

Testimonial From A Homestay Student



May 28, 2009

Dear Mrs. Cribbs,

As a Fairmont International Academy student last year, I began my home stay with Loreen Berlin as a host family, from the first day I entered the country.

Now, I have finished my high school and will be attending UCLA after my summer vacation in China, working to major in electrical engineering.

I am writing this letter to thank you for helping me find such a good host family that has been supportive of me throughout these two years. I can say that without Loreen, I couldn't have gotten through all the difficult times.

As a host family, Loreen always prepares food for me so that I don't need to worry about being hungry while studying. And Loreen has provided me a very quiet room, which I think is necessary for a serious student. In addition, Loreen has taken care of my transportation to school, so that I was never absent nor late for school because of transportation. Loreen even spends her time taking me to the airport when I go back to China and picking me up after I come back. That really makes me feel comfortable and secure.

Loreen has treated me like more than just a student living in her home. She treats me like a friend or even her "Asian son." She talks to me every day about the good and bad things that happen each day and asks about my day too. That helps us to know each other better, and also helps me improve my English a lot. When I need help, Loreen is the first one who will always be there for me. She took me all the way to Arcadia to visit my family, she helped me edit my college application essays, she looked for places that I could volunteer to the finish the school's community service requirements and she helped me find ways to get my laptop fixed recently.

I just want to say that I would not have enjoyed these two years in America as much if I didn't live with this host family. And I hope that FIA will keep helping students find great host families like Loreen.

Thank you,

Junda Zhu '09