Refugee Co-Sponsorship

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (LFS) welcomes hundreds of 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:
Omaha: (402) 536-3513 or WelcomeRefugees@LFSneb.org
Kitchen Items
- Pots & Pans
- Dishes
- Glasses & Cups
- Cooking utensils
- Flatware
- Can opener
- Sharp knives
- Mixing bowls
- Plastic storage & Zip-Locs
- Trash can
- Cutting Board
- Dishcloths
- Paper towels
- Bakeware
- Teapot
- Rice Cooker
- Dish drainers
- Plastic wrap & foil

Cleaning Items
- Broom & dust pan
- Bucket & mop
- Dish washing soap
- All purpose cleaner
- Plastic trash bags
- Sponges/cleaning rags
- Laundry detergent
- Scouring pads & powder
- Toilet bowl brush & cleaner

Furniture
- Dining table/chairs
- Beds
- Lamps
- Couch
- Dressers
- Recliners
- Coffee & side tables
- Desks

Only Clothing Accepted
- Winter coats
- Gloves, hats, & scarves
- Shoes
- Children’s clothing *(new or in good condition)*
- Jeans

Bedding
- Bed sheets
- Comforters
- Blankets
- Pillows

New Toiletries
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Brush & comb
- Razor & shaving cream
- Feminine hygiene
- Toilet paper
- New towels & wash cloths
- Lotion
- Nail clippers
- Diapers & wipes (if needed)
- First aid kit & aspirin

Miscellaneous
- Alarm clock/clock radio
- Light bulbs
- Shower curtains & hooks
- Linens
- Clothes hangers
- T.V.
- Calendar
- Rugs
- Electric fans
- Vacuums
- Radio/Stereo
- Crayons, pens, pencils
- Dictionary
- Bicycles
- Scissors & tape
- Telephones
- Quarters for laundry
- Grocery store gift certificates
- 10-ride Omaha Metro bus passes

Due to staff and space limitations, we cannot accept:
- Recliner sofas
- Waterbeds & king size beds
- Decorations/knick-knacks
- Broken or incomplete items
- Stained or unwashed clothing items

LFS International Services

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.

Refugee Services
1941 South 42nd Street, Suite 402 • Omaha, NE • (402) 536-3500
2301 “O” Street • Lincoln, NE 68510 • (402) 441-7940
www.LFSneb.org

Please call to schedule pickups for large items. Our need for appliances varies. Please call for information.