

GENERAL TIMELINE FOR REFUGEE LIFE MINISTRY

Part One: Preparing for the family

- ❑ Publicize the World Relief MN ministry to your congregation.
- ❑ Pray especially for guidance, wisdom and patience. Pray that God is preparing the hearts of the refugee family whom you will be meeting. Pray for the anchor as they prepare for being united with their family.
- ❑ Attend cross-cultural training by World Relief MN staff.
- ❑ Recruit a leader for the ministry.
- ❑ Assign volunteers to the different sub groups such as transportation teams, hospitality teams, community orientation teams, etc.
- ❑ Collect Welcome Kit (household items) for the family.

Part Two: 3 weeks before the refugee family arrives

- ❑ Have a meeting with the representatives of each subgroup, with the WR case manager, and with the anchor (family sponsor).
- ❑ Prepare the apartment (duplex) for the family.
- ❑ Delegate tasks to the volunteers.
- ❑ Communicate with the family sponsor/interpreter, getting to know them, a little about their culture, and about the family that will be arriving.
- ❑ Learn to say "hello" and "welcome" in the language of the refugee family (ask the WR case worker or the family sponsor for assistance).

Part Three: Arrival

- ❑ Welcome the refugee family at the airport!!
- ❑ Prepare meal for the family (or communicate with the anchor on how you can contribute to the meal, if they are already planning to prepare one).
- ❑ Give the newly arrived family a general orientation to their new home; let them practice and ask questions.
- ❑ Communicate the general rules such as no smoking in the house to the refugee family.
- ❑ Let the family rest.

Part Four: First 5 days after arrival

- ❑ See how the refugee family is doing and what they are noticing about their new home-Minnesota.
- ❑ Bring the family to World Relief MN office for their *Intake Appointment*.
- ❑ Take the family to *Social Security* office and help them with applying for a social security card.
- ❑ Take the family to the *Public Assistance* office and help them with the application process.
- ❑ Give them a detailed *Home Orientation* (how to use appliances, clean, etc.).
- ❑ Help them gather other basic necessities as needed (clothing, winter garments, etc.).
- ❑ Communicate any needs/questions to the WR case manager.
- ❑ Pray for the refugee family in their initial stage of adjustment.

Part Five: Within 30 days of arrival

- ❑ Take the family to a health clinic if needed beyond 3 health screenings that county sets up.
- ❑ Take children to public schools and help them register.
- ❑ Take adults to the ELL schools and help them register.
- ❑ Show them how to take the bus and other transportation systems.
- ❑ Help males ages 18-26 to register for selective service.
- ❑ Give family *Community Orientation* (show them library, post office, etc.).
- ❑ Help the family with English.
- ❑ Continue learning about the refugee's culture and how they view the world.

Par Six: 2 months after arrival

- ❑ Help the family find a job.
- ❑ Help the family with doctor and dentist appointments as needed.
- ❑ Help them to become self sufficient, i.e. help them to do as much as possible on their own.
- ❑ Help them to find permanent housing.
- ❑ Help them get their driver's license.

Part Seven: 3-6 months after arrival

- ❑ Tutor the family in English.
- ❑ Help children with homework.
- ❑ Be a friend to the family.
- ❑ Help with transportation.
- ❑ Continue to help the family adjust to life in America.
- ❑ Help them understand:
 - School system
 - Banking
 - Credit
 - Finances
 - Parenting
 - Hygiene
 - Etc.