

Festival goes global

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MUSIC, prizes, dancers, polka Masses, politicians, friends, kielbasa, and art exhibitions.

What more can one ask from this year's 13th annual Lagrange Street Polish Festival, scheduled for 1-10 p.m. tomorrow and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday?

How about visitors from Poland?

That's a simple request from sponsors of the annual event, held in Toledo's Polish Village, which is expected to attract some 65,000 festival-goers of all cultures.

This year, 11 students visiting from Poland, a country of about 39 million, will be on hand to partake in the festival's first-ever Friday kick-off event scheduled at 6:30 tonight at the Ohio Theater, 3114 Lagrange St. A film titled, *Passports to Poland*, will be shown. There is a \$3 cover charge.

The students, ages 14-16, who hail from Lowiez and Poznan — Toledo's Polish sister city — will also be involved in the festival's opening ceremonies scheduled for 1 p.m. tomorrow.

"We want to make the Polish Festival more Polish and linked to Poland," says



From left, Rob Szczublewski, Terry Glazer, Akadiusz Wolinski, Ewa Skrzypczak, Beth Kozbial, and John Henry Fullen, unfurl Polish flag in preparation for festival opening.

John Henry Fullen, head of Toledo Sister Cities International, which spearheaded the students' Toledo visit.

The street festival, considered to be the largest in northwest Ohio, is sponsored by the Lagrange Development Corp. The 76th annual St. Hedwig Church Festival runs simultaneously.

Sister Cities and the Studies Center

are operating a month-long summer school, headed by Beth Kozbial, to teach the Polish students the English language, along with 10 student visitors from Hungary. Twenty-six Toledo students of the same age group act as ambassadors and English conversation partners for the foreign guests.

Terry Glazer, the corporation's execu-

tive director, says that in addition to the students from Poland, the two-day festival traditionally attracts Polish-Americans from all over the United States.

"A lot of them are people who used to live in the neighborhood," he said. "They want to come back for the festival to see old friends and to see how the neighborhood has changed and grown."