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MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVITED TO PICNIC TO LEARN ABOUT UM HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

Families interested in expanding their view of the world through contact with foreign students at the University of Montana can learn about the UM Host Family Program at a picnic for foreign students Sunday, May 20, at 4 p.m. at Kiwanis Park. The potluck picnic is for both present and prospective host families.

The objective of the Host Family Program is to give the student new to the country and campus an opportunity to know a Missoula-area family. Every new foreign student is invited to join the program.

The students do not live with the host families, but they take part in their activities, according to Effie Koehn, UM foreign student affairs coordinator. By including a foreign student in family celebrations, outings and just ordinary dinners, the host gives the student an experience not to be found in any classroom.

Koehn said local residents find that hosting a student is an education in intercultural understanding.

People interested in the program can learn about it by attending the picnic or by calling the UM Foreign Student Office, 243-4711.

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