

# Host Family Program 2010-2011



State University of New York at Stony Brook

### *What is the Host Family Program?*

The Host Family Program provides a new international student or scholar with continuing friendship and involvement with a family in the United States. The Host Family Program was developed by a group of community residents in order to offer hospitality to international visitors. Everyone involved has the enriching experience of a cultural exchange and a new perspective about the world.

### *Why Join the Host Family Program?*

Host families are interested in you! They want to share their culture and learn about yours. They have volunteered to meet you and to enrich your experience in the United States. The program offers you the unique opportunity to see American life from the viewpoint of the family rather than observing it from the distance of the campus.

### *Who are the Host Families?*

The host families range from single individuals to young couples with small children, to retirees with grown families. In most families, both adults are working, yet they find time to volunteer in the Stony Brook area's many community organizations. Your hosts are active, involved, caring people eager to help you understand the multi-textured fabric of American society and, to learn about your culture.

### *How Do the Host Families Get Involved?*

Host families would like to share with you the experiences they enjoy as a family. They might invite you for dinners, holiday celebrations, and cultural events, sporting events or family outings. They are there to answer your questions and help you adjust to your new surroundings. **They do not offer financial assistance or housing.** They are there to become your friends.

### *When and How Do I Join?*

You may join the program at any time, but it is best to apply before you arrive so that a family will be assigned to greet you during your first week at Stony Brook. The program lasts for as long as you wish to keep contact with your host family. Often, there are warm ongoing friendships even after you have returned home.

## *How Do You Contact A Host Family?*

Mrs. Rhona Goldman, the Host Family Program Director, will assign you to a host family, matching your interests as closely as possible. Your family will call or write to you to arrange a first meeting. There will be an event during Orientation week so that you can meet your assigned host family.

### *For additional information contact:*

Mrs. Rhona Goldman

Host Family Program Director

Fax: (631) 689-7482

E-mail: [rhonamg@optonline.net](mailto:rhonamg@optonline.net)

Stony Brook Visa and Immigration Services

E5310 Melville Library

Stony Brook, NY 11794-3393

Phone: (631)632-4685

Fax: (631)632-7064

E-mail: [visaandimmigrationservices@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:visaandimmigrationservices@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)

**Please complete the enclosed application form and mail directly to**

**Rhona Goldman**

**Host Family Director**

**E-mail: [rhonamg@optonline.net](mailto:rhonamg@optonline.net)**

**or to:**

**Visa and Immigration Services,**

**E5310 Melville Library,**

**Stony Brook, NY 11794-3393, USA.**