

IHC programs enrich the lives of both international visitors and local residents. The following quotes are from people who have participated in IHC activities.

"Your English class was very useful for me. Before I was unable to say much. Now I can express my feelings. I learned about different cultures and charged some of my stereotypes. I'll go back to my country full of good feelings."

Akin, Turkey

"The IHC Friendship Groups are a valuable forum to get to know women from other cultures, to assimilate into the community and to make new friends. Without a Friendship Group it would have been harder for me and many other international women to meet new people. It continues to have great value for me."

Angelica Pluta, India

"The storeroom was a great resource that helped me when I was settling into this community. It not only gave me things I needed, but also introduced me to warm and hospitable people."

Boon Soon, Korea

"We have made lasting friendships with students from all over the world. In the process, we have learned that people everywhere are essentially all the same. Because we know these people, we also become more aware of current events all over the world as we come to care about the people who live there. We feel that we *get* much more than we give from our friendships with students as bonds are formed with them."

Peggy and Chris, Champaign-Urbana

"I am deeply grateful to you for your kindness. I learned a lot from you and will never forget your hospitality."

Yoko, Japan

IHC OFFICERS

MARY KRUSE & KEACH SASAMORI

Co-Presidents

VIVIENNE MACKIE

Secretary-Treasurer

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Vivienne Mackie

English Classes

Christina Myers

Friendship Groups

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International Friends

Keach Sasamori

Lending Storeroom

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

David Krehbiel Nancy McGlathery

IHC-ISSS LIAISON

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International
Hospitality
Committee

WELCOMING AND CONNECTING
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO
OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
SINCE 1952



For more information, visit our website:

<https://iss.illinois.edu/training-programs/ihc/index.html>



MISSION STATEMENT

The International Hospitality Committee (IHC) is a volunteer organization founded in 1952. IHC offers programs to help University of Illinois international students, faculty, staff and their families during their stay in the Champaign-Urbana community. The goals of the IHC are to promote an enjoyable experience for international visitors, to facilitate their adjustment to their new environment, to aid them in improving their English skills, and to encourage understanding and friendship between local residents and people from other countries.

PARTICIPATION

IHC is composed of community volunteers dedicated to providing a variety of support services for international visitors at the University of Illinois. The organization works in close cooperation with the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office and other university and community groups.

Volunteers are always welcome to participate in any of the activities and programs. There are no fees or dues, but monetary donations are always appreciated.

PROGRAMS

IHC organizes the following programs, all of which are free of charge and may be joined at any time.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

English conversation classes are informal groups of international men and women who meet weekly with volunteer leaders from IHC to gain practical experience speaking English. Contact Vivienne Mackie at vivienne.mackie@gmail.com for more information or if you are interested in leading a group.

FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

Friendship groups are informal groups of Americans and internationals who meet on a regular basis, at least once per month. Through a variety of activities, participants learn more about the local Champaign-Urbana area, share fun and friendship with people from other cultures and practice speaking English. People from all countries are welcome, as well as their children. For more information, contact Christina Myers at ckmyers2@gmail.com.

THE LENDING STOREROOM

The lending storeroom is operated for the benefit of University of Illinois international students, faculty, staff and their families. Various household articles are loaned free of charge to be used as long as needed by these individuals while at least one person is involved with the University of Illinois. The storeroom is located at 2044-A Orchard Street in Urbana. It is open from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. every Saturday. If you have items to donate, please contact Keach Sasamori at keachs@yahoo.com. The IHC welcomes donations of household items in good condition. Please no bedding, clothes, or furniture.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS PROGRAM

The International Friends Program offers new international visitors the opportunity to learn more about American life and culture through shared events and activities: a home cooked meal or dinner out; a concert, play, movie or sports event; a walk in a park; a holiday celebration; a day trip together; or simply a cup of coffee and conversation on campus. Activities can be as casual or as formal as desired and at the convenience of the student and host. A community host can also be a valuable source of information for international students as they adjust to life in a new community.

Participation is open to anyone, married or single, with or without children. Hosting an international student can be a mutually enriching experience. Contact Donna Erickson at donna_erickson@sbcglobal.net.

For more information about any of these programs or to volunteer, visit <https://iss.s.illinois.edu/training-programs/ihc/index.html> or contact the individuals below:

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