Have you thought about having an international student in your family?

Seeking a permanent host family for school year 2019/20 for a wonderful student from Israel who is currently in a welcome family through November. He is with the YES program ([www.yesprogram.org](http://www.yesprogram.org))which is overseen by PAX Program for Academic Exchange.([www.pax.org](http://www.pax.org))

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program was established by Congress in October 2002 in response to the events of September 11, 2001. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of State and sponsored by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA) to provide scholarships for high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend up to one academic year in the United States. Students live with host families, attend high schools, engage in activities to learn about American society and values, acquire leadership skills, and help educate Americans about their countries and cultures.

Students come with English skills enough to participate in high school classes.  They have health insurance, their own spending money and the host family is asked to provide meals, a bed and a place to study and of course the emotional support as a family.

We look for loving a supportive **permanent family** for the rest of the school year. Families can come in all shapes and sizes. - a parent with children, parents with children of any age. Especially seeking a family with high school students if possible.

**Meet Makram**

**Makram**, **is a boy 17, from Israe**l who hopes to become an electrical engineer. He speaks Hebrew and Arabic. He has traveled to the United States and Egypt. He has a strong science background including electronics. He has great social skills, is open to new people and new ideas. He is a leader and an A student. He has a close circle of friends who love play station, fifa and fortnite. His father has a business in construction materials and his mother is a housewife. He has two older brothers.

He has been in a wonderful “welcome family” in NE Portland benefitting from a friendly neighborhood, a short bus ride to school and experienced host parents who have hosted other international students before. Currently he has all A’s in his classes at **Benson high school.** He is taking Precalculus, English, US History, Biology and majoring in Electricity. He especially is enjoying the Training and Fitness class.

As part of his program, he is asked to volunteer and he is volunteering right now at the Irvington Tennis club in their fall tournament, assisting his host mom with registration etc. He is learning a bit of tennis as well.

Benson high school students can live within the Portland City limits so seeking a family on a bus line for sure.

He is eager to make new teenage friends and to attend typical high school activities and to experience new things. He is able to share his experience as a Palestinian Israeli.

For further information, please contact asap Ann L. Schneider, PAX Community Coordinator at 503-890-6644 annleeschneider.pax@gmail.com