



## **1st Columbia – Tema Sister Cities High School Student Exchange July 21 – August 1, 2016 Overview**

### **SOS International College Student Participants who came to Columbia:**

(students who didn't need visas as they were American or British citizens or got their visa)

1. Jevon Amoah – Ethridge family – arrived July 21 from Accra
2. Isaac Kirk-Koffi – Crosby family – arrived July 21 from Accra
3. Omar Mwinila-Yuori – Carter family – arrived July 21 from Connecticut
4. Rexford Essilfie – Druffel family – arrived July 23 from Accra

**SOS International College Chaperone:** Shadrack Mensah (stayed with Laura Smit)

### **Host Families:**

Lisa & Jay Ethridge, son Jacob, daughter Alexandra  
Lisa Harbour Carter, two sons, Cameron and Camden  
Michele & Garland Crosby, son, Garland  
Karen & John Druffel, sons, Kyle & Ryan

**Denial of Visas:** Six students and the original chaperone, Mr. Yambilla were denied visas by the U.S. Consulate in Accra. It seems that SOS College started the visa process very late and the staff person in charge of getting visas was not given the information until the last minute. We don't know why the Consulate denied the visas of the 6 students.

### **Students who were not able to come to Columbia as they were denied visas\*:**

1. Kojo Armah
2. Tsitsi Mabangure
3. Jean Nishimwe
4. Emmanuel Bimpong
5. Anthony Asare
6. Anthonia Asare

\*We had found host families for ten students. These students were all very disappointed.

**Schedule:** Due to the issues with denial of visas and late arrival, the Tema students missed the Washington, D.C. and Hershey Park day trips planned for the French & Spanish groups; 3 students were able to go to Ocean City, and all 4 went to New York and Baltimore. We had two excellent tours of Howard University and University of MD, College Park

*See schedule on other side.*



**Tema - Columbia Student Exchange Schedule  
July 21 – August 1, 2016**

**Thurs, July 21:** Arrival of Isaac Kirk-Koffi and Jevon Amoah with Shadrack Mensah at Dulles; Arrival of Omar Mwinila-Yuori by train from NYC.

**Friday, July 22:** 8:00 am – 12 midnight Ocean City Day Trip

**Sat, July 23:** Arrival of Rexford Essilfie at Dulles; Evening Welcome Party at Larson Family home in Ellicott City

**Sun, July 24:** Free day

**Monday, July 25:** 8am – 12 midnight – New York City Day Trip

**Tues, July 26:** 2pm – 11pm - Baltimore Day Trip and Orioles Baseball Game

**Wed, July 27:** Howard University tour, visit to White House & Martin Luther King Memorial, University of Maryland, College Park tour

**Thurs, July 28:** Free day

**Fri, July 29:** Columbia Treasure Hunt starting at CA, ending at Hopewell Pool

**Sat, July 30:** Free day

**Sun, July 29:** Evening Goodbye Party at Druffel house

**Mon, Aug 1 pm –** Departure of students to Accra, Connecticut and Atlanta