



## INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER for FRIENDS of the INTERNATIONAL CENTER UC SAN DIEGO



### *Calling volunteers to support the service activities of Friends of the International Center*

**Friends of the International Center invites you** to join us in our many and varied volunteering opportunities. We are a unique community service organization that operates in partnership with the International Center at UC San Diego.

**Our focus is people to people** – best summarized by **our missions of hospitality, scholarships and international community**. With increased globalization, top universities must remain attractive to and in support of international students and study abroad programs. The International Center at UC San Diego has played a critical role in this for over 50 years.

**Friends of the International Center membership is** international community-oriented, highly stimulating and forward thinking. Case in point: A number of programs begun, incubated and developed by the Friends have been transferred over the years to the International Center staff, and Friends volunteers continue to provide program support. Friends consists of members from both inside and outside the university community, young and old, men and women, students, those working at careers and retirees from all walks of life.

**Join us as a volunteer and share your talents** in helping to foster a key personal approach to education, peace and understanding for all citizens of this world. As a Friends volunteer, you will feel rewarded and invigorated when you share your time, energy and talents serving our students and scholars and their families while working together with your fellow volunteers.

### *Options for Volunteering with Friends of the International Center:*

Among the activities, programs, and events sponsored by the Friends of the International Center and the International Center itself, there is a wide variety of ways that volunteers can be involved. Whether you would like to make a one- or several-hour per week commitment or a casual “when available” commitment or would like to volunteer for one specific event per quarter or one event per year, either on location on campus or doing some behind-the-scenes work from your home, we have just the right option for you! Your attendance at activities and events, sharing your friendship with others is also valuable and appreciated. The following presents an overview of some of the volunteer activities we, as Friends, host. The programs are listed in the following under the categories of our focus missions of hospitality, scholarships and international community. We welcome you join us and to participate.

To sign up or for more information, please contact by email at <icfriends@ucsd.edu> or leave a voice message at (858) 534-0731 for us to call you.

Check out and bookmark us at our web site at <http://icenter.ucsd.edu/friends>



Friends of the International Center – UC San Diego  
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## *Friends Volunteer Activities - Hospitality:*

### ❖ **Wednesday Morning Coffee:**

▶ Weekly on Wednesdays 10am – noon in International Center lounge and dining room. Come as frequently or as infrequently as your schedule permits.

This is our jewel program. It has our largest group participation with many activities in parallel. It is truly people to people in action!

Socialize with international scholars and visitors and families and lead or participate in activities which include:

- **General Hospitality** – Receive and entertain our Wednesday Coffee guests, welcoming, helping with issues, discussing, exchanging ideas, planning
  - **English conversation table(s)** – Share in free ranging discussions on local area attractions, US lifestyles, news events, US history, theatre, art and more
  - **Crafts** – Participate in a different craft activity each week. Crafts include sewing, jewelry making, knitting, crocheting, needle felting, FIMO sculpting. Maybe you have a craft idea to share or teach.
  - **Mommy/Daddy and Me** – Organized playtime for pre-school children with their parent(s).
    - 10:15am – 10:45am for children less than 24 months
    - 10:55am – 11:40am for children older than 24 months
    - Group potluck lunch on first Wednesdays at noon
- ▶ Once per month 9:30am – 1pm at International Center kitchen and dining room
- **International Kitchen** – Volunteer international chefs cook a lunch based on the customary cuisine of their country. Help in the group cooking and/or enjoy the lunches (\$5.00 per person). A sample of past international kitchen lunches includes Spanish, Italian, Persian, Indian, English tea.

### ❖ **Family Orientation Program:**

▶ First and third Wednesday mornings from 9:15am – 10:45am in the International Center Dining Room and Lounge.

The Family Orientation Program provides an introduction to the International Center and its programs for newly arrived family members of scholars from abroad. Helpful information is shared to welcome them and to assist them with integration into the activities of the International Center, the University and the community at large. A tour of the International Center is also provided.

Each session ends with a warm visit to the in-action Friends Wednesday Morning Coffee programs and an invitation for the newcomers to join right into our varied group activities.

Volunteers lead the Family Orientation Program sessions one Wednesday a month and work in pairs. Scheduling is done in advance.



## ❖ Tuesday Knit-Along with English Conversation:

- ▶ Tuesday afternoons 1pm – 3:30pm at International Center dining room.

Enjoy the company and friendship of international students, scholars and their spouses in an informal social gathering and contribute your personal experiences of life in San Diego. Teach or learn some fun knitting/crocheting projects and help out with the informal English conversation activities too. Projects include individual as well as group creations and, on occasion items are made to benefit the less fortunate in our community.

## ❖ International Cooking Experience Classes:

- ▶ Classes will be held once per month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday from 9:30am to 1:00pm in the kitchen and dining room at the International Center. Minimal charge per session to cover food costs.



These are hands-on cooking classes and instructions for sampler dishes, all made from fresh, natural, local, and seasonal ingredients. Examples of planned dishes include caramelized chipotle chicken with rice, pot roast with roasted vegetables, butternut squash soup and tomato basil soup. The format is a discussion of recipes and ingredients, cooking together and sharing cooking stories, then savoring the flavors of the class creations of the day.

Volunteer as a chef or sign up as a student and be enriched by participating with our international visitors! Part of the emphasis is on allowing our international visiting students to interact with San Diegans and practice English while learning more about our foods and their preparations.

## ➡ *Friends Volunteer Activities - Scholarships:*

### ❖ Resale Shop:

- ▶ Open Monday through Friday during the academic year and on an abbreviated schedule during summer. The Resale Shop is a thrift store located within the International Center complex.

