

Who is My Neighbor?

Opportunities for Refugee Assistance

In partnership with *Refugee Focus*
(Lutheran Social Services)

PVUMC / Salaam-Chai-Paradise Interfaith



A quick review: How can we help?

Apartment rental	Basic Furnishings	Initial Food	Basic Clothing
ESL Classes English Practice	Health Screening	Application for benefits	Application for SS card
Child Immunization	School Enrollment	Cultural Orientation Outings	Employment Orientation
Medical & dental care Transport	Job Interviews Transport	Job Placement Job Leads/ Jobs	On-going Adjustment Services

Areas of Responsibility: Pre-Arrival

- Form a team or teams.
- **Publicity:** Inform and educate the congregation
- Advertise for and solicit household furnishings, furniture, necessities and basic clothing items.
- Arrange for collection, storage and delivery of items.
- **Funding:** Establish funding sources and a small fund for necessities and emergencies.
- **Food:** Take the LSSS food list and purchase items for the refugees, staples ahead of time.
- **Airport and orientation:** Arrange for some team members to go to the airport with LSS staff. Assist in taking the refugees to their apartment and orientation.

Areas of Responsibility: Post-Arrival

- **Language:** The agency will enroll them in ESL classes. You can help them practice.
- **Finance education:** Help teach the refugees about the US currency and banking system and assist them with budgeting.
- **Transportation:** Take refugees to occasional appointments; take them shopping. LSS will help them learn to ride the bus.
- **Employment:** LSS will find employment for the refugees but always appreciates any employment leads.
- **Relational Activities:** Be Friends and as appropriate, mentors.

Relational Activities

- Help the refugee family become oriented.
- Weekly visits to answer questions, encourage morale, promote English use and be a friend. LSS will help find translators.
- Grocery shopping and use of food stamps.
- Take/invite them to your place of worship. If they are comfortable coming to your worship service, you can introduce them there.
- If they are of another faith, host a function to meet your congregation, but help them find a place of worship in their faith tradition.
- Include or take them on social, athletic and cultural outings.
- Explain budgeting to them.
- If possible, take them to appointments. LSS will help them learn the bus.
- They will take ESL classes, but tutoring is very helpful.

How will we be organized?

1. Organizing
 2. “Stuff for Living”
 3. Relational Interactive Activities
- Steering Committee
 - Support Team
 - Core Teams (PVUMC, Tri-Faith, Affinity)

Steering Committee

- Helps to organize and staff Core and Support Teams
- Supports Core and Support Teams
- Provides orientation and cultural materials to teams
- Coordinates budgets and sets up accounts
- After initial formation, meets intermittently as needed

Support Groups

Focuses on Pre-Arrival responsibilities

- Solicits, obtains and stores (as needed)
 - Furniture and Furnishings per LSS List
 - Basic Clothing Items
 - Other needed items, e.g., computers
- Helps solicit funding for support accounts
- Commitment: Short or Long-Term, Item specific efforts

Core Groups

Focuses on Post-Arrival Activities

- Coordination with LSS Case Manager
- Multitude of Relational Activities with Refugee Families
- Commitment: 4-6 months, weekly to biweekly visits or contacts

Tri-Faith Core Groups

Salaam-Chai-Paradise Interfaith Forum

- Members of Muslim, Jewish and Christian Faiths bind together into a Core Group
- Select leaders, and identify individual and collective responsibilities among the members

Affinity Core Groups

Core Group Members associated by Affinity

- Groups inside the congregation, e.g., Young Adults, Ignite attendees, Adult Learning classes