

TIMELINE TO OUR INITIAL FAMILY:

Committee members are currently involved in preparations and identifying resources. When QCRR is ready, we will give IRIS the "green light", asking them to select a family that matches our resources. This typically occurs within one to two months.

Once offered a family, QCRR will have two days to accept or decline based on newly available information about family needs vis a vis our resources. We then will tap a wide variety of volunteers to help us quickly prepare housing and other essential services.



CHALLENGES:

US approved refugees may come from any part of the world; neither IRIS nor QCRR will know the nationality, ethnicity, family size, religion, or skill levels of the refugee family until contacted by the State Department. These characteristics of the family will determine appropriate housing, employment, and education.

We have therefore identified potential housing, employment, education placements and other resources and services that will need to be fine tuned in the very short timeframe between accepting a particular family and that family's arrival in the US.

JUST SO YOU KNOW:

Volunteers in roles with direct family contact will provide information for criminal and driving record background checks; participate in an orientation program covering guidelines for work with refugees and another program providing culturally-specific information once the family's background information is known.

This program will describe appropriate boundaries and best practices expected of volunteers, including confidentiality requirements and other policies. Volunteers completing this program will wear QCRR ID badges whenever providing direct services to our family members.

Contact Information:

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Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement (QCRR)



CO-SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

*Refugee Resettlement
A network of partnerships*

ABOUT QCRR:

The Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement program is a co-sponsorship partnership of over 30 faith communities and over 200 Quiet Corner residents responding to the urgent world-wide refugee crisis. The First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC in Mansfield, CT is leading the effort to resettle refugee families in the quiet corner of Connecticut, through a broad, interfaith core leadership team and a strong partnership with WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministries).

Though we are starting slowly and carefully, it is the intent of the QCRR to resettle multiple families in our community over time. We invite individuals and community groups of all sorts to join us in this effort. We have partnered with the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) of New Haven, an agency that provides training and support to organizations in preparation for the arrival of refugees approved by the US State Department to resettle in the United States.

For more information about IRIS, visit:

<http://www.irisct.org/>

THE ROLE OF IRIS: (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services)

The role of IRIS is to link US State Department refugee programs with co-sponsoring organizations like QCRR, supporting the speedy and successful settlement of refugee families in safe, welcoming and supportive communities where they can thrive, contributing their skills, energy, talents and friendships.

- ◆ Provide training and ongoing support for co-sponsorship leaders
- ◆ Match families with co-sponsorship groups
- ◆ Transport family from JFK to New Haven and connect with co-sponsorship group representatives
- ◆ Provide 3-day IRIS Cultural Orientation and Resettlement Education (CORE) to refugee family members
- ◆ Provide Refugee Health Assessments (RHAs)
- ◆ Conduct employment assessment of employable family members
- ◆ Provide required US government forms
- ◆ Provide on-going coaching and support to co-sponsorship organizations like QCRR

THE ROLE OF QCRR:

Refugee families need assistance and services to meet the challenges they face as new arrivals in this country. Some of these needs can be anticipated; others will emerge when we get to know the specific needs of the families we will welcome.

Under the guidance of IRIS staff, QCRR has identified core team volunteers to manage resources and services in these areas of need for families:

- Housing**
- Education** (elementary/secondary school;ESL)
- Employment**
- Health Care**
- Finances** (\$6-\$7,000 per family)
- Hospitality**
- Clothing & Household Furnishings**
*bring clothing and household donations to WAIM
Riverside Drive, Willimantic
(Behind the WAIM Building at 866 Main Street
Tuesday - Saturday 9am-Noon*
- Transportation**

ROLE OF REFUGEE FAMILY:

- ◆ Apply to US State Department for refugee status; submit to 2+ years of thorough investigation
- ◆ Pay travel expenses of family members (usually from an interest free loan)
- ◆ Agree to diligently work toward self-sufficiency within 4-6 months of arrival

YOUR ROLE:

- ◆ Become connected and educated about the world-wide refugee crisis
- ◆ Provide your email address (email jenbeck411@gmail.com) to keep in touch with our project!
- ◆ Participate in the many opportunities to become informed about refugees, US and UN policies, and the culture, beauty and strengths of the families we welcome as new neighbors

BE ACTIVE:

- ◆ Help raise the \$6-7,000 we need for each family; mail checks to: WAIM - PO Box 221 - Willimantic, CT 06226. Please note "QCRR" in memo line
- ◆ Donate material goods like household furnishings through WAIM. They are located at Riverside Drive (behind the WAIM Building) in Willimantic on Tuesday - Saturday 9am-Noon
- ◆ Research job opportunities or housing options
- ◆ Provide a service like translation or transportation to a medical appointment, or... Your imagination and thoughtfulness are essential to our efforts to settle refugees in the Quiet Corner now and in the future

Please consider the ways in which your expertise, talents, and resources can contribute to the QCRR's resettlement efforts in Connecticut's quiet corner.

We have an on-line volunteer registration process. Contact Jen Beck at jenbeck411@gmail.com for the link.