Every dream starts with someone saying yes.

Could you be that someone?

Our daughter Ciara will turn 15 next summer. When she visited the US a few years ago, she knew she wanted to come back one day to experience more of American culture, traditions and everyday life – going to school, and being part of an American family. The warmth and openness she experienced in the US have stayed in her heart ever since.

"An exchange year in the US has been my dream for many years because I'm fascinated by American culture and the American way of life. I would love to become part of a family, the community, and a school, and share my own culture while learning about yours. I hope to make new friends, have lots of new experiences, and create memories that will last a lifetime."

— Ciara



"Because of her medical condition, Ciara uses a wheelchair and needs support with some personal care tasks in her daily life. At the same time, she is very independent and takes responsibility for herself whenever possible. She knows how to organize her daily routine, communicates openly about the support she needs, and handles challenges with confidence and maturity. Her disability has never stopped her from taking part in school life or working towards her goals."

— Excerpt from a letter of recommendation by Ciara's teacher

Ciara has cerebral palsy, and we are looking for a host family with a home that is (mostly) wheelchair accessible. She uses a manual wheelchair most of the time and she can bear weight, walk short distances with a walker (if you help her steering it) and assist with transfers. Ciara needs help with personal care.

Ciara has developed an incredible level of emotional intelligence, through her life experiences growing up with cerebral palsy. We are convinced that this will help her thrive in a new environment abroad. She is mature, optimistic and open to new possibilities. Even when it's hard, she puts herself out there.

"I have known Ciara as a friendly, cheerful, and open-minded student. She comes to school with a smile every day and has a positive attitude that makes it easy for her to get along with classmates and teachers. She enjoys meeting new people and is always interested in learning about new places and cultures, especially about the US.

Ciara is a very motivated and determined student. She works hard to achieve her goals and does not give up when things become difficult. She is especially talented in learning languages and enjoys communicating with others.

I believe that Ciara has all the qualities needed for a successful exchange year. She is kind, respectful, responsible, and curious. I am confident that she will become a valued member of her host family and school community. She will represent our school with pride and will make the most of this wonderful opportunity."

— Excerpt from a letter of recommendation by Ciara's teacher

“Music has always been a big part of who I am. I sang in a choir for several years, and for the past five years I’ve been taking singing lessons. I love spending time with my friends and doing things together. I’ve also been taking horseback riding lessons every week for over ten years.

I’m always excited about discovering new places around the world. I’m a very curious person and love learning new things and exploring the world around me.”

— Ciara

Music is Ciara’s greatest passion. It’s hard to find a song where she doesn’t know the lyrics. In her free time, she loves hanging out with her friends. She is also an animal lover, especially when it comes to dogs and horses.

Our family lives in Hockenheim, a small town in southwestern Germany, near Heidelberg. Ciara has an identical twin sister. Her two older half-sisters and her little niece live in Denmark, where their dad is from. Mom’s parents live nearby, and we see each other regularly.

“In general, I see my family as a close-knit network of people who mean a lot to me. They are always there for me, and I truly appreciate having them in my life. I love spending time with them.”

— Ciara



Every dream starts with someone saying yes.

Could you be the host family that makes Ciara’s American dream come true?

Or perhaps you know someone who could?

Let’s make it happen together (and don’t worry, we’re pretty good at figuring things out 😊).
Dare to say yes and get in touch. We would absolutely love to hear from you!

www.letsgetciarawalking.com/americandream