

HOW YOU CAN HELP

USCRI Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program

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DONATE HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Imagine coming to a new country with your entire family and only a few suitcases. You would need some help to get started in your new home!

Our staff, volunteers, and donors help refugee families feel welcome in their new community. Monetary contributions and donated gift cards are also greatly appreciated by refugee families. Donations to us, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, are tax-deductible.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Below is a list of the items most needed to set up a household for a refugee family. While there are many other things that may be useful, we have limited storage space and have to prioritize these essential items. We accept new and gently used items and cannot make repairs or launder items.

ACCEPTED DONATIONS

KITCHEN

Dishes; glasses; silverware; pots; pans; woks; rice cookers; cooking utensils; mixing bowls; can openers; knives; cutting boards; dish towels

BATHROOM

Bath towels; bath mats; shower curtain and rings; toilet paper; facial tissue

HOUSEHOLD

Paper; notebooks; pens; pencils; school supplies; scissors; lamps; flashlights

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Toothbrushes; toothpaste; soap; shampoo; deodorant; disposable razors; sanitary napkins; diapers; baby wipes; baby powder

BEDROOM

Mattresses; box springs; bed frames (ONLY for twin, double, and queen); sheet sets (twin, double, and queen); comforters; blankets; NEW pillows; alarm clock; clothing hangers

FURNITURE

Dining tables; chairs; couches; sofas (no pull-out beds); love seats

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Mops; buckets; brooms; dustpans; toilet brush and holder; wastebaskets; trash bags; paper towels; dish soap; sponges; kitchen cleanser; all-purpose cleaner; laundry detergent

WINTER WEAR

Coats; boots; gloves; mittens; hats; scarves

TECHNOLOGY

Flat TV's; VCRs; DVD players

UNACCEPTABLE DONATIONS

It's hard to say "no, thank you," but we graciously cannot accept:

- Window curtains/rods
- TVs (unless they are flat screen)
- Washing machines/dryers; microwaves; stoves;
- Non-essential items (baskets, knick-knacks, decorations, etc.)
- Clothing (except for winter wear)
- Books (except for children's books, books for English learners, and dictionaries)

VOLUNTEER

Serving the uprooted in your neighborhood requires the dedication and generosity of many community members. You can help make new beginnings happen in your community.

As a volunteer, you play an integral part in fulfilling our mission. By giving of yourself, you will not only help a family to make a smooth transition into their new home, but you will also make them feel welcome—even if you don't speak the same language! Whether you can commit to ten hours per week or ten hours per year, you will make a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.

BE A PART OF THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Volunteers can get involved in direct service or administrative support. There are many ways to show your support depending on your interests, skills, and availability.

Please note that volunteer opportunities are not offered at our headquarter office at this time. To view internships available at our DC office, please [click here](#).

MENTOR NEW FAMILIES

Refugee families come to the states from war-torn countries around the globe and typically have little knowledge of American culture. Volunteers can serve as Family Mentors and meet with refugee families weekly or bi-weekly in a casual setting to help teach them how to assimilate into the American culture. Mentors can serve as a valuable resource to refugee families by improving their English, signing up for library cards, or something as simple as explaining how to take a trip to the grocery store.

SETUP NEW HOMES

Imagine coming to a brand new country with your entire family and only a few suitcases. You would need some help to get started in your new home! USCRI Field Offices appreciate volunteer support with housing set-up to make sure refugee families feel comfortable in their new space upon arrival.

PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION

Volunteers can play a part in taking refugee clients to health care appointments, the Department of Health and Human Services, school enrollment appointments, and more.

TEACH

- Volunteer instruction can include any of the following:
- Basic life skills – paying bills, phone skills, etc.
- ESL
- Job-search skills – interviewing for jobs
- Public transportation navigation

FILL THE GAPS

Miscellaneous office tasks can include filing and front desk support and are great ways to get involved at one of our local offices.

LEGAL

Learn more about how to provide pro bono support [here](#).

READING BUDDIES AND AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORS

Help refugee youth acclimate to school and excel in their educational journey.

DONATIONS

Connect with a member of our local team to learn more about how to organize a donation drive or support a local donation center. Check out the [donate page](#) for more information about needed items.