

2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Walk together,
Talk together,
All you nations of the world,
Only then shall we have peace.

Dear Friends of AMIS,

One of the things I've enjoyed about being in my second year with AMIS has been being able to try new ways to expand our reach to international students and scholars in the greater Atlanta area. This year, we have introduced monthly events for international students and Americans to get together to learn about our city while making new friends.

These events have had a great response. At the end of our fall Martin Luther King Jr historic tour, one of the students said, "When is the next AMIS event?" I took that as a call to continue in the direction we've been going. From going to Atlanta Braves games, meeting around the city, and offering a potluck dinner, we've continued to welcome internationals and provide opportunities for friendship and hospitality to occur across cultures.

We had several significant changes this year. We moved our office into a new space at North Avenue Presbyterian Church. We welcomed a new Program Administrator, Susan Rembert, who has been a wonderful addition to our AMIS staff team. And we added many new students, volunteers, and donors to the AMIS family.

Having a new address led us to update our AMIS logo which we are pleased to introduce (see above) with this Annual Report. The dove over the globe represents what AMIS is about - cultivating peace between the nations by welcoming and extending friendship and hospitality to international students and scholars who have come to our city's colleges and universities. Together we are working toward building peace among the nations of the world.

I'm excited about the mission of AMIS and believe it is more important than ever today. Many thanks to all of you who have joined us in this work as supporters, volunteers, and friends to international students.

Peace to you,

Rev. Irene Wong
Executive Director



2018-2019 Accomplishments

41st Annual Welcome Reception

On September 8, 2018, about 200 international students, scholars and volunteers gathered at Georgia Tech's Student Center ballroom for AMIS's 41st Annual Welcome Concert and Reception. The students came from 10 different Atlanta area colleges and universities. The Trey Clegg Singers, a multi-cultural chorus, delighted us with beautiful music from the US and around the world. We thank all the AMIS, Kiwanis, and Georgia Tech Circle K volunteers who came to help welcome the international students.

The Amigo Friendship Program

In the 2018-2019 school year, we matched 89 international students with an American friend through the Amigo Friendship Program. These students came from 35 different countries and were students at nine Atlanta area schools: Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Columbia Theological Seminary, Emory, Agnes Scott, Kennesaw State, Oglethorpe University, Atlanta Technical College, and Chattahoochee Technical College. Fifty-three American volunteers participated in the program, offering friendship and hospitality to these students.

The Thanksgiving Program

During November 2018, we matched 63 students from 17 different nations studying at six area schools for a Thanksgiving meal hosted by 28 American volunteers.

Monthly Events

This year we started monthly gatherings to bring international students and Americans together to explore our city while making new friends. One hundred seventy-five internationals and Americans joined us for six different events throughout the year.

One of the most successful was a tour of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr historic sites, which began in the fellowship hall of the current Ebenezer Baptist Church. After an icebreaker activity, we explored the park and toured MLK Jr's birth home in groups of Americans and internationals. Forty-one international students and volunteers joined us that day.



We went to two Atlanta Braves baseball games at SunTrust Park – once in the fall and again in the Spring. **We look forward to continuing these monthly events next year.**

The International Students

The 140 international students who were involved in the Amigo and Thanksgiving programs came from 40 different nations.

The countries represented by our students are:

China (36), India (17), South Korea (11), Pakistan (9), Nigeria (7), Nepal (5), Taiwan (5), Iran (4), Ghana (3), Italy (3), Bangladesh (2), Chile (2), France (2), Indonesia (2), Malaysia (2), Mexico (2), Ireland (2), Singapore (2), and 22 other nations.

These international students came from the following ten schools:

Georgia Tech (53), Georgia State (33), Emory (24), Columbia Theological Seminary (12), Agnes Scott (7), Kennesaw State (5), Morehouse College (2), Oglethorpe University (1), Atlanta Technical College (1), and Chattahoochee Technical College (1).

Thanks from our International Students

I did not know anybody here, and my course schedule made it very hard to make any friends. After meeting AMIS at the International Students Reception, and joining a group at the Georgia National Fair, I felt more at home. I made friends and felt like I had a family that I could rely on - the AMIS family. I want to thank you enormously for all that. This organization changed my experience here for better, and I'll always remember you tenderly. Thank you all very much!

— Gabriela, Emory graduate business exchange student from Brazil



Meeting [my Amigos] has had a huge influence on how I view American culture and people. I appreciate the efforts of AMIS for making this happen for me and so many other international students.

— Ammar, Georgia Tech Master's student from Pakistan



My Amigo and I have many similarities... Sometimes I feel she is my other half - same thoughts, same living style and even same food preferences. She is the best girlfriend I could ask for here in USA. Thank you so much AMIS for giving me the opportunity to be friends with someone like Kelly.

— Sana Hamid, Georgia State University graduate student and Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan

Our Mission:

Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS) promotes cultural understanding through friendship and hospitality with international students in the Greater Atlanta area.





