



For Immediate Release

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Rev. Irene Wong

678-777-7508

irene@amis-inc.org

www.amis-inc.org

International Students During COVID-19

AMIS connects them with friends in Atlanta

- AMIS helps international students who are stranded during COVID-19
- 16,000 international students and scholars were in metro Atlanta before the pandemic - estimates are that [90 percent](#) stayed (across the US).
- International students contribute [\\$41 billion](#) to US, state and local economies.

Atlanta, GA -- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, AMIS has supported the many international college and university students who stayed in Atlanta after all the institutions closed and asked their students to leave the campuses. While most American students were able to return home, many international students were not able to leave due to travel restrictions or concerns about whether they would be able to re-enter the US to continue their studies at a later date.

AMIS volunteers, like Susan Davidson, reached out to the international student friends who she met through AMIS's Amigo Friendship Program, which connects Atlanta international college and university students with local American friends. She contacted Gigi, a Georgia State University (GSU) student from Ecuador, and Alya, a Master's degree business student at GSU from Egypt. Susan said, "I'll continue to reach out to them since they are concerned about their families back home. I can only imagine how stressful it is to be so far from home during a global pandemic."

During the stay-at-home orders, Gigi, who was unable to travel home for a summer visit to Ecuador, received a jigsaw puzzle from AMIS that she completed during quarantine. She also joined "AMIS Student Talks" through Zoom, which gave international students the opportunity to support each other and share experiences. Gigi said, "It really means a lot to me you are caring about all of us."

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AMIS (the French word for "friends") is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has been serving Atlanta for over 40 years. Our mission is to promote global understanding through friendship and hospitality with international students in the greater Atlanta area. Each year we welcome and connect hundreds of international students with local American friends in the community through our programs and events such as the Amigo Friendship program, local tours and hikes, Thanksgiving, and Christmas International House. We partner with many Atlanta area churches, Kiwanis Clubs, community groups, international student offices, and over 200 volunteers and donors each year to support 16,000 metro Atlanta international students and scholars. Learn more at www.amis-inc.org.