Kendallville area residents invited to meet Italian group

In just over four weeks, a group of Italians from the Turin area will arrive in Kendallville to spend nine days with host families.

When they leave on April 14

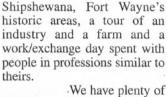
they won't say goodbye. The Italians and the 10 host families will say "Ciao" which means "See you later" in Italian.

"See you later" because the Italians and their Kendallville-area hosts will be reunited in June 2008 — in Italy when the Italians welcome Hoosier hosts.

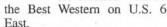
Area residents who would like to meet these Italians — who are involved in professions such as dentistry, social work, law, engineering and computer programming are invited to a "Meet and Greet" at 4 p.m. Monday, April 9, hosted by the Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce. At that time members of the CIAO (Creating Italy/Indiana Adventures Opportunities) group will tell a little about themselves and Kendallville Mayor Suzanne Handshoe and people involved in Noble County tourism will give an official welcome.

Prior to that, at 3 p.m., Terry Housholder, president of KPC Media Group Inc., will conduct a walking tour of Kendallville's historic Main Street.

Other activities and destinations the CIAO group will enjoy are the Mid-America Windmill Museum, Maplewood Nature Center, Easter services at Notre Dame,



host families, but if anvone would like to help out with the driving to any of the events (and participate in the tour or please activity) contact me. It's always nice to have a few extra volunteers and it allows the Italians to meet more local people. Every day the pick up/drop off location will be



HOUSHOLDER

How did CIAO come about? One day while enjoying together in hometown of Ivrea, Italy, Cathy Linsenmayer and her friend Gloria Defillippi said simultaneously, "Why do the kids have all the fun?" The two AFS volunteers have spent many years arranging for Italian students to go abroad with AFS and for foreign students to come to Italy with AFS.

Several months later when Cathy was at her summer home on Sylvan Lake, she and I were talking and the same question came up: "Why do the kids have all the fun?"

That gave birth to CIAO. "Ciao" is Italian for there!" "Welcome," "How's it going?" or "See you later." Cathy and I came up with that name through a series of emails after she returned to Ivrea in northern Italy, near Turin.

Cathy, who has relatives in

Fast Facts

WHO: 13 Italians (mainly adults) from the Turin area

WHAT: CIAO - Creating Indiana/Italy Adventure Opportunities

WHEN: April 5-14 for the Italians in Indiana: late June 2008 for the Hoosiers in Italy

WHY: A low-cost fun way to meet new friends and learn about another culture.

WHERE: The Italians will stay with 10 host families in the Kendallville area and the host families will stay in the homes of the Italians.

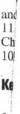
AFS: Most of the Italian CIAO participants have connections with AFS, the world's oldest international student exchange organization. AFS was founded in Italy 60 years ago.

Fort Wayne, is an American. Her work took her to Italy at the end of the 1980s where she has lived since then. She and her husband Antonio bought a home on Sylvan Lake three years ago and they come here during the summer. Cathy's mother Carolyn Linsenmayer is volunteer at the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial on Sylvan Lake.

I urge area residents to try to attend the "Meet and Greet" at Kendallville Chamber and/or consider being volunteer driver and joining us in one of our activities.

Call me at 347-0738 or e me graceh@kpcnews.net if you would like more information.

Ciao!



To

Big

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