

## Hosting International Guests

By Kathy Moser, CIP Director of Business Operations

Our Shenzhen Social Workers showed up in our office all *bright eyed and bushy tailed* following a good night's sleep. No one seemed to have any jet lag, probably because everyone was under 40 years old, unlike me. As each one walked through the door, I thought, *Which one is coming home with me? Which one is all mine for a week?* All I knew was that I was bringing home a guest with a name that I could not pronounce.



*Kathy, John, & Lillyanne Moser, with Wong, a social worker from China, who they hosted in May.*

As I am sizing them up, listening to every word and action, I thought...*wait a minute, they are sizing me up, too!* My thoughts went to the young woman who was going to come home with me. She may be thinking, *Will she like me? Is she nice? What is her home like? Will we be able to communicate?* All the while I am thinking I hope she likes me...she is thinking the same thing!

My husband John and I have hosted several times. We are not “host veterans” like some of you reading this story. But now, I can claim that we are becoming “seasoned veterans.” I would like to share that the anticipation of my new house guest fills my head as the weeks and days lead up to their arrival. I am busy preparing my home to receive a guest to make them feel at home.

Each of the guests in our home are treated like family. This has been very easy for us since we believe that international guests desire that family connection when they are away from people they love and trust. Our last guest made us a great Chinese feast. She cooked for two hours and was so proud of her results. The next evening she saw a lightning bug, which she had never seen before. As she studied it, she was thrilled to let it fly away, leaving a faint trail of yellow light.

*Did you know...*that most of the people that participate in our programs self fund their visits? Many of these people make tremendous sacrifices to train in Columbus. Yes, I have an additional load or two of laundry, but the memories that are made will last a lifetime and it is all because we are willing to open our hearts and home to a new relationship.

I hope that by reading about my experience , you will consider hosting an international guest!



Stay connected with CIP  
by following us online!

Columbus International Program  
4900 Reed Road #331 - Columbus, OH 43220  
[www.cipcolumbus.org](http://www.cipcolumbus.org)

## Home Away From Home: Daily Life as a Host

*Anil Pandey is a financial services professional from Nepal, who trained at the Central Ohio Minority Business Association from March 29 - May 21, 2016. Anil was hosted for most of his stay by Jeff and Jennifer Wahl. Marcus Andrews spoke with Jennifer and Anil about their experience before the end of his stay. Excerpts from the conversation (denoted by each person's initials) are below.*

**MA:** How has it been hosting Anil?

**JW:** It's been really good. This is the second time we've hosted for CIP, but the first time was only for a week and you guys kept them very busy, but we've seen more of Anil. He's been nice to have here. We'll miss him when he goes home.

**MA:** It sounds like you feel the same, Anil.

**AP:** Definitely, this is my first international travel, so coming to a new country and staying with a completely new family was a bit hard for me, but when I came here I did not feel so. Right now I am not feeling any homesickness, I am not missing my home food. It's like I'm at home with my family.

**MA:** What is your favorite American food that you've tried?

**AP:** I've eaten many different foods in the USA. There was a chance to eat my Nepalese food but I didn't because I wanted to try different American foods. I have visited so many restaurants but I like the food that is prepared by Jennifer at home. I like tacos, and I tried them two or three times outside the home, but the tacos here, all the food that she made for me is excellent. I'll miss this food.

**MA:** Did you get to try Nepalese food, Jennifer?

**JW:** We went to an Indian restaurant and he said there were several similar things.

**AP:** The culture of India and Nepal are similar. The language is different, but food is almost 95% the same. We went to an Indian restaurant in Grandview for lunch and it was very nice.

**MA:** What is it like for your children having Anil in your home?

**JW:** I think it's good for them to experience different cultures, because it's difficult to travel as a family with five people. It's nice to be able to host international guests in our home so they can get to know people from other countries, about their cultures and customs. Some of our Chinese guests have fixed food for us and it's stuff that the kids wouldn't have ever tried otherwise, but because it was a friend fixing it for us in our house, they tried it, and they liked it.

**MA:** One last question: Will you travel to Nepal to see Anil?

**JW:** Some day, it would be nice. We did visit our first Chinese teacher that we hosted. When we were in China we adopted Joseph, and so she brought her husband and daughter to meet us and meet Joseph as well. So some day we will go back to do a heritage tour, and Nepal is not that far.

