



THE JOURNEY OF TERRY G.

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange
High School Alumnus, 1985-1986
Deputy Director, Housing and Development Dept., City of Tucson, AZ

Terry's CBYX experience prompted a passion for community-based work.

Terry grew up in a small town in Iowa and enjoyed activities like Model UN and Russian language courses. He learned about CBYX from his high school counselor.

When Terry first arrived in Germany, he felt overwhelmed by the challenges of learning a new language and navigating a new school in a different country.

To adapt to these new challenges, Terry became involved in his German community, built strong relationships with his host family and classmates, and grew more confident and outgoing.

With a deeper interest in other cultures, Terry majored in Global Studies with an emphasis on Latin America at the University of Iowa.

After two years volunteering with the Catholic Church in Mexico, Terry now manages programs to promote affordable housing for thousands of families in Arizona. He believes his passions for multiculturalism and community-centric work originated from his CBYX experience.

Twenty-five years after participating, Terry is in touch with German friends. His own passion for the exchange led to one of his daughters participating in CBYX.

When I first got there, I was like, 'Wow, what have I done?'

Having that experience of living in Germany gave me that global perspective. I felt like a world citizen after the year abroad.

Every step of my life has been tied to that [CBYX] experience."

I'm still in touch with my host mother, with my best friends from Germany. It's those personal relationships more than anything that I really have come to cherish.