

# Opportunities to Help Refugees



**S**adly, millions of people are forced to flee their homes each year to escape political, religious or ethnic persecution. Those who can never go back have few options. Some spend decades in policed tent camps. Their dream is to be granted special refugee status so they can start over in a new country, like the United States. **In federal fiscal year 2015, Lutheran Family Services (LFS) welcomed 706 of these adults and children to Nebraska.**

Refugees come to Nebraska with limited means, communication skills, or knowledge of customs and laws. Through its Community Services programs and the International Center of the Heartland, LFS provides the on-going support these new residents need to become acculturated and self-sufficient. LFS also assists secondary migrants – those who are resettled elsewhere, but move to Nebraska. However, this meaningful work is possible only with community support. Volunteers, sponsors, employers, landlords, LFS staff and AmeriCorps members all play essential roles in helping refugees transition into their new lives.

**You can help! The following volunteer projects work well for both individuals and groups:**

- Shopping for household or grocery items, setting-up apartments, organizing donations, or mentoring
- Sponsoring a newly-arriving family (three different levels of engagement available - great for church or corporate groups)
- Donating needed food and hygiene products to the Food Access Site (see list of accepted items)
- Organizing a winter clothing drive (coats, hats, gloves, boots – all sizes)
- Donating new or gently-used shoes (all ages and sizes)
- Becoming a holiday sponsor for one family
- Requesting a special congregational offering to benefit and assist newly-arrived refugees or secondary migrants



**Lutheran  
Family Services**  
*of Nebraska, Inc.*

**Community  
Services  
Offices**

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[www.LFSneb.org](http://www.LFSneb.org)

**Don't have time to volunteer? You can make a financial contribution to our programs to help these individuals:**

- \$10 helps provide bus passes which assist refugees in getting to ESL classes
- \$25 covers the cost of a Nebraska state identification card
- \$50 helps with consultation fees for legal services
- \$100 buys winter coats for a family of six
- \$300 buys groceries for one month for a family of 4-6
- \$500 pays one month's rent for a family of 4-6
- \$1,000 helps offset expenses to welcome an individual or couple reconnecting with family
- \$5,000 supports case management for a family of four
- \$6,000 pays an AmeriCorps member for 20 hours per week
- \$11,500 pays an AmeriCorps member for 40 hours per week

**READY TO GET STARTED?**

Contact us at (402) 536-3500 or [WelcomeRefugees@LFSneb.org](mailto:WelcomeRefugees@LFSneb.org)

# How Refugees Get to the U.S.