CHRISTMAS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

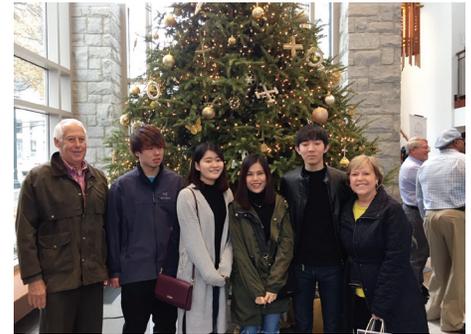
A Holiday of International Friendship

In 2018, 52 international students and scholars attended seven National CIH programs. Three of the students traveled to another program after one week and spent the second week in another host CIH city. We saw an increase in the number of students from Japan participating in our programs. Some of them are ESL students in the US for a year. Other students are undergraduates, graduate students, and we even had a Fulbright scholar participate this year. CIH offers them all the opportunity to spend their winter break in the US with a host family. All students reported that they were glad to make international friends (with other students and hosts) and the experience of hospitality during the Christmas season was memorable and special. We are deeply grateful for all the program directors and hosts in the seven National CIH programs who helped make this happen.



“It’s a precious memory I will never forget. Here I have met great friends and experienced my best Christmas in the US.”

— CIH Student



“This was my first time to spend Christmas with an American family... This experience helped me to understand why we celebrate Christmas and that there are various kinds of ‘family’.”

— CIH Student

Students in

CIH Programs:

Atlanta, GA – 27

Charlotte, NC – 1

Ephrata, PA – 6

Kansas City, KS – 10

Malibu, CA – 1

Orange Park, FL – 6

Savannah, GA – 4

Students from Countries:

Japan – 31

China – 11

Vietnam – 4

S. Korea – 2

India, Malaysia, Pakistan,

Saudi Arabia – 1 each

Students from Schools:

Coe College – 9

Lindsey Wilson – 8

NYU – 3

SE MO State U – 2

U of Houston – 2

U of New Mexico – 2

U of Pikeville – 2

Auburn, Carleton, Cottey, Duke, Georgia Tech, Georgia SW State, Georgia State, Hollins U, Jacksonville U, Loyola, New Orleans, Macalester, Madonna, Penn State, Pikeville, Purdue, Stockton, Syracuse, U of Idaho, U of Mich, U of N Alabama, Winona State, Notre Dame of MD, U of Alabama, U of Wis-Madison – 1 each

“Thank you for your help regarding this program. Without you we couldn’t spend such wonderful time as this. This program will definitely help international students in the future. Please continue this as long as possible.”

— CIH Student



The AMIS Board of Directors

This year we welcomed a new sponsoring church to AMIS – North Avenue Presbyterian Church, who also allowed AMIS to move our office into their church building. We are grateful to Peachtree Presbyterian Church who housed our office for 16 years prior to the move. Our Board of Directors welcomed a new Board member, Paul Brown, from First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. We had a seminary intern this year, Ebenezer Alonge, a Columbia Theological Seminary M.Div. student from Nigeria. We are grateful for his servant leadership throughout the year and especially during Christmas International House.



AMIS Day 2019

Our 41st AMIS Day was held at North Avenue Presbyterian Church on February 24, 2019, and our theme was, “New Faces, New Places” to celebrate our new international student friends, our new home at North Avenue, and all the new places we’ve been going with AMIS. We had a ribbon cutting and prayer of dedication for the new office. AMIS Board Member, Philip Gold, wrote this poem to commemorate the day:

*Bricks and mortar make up walls,
 Tile and carpet line these halls.
 Desks to write and phones to ring
 Plans to make and change something.
 But more than this does meet the eye,
 When building peace and people try,
 For God’s good spirit dwells right here,
 Yet sends us out with words to hear.
 That all the world needs peace and friends,
 So, let’s go make some, let’s begin.*

— Philip Gold

Our Directors

CLASS OF 2019

Patricia Hibbard, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
 Emily Texter, Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church
 Chad Peterson, St. James United Methodist Church
 Philip Gold, Marietta Golden K Kiwanis
 Kirk Keene, Galleria/Northwest Atlanta Kiwanis

CLASS OF 2020

Nikki Régis, Ebenezer Baptist Church
 Jean Cox, Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church
 George Tan, Georgia Tech Ph.D international student
 Doris Hoenic, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

CLASS OF 2021

Paul Brown, First Presbyterian Church
 Andra Martin, Ebenezer Baptist Church
 John Hibbard, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
 Karen Turney, Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Belinda Wedgwood, St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church
 Robert Taylor IV, Northside Kiwanis

2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Kirk Keene
Vice President: Nikki Régis
Treasurer: Robert Taylor, IV
Secretary: Patricia Hibbard

AMIS STAFF

Executive Director: Rev. Irene Wong
Program Administrator: Susan Rembert
Exec. Dir. Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel

