



# Borderless Friends Forever Fact Sheet

## MISSION STATEMENT

Borderless Friends Forever promotes world peace through cultivating opportunities for cultural and educational exchanges. These exchanges allow people to learn more about each other's core values. We bring the international traveler and the host family together to create meaningful relationships through which we celebrate our differences and similarities.

## THE BFF WAY

### ***Personal Attention***

*Recent studies have shown that the bonds of friendship that develop during a hosting experience help students grow in their understanding and appreciation of diversity and lead to an increase in tolerance. We dedicate ourselves to fostering those relationships through one-to-one meetings, group events, and consistent check-ins to ensure a positive experience for all parties.*

### ***One-on-One Support***

*Communication is critical to understanding each other's perspectives in different situations and to solve misunderstandings. Our community advisors will support the host parent(s) and exchange students during the exchange. The relationship with your CA will be valuable as you and your student navigate the hosting experience.*

### ***The Team***

*BFF has a long track record of success. Our dedicated advisors are embedded in communities nationwide to provide each program participant with a safety net of support. Many team members started as cultural exchange students, advisors, or hosts themselves, and their work is as much a calling as a job. BFF supports host families, students, and natural families every step of the way.*



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## CREDENTIALS

- The US Department of State designates BFF as a sponsor program.
- The IRS recognizes BFF as a public not-for-profit educational exchange organization.
- The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) grants full standing to BFF.

## ORGANIZATION

With the national office located in Cary, NC, BFF maintains a network of dedicated and trained community advisors in communities throughout the United States who provide program services at the local level to participants, host families, and schools. Community advisors and the national office are committed to providing the best possible exchange experience to participants, host families, and schools. What sets us apart from other organizations is that we require our community advisors to see our students in person each month. This BFF standard is well above the minimum the US Department of State puts forth. It is necessary to build a strong relationship with our students and families, as the strength of this relationship allows for program effectiveness.

## PROGRAMS

### ***US High School/Homestay Exchange Program***

Students ages 15 to 18 ½ spend one semester or one academic year in the US, living with a volunteer host family, attending high school, and participating in extracurricular and community activities.

### ***Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES Program) & Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX Program)***

BFF is proud to be a YES and FLEX scholarship program placement organization! Students ages 15 to 18 from more than 35 countries with significant Muslim populations (YES Program) and more than 15 countries across Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia spend one academic year living with an American host family while attending high school. The US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds these two programs. Students receive scholarships to participate in the program, which includes enhancement activities to develop their leadership potential. Program alums return home galvanized and inspired to share their new experiences and positively impact their home countries and communities.