

# Refugee Co-Sponsorship

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (LFS) welcomes over 500 refugees to Nebraska every year. Newly-arrived refugees need support for daily tasks such as shopping, connecting to others in their new community and learning financial literacy.

Your faith, civic or educational group can empower newly-arriving refugees through co-sponsorship. **Co-sponsors are guides, friends and advocates for newly-arrived refugees, helping refugees become self-sufficient quickly.** By working together, your group and LFS can best assure refugees succeed in their new country.

**As Guides:** Co-sponsors supply initial food, goods and clothing for refugees. They introduce refugees to U.S. culture, acquainting them with important aspects of American life, culture and customs.

**As Friends:** Co-sponsors offer friendship, emotional support and encouragement as refugees adjust to U.S. culture. Co-sponsors share in the cultural heritage of refugees and honor their customs and traditions.

**As Advocates:** To help ensure refugees are not exploited, discriminated against or taken advantage of, co-sponsors encourage refugees to connect with other refugees for mutual support, and to network with other groups to foster multi-cultural communication and understanding.

**Co-sponsors are encouraged to make a 90-day commitment to the refugee(s).** This is an ethical, not legal, commitment. And LFS staff will provide you instruction, information and advice during your co-sponsorship.

## CO-SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### Level One:

- Collect all items outlined in “The Whole Nine Yards” to help furnish a new family’s apartment or participate in a one-day apartment set-up.
- Purchase culturally-appropriate groceries for the new family.

### Level Two

- Level One, plus meet the new family at the airport and share their first meal with them.

### Level Three

- Level Two, plus commit to visiting the family at least once a week for three to six months. (May be an individual or a team of 6 to 8 people).

## READY TO GET STARTED?

Contact Lacey Studnicka at (402) 699-1972 or [lstudnicka@LFSneb.org](mailto:lstudnicka@LFSneb.org)



UNHCR-P.Behan



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