



Elizabeth Francis (Porritt)



1949-1953

In 1953, Elizabeth was one of the first high school students to receive an American Field Service Scholarship that allowed her to study overseas for a year. During school, Elizabeth had always wanted to take part in something other than day to day school work, and the opportunity to apply for an AFS scholar seemed like the perfect thing for her.

When Elizabeth returned, she and a few other AFS recipients helped to set up the first official AFS organisation in New Zealand in 1955. Throughout her lifetime Elizabeth has been continually involved in AFS, including being part of the North Shore AFS committee for over 30 years, and being on the National Board of AFS from 1989-1996. One of Elizabeth's proudest moments is being awarded the Galatti award in 1999. The Galatti award is awarded to volunteers worldwide who have given outstanding service.

Although she is now 81 years old, Elizabeth is still doing her part for AFS. Her children and grandchild have all taken part in AFS, and Elizabeth still keeps in contact with her host brothers and sisters.

“Work hard and concentrate because there is always an awful lot to learn. Not just school work, but other things that you need to be aware of worldwide because the world is changing so rapidly.”