



## **HOST FAMILIES GUIDELINES**

Thank you for your interest in being a host family to the Shinshinim! Our goal is for each shinshin to be placed in a warm, loving and Jewish home. Ideally, each family would host a shinshin somewhere between 8-12 weeks so each shinshin will live with a total of up to 5-6 host families throughout the year. It is preferable that shinshinim stay with American host families in order for the shinshin to have the opportunity of a complete immersion experience in the American culture and life.

Per other communities that have had the shinshinim program, hosting a shinshin has had a tremendous impact and has proved to be a wonderful experience not only for the host family but for the shinshinim as well.

A family who is interested in being a host family will have to fill out an application and provide copies of the host parents' valid driver licenses to run a background check. We will conduct an interview at their house and do a tour/inspection of the "to be" accommodations of the shinshin.

The Shinshin should be considered as part of your family. As host parents you are caregivers making sure that your shinshin is properly housed, fed, and protected from harm. There are a few requirements that need to be met in order to be a host family:

- The shinshin will have a dedicated bedroom that is not used for other family needs (i.e. TV or computer room). A dedicated bathroom is not required. A room in the basement will be allowed as long as there is an accessible exit from the basement.
- Each shinshin will have a car so a parking space will be required (street parking is fine).
- Shinshinim will not be placed in homes with teens of the opposite sex, more specifically we are referring to juniors/seniors in high school who are closer in age to the shinshinim.
- It is desired that all family members have time to dedicate to spending time with the shinshinim and each other i.e. regular family meals, family activities, etc.
- At least one host parent shall always be in town while shinshin is staying at their home. If all adults from the host family will be away from their home overnight, the program supervisor will make alternate overnight arrangements for the shinshinim.
- The following topics should be actively discussed shortly upon arrival at the Host Family home as these are typically the areas in which expectations may be unknown or vary: cleanliness of bedroom and common areas, food and meals, laundry usage, showering, schedules, curfews, guests, etc.
- Host families are responsible for providing food.

If you have any questions, need more information or if you would like to begin the application process, please contact the Shlichut Program Supervisor:

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