

### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

#### *Will the students speak English?*

YES. English is the language of instruction in Nigeria and it is the language of instruction in Tanzania from the post-primary level of education and up.

#### *Which religion do the students practice?*

IRIS targets a 50-50 mix of Christians and Muslims to teach the students respect and appreciation of other religions in their home country.

#### *Will IRIS staff be in constant contact?*

Absolutely, IRIS staff will be in contact with host families, students, and the schools as well to provide support as needed.

#### *Will the students have health insurance?*

YES. Students are covered by a US State Dept. insurance with a \$25 co-pay to be paid by IRIS.

#### *What are the students' age and gender?*

Students will be between 15-17 years and IRIS targets a 50-50 mix of gender. Students come in as juniors and are expected to return home to finish up their final year of school.

#### *Do the students receive financial assistance?*

All students will receive a scholarship to cover costs of their travel, education, and other program activities as well as a monthly stipend. There is no funding that goes directly to host families.



**Join us as we bring genuine smiles to families across our great nation and around the world!**

*For further information contact:*

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## *Youth Exchange & Study Program*





## **IRIS (Iowa Resource for International Service) is a nonprofit**

organization whose leaders have been working in Africa for

more than 20 years. In 2003 IRIS developed a model program that allowed students from Nigeria to study in high schools in the United States. Since then, 75 African students have been selected to spend one academic year in the state of Iowa. In addition, nine African teachers have spent five weeks each in Iowa during different times of the year to assist students in their initial adjustments. Beginning with the 2007-2008 program year, IRIS is selecting 20 students and 2 teachers from Tanzania, as well as 30 students and 2 teachers from Nigeria.

The program is called YES – Youth Exchange and Study – sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. IRIS is honored to be one of the first organizations to administer the program, and the only organization working with the YES initiative in Tanzania and Nigeria.



In addition to attending school, the students who are selected for the program live with host families and engage in activities to learn about American society, acquire leadership skills, and help educate Americans about their country and culture. IRIS works with the students to apply their leadership skills after they return home. In addition, alumni groups have formed and been involved with many volunteer service activities in their communities back home—touching more lives than they ever imagined.



*“We have nearly a year’s worth of memories and experiences that we will always cherish.”* West Des Moines, IA

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

Apart from spreading the word, you can:

### *Host a Foreign Exchange Student*

⇒ We are looking for caring, capable volunteer host families in IA, MN, NB, MO, IL and WI willing to open their hearts and home to high school students from Africa.

### *Become an IRIS Associate*

⇒ We are looking for motivated individuals to assist with our YES High School Exchange student program with Nigeria and Tanzania. A small compensation fee would be offered to those that meet the requirements of the program.

### *Become a Partner in Development*

⇒ We are looking for businesses and civic organizations that would be willing to accept our high school exchange students as volunteers to provide them opportunities for community services and mentoring.

*“Your life will be enriched beyond description by this experience.”* Pella, IA

*“We are grateful that we had this wonderful opportunity.”* Washington, IA