2018-2019 AMIS COMMITTEES

Administration Chair: John Hibbard
Communications Chair: Emily Texter
Programs Chair: Jean Cox
NCIH Advisory Chair: John Hibbard
Welcome Reception Chair: Kirk Keene
Development Chair: Andra Martin





“ I love meeting and getting to know the kids and help them in any way they need. I love offering to be their ‘American Mom’ as they say. ”
 — Wendy Kohn, an Amigo volunteer

Condensed Financial Statements- January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

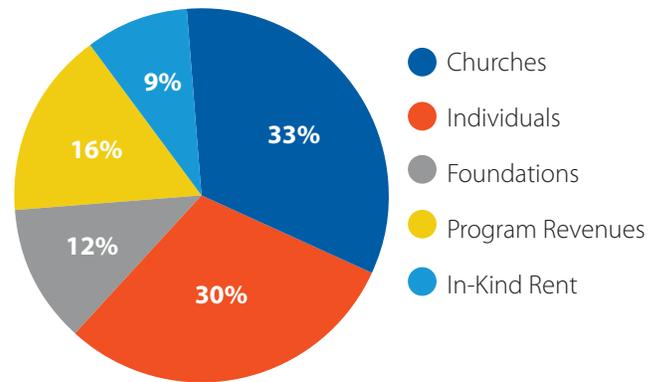
2018 Revenues

Churches:	\$44,866
Individuals:	\$39,702
Foundations:	\$16,715
Program Revenues:	\$21,343
In-Kind Rent	\$12,000
Total Revenues:	\$134,626

% Revenue

33%
30%
12%
16%
9%
100%

2018 REVENUES



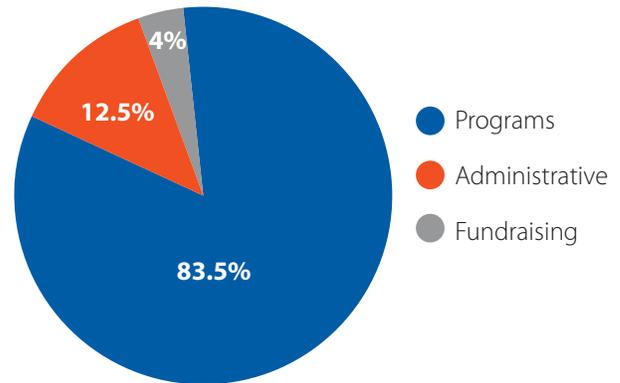
2018 Expenses:

Programs:	
Welcome Reception	\$25,192
Amigo Program	\$48,691
CIH	\$47,004
Administrative:	\$18,065
Fundraising:	\$6,067
Total Expenses:	\$145,019

% Expenses

83.5%
12.5%
4%

2018 EXPENSES



Assets

Cash and Equivalents	\$30,763
Investments	\$27,857
Endowment Fund	\$92,697
Other Assets	\$591
Total Assets	\$161,908

Liabilities \$2,076

Total Fund Balances \$159,832

In 2018, compared to 2017, our revenues increased slightly (by 8%), while our expenses remained steady with our only staff positions being a part-time Executive Director and a full-time Program Administrator. We continue to be grateful for those who have invested in AMIS over the past 41 years, providing AMIS with a strong financial base upon which to grow. Our 2019 budget is around \$145,000 and our fundraising goal in 2019 is to raise \$11,000 in additional funds to match our expenses.

Would you consider making a financial gift to help AMIS be fully funded in 2019?
You may donate online at: www.amis-inc.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support of AMIS!

“American people are so kind especially people who are in church. I’ve hardly been to church in Japan, so through this program I could visit church many times and encounter so many great people.”

—CIH Student



“Because of this program, I got to meet some of the best American friends. Because of them, I became a lot more confident to reach out to others in American culture and be a part of it. This wonderful experience really made a huge difference to my life!”

— Matthew, Georgia State University graduate student from Taiwan

Important 2019-2020 Dates

August

Students arrive on campuses and AMIS welcomes them during orientations.

8/1 International Student Advisor luncheon.

This month, sign up to befriend an international student through the AMIGO Friendship Program on our website: amis-inc.org/volunteers/amigo

September

9/15 Registration opens for Christmas International House.

9/21 (Saturday) 42nd Annual Welcome Reception, 2-4 pm at Spelman College featuring the Morehouse Glee Club.

October

Are you getting our email Newsletters? Email us at office@amis-inc.org to get the most up to date information about our events.

November

11/28 Host international Students for a Thanksgiving meal. Consider sharing your Christmas season with 1-2 international students for 5 or 10 days around Christmas. Let us know of your interest!

December

12/18 Christmas International House begins in Atlanta and NCIH programs around the country.

12/28 Christmas International House ends in Atlanta. Some national programs continue until January 2.



Contact us

Websites: www.amis-inc.org

www.ChristmasIH.org

Email: office@amis-inc.org

Phone: 470.851.1248

Mailing Address: Atlanta Ministry
with International Students

607 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308



Like our Facebook pages:
AMIS.INC and

ChristmasInternationalHouse