

Community Sponsorship Local Program Overview

World Relief DuPage/Aurora

191 S Gary Ave #130

Carol Stream, IL 60188

<https://worldreliefdupageaurora.org>

National Resettlement Agency: World Relief

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General community sponsorship program description: At World Relief, both individuals and small teams of people can volunteer to partner with a refugee or immigrant family to provide furnishings, household goods, and friendship to either newly-arrived individuals and families or to those who have been in the country longer. This partnership is a weekly visit commitment for 6 months, but often develops into a much longer friendship.

Community sponsorship program name: Friendship Partner, Friendship Partner Team

Time commitment: 6 months

Service commitment: Volunteers commit to meeting weekly for 6 months with a refugee or immigrant family. These visits can include English practice, practical help with American systems, cultural exchange between volunteers and their family, and more as needed. Friendship is the goal, and helping with practical things along the way build that relationship. Teams sometimes pick up families from the airport and provide initial furnishings and household items, but these are not required.

Financial commitment: For teams, World Relief does have an ask for monetary contribution, but if they cannot provide, it is not required. The recommended amount to be donated by teams (and most often from their sending church) is \$1,000. This money is used to support the services provided to refugee and immigrant families served through World Relief. Teams may also provide in-kind contributions such as initial furnishings and household items to the family with which they are matched.

Preferred size of community sponsor groups: 10 or fewer people

Types of cases matched with community sponsors: Newly arrived refugees with/without friends or family in the area, previously arrived refugees with/without friends or family in the area, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, asylees, asylum-seekers, and secondary migrants.

Process of matching asylum seekers: Any client that World Relief matches with a volunteer must have some other service provision from their office, typically through case management, employment services, or counseling. After completing an intake and secondary meeting with a staff member, they can be referred for a volunteer match.

Community sponsorship training: World Relief has a customized training for their volunteers specific to this program. It outlines expectations, commitment requirements, and also typical challenges and ideas for things to do together with the refugee/immigrant they are matched with.

Background checks: World Relief requires all volunteers 16 and older to complete a background check online and World Relief assumes all costs.