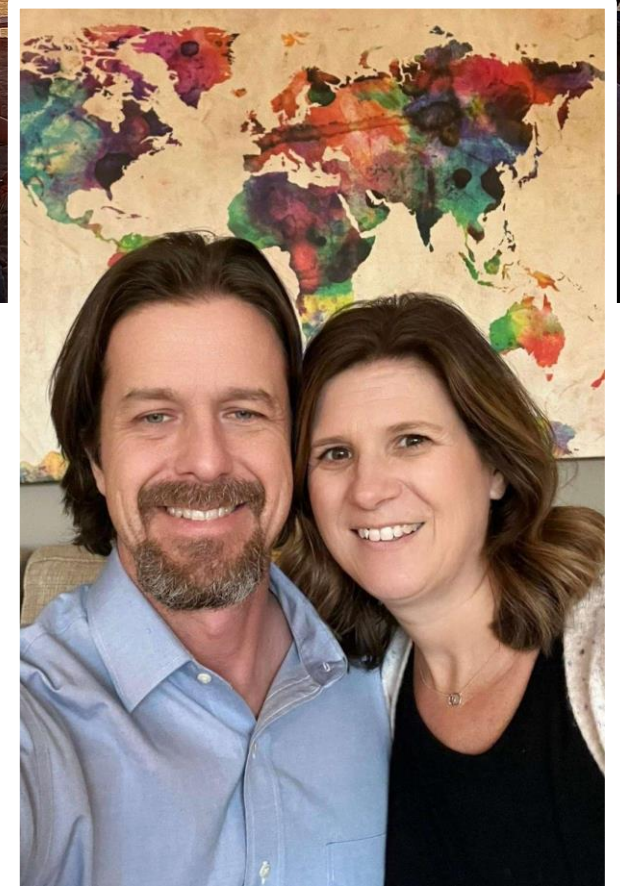


THE SLIEDRECHT FAMILY

December 2023



**International
FRIENDSHIPS**



International students often struggle with culture shock, stress, and loneliness when leaving their homes to study in the US. [International Friendships, Inc.](#)

is a national organization partnering with local churches, universities, and volunteers to provide life-changing hospitality and friendship to international students. We work

strategically to make the world feel at home and extend God's love globally — right where we are. I serve as an Associate Campus Minister for the universities in West Michigan, seeking to build relationships with international students, serve them in practical ways, develop Bible studies, help to train volunteers in campus ministry, disciple students, and help equip them for service.

One of the ways we develop relationships with international students is through the semimonthly events put on and hosted by our colleagues and leaders Randy and Ellen Karel. As many as eighty



students attend these events!

- Fridays at the Lake during the summer involves water and beach activities, themed games and a picnic.
- Friendship Fridays during the academic year with food, fellowship and a fun activity, such as bowling, hiking, karaoke, skiing, and trivia.
- Saturday Night Life during the academic year includes a



dinner, icebreakers, celebrations, and intentional conversations that point to Jesus. This year, speakers come in to share on topics related to the theme “Helping You

Write Your Leadership Story,” understanding leadership from a Christian worldview.

Other ways we have been seeking to further develop relationships with and help international students include:

- taking them out for meals or coffee
- driving practice with those who are working to get their driving license
- helping them move
- collecting and delivering needed items such as furniture, furnishings, and winter clothing
- hosting them for holiday meals



Please pray with us for more opportunities to grow deeper relationships with these students, which can lead to discipleship and Bible study.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially, or increasing your giving?



[SLIEDRECHTS.COM/GIVE](https://sliedrechts.com/give)