



Charlotte Host Family Program
Cross Cultural Friendship

**Connecting
International
students and
American
Families**



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**International Students
& Scholars**



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Overview



This program exists to connect international students, or scholars, studying in Charlotte with an American family for the purpose of friendship. This developing friendship will help provide support to the international student and an opportunity for a great cross cultural experience for the student and the family. For many students and families this experience results in long lasting friendships.

History of Charlotte International student/Host Family Program

This program began forty years ago in Charlotte involving students from four colleges and universities in the area. Since the majority of the students were attending the University of North Carolina Charlotte, it became under the direction of the UNCC International Students & Scholars Office.

How does it work?

International students requesting an American host family are assigned a host family living in the Charlotte metro area. These families have gone through a training orientation and will commit to being a host family to their student for one or two school terms(4-8 months).

The host family (may be a family or a single person) will initiate with their student by inviting them to meet for dinner or some event like a ball game or movie, etc. The host family agrees to do something for or with their student at least every 4 or 5 weeks. For a student there is no cost. For a host family there's a yearly fee of \$10.

What are the Benefits?

This is a great opportunity for international students to practice their English. The host family is also there to help the student when needed - such as finding a bank, a grocery store, a cell phone store, and other needs a new person has.

The host family can also provide transportation at times, as well as invite their student to a variety of cultural experiences: museums, parks and houses of worship. The student may want to cook a meal from their country for their host family. This is not a live-in situation but is simply building a mutual friendship of love and respect.

As Wattaka Siipitura, a student from Thailand said about his host family: "Your home has become a kind of lighthouse for me"

How do I sign up?

I'm an international student requesting an American Host Family: www.hostfamilyprogram.org, click on UNCC, download & complete student form, send form to name and address at bottom of form or contact UNCC International Student & Scholars Office intisso@uncc.edu 704 687-7781. **I'm an American family/single wanting to be a Host Family:** Follow the same procedure above, except download a Host Family form.

IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THESE KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS FAR BETTER SERVE THE PURPOSE OF WORLD PEACE THAN THE EFFORTS OF ALL THE PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS OF THE WORLD - Host Family Guidelines Booklet