordinator@servas.org

About Servas International News Bulletin

The Servas International News Bulletin (SI News Bulletin) is a newsletter from Servas International Executive Committee (SI Exco), which is the organization's global board. The SI News Bulletin contains a brief report about current issues and decisions.

Editors & Newsletter Coordinators:

Jonny Sågänger: SI President president@servas.org

Ann Greenhough: Vice-President vicepresident@servas.org

Picot Cassidy: Servas Britain

What would you like to read about in the SI News Bulletin? Let us know.

Email: president@servas.org

Servas key people around the world are encouraged to forward the newsletter to individual members in Servas. Feel free to quote this newsletter, but please remember to mention *Servas International News Bulletin* as the source.

SI Exco 2016-2018

President: Jonny Sågänger president@servas.org

Vice-President: Ann Greenhough vicepresident@servas.org

Treasurer: William D'Souza treasurer@servas.org (replaced LV Subramanian February 2017)

General Secretary: Penny Pattison generalsecretary@servas.org

Host List Coordinator: Pablo Colangelo hostlistcoordinator@servas.org

Peace Secretary: Danielle Serres peacesecretary@servas.org

Servas International on the Internet

Servas International website: servas.org/index.php
Servas on Twitter: twitter.com/ServasI?lang=en
Servas on Facebook: Servas Travelling for Peace

This public discussion group is for people who are interested in learning more about Servas International. Membership in a recognized Servas Group is not required. Membership in this Facebook group does not make you a member of Servas.

Administrators: Alan Stone, Stefan Fagerström, Pablo Colangelo, Jonny Sågänger.

www.facebook.com/groups/servas/

Servas International

This closed discussion group is for people who are members of Servas.

Your membership will be verified.

Administrators: Pablo Colangelo, Arnoud Philippo. www.facebook.com/groups/117649068294944/



About Servas International

Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, supporting an international network of hosts and travellers.

Our network aims to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by offering opportunities for personal contacts between people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities.