MISSION

The mission of Concordia Language Villages is to prepare young people for responsible citizenship in our global community.

A responsible world citizen:
- understands and appreciates cultural diversity;
- communicates with confidence and cultural sensitivity in more than one language;
- responds creatively and critically to issues which transcend national boundaries;
- expresses empathy for neighbors in the global Village; and
- promotes a worldview of peace, justice and sustainability for all.

The mission of Concordia College is to influence the affairs of the world by sending into society thoughtful and informed men and women dedicated to the Christian life.

These missions mirror one another in their global scope. Concordia Language Villages is based on the affirmation of diversity, unity, peace, stewardship and justice which are key values rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition of the college.

Concordia Language Villages promotes individual responsibility for the world and its people by intentionally reaching out to all people regardless of creed, class or nationality. The leadership, counseling staff and young people enrolled in the programs reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the world. A global environment is created in each Village, challenging participants to regard differences as opportunities for enrichment, not reasons for alienation.

Because language education alone does not lead to the formation of world citizens, we teach language in cultural and global contexts. Geography, history, political science, world religions, natural sciences, arts and international relations are drawn on, creating learning situations that challenge participants to use language as a tool for understanding the complexities of the world around them.

Experienced-based learning is emphasized in every aspect of the Concordia Language Villages curriculum, modeling Concordia College’s holistic approach to education. The educational objectives are reinforced through the living, learning, social and recreational dimensions of Village life.

Concordia Language Villages embodies the internal discipline implied in Concordia College’s mission statement. Global citizenship requires both knowledge and skill. By emphasizing experiential and cooperative learning, Concordia Language Villages provides an ideal setting for villagers to internalize and act upon global issues. The Village experience encourages villagers to insert these skills into the rest of their lives.

Concordia Language Villages reflects Concordia College’s optimism about the human enterprise. It builds on the richness of the past and embodies a vision of a world of peace. It is a bold vision, one that sends young people into society in hope-filled response to the world and its people.
COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP CHARTER

The Community Citizenship Charter was crafted from reflections on model citizenry collected from villagers, parents and supporters of the Concordia Language Villages community. It reflects what our community members consider important characteristics of a community citizen anywhere.

These are characteristics we strive for in our community in particular, guiding us in our efforts to realize the Concordia Language Village mission: to prepare young people for responsible citizenship in our global community.

Learning new ways of interpreting the world is an important step toward global understanding. The Concordia Language Villages mission is to prepare young people for responsible global citizenship — a goal which is vital to the future of world dialog. Within this realm, we strive to understand each other. We do this at the Villages by creating a place where language, culture, and the opportunity for learning are nourished. In the Villages we interact as a community through singing, listening, eating, dancing and playing. Through interaction within the community, we become part of each other’s lives.

Model global citizens are . . .

— multi-faceted individuals who are not self-absorbed, but genuinely interested in and aware of the ways and well-being of others.

— socially aware, striving for a greater understanding of individuals and the world in which they live. They are tolerant, curious, spiritual and they keep an eye to the future.

— skilled individuals: aware, multilingual, multicultural, knowledgeable about the world, effective listeners and communicators.

They are people of action: adapt, travel, act on convictions, actively work at making their community (and the world) a better place through responsible
• use and reuse of resources,
• career choices,
• sharing of their own culture with others, and
• respecting others and learning from them about their cultures.

They transcend stereotypes, make decisions with others’ needs in mind, teach, learn, and avail themselves to new experiences. They love life, spicing it with humor, good food and friendship!