



HOSTING A SHINSHIN

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE THAT WILL PROVIDE A LIFETIME OF FULFILLMENT

Dear Prospective Host Family,

We are glad you have decided to consider hosting an Israeli Young Emissary, one of our ShinShinim, in your home. Hosting has proved to be a wonderful arrangement, benefiting the emissary, the host family and the local Jewish community.

Below are some guidelines about hosting for you to review and consider. To be considered for hosting a ShinShin, you must complete a Host Family application available on the Federation website. Please complete and submit this short online questionnaire. Throughout the application there will be questions related to Jewish home observances, schedules, pets, dietary practices, etc. Please know there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. We are looking for ALL types of homes and families. We need this information to provide the best match for our ShinShinim.

Once we review your application, the ShinShinim Host Family committee will contact you to make arrangements to interview you. Before making a decision, a committee member will meet with you in person to further discuss the program and the role of host families. A requirement of the program is that we visit your home and see the room where the Young Emissary would be housed to make sure that it is a good fit. As a final step in the process, Host Family decisions will be contingent upon the adult family members passing a background check.

Thanks again for taking the first step on this amazing journey!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We look forward to meeting you.

B'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michal Spivak".

Michal Spivak
Director, Israel Programming
mspivak@jewishrochester.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Holtzman".

Kim Holtzman
Chair, ShinShinim Committee
kholtzman@ymail.com

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Host Family Criteria:

- Emissaries will be placed in warm, loving, Jewish homes of ALL backgrounds.
- Family members should have time to dedicate to spending with the ShinShin. Regular family meals and activities are very important.
- Consider your family's schedule and when you are available to include the ShinShin as part of your family. The ShinShin will be VERY busy and involved in the community but the host family experience is a major component of the mission of the program.
- The ShinShin must have a dedicated bedroom that is not used for other family needs (the family computer, the family TV, tutoring, etc.). It is preferred that the bedroom be a guest room or other unoccupied space so that the ShinShin is not displacing a member of the family. Additional private space, such as a bathroom or living area is a plus, but not required. No basement rooms are allowed unless there is an accessible exit from the basement.
- The home must be a non-smoking, non-vaping environment.
- The ShinShin must have access to the internet and Wi-Fi.
- Host families ideally will have school age children at home. It is also very helpful, although not required, that host parents have some experience with teenagers.