



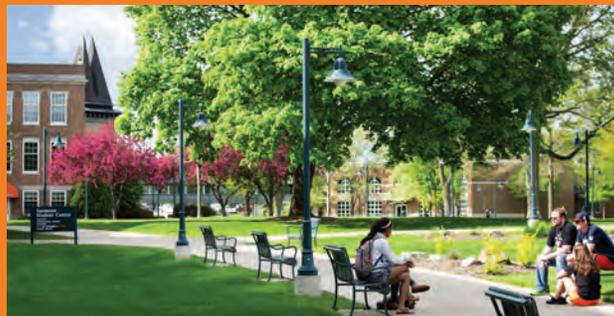
PROGRAM HISTORY

Wartburg's international students have been matched with community members since 1980. The friendship program started with only a handful of participants, but now involves approximately 170 students from 60 countries.

The Friendship Family Program is wonderful for both international students and community members. I got involved in this program because I wanted to provide a home away from home for a student who was coming from far away and may not be able to see their family and loved ones often. I have loved getting to know more about another culture and being able to be there for a student when she needs something.

I think families can really expect to bond with the student; I know families in the program who have children, and it is amazing to see how much the children learn from their student and how much the student learns from the family.

— MALLORY LUENSMANN '07



WARTBURG COLLEGE

Friendship FAMILIES



Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.



FRIENDSHIP FAMILIES

Wartburg College's Friendship Families program is an opportunity to form a lifelong friendship with an international student studying at the college.

The program's mission is to celebrate and embrace diversity and cultural awareness. It also builds a local support system for the students, who are far from their homes and loved ones.

Friendship families are impacted as much as the students and find it rewarding to see how the students grow during their years on campus.

For more information, contact Wartburg's International Student Programs Office at 319-352-8745 or visit www.Wartburg.edu/IntlProg.

WHAT'S EXPECTED

Friendship families help Wartburg College's international students adjust to American culture and the greater Waverly community.

The program centers on interaction such as hosting students for a home-cooked meal, taking them to a show, or attending an on-campus event in which they are involved. Even a simple phone call or email to check in can help establish a family atmosphere for students.

The friendship families and students also gather at Wartburg for program-sponsored events in the fall and spring.

WHAT'S NOT EXPECTED

Friendship families do not house students. There is no financial responsibility; families may choose to cover activity expenses, but most students will have funds available for casual outings.

An international student adviser on campus—not friendship families—assists students with issues such as immigration, finances, and academics. Also, it is illegal to employ a student off campus, even to baby-sit or do chores.



TIPS FOR A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

A successful experience in the program can lead to rewarding relationships.

A little bit of planning and effort can go a long way:

- Friendship families are encouraged to research their student's home country to become aware of potential differences in culture, religion, diet, and time management.
- Ask the student what name to use, and be sure of the pronunciation.
- Take the lead in communication, especially until the student feels comfortable reaching out.
- When discussing current affairs or the student's country, try to be open-minded and refrain from strong positions that could be offensive or alter the nature of the relationship.
- Students may need assistance or desire socialization during breaks in the academic year. Friendship families can help by maintaining more frequent contact during these periods.
- Families may even offer summer storage and rides to the airport.



We wanted to join the Friendship Families program to give our young kids a chance to get to know someone from a different culture. What we got was an amazing friendship that has been mutually beneficial in countless ways. We love learning from Andjelka and having her share in some of our American and family traditions. She finds it relaxing to hang out with kids and comforting to have someone she can count on for support and encouragement. Friendship Families has given us a real and tangible way to connect with the world and make a difference in someone's life.

— MEGAN AND AUSTIN LORENZEN

