Who — YOU!

The International Programs Office works to get as many International students in communication with a family in the community. No matter what your interest, we will find the perfect family for you while you stay at Linfield College.

“Crowded with warm hearted people from around the world and filled with all sorts of interesting displays from different countries, I am assured this is my home away from home.”

-An International Student-

Housing

Even if you are matched with a friendship family, you will remain on campus in the on-campus housing dorms or suburbs during your stay at Linfield College. Your friendship family is not obligated to provide a room for you during holidays or school breaks. If your family invites you to spend the night at their home, you are encouraged to enjoy this special time with them.

Website: http://www.linfield.edu/ipo/elcp/messages/friendship-family-program.html

For more information or to request an application, please contact Program Coordinator: Shannon Dunn 503-883-2381 or sdunn@linfield.edu.

She is available to speak to community groups or schools, any time during the day or evening and can bring a couple of students with her.

Apply Now

What you need to apply:

First and foremost — be willing to share your life with another, which means

• Opening your heart to a stranger
• Having a compassionate and open-minded attitude.
• Be willing to grow in your understanding of the world.
• Having a delightful time with a friendship family!

Second, you need to fill out an application to be submitted to the International Programs Office. This ensures a good match with your friendship family.

Linfield College
THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
900 SE BAKER STREET, BOX A472
MCMINNVILLE, OR 97128

P: 503.883.2222
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Information presented in this flier is subject to revision. (6/15)
Here’s what Families are saying:

**Sagers Family**

The Sagers family, including John, Wendy and their sons Thomas and Robert, has been a friendship family for ten years, and made friends with ten different students - seven from Japan, two from Hong Kong, one from South Korea, and one from mainland China. “We feel it enriches our family,” says John and Wendy. “We both lived overseas after college and appreciated the people who took time to befriend us. We enjoy celebrating holidays together, eating together on 3rd Street in MAC, and introducing them to charity fundraisers.” Thomas, 12 years old, thinks being a friendship family is “awesome, because the students are nice.” Robert, 14 years old, says, “It’s really fun. I really like teaching the international students about our culture and learning about theirs.”

**Drickey Family**

Linfield Associate Dean Nancy Drickey and her husband Ron are also long-time Friendship Families. “We treasure our experiences with Linfield international students. Each student we bring into our home helps us appreciate other cultures and traditions. It is surprising how much we learn from the students. We look forward to our times together which are usually spent cooking, going out to eat, shopping or attending concerts or other Linfield events. We know they appreciate having someone care about them and provide help when needed, especially as it gives them a sense of belonging to a family when they are so far from home.”

**Harris Family**

The Harris Family, Gennie and Bryan, began having friendship family students when their children were five and seven. It has been a highlight for the whole family. Their first friendship student still visits them every year when she is in the U.S.! Linfield Professor Gennie Harris’ son Ethan, age eight, says, “It’s good to know and see other people’s cultures.” Her daughter, Emerson, age ten, says “It doesn’t matter what culture they’re in; they can always be your friend.” Gennie and Bryan say that their biggest enjoyment has come from family activities: cooking, baking, decorating the Christmas tree, playing Wii, and the like. Students have really enjoyed children and pets. Harris’ says, “It’s also very gratifying to help students when they are homesick or have their cell phone disappear. In other words... being surrogate parents during life crises.”

“About my friendship family, I’m really happy with them. I’ve been at their house a couple of times to have lunch and dinner and for Easter we got together at Barbara’s house to celebrate the day. We had a good time there. We were playing croquet, we had the egg hunting, which was really fun. I have had a great time with them so far.”

-An International Student-

What to expect:

Each year there are friendship families just waiting to see who their international student will be, that’s you! They love being a part of your life and enjoy learning about new cultures, traditions, and customs.

By participating in the friendship family program we hope that you will learn more about the American lifestyle and bring fresh perspectives to your understanding of our culture.

Although you will be living on campus, friendship families stay in contact with you to plan events together. Friendship families take students out to dinner, to an athletic activity, or even just a run to the store. Some families take their international student to church each Sunday; others prefer shopping or taking a trip to the Oregon Coast. International students in the past have said that this experience helps relieve their homesickness.

Students enjoy the relationships they gain with their friendship families and often times thank them by making a dish from their home country.

“The friendship family program is fantastic. We get an opportunity to make life long friendships... They have become like my own family.”

-An International Student-