

# WELCOMING REFUGEES: *A Workshop for Congregations*

refugeeONE

**DATE:** SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015  
**TIME:** 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
205 N. PROSPECT AVE., PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

*Curious about starting a refugee ministry?  
Want to renew one? Have advice to share?*

\$15 per person  
\$30 per congregation (up to 3 people, then \$10 per additional person)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:

visit [refugeeone.org/WelcomingRefugees](http://refugeeone.org/WelcomingRefugees)  
or contact Kim Snoddy at 773-423-9834 or [kknoddy@refugeeone.org](mailto:kknoddy@refugeeone.org).



## *Schedule*

- 9:30 a.m.** Learn who refugees are and what they've fled, how the resettlement process works, and what is expected of refugees once they arrive in the U.S. Hear one refugee share their story of coming to Chicago.
- 10:15 a.m.** Workshops I (descriptions on reverse; all workshops are repeated)
- 11:15 a.m.** Workshops II
- 12:15 p.m.** Join us for a global feast prepared by refugee chefs and brainstorm your congregation's next steps for ministry.
- 1:30 p.m.** Adjourn

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# Workshops

## **ALL GOD'S PEOPLE: An Orientation to African, Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern Refugees**

Knowing what refugees have faced and what they've lost will help you understand all they are adjusting to. Learn about refugees coming to the U.S. today, particularly Congolese, Burmese, and Syrians. Find out the languages they speak, the religions they practice, and the etiquette that's unique to their culture. Also learn what events caused them to flee their home countries and the circumstances they've been living in as refugees.

## **LIGHTING THE FIRE: Engaging Your Whole Congregation**

Getting your whole congregation involved in refugee ministry can be an extremely rewarding and community-building experience. Curious how to engage everyone, from your clergy to your youth group to your choir? Learn ways to create awareness from book groups to movie nights. Take home excellent theological resources to plan services around welcoming the stranger. See how one group used social media to engage hundreds of members.

## **GATHERING THE GOODS: Sharing the Bounty**

Refugees arrive in the U.S. with only the possessions they can carry. Help ensure they have what they need. Hear experts share their best practices to furnish apartments, round up welcome baskets, and have volunteers at-the-ready when refugees arrive. Find out creative ways people use post-it notes, Google docs, and even birthday parties to gather new and gently used items for refugees.

## **MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS: Mentoring Refugees**

The best way refugees learn to integrate into American life is through the help of mentors. Panelists will share stories and suggestions to prepare you for mentoring refugee adults and children. Learn about overcoming the awkwardness of not sharing a language, activities to practice speaking English, setting goals, adventures outside the home, ways for your entire family to participate, common pitfalls, inviting a refugee to your congregation, and more.

**refugeeONE**

As the largest full-service refugee agency in Illinois, RefugeeOne has welcomed more than 15,000 refugees fleeing war, terror, and persecution since 1982. In partnership with 100 congregations, RefugeeOne walks alongside refugees from the moment they land at O'Hare Airport – providing welcome, English classes, furnished homes, job search support, mental health care, after-school programming, and mentors to help refugees integrate into American society.

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