

Create A
'Circle of Welcome'
At LSS



The Circle of Welcome is a co-sponsorship program that invites the community to get involved in Lutheran Social Services' work of welcoming newcomers.

Co-Sponsorship is a special relationship between a local resettlement agency, a community group, and a refugee family. Co-Sponsors walk alongside and support a refugee family for six months in the U.S. and serve as community guides and friends.

The team is made up of at least 6-10 core team members. More than 10, would be considered support team members.

CONTACT refugee@lssjax.org to start your **Circle of Welcome!**

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ The group commits to a financial contribution of \$1,000 - \$3,000 to be used by LSS to help refugees
- ✓ All team members must attend co-sponsorship training and pass a background check
- ✓ The groups commit to providing at least 8 core services (see back for examples)
- ✓ Time commitment: at least 3 hours per week for the first month; At least 2 hours per week for months 2-6
- ✓ Log hours of service

A program made possible by



LIRS

BENEFITS OF CO-SPONSORSHIP

For Clients

- Learn about U.S. culture
- Feel a sense of belonging in their new community
- Receive introductions and connections to people in the community
- Help with English language skills
- Friendship with those who offer support, encouragement, and empowerment.
- Employment support
- Co-sponsors can help promote self-sufficiency

For Resettlement Agencies

- Help in securing housing
- Help in finding employment opportunities
- Help create a more welcoming community for refugees
- Assist Match Grant programs in raising match through volunteer hours & in kind & financial donations
- Assist with client transportation needs
- Increase the capacity of Case Managers by providing core services

For Community Groups

- New understanding of refugees
- Hands-on way for involvement
- Make a difference and learn from others
- An opportunity to learn about new cultures and religions
- Create long-standing bonds and friendships with refugee families

WHAT HELP DO CO-SPONSORS PROVIDE?

Examples of Co-Sponsor Services (Choose at least 8)

Pre-Arrival

- Housing
- Home Set Up and Furnishings and Supplies
- Purchase seasonal clothing for all family members
- Welcome Meal and Stock the Pantry

Post-Arrival

*All post-arrival services should be provided with appropriate interpretation, if needed.

- Airport Pick-Up (*Airport pick-up guide provided)
- Public Assistance Enrollment (Cash Assistance, Medicaid, SNAP)
- Social Security Card Application
- Employment Program Enrollment Follow-Up
- ESL Enrollment
- Selective Service Registration
- School Enrollment
- Other Public Assistance Application as Applicable (SSI, WIC, etc.)
- Cultural Orientation (*Topics and guide provided via coresourceexchange.org)
- Cultural Orientation Assessment (*CO Assessment form and guidelines provided)
- Transportation to Job Interviews and Job Training



Other Services Co-Sponsors Might Provide

- Rental Assistance
- Community Guide
- Grocery Store Orientation
- General Health Orientation
- Financial Education
- Help family set up a bank account
- English Language Tutoring
- Job Development
- Public Transportation Orientation
- Continued Transportation Assistance