

Organizing the Welcome Team

Coordinator

The coordinator will recruit team members, liaison with CWS staff, schedule and lead team meetings, collect contribution information, delegate tasks to team members, and carry out other duties associated with welcome team.

Every team approaches refugee welcome differently. Effective teams can range from five people to twenty or more. Welcome teams may find it useful to focus on the following areas:

Finance

This committee will identify sources of funding, and collect and distribute funds. They will also teach the refugees about finances, helping them to use the local banking system, to write checks, and to budget their own income.

Transportation

This committee will help arrange transportation for the refugee during their initial appointments and teach the refugees how to use the local bus system.

Education

This committee will facilitate the children's registration into the public school system, collect school supplies, and help with first day of school as needed. They may assist adults with registration for ESL classes and learning the public transit route for the first ESL class. They may also visit the family's home once a week to practice English skills, as available.

Employment

In collaboration with CWS staff, this committee will help identify job leads. As available, they will help the refugees complete job applications and navigate transportation to interviews and first days of work as needed.

Medical Access

This committee will assist the family in going to the health department for initial health screening. They will assist family in scheduling and navigating transportation to initial follow-up appointments, helping the family establish a file with important health information and provider contact information.

Orientation and Friendship

This committee will orient the refugees to their new home and community, and arrange for social occasions and outings.

Food and Clothing

This committee will stock the kitchen with food for the family's arrival. They may provide a purchased or prepared hot, culturally appropriate meals for the family's first night. They will teach the refugees about grocery stores and international food markets. They will arrange for a shopping trip within a few days to find immediate necessities, and find a resource for additional clothing in the first several weeks.

Housing and Furniture

This committee will collect and furnish the apartment with furniture and household items.

Communications

This committee will find ways to inform the faith community or community group of your work through bulletin announcements, Facebook posts, and other avenues. They can also talk to LFS about how to raise awareness in the community through media coverage and advocacy.

Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance

Furniture and other welcome items contribution guidelines

The Poughkeepsie and Mid-Hudson Valley community will be resettling refugees. The first families are expected to arrive in January 2017. Please consider contributing items to make their new home a welcome one.

Items you can contribute:

- Kitchen - Pots and Pans, Dishes, Glasses/Cups, Silverware, Cooking Utensils, Can Opener, Knives, Mixing Bowls, Dish Cloths, Kitchen Table, Kitchen Chairs
- Bedroom - Mattress/Box Springs/ Bedframe, Pillows, Dressers or shelves, linens (clean towels, blankets, sheets, etc.)
- Living Room - Couch, Chairs, Side Table/Coffee Table, Lamp
- Bathroom - Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, Brush & Comb, Feminine Hygiene, Toilet Paper, Towels and Wash Cloths, Shower Curtain, Shower Rings
- Household Goods - Alarm Clock, Paper, Pens, Pencils, Light Bulbs, Broom & Dust Pan, Vacuum cleaner, Bucket & Mop, Trash can, Second Trash Can, Dish Soap, All Purpose Cleaner, Plastic Trash Bags, Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels/Cleaning Rags, Hangers
- Helpful items - Radio, Needle & Thread, Iron, Scissors

Guidelines:

- All donations should be new or nearly new. Please remember that we are setting up someone's home.
- Please email vcsolidarity@vassar.edu, refugee@vassartemple.org, ushaa85@gmail.com or greg.miller.poetry@gmail.com if you are interested in making a contribution and we will be in touch with you shortly.
- Kindly include your contact details and specify which items you are interested in contributing and if you are able to move the items or not.
- Major items will be stored in an Arnoff trailer on the Vassar farm while we may arrange a different location for the smaller items.



Mid-Hudson
Islamic
Association



Vassar Temple
Where You Belong

