

Community Sponsorship Local Program Overview

International Rescue Committee Atlanta

2305 Parklake Dr NE

Atlanta, GA 30345

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/atlanta-ga>

National Resettlement Agency: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

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General community sponsorship program description: Family sponsorship with the IRC in Atlanta includes donations and volunteerism. Sponsors begin with a \$5,000 donation to support IRC refugee resettlement, as well as collecting (or purchasing) the set-up items for the incoming family's apartment. There will be an airport welcome with the family and the sponsors, and then there is a one-month pause in interaction to allow time for the family to work with their case manager and get a better sense of their lives in Atlanta. At the end of that period, there will be another introduction where the family and sponsors meet to get to know each other and talk about their roles in the process. The sponsors then spend the next five months of the "resettlement period" working with family to practice their English conversational abilities, learn about their new culture, and adjust to life in Atlanta. Sponsored families will still have their IRC case managers and sponsors do not need to take on that role.

Community sponsorship program name: Family Sponsors

Time commitment: 6 months

Service commitment: Family Sponsors are required to commit to the following services: Furnishing the apartment, language practice, and cultural adjustment.

Financial commitment: IRC Atlanta requires that Family Sponsors raise \$5,000, plus the cost of background checks before they can commit to community sponsorship. They ask that all funds raised be given to the office to be spent on the refugees' behalf. The donation that is given to IRC will be used to support all clients, including the family sponsored.

Preferred size of community sponsor groups: The group can be as large as it likes, but IRC Atlanta prefers for there to be only about 5 who do the majority of interactions.

Types of cases matched with community sponsors: Newly arrived refugees with friends or family in the area, newly arrived refugees without friends or family in the area, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, and asylees

Community sponsorship training: IRC Atlanta has a series of meetings with the sponsors and the families, which includes handouts on the process, what should and shouldn't be done, and tips for dealing with tricky intercultural situations.

Background checks: IRC works with a background check provider called HireRight to screen the core volunteers of the group. The cost is \$51/screening, and IRC Atlanta asks volunteers to make a donation to offset that cost.