International Outreach at Home

You don’t have to be a big church with a huge budget to make a difference in the lives of young people from other countries, studying in our nation’s colleges and universities, a long way from home. Whether the students need a place to go during the holidays, or simply want to make American friends and learn about our culture, students begin signing up for Christmas International House (CIH) in September.

Some churches will host 10-20 students in members’ homes. Some will host just a handful. Some programs like Atlanta, GA bring many churches together in mission to do what one church alone cannot.

There is no need for an expensive mission trip when the world comes to your city – just open your doors!

In 2017, 50 students attended 9 National CIH programs. This was a low for us as we have averaged between 100-250 students annually over the last 10 years. This could be due to the absence of a National Director and we are pleased to announce that Rev. Irene Wong began as National CIH Director in August 2017. Since then, we’ve been revitalizing our CIH programs by launching a new website, logo, and promotional materials. We are excited and looking forward to growing our programs, establishing new ones, and hosting more international students in 2018.

FROM AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICE:
Most of my exchange students have been utilizing the CIH program for many years. All have returned with wonderful memories and experiences. To quote a few: “I have found my second Mom”, “I was invited back for the next break.” The CIH family consists of extraordinary folks who deeply care about their fellow human beings! CIH is a wonderful addition and extension to our program and I am grateful for its existence.

Sabine M. Eastham
Director of International Student Programs
Lindsey Wilson College, KY
"This year Christmas is best ever because I could experience American culture." — Mami from Japan

"I enjoyed the happy time with all the group ... and I also enjoyed time with my host family. We decorated the Christmas tree and we cooked together. It was a very wonderful time." — Mengyuan from China

TWO WEEKS DURING CHRISTMAS
The dates for 2018-2019 CIH are December 18 – January 1 or 2. You can offer a 1 or 2-week program. Students will pay for their transportation to and from your city, and you provide a place to stay in homes and meals. Some programs collect a local fee to cover admission costs to theme parks or museums, transportation, outside meals, and some do not. Some programs keep their students on a schedule from morning through dinner, and others let the students do whatever their hosts do. You decide how your program will be run and how many students you will take. The National Office will provide support, guidance, and resources for new programs as well as mentoring from experienced program directors.

# Students from Countries:
Japan – 20
China – 12
Australia, India, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Russia, Taiwan, Tibet & Vietnam – 1 each

# Students from Schools:
Purdue U – 4
Agnes Scott – 2
Georgia Tech – 2
Howard U – 2
U. MI – 2
Ashland U, Bowling Green State, Illinois
Wes. U., Jacksonville State, Notre Dame
Coll of MD, PA State U, Randolph-Macon
Women’s Coll, U Central MI, U MN,
U Pikeville, Yale - 1 each

"I didn’t go to church in Japan but now I know the church is a very good place for me because I have no family here and no friends in Atlanta before but now I could meet many good people in church. And it was very good time.” — Mikio from Japan

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