



## Our Vision

AMIS strives for a more peaceful, welcoming, and connected world through international friendship. Our motto is, “Walk together, talk together, all you nations of the world, only then shall we have peace.”

## Our Mission

AMIS promotes cultural and global understanding through friendship and hospitality with international undergraduate and graduate students and scholars in the greater Atlanta area.

## Our Impact

International Students in the metro Atlanta area number around 16,000 each year and they are future global leaders in technology, culture, and innovation in the US and around the world. For 45 years, AMIS has been a nonprofit ministry of friendship and hospitality, welcoming international students and scholars to Atlanta and connecting them with local volunteers in the community for friendship and cultural exchange.

In 2022-2023, we served 520 international students. Of these, 480 attended at least one AMIS event, 190 participated in two or more ways, and 140 were matched through the Amigo Friendship Program. In the same year, 190 volunteers were involved with AMIS including 150 who came to at least one AMIS event and 75 who served as Amigo Friendship volunteers.

## Identified Challenges

1. **Time** – limited for students and volunteers
2. **Transportation** – most students don't have a car, volunteers live in the suburbs
3. **Connection** – keeping participants engaged
4. **Staffing and Budget** – limited funds limit staff hours

## AMIS Benefits for International Students

- They get to know local Americans and gain a deeper and positive understanding of American culture.
- They are connected with other international students who are experiencing similar challenges of adjusting to a new environment and culture.
- They are supported during a time of transition, stress, and loneliness.
- Their emotional and social needs are met so that they can focus on their education and graduate. They also gain cultural awareness that prepares them to enter American life and the workforce for those who stay in the US.



**ALFREDO, A GSU STUDENT FROM PERU SAID, "THE FRIENDSHIP THAT I FORGED THROUGH THE AMIGO PROGRAM GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO BE ABLE TO BE IN A COUNTRY WHERE I HAD NO FRIENDS. I WAS ALSO ABLE TO OVERCOME SOME TABOOS ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE AND TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT."**

## AMIS Benefits for Volunteers

- They get to know someone from a different country and learn about new cultures, expanding their global perspectives and understanding.
- They can practice hospitality by welcoming someone new to this country.
- They share knowledge and life skills with future leaders.
- They make a difference in a young person's life.



**CAMILLE KESLER SAYS, "MY FAMILY LOVES THE PROGRAM... IT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL BLESSING TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND TO HAVE A TINY IMPACT ON THE WAY THEY VIEW AMERICANS AND OUR COUNTRY."**

## 2023-2028 Strategic Objectives

1. Re-focus Amigo Friendship Program to offer tiered levels of engagement for both students and volunteers i.e. Coffee Break, Short Stay, Year-long.
2. Enhance relationships with students, volunteers, and donors.
3. Re-focus AMIS events to optimize outcomes and minimize transportation challenges.
4. Ensure adequate staffing and leadership to carry out these initiatives.
5. Increase annual revenues to sustain these initiatives (additional \$60k a year).