This is the Friends primary fundraising activity for scholarships. Items featured include gently used clothing, books, household and decorative items and many other goods. The Shop is a great place to interact with the campus community.



There are many volunteer opportunities: Staff the shop (usually 3-hour shifts), receive donations, organize and price goods, prepare publicity. Any and all help is much appreciated! Be sure to bring in your donations too!

### ❖ Ethnic Dinners:

- ▶ Two or three times during the academic year at International Center dining room



Delectable ethnic dinners are followed by a related cultural program with proceeds funding scholarships for international education. Past dinners include annual Chinese New Year (not to be missed!), Spanish, Taiwanese, Brazilian, Indian, and Moroccan to name a few.

Help the chef cook, decorate, serve, advertise, register reservations, greet guests. Also be a guest and bring along friends.

#### ❖ **Scholarship Selection Committee:**

- ▶ Meetings in November and April

In 2011-2012 academic year, Friends awarded 45 international scholarships – 31 to undergraduates for study abroad, 10 to graduates (6 domestic and 4 foreign) and 4 to medical students. Friends members on this scholarship selection committee work together combing through student applications and selecting scholarship recipients. You will be in awe at the accomplishments, fields of study and goals of these young students.

#### ❖ **Scholarship Awards Dinner:**

- ▶ Held in May from 6:00pm - 8:30pm at the International Center

A festive gala dinner celebration for our guest scholarship winners. Attendees also include Friends, campus guests and scholarship donors.

Coordinators start planning several months in advance. Volunteers are needed to help organize and plan, shop and cook, set-up and decorate, serve, greet and show our hospitality to our honored scholarship guests. Computer skills are also needed to generate scholarship certificates, programs and nametags. It is a truly joyous, inspiring and appreciative evening – not to be missed. We need your help for this big annual event!

### ⇒ *Friends Volunteer Activities – Special Events & Activities Support:*

#### ❖ **Friends Special Events:**

- ▶ Friends host various events through the year such as December Holiday Lunch, Membership Events, July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, Partners in International Education (P.I.E.) Awards Reception.

Volunteers are needed to co-ordinate and organize, advertise, help cook, welcome, set tables, donate decorations, and more. Maybe you have some ideas for new, engaging activities that you would like to coordinate. Bring your ideas to us! We look forward to working with you.



## ❖ Keeping the Wheels Turning Behind the Scenes:

If you have skills or experience in administrative work, publicity, using computer programs, web site design/updates - or anything else not mentioned - and would like to help us out, please let us know and we will be glad to explore how we can work together. People with computer skills are always needed - for example for designing and producing flyers, certificates, programs, nametags, database updates.

Donations in support of our activities are always most appreciated too.

As a non-profit educational and charitable organization, a Board of Directors oversees all the Friends activities. It is comprised of officers who are elected annually and the chairs of all programs. The full board meets quarterly and elected officers meet monthly. We are always seeking new board members to bring fresh ideas and energy and to give new perspective to ongoing programs. Let us know if you would like to join us "behind the scenes".



## ➡ *Friends Supported International Programs – Students/Hospitality:* (These are programs run by International Center staff but supported by Friends' volunteers.)

### ❖ English-in-Action Tutor Program:

► Once per week for 60 or 90 minutes on- or off- campus as you choose.

This program was started by Friends and is now run by IC staff. Many Friends members volunteer as tutors. International visitors learn English language skills through small talk, news discussions, meet-and-greet roles, practical everyday conversation situations and scenarios. On-campus workshops are provided by professional ESL instructor for tutors if desired. The program provides flexible matching of tutor and tutee with compatible interests, availability, English language proficiency level, gender and age.

As a volunteer, you are a conversational tutor, cultural ambassador, friend. Long-term relationships have been nurtured through this program

### ❖ Host Family Program:

The Friends initiated a Host Family Program many years ago to offer a few days hospitality to newly-arrived international students and scholars. When the university had to give the program up, the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church took it over, and has been successfully matching students and families ever since.

More than 1500 new international students are expected in the fall, so there is great need for host families. If you have hosted in the past, you know how enjoyable it is. If you've never done it, why not give it a try! You will find the experience rewarding and fun!



⇒ ***Friends Supported Programs – International Community:***  
(These are programs run by International Center staff but supported by Friends' volunteers.)

❖ **International Friday Cafe:**

- ▶ 10 weeks of the Fall, Winter and Spring academic quarters at the International Center kitchen

Cafes are sponsored by various on- and off- campus groups. Friends volunteers assist with preparation and serving of the weekly Friday Café. You are welcome to volunteer on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. Time commitment is from 2-6 hours (between 8am and 2pm). No special cooking or serving abilities required. We will teach you what you need to do.

Friends sponsor and serve at the Friday Café at least once a year.

❖ **ArtPower! Community Suppers:**

- ▶ Two to three times per year in International Center lounge and dining room.

An international supper features a menu and food from the same country as the performance at the Mandeville Center. Dinner is prepared by the International Center staff chef and begins two hours before the performance starts.

Volunteers are needed for organizing, advertising, setting tables.

❖ **Partners in International Education (P.I.E. Awards)**

- ▶ Annual event held during International Education Week in mid-November in the International Center

Each year, on-campus partners are recognized by the International Center during International Education Week. After a keynote speaker, the P.I.E. awards are given out and then a coffee/tea and real pie reception follows.

Friends are needed to purchase and serve pies.

⇒ ***For More Information:***

If you would like more information about any of these volunteer opportunities with Friends of the International Center at UC San Diego, please visit our website or send an email or leave a voice message and indicate your areas of interest.



We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to our volunteering activities!

