When you can’t go into all the world, let the world come to you!

- Do you love teenagers?
- Do you enjoy extending hospitality?
- Do you and your family want to grow closer together as you participate in an international adventure without having to leave home or learn a new language?
- Are you looking for a way to maximize your impact for the Kingdom of God while you live out everyday life?

**YOU** can accomplish all of this simply by hosting an international student through Young Life’s student exchange program...

**AMICUS**

(pronounced á-Me-cus, like amigo)

Amicus is the Latin word for friend. We have chosen this name because an important part of the experience is the friendships that develop. Amicus offers the opportunity to experience another country’s culture and customs by caring for and sharing life with an international teen! It’s a great way to promote intercultural understanding while helping to shape the life of a young person. All in all, hosting an exchange student is an opportunity for growth for the student, host family, high school, local church and the community at large.

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**Offering more than a “roof”, Amicus seeks host families willing to offer loving relationships to international teens.**

**The impact of hosting an Amicus student, by Carla...**

“When I first got the call to be a host family, my first reaction was, ‘No way. We have a lot of other responsibilities right now, finances aren’t great, how can we possibly do this?’ But as I continued praying, it became evident to me that this young man was supposed to be my son for the year. We are not a family of three anymore. We are forever a family of four with Claudio.”

former host mom, Carla

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**Picture your family welcoming an Amicus student as the Charpentier family welcomed Sven.**

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For more information, contact:
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@ 719-381-1823
or, ejessup@sc.younglife.org
How Amicus Works

Amicus carefully selects both host families and exchange students to share an academic school year (10 months). Amicus students must be 16-18 years old, fluent or nearly fluent in English and of sound character. They are good students with above average maturity and they interact well with both their peers and adults. Students are prepared for their year in the States by a volunteer Amicus Representative in their home country.

During the school year, there will be opportunities for Amicus students to be involved in local Young Life and church events. At the end of the year all of the Amicus students for that year are week-long guests at a Young Life camp in the mountains of Virginia. Immediately following camp, they meet together in Washington D.C. for a time of reflection on their year and preparation to re-enter their home cultures. Students return home in late June.

Since 1980, Amicus has 'be-friended' more than 1,500 students from 33 countries. After living everyday life with host families, church, Young Life events and camp experiences, Amicus exchange students return home with an increased awareness of American culture.

Homes Offer Family Living

Amicus students learn American culture through family living. A host family provides room and board, and a ‘home-away-from-home’ atmosphere by their encouragement, counsel and caring. Host families become a bridge of understanding and friendship between two cultures.

‘Adopting’ a son or daughter for a school year provides the day-to-day interaction that can build a foundation of trust and understanding. Students bring supplemental spending money to cover personal expenses. Amicus carries international travel insurance for medical treatment of covered accidents and sickness. Host families are not paid, but can take a tax deduction for hosting.

All kinds of families can and do host exchange students. Some are families with teenagers, some with young kids, some empty-nesters—all are faith-filled families who love teens. As is often the case, the host family that seeks to give, receives more in return. Hosting a student is often the beginning of a lifelong, cross-cultural friendship with the student and his/her family.

Amicus Representatives

Amicus Representatives are trained volunteers who find host families and secure school placements for the students. They serve as personal liaisons for the students, host families and high schools, conducting orientations early in the school year and providing support throughout the year. Representatives have full access to the resources of the Amicus office and Young Life. Many of our host families become Amicus Representatives.

Schools Participate

Schools recognize the positive impact of hosting an exchange student. While exchanges offer foreign students an American experience, they also enable American students to experience the values, attitudes and customs of another country. As new perspectives are shared, all students can gain a more balanced understanding of our world.

Community Involvement

The Amicus international student attracts the attention of the community. By getting acquainted with neighbors, school officials, church and business leaders, an exchange student can serve as a valuable resource for civic, church and professional groups, thereby opening the door to an expanding global community.

“The most meaningful experience was for me to be loved and to love my host family.”
Claudia, Germany former Amicus student