

Ancient art, modern fun

The art form of Gyotaku was created by Japanese fisherman, who inked fish they had caught, then rolled rice paper over them as a record of size and detail before they cut up the fish for storage. The process has become a decorative art form. While the naturalists at Frances Slocum have used real fish in their classes, they now use plastic molds. The real, and dead, fish attracted too many bees. In photos, clockwise from right: Bill Hagenbaugh, Lehman showed off his manly art of t-shirt painting; Ronnie Ostrowski, Shavertown, and his mom Lori applied paint to his fish prior to transferring the image to a shirt; Teresa Davis, Dallas, painted her fish while mom Helen and brother Richard watched; Allie Heffernan wondered what to do now that the pattern was on the shirt, but the ink was still on her hands.

FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTZEK



Local family hosts Irish teens

Program pairs Catholic and Protestant youth, in effort to build trust and understanding.

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS — For the last three weeks Maria and Leo Carr of Dallas have opened their home to two young ladies from Northern Ireland. They are participating in a program called the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland (CFPNI), which pairs a Protestant teenager and a Catholic teenager and sends them out of the country together.

"I remembered reading about children from Ireland coming to this country last year," said Maria. "When I searched for it on the Internet, I found this program and it seemed pretty interesting."

The main goal of CFPNI is to promote trust, friendship, understanding and peace between Catholic and Protestant teens in Northern Ireland.

"The program revolves around the idea that they are the future leaders of Northern Ireland," said Maria. "Teenagers have a better chance of realizing that they have a lot in common."

The girls, Yvonne Kerr of Dromore and Lorna McVerry of Bessbrook, both 16 years old, arrived in the United States in early July for a one-month stay. Their preparations though began back in January with a series of meetings with the other program members. Once paired, the goal is to form a friendship by sharing experiences, travel and even a bedroom.

"One of the requirements is that the pair share a bedroom for the month. We gave them our finished basement and they have their own space there with a television, CD player and games, and they're enjoying it," said Maria, whose two children, Andrea, 12, and Nick, 4, were very accommodating to their visitors. "They are also required to attend one

Protestant and one Catholic church service while they're here."

In addition, the girls participated in the normal family activities like attending graduation parties, going to the library auction, enjoying miniature golf and movies and going shopping.

"They were so surprised at how cheap things are here," said Andrea, a student at Dallas Middle School. "They use the British pound, which is worth about half of our dollar, so they bought a lot of things here."

The girls also picked up some craft skills while visiting the Carr family. Maria, a very active Girl Scout leader, introduced them to scrapbooking, rubber stamp art, and other craft skills.

"They watch a lot of movies because their weather isn't very good," said Andrea, who hand painted commemorative plates for her visitors to take home. "We showed them some other things to do (on rainy days)."

Yvonne and Lorna also traveled to Washington, D.C. on a trip sponsored by the program. "Everything is different here," said Lorna. "The houses and the roads are bigger." Both thought it was very warm here.

They were also surprised by the food. "You know it seems that everything we do revolves around food," said Maria. "They weren't used to seeing so much food, either."

Lorna and Yvonne have formed a friendship here. "I really enjoyed just being here," said Yvonne. "We will get together again at a reunion in Northern Ireland."

Host families are also welcome to attend that reunion in October. "We're hoping to be able to get there. We're responsible for plane fare, but they provide hotel rooms for us," said Maria.

Monetary donations and host families are always welcomed by the CFPNI program. For more information, visit their website at www.cfpni.org.



FOR THE POST/M.B. GILLIGAN

Maria Carr, left, is hosting Irish teenagers Yvonne Kerr and Lorna McVerry this summer. Joining them in the Carr family living room were Andrea and Nick Carr.

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