Students:

Salman Hakim (Pakistan) “This program has helped me in making new friends outside of campus who are very loving and supportive.”

Sonia Zigre (Ivory Coast) “Being in the Friendship Family Program was a great experience. I learned a lot from my family about the culture in the United States & they also learned about life in my country.”

Adib Rahmani (Afghanistan) “I personally appreciate FFP for providing opportunities which can reduce stress of international students & leave a good impression of the US with them after they go back to their home countries.”

Families:

Terri and Ron Prange “Sharing our family life with International students is a rewarding & learning experience on both sides. We meet them as strangers & they soon become part of our family & many remain lifelong friends.”

Gladys Olsen “Mothers’ Day this year gave me a most special glow, with 11 Mothers’ Day cards and 3 trans-Pacific phone calls from international students we had hosted at MSU.”

International Student and Scholar Services
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Elizabeth and Wynn Kearney International Center
Centennial Student Union 250
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-389-1281
E-mail: icservices@mnsu.edu

A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University.

This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling Kearney International Center at 507-389-1281 (V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY).
Friendship Family Program

Would you like to learn more about a different culture from a first-hand perspective?

If so, consider being a part of the Friendship Family Program (FFP). Minnesota State University, Mankato has over 900 international students representing 62 countries. The FFP matches international students with families like yours to build relationships and enhance an understanding of other cultures.

A FFP Family commitments to connecting with the international student they are paired with throughout the semester. This could range as often as once a week, once a month, to a couple times a semester. Oftentimes this semester connection turns into a lifelong friendship.

Goals:
- Allow International students to develop off-campus friendships
- Experience the “American way of life” within homes, families, & the community
- Share cultures and traditions between families and students
- Develop lifelong relationships across the globe

Mission Statement

The Friendship Family Program (FFP) provides support and opportunities designed to assist international students during their adjustment period by connecting them with Friendship Family volunteers in the community.

Things to do with your student:

There are a variety of opportunities & activities in the Greater Mankato area that your student might be interested in attending.

Treat your student as a friend & the friendship will be returned. Here are a few ideas for activities:

- Movies and Plays
- Sports, Cultural, & other special events
- Movies, Shopping, Concerts
- Fishing, Hiking, Camping
- Family Events: Birthdays, Weddings, Graduation
- Holiday/traditional Meals: Cook together or allow students to cook favorite meals

FAQs

What does it cost to participate in FFP?
There is no financial obligations for FFP families. It is your choice, and NOT an expectation if you want to pay entrance fees or other costs for your student for activities you engage in together.

How often am I supposed to meet with my student?
As a Friendship Family it is expected that you engage in some type of activity with your student at least 2-3 times per semester.

How long am I paired with my student?
One semester. FFP families will be contacted and given the option to host another student the next semester.

Does the student live with me?
No, the FFP is not a host program. You may choose to invite your student to stay overnight at your home for special events only.

Do I get to choose if I have a boy or girl student? Where are they from? What their religion is?
Once committing to the FFP, you will fill out an application where you will be able to choose any preferences you may have.

If the student has an issue that I am unsure how to deal with, what do I do?
Please refer them to the advisors available at the Kearney International Center.

How do I join the FFP?
Please email or call the Kearney International Center (contact info on back), you will then be contacted by an FFP representative.