

Hosting has given us

the opportunity to incorporate our visitors into our daily operations at home, and allowed us to learn about a different part of the world. The experience has been beneficial and incredibly enjoyable for everyone.

- Arlo and Elsie Monthei

ICIU was created in 1938 to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. Since then, our scope of operation has grown to include a variety of programs and services dedicated to promoting mutual respect and understanding between the people of Iowa and the world.

Iowa Council for
International Understanding

1000 Walnut St., Ste. 1105
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: (515) 282-8269 ext. 12
Fax: (515) 282-0454
E-mail: Deborah.lake@iciu.org

Iowa Council for
International Understanding

HOME
HOSTING
AND THE

COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS
PROGRAM

*A Willingness to Learn
& a Willingness to Share*

Home Hosting

Home hosting is exactly what it sounds like; opening your home to one of our international visitors for a short period of time.

Most home hosting opportunities last two to three weeks; however, hosts are invited to open their homes to visitors for shorter periods of time.

From 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, visitors attend professional appointments throughout the state, meeting with and learning from their professional counterparts discussing themes such as agribusiness, civic participation among young voters, conflict management and NGO development.

During the week, hosts are typically include their guests in their daily routines, provide a light breakfast in the morning and dinner in the evening. Hosts also need to be available to provide transportation for their guests to and from our office at the Hotel Fort Des Moines or live near a public transportation

route where their guest could easier catch a ride to downtown.

On the weekends, hosts are free to plan cultural events for their guest, invite him or her to attend a religious service, take their guest to a ball game, the theater or the mall. Weekends allow hosts the chance to share their American culture and foster long-lasting relationships.

The Community Connections Program

The program is designed to promote public diplomacy through the exchange of cultural ideas and values between participants, U.S. families and local community host organizations.

The Community Connections Program offers home-stay based, long-term practical training opportunities in the U.S. Each program tailors to participants' professional interests and backgrounds by matching entrepreneurs, local government officials, legal

professionals and non-governmental organization leaders to their professional counterparts in the U.S. Participants are chosen from Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

The goals of the Community Connections program are to: provide participants with professional training and exposure to day-to-day functioning of a free market system; encourage public-private partnerships in Europe/Eurasia by including private sector and government participants on U.S. visits; and create links between U.S. and Europe/Eurasia regions and communities.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Community Connections is
funded by
the US Agency for International
Development and
locally administered by
ICIU.



"We build cultural respect at home and around the world one person at a time."