**AP:** I would like to invite Jennifer and family to my home, and take some time to show her Nepal.



*Anil (right) enjoyed his stay with the Wahl family. Jennifer (left) and her husband Jeff were glad that their three children, including Joseph (center) were able to learn about another culture.*

## Opportunities to Host Still Available This Summer!

*Shenzen-Columbus Pink Ribbon Project for Breast Cancer Families: July 23 - August 1*

If you are interested in hosting a Chinese guest for this program, please contact Mark Poepelman at [mark@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:mark@cipcolumbus.org). Visit our website at [www.cipcolumbus.org/become-a-host-family](http://www.cipcolumbus.org/become-a-host-family) for more information on hosting. And stay tuned for more opportunities to host guests from around the world later in the year!

## Announcing the 42nd Annual International Taste of Columbus *Our Great Annual Tradition is Almost here!*

Join us on August 14th from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at Mozart's Bakery and Piano Café as the International taste of Columbus enters its 42nd year. This will be our second year hosting the Taste at Mozart's, and 2016 is sure to be bigger and better than ever. We're excited to say that based on feedback from last year's event, we have reserved the entire restaurant for 2016 so that you can enjoy all of Mozart's, including their expanded patio which will be opening this summer.



*Arnett Howard will be on hand again to entertain guests, along with a variety of cultural performance groups from different countries.*

Whether you're a longtime attendee or new member in the CIP family, 2016 is sure to be a year to remember. Guests will enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet of authentic international foods donated by local restaurants, along with a great selection of beer and wine. We will also be hosting an exciting live auction, showcasing art in a variety of styles by local artists. Art will be paired with great gift items, including trips to Disney World and Cancun, tickets to shows and musical performances all around Columbus, and gift cards to some of the city's finest restaurants.

To see a full list of the great artwork and prizes that will be available, visit our website at [www.cipcolumbus.org/international-taste-of-columbus](http://www.cipcolumbus.org/international-taste-of-columbus). You can view the dozens of art pieces and prizes that have already arrived, with the list being updated every day!



Be sure to join our [Facebook page](#) and invite your friends to this can't-miss event. Finally, don't forget to purchase your tickets. See the information below and visit our website today! See you in August!

*Guests will enjoy authentic food from countries all over the world, donated by local restaurants. Whether from old favorites or brand new restaurants, don't miss this all-you-can-eat opportunity to experience the flavors of the world!*

### Purchase your 2016 Taste of Columbus tickets now!

Members - \$50.00

Non-Members - \$55.00

Students - \$25.00

Children 12 years or older - \$15.00

Children under 12 - Free

Tickets are available for purchase online - just visit our website and follow the instructions. If you have any questions please contact Marcus Andrews at [marcus@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:marcus@cipcolumbus.org).

Visit [www.cipcolumbus.org/international-taste-of-columbus](http://www.cipcolumbus.org/international-taste-of-columbus)

# Events and Announcements

## Nigerian Cultural Presentation with Henry Maduka

Time: Wednesday, July 13th, 2016  
 6:30 pm  
 Location: Intercontinental Restaurant  
 5777 Cleveland Avenue  
 Columbus, Ohio 43231



Enjoy authentic Nigerian food while hearing from our IPR, Henry Maduka, about Nigerian culture and about his experience training at Phillip’s Pharmacy. The menu will include chicken stew, Jolof rice, and pof-pof, a favorite Nigerian dessert. Tickets are \$20.00 for CIP members and \$25.00 for non-members. Please [click here](#) to purchase your tickets online, and visit our website [www.cipcolumbus.org/upcoming-events](http://www.cipcolumbus.org/upcoming-events) for more information. Reservations are necessary for this event. If you need help purchasing your tickets online, contact Marcus Andrews at [marcus@cipcolumbus.org](mailto:marcus@cipcolumbus.org) or call our office at 614-221-0034

## Connect with the CIPUSA Alumni Network on LinkedIn

Our affiliate in Cleveland, the Council of International Programs USA, has created a new online network for alumni to stay connected through. Join our LinkedIn group to connect not only with staff and IPRs from Columbus International Program, but with other alumni who have participated in CIPUSA-affiliated programs around the country.

This new LinkedIn group is open to any former staff, board members, interns, or International Professionals in Residence who were with CIP, or our affiliates in Cleveland, Kalamazoo, Chicago, Phoenix, or West Virginia.

If you fit any of these criteria, find the [“CIPUSA alumni”](#) group on [LinkedIn](#) and get connected to colleagues old and new!



COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS USA



2016 memberships and sponsorships are still available. Through these partnerships we are able to provide meaningful and memorable experiences.