

Host Family Program of Oberlin College

Yes, I am interested in being a **host** for _____ student(s)!

Yes, I am a **student** interested in joining the Host Family Program!

Name:

Address:

Phone and/or email:

Religious institution affiliation (if applicable):

Please return this form to:

*Oberlin College
Multicultural Resource Center
Wilder Hall 105
135 West Lorain Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440.775.8802*

What is the MRC?

The Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) produces, co-sponsors, and supports projects and programs on diversity and multiculturalism at Oberlin College. The purpose of the center is to serve as a resource for students who have been historically disenfranchised from higher education. The MRC works to support students of color, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students as well as address the concerns of low-income, international and first-generation college students.

The MRC is staffed by an Associate Dean/Director, four Community Coordinators, and an Administrative Technician who provide support for students and student organizations, organize and implement academic, cultural, and social programs, and build strong communities as well as work to foster coalitions among communities. The center also provides resources, education and workshops for those generally interested in issues of diversity and multiculturalism, including faculty, staff, and students. At the MRC, the goal is to provide the institutional and administrative structures necessary to support Oberlin's commitment to a diverse social and liberal arts environment.

MRC STAFF

Eric Estes, PhD

Director, MRC & Associate Dean of Students

Barbara Kirby

Administrative Technician

Courtney Patterson

Africana Community Coordinator

Rashné Limki

Asian/Pacific American Community Coordinator

Tamara Serrano

Latino/a Community Coordinator

Andrea Stokes

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Community Coordinator*

HOST FAMILY PROGRAM




*Sponsored by the
Multicultural Resource Center
of Oberlin College*

History

As early as the 1950s, Oberlin College students began forming special relationships with Oberlin families through church attendance and interactions with community people employed by Oberlin College. These relationships provided students with extended families, which strengthened and enhanced their sense of community while away from home.

During the 1960s and 1970s this practice continued to flourish informally between students of African descent and the community. In 1972, college and community representatives met officially to establish a process by which interested Oberlin families could *adopt* an Oberlin college student and form ties throughout their time at Oberlin. This process evolved into the Host Family Program at Oberlin College.

Goals

- ▶ *To Offer students an opportunity to establish extended family relationships throughout the local community.*
- ▶ *To provide family support to students as they make their transition from their home environment to the Oberlin College community.*
- ▶ *To improve retention rates of students of color at Oberlin College and to intensify college-community interaction.*

Participants may explore the following activities:

- ~Family dinners/gatherings
- ~Trips to & from the airport during holiday vacations
- ~Religious/Spiritual gatherings
- ~Social events
- ~Trips to area malls/shopping centers
- ~Trips to Cleveland & surrounding areas
- ~Oberlin College events

Process

Host Families are recruited from the Oberlin College campus and community, Lorain County, and the alumni community throughout Cleveland. Information is made available to both students and potential host Families. The next step includes completing an application, demonstrating interest, to be used for an optimum match between students and families. We strive to assign a family to every student who requests to be a part of the program. Once assignments have been made, a program organized by the Multicultural Resource Center will provide an opportunity for students and host families to meet each other. Once a relationship has been established, activities (in accordance with the goals of the program) are left to the discretion of the student and host family.

Benefits:

Students will gain familial support systems, community networks, an alternate space away from academic and social pressures, opportunities for spiritual and cultural growth.

Host families will provide positive influence and guidance that will strengthen the bonds with their students and within the community.