
These suggestions may seem a little overwhelming.

Just imagine how overwhelmed a newly arrived refugee family would be with all they have to learn!

FEAR NOT – just be a friend and learn as you go.

The most important thing you can offer your new neighbors is your time, care, and friendship!

“You shall treat the foreigner who lives with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Leviticus 19:34

JUBILEE PARTNERS

*A Christian Service Community,
welcoming refugees since 1979.*

**Some ways to
Welcome
Refugees
in Your Town**

*Provided by Jubilee Partners
a Christian Service Community,
Welcoming Refugees since 1979*

Jubilee Partners
PO BOX 68
Comer, GA 30629

706-783-5131
www.jubileepartners.org



**Nobody wants to be a project,
but everybody needs a friend.**

Companionship

- Learn your neighbors' names and how to pronounce and write them correctly.
- Visit in each other's homes, introduce them to people you know; invite them to local parks, libraries and events. Share pictures and stories about your family.
- Do not pry about life during war or in refugee camps. Many folks arriving as refugees have experienced multiple traumas and need to feel safe. If stories come to the surface, listen compassionately.

Take time to educate yourself and your community about their country of origin, ethnic group, languages spoken and political situation that brought them here.

Remember that ideas about time, gender roles and lifestyle vary. Help folks to adapt while acknowledging that your culture's way of doing things is not the "right way."

Transportation

- Help with navigating public transportation system.
- Help with getting a driver's license: understanding driver's manual, getting learner's permit and license, practicing driving in someone's car, finding a good used car, getting insurance, etc.

Learning English

- Help adult friends find evening or day ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes,
- help with reading and writing in English, learning how to fill out forms, talking to the doctor, reading medication bottles and bills.

Children's Education

- Help enroll children in local public schools.
- Help to figure out school bus schedule. Help organize or collect clothing, shoes backpacks and school supplies.
- Offer to be liaison with school, homework help, parent-teacher conferences.
- Help children to access scholarships or free afterschool activities, music and dance lessons, sports, camps etc.

Employment

- The best way to get a job is through personal connections- your local contacts and your recommendations can be very helpful.
- Help with filling out applications, going on job interviews, assessing marketable skills, resume writing.

Medical Assistance and Social Services

- Offer rides for doctor visits.
- Help to set up a home medicine cabinet and explain over the counter medicines in home.
- Help with applying for access to social services as needed.

Citizenship Support

- A refugee family may apply for a Permanent Resident Card (green card) after 1 year in the US.
- After 5 years (from date of arrival), the family can apply for US citizenship.
- Offer help in understanding how to follow US laws and study for the citizenship exam.
- Consider offering citizenship classes for a group of people.

Religious and Spiritual Foundation

For many refugees, their faith is what sustained them through very hard times, yet for others religion is not an important part of their lives and may be a source of trauma.

Your new neighbors may or may not be interested in being involved in your faith community. It is important that their decision is respected and that friendship is not dependent on their living up to your religious expectations.

If they are interested, help your neighbors to get rooted in nurturing faith communities. Many come with solid religious leadership skills and gifts to offer.

Setting up and Keeping House:

It is wonderful to share clothing dishes, furniture, linens, pots and pans, appliances and other household supplies. However, it is important to ask folks what items and furniture they need and not just deposit your surplus goods on them.

Understand that your neighbor's cultural preferences and household needs may be different than your own..

Offer to teach basic household maintenance and repair skills or how to get an extended warranty and call a repair person.