

# PROCLAMATION

## CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS AT OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL & FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL

**WHEREAS** the American Field Service was formed in 1914 in France, with the mission of supporting injured soldiers during World War I by operating a civilian ambulance corps; and

**WHEREAS** this mission continued in 1941-1945, supporting injured soldiers during World War II; and

**WHEREAS** in 1947, the American Field Service (now AFS-USA) changed its mission to the promotion of peace and the prevention of future war; and

**WHEREAS** Intercultural Exchange and the hosting of international exchange students became the means for this mission; and

**WHEREAS** AFS-USA now places 4-6 students annually within host families in Oak Park and River Forest, ~1,000 students nationally, and many thousands more globally; and

**WHEREAS** International Education Week, dedicated to intercultural learning and the promotion of bilateral student – host family exchange, takes place from November 18<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024; and

**WHEREAS** current events and suggests the possibility future, wider conflict, on the scale of past world wars; and

**WHEREAS** democracy must be supported locally, in the face of autocratic advances elsewhere in the world; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Oak Park Village Board recognizes the ongoing mission of AFS-USA remains vital today, during International Education Week.

**FURTHERMORE** we remind the citizens of Oak Park and River Forest that this worthwhile endeavor cannot continue without the ongoing generous support of local families opening their homes international exchange students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Vicki Scaman, President of the Oak Park Village Board, hereby proclaim November 18<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, International Education Week, a time to reflect and celebrate intercultural exchange in support of world peace, as well our generous local families as they continue to host international exchange students.

**DATED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

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Vicki Scaman  
Village President

**ATTEST**

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Christina M. Waters  
Village Clerk