

Consider Cosponsoring a Refugee Family!

*IRIS partners with community groups throughout Connecticut to help refugee families get off to a strong start in the U.S. and become self-sufficient. **Co-sponsorship is an opportunity to participate in the tremendous mission of resettling refugees!** Multiple groups can work together to resettle a refugee family. IRIS requires that groups who want to co-sponsor submit an application, which is available on our cosponsorship web page*. Below is an overview of the ideal features of a co-sponsoring community.*

Criteria for Co-sponsorship

A) Location: In our experience, refugee families fare best in sustainable communities, where they have access to public transportation, employment opportunities, and ESOL resources. If these are not available in your town, we encourage you to resettle the family in a nearby location with the following features:

- Accessible to public transportation
- In an area that has adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes
- In a school district that has the resources to help English language learners
- Availability of entry-level jobs that do not require a high level of English: e.g., factory work, cleaning, service industry
- Close to a hospital or health clinic that takes Medicaid and provides interpreters
- Close to an affordable grocery store that takes food stamps
- Availability of clean, safe, affordable apartments

B) Co-sponsoring Community Group

- Ability to raise \$4,000-\$10,000 to provide 3-6 months of assistance. (Since most of the funds raised will be used for rental assistance, the amount varies according to cost-of-living in the location the family is resettled. This is the total amount likely needed for the whole 3 to 6 months.)
- An excellent cosponsorship team coordinator who can serve as a liaison with IRIS
- A strong, well organized team (of at least 10) with diverse skills (to help refugees access social services, assist with healthcare coordination, education, and employment); who can, *as a group* devote a *total* of 40hrs/week for the first two months.

*For more information, *see www.irisct.org/index.php/community-co-sponsorship/
or contact Ashley Makar at amakar@irisct.org*