Bring the world into your living room...

... become a friendship family for a Colby-Sawyer College international student

For more information and application, please contact:

**CSC International Student Advisor**
Cindy Benson
cbenson@colby-sawyer.edu
603-526-3719

**Friendship Family Board Members:**
Marsha Johnson  marnam@tds.net
Nancy Allenby njallenby@aol.com
Patti Durkin  pjaptd@tds.net
Bob & Vicki Meck  vmecki@comcast.net
Linda Miller  lmiller@tds.net

Winner of the 2012 CSC Town Award

Duong Nguyen, CSC ’11, with her Friendship Family, Bruce & Marsha Johnson at Commencement 2011

Anurup Upadhyay, CSC ’15, with his Friendship Family, Don & Nan Kaplan

Kay Thwe Aung, CSC ’15, with her Friendship Family, Kelley Perron
Friendship Family Program

The goal of the Friendship Family Program is to promote cultural exchange between students and American Friendship Families, so both parties learn and grow from the relationship. Participants are not asked to provide housing for students, only friendship and support as students adjust to a new culture so far away from home. The idea to formalize the program was suggested to the college by Marsha Johnson ’59.

Colby-Sawyer College currently has more than 100 international students from 30 different countries and plans to welcome 50 more in the Fall of 2012. Each international student is matched with a Friendship Family from the area. Friendship Families offer many types of support to international students, from welcoming them into their homes and families and taking them sight-seeing, to meeting students’ more practical needs such as providing occasional transportation to the bus stop or shopping center. Friendship Families are invited to attend programs on campus as well, including the International Festival, Senior Awards and Graduation. They also participate in off-campus picnics, dinners and other events throughout the year.

Today 80 families participate in the program and as a group were awarded the 2012 CSC Town Award at Commencement for their contribution to the college.

Hang Nguyen, CSC ’14, with her Friendship Family, Ken & Linda Miller.

“The rewards of being a friendship family range from expanding one’s understanding of the world to discovering a new & valuable friend. These cross-cultural friendships can ultimately contribute to world peace & understanding.”

“[My friendship family] does more than merely welcome me, but like my real family who cares about me and loves me from their hearts. I feel so lucky to have my second home away from home.”

(Hang Nguyen, CSC’14, Vietnam)

“My friendship family was there to pick me up from the bus station on a rainy day when I first arrived in New London; they were there to watch my drum performance during the International Festival last year, and I am with them during Thanksgiving every passing year. Their place is my home in America.”

(Pengxiang Ding, CSC’14, China)

“We and our extended family enjoy having Julia and Melinda at our Thanksgiving gatherings. Everyone in the family looks forward to learning more about our international guests and their customs. They have treated us with some of their national foods, which we all like. In all, these students enrich our lives and ask very little in return. It is our pleasure to serve as their Friendship Family.”

(Bill & Pam Spear, Friendship Family for Ye Zhu, CSC ’12, China & Melinda Nystrand CSC ’15, Sweden)