



Host Family Commitments

The goal of the Host Family experience is to expose Fellows to a household which is Christ-centered and is willing, amidst daily challenges, joys and failures, to share its experiences with them. The Fellow should be accepted into the household as a contributing member of that body, as distinct from being either a boarder or a member of the family.

- **A Host Family offers its home as a gift to God and the Muncie Fellows program.** The Fellows are the recipients of these gifts and should wisely steward them. A host family provides a Fellow with his/her own bedroom and allows the Fellow to participate in family life. A Host Family opens up its home, giving up extra living space, food and utilities to a Fellow for the duration of the program.
- **A Host Family shouldn't treat the Fellow as simply a boarder, or allow the Fellow to treat the Host Family home as only a place to sleep.** The Host Family should involve the Fellow in family celebrations, fun experiences, and daily life. Fellows should be included in family meals at the home. One night of the week the Fellow will commit to participating fully in any family activities that might be going on. That night the Fellow will have no outside professional, programatic or personal commitments. The goal is to end the year with a strong, loving and permanent relationship between the Fellow and the Host Family.
- **The Host Family and the Fellow should discuss household rules during the first week of the program.** Each family has their own culture, habits, idiosyncrasies and rules. Fellows should respect family rules and privacy, conducting themselves with the highest moral and ethical standards. Host families and Fellows should have open and regular conversations about the partnership, being willing to gracefully address areas of conflict and work towards a resolution.
- **Host Families create a welcome environment for Fellows.** Within that environment, families can expect Fellows to contribute to the well-being of the household. Fellows are responsible for keeping their rooms and bathroom facilities clean and orderly, taking out their trash and cleaning up their own dishes. Beyond that, Fellows and families are encouraged to establish an additional way the Fellow can contribute weekly to the general upkeep and positive climate of the household.
- **Host Families are in a position to mentor and teach a young Christian adult in a way that will affect his/her life forever.** Host Families should communicate clearly with the Fellow, not relying on body language, jokes or innuendo. The Fellow is living in the Host Family home in order to learn how to rely fully on the Lord in family relationships, to die to self and to participate in family life. A Host Families willingness to lead the Fellow through mentoring in family relationships may be one of the most impactful parts of their Fellows experience.
- **Host Families should regularly pray for their Fellow.**