THE EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING, COMPLEMENT TO THE EFL CLASSROOM

Bárbara B. de Gómez

For 25 years the Experiment in International Living in Mexico has sent students of English to live in homes abroad. Most of these have been English speaking homes in the United States, Canada or England. The result of a homestay lasting three weeks to a month for students who have studied at least a year in an English language institute is that their fluency increases tremendously and the fear of speaking disappears. Also the motivation to continue learning English after such personal experiences is immensely heightened. All of this means that a teacher at an English language institute with students who have had an Experiment experience finds these students extremely easy to teach, and their attendance is very regular.

Because of these positive results and the Experiment's long experience in placing people, young and old, in families, either in group or in individual programs, the project is one that might well be promoted by teachers of English who could consider the Experiment a true complement to academic classes.

The Experiment's program can take place any time of the year. English teachers could send likely candidates to the National Office which is located at Varsovia 44-602, México 6, D. F., Tel. 533-3825. There are partial scholarships available for group programs to the United States and Canada.

Aside from the Mexico City office, the Experiment has 62 Representatives in as many communities in the Republic. Therefore the organization, aside from sending people to live in homes abroad, is in an excellent position to receive people from other countries and give them the opportunity to live with Mexican families. In fact, it hopes to have the opportunity to do this for some of the TESOL delegates who will come to Mexico next Spring for the important TESOL convention.