

# refugeeONE

Marking 30 Years of Service

## CO-SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE



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# What is Co-Sponsorship?

**By definition, refugees have fled persecution in their home countries and cannot safely return. They have lost nearly everything, save their courage, dignity and hope. RefugeeOne and all those who partner with us do more than help refugees survive; we help them live fulfilling and flourishing lives. Join us.**

Refugee co-sponsorship is a partnership between RefugeeOne and our community of supporters. Refugees are selected for resettlement by the U.S. Department of State, and no refugee can enter this country without a sponsor. Officially, RefugeeOne is the sponsor of the refugee. The goal of co-sponsorship is to partner with RefugeeOne to assist refugees in becoming self-sufficient as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Refugees receive services from RefugeeOne for at least 3 months, and, with our help, most refugees achieve self-sufficiency within six months after arrival. These services include attending English classes, job readiness and resume building training, computer classes, women's programs and youth programs.

**\$8000 - The average minimum cost to resettle a family of four through RefugeeOne is \$8,000.** Refugees are resourceful people who are highly motivated to begin new lives and pursue their hopes and dreams. The cultural and ethnic diversity and variety of resources in the City of Chicago make this a wonderful place for refugees to resettle but it can also be expensive. RefugeeOne alleviates some initial financial struggles by securing housing for the family and assisting with rent and basic utilities during the first few months. Every dollar raised and designated by co-sponsors will directly benefit refugees. Last year, we resettled 539 refugees. RefugeeOne cannot maintain our high standard of quality services and programs without generous financial assistance from our community of supporters.

**Our goal is to develop 50 co-sponsoring groups, congregations and individuals, who will commit to financing the resettlement of at least one refugee family per year.**

Of course, much more than money is necessary. Engaging a co-sponsorship project may include assisting RefugeeOne with the following activities. Note that RefugeeOne has case managers, interpreters and numerous programs to serve refugees as they acculturate and integrate into their new communities. Furthermore, we enjoy the contributions of about 200 volunteers and several interns. The following services will be provided for refugees. You are invited to participate in full or partial co-sponsorships.

- Set up the apartment with furniture, household items, toiletries and cleaning supplies (some items must be purchased new—see enclosed list).
- Meet the refugees at the airport and transport them to their new home.
- Provide groceries, food allowance and assistance with shopping for the first few weeks.
- Visit refugees approximately once a week, during the first 90 days.
- Help refugees adjust to their new community and society, including English tutoring and introduction to public transportation.
- Maintain frequent communication with the RefugeeOne office, especially the appointed case manager.

# Getting Started

First it might be useful to form a refugee resettlement committee of several people who are especially interested in assisting refugees. Choose one person to be the contact between RefugeeOne and your committee. Then, divide the following tasks among individuals or sub-committees. Don't worry if you are not able to assist in all of the areas listed below. Your RefugeeOne contact will work with you on any of the areas that you have challenges.

- ✓ **Finances** We estimate that it costs an average of \$8,000 to help resettle a refugee family. Set a goal for your group and if need be, consider partnering with neighboring congregations, community groups, businesses, and individuals to reach and surpass this goal. You certainly do not have to commit to raising \$8,000 but every dollar designated for resettlement will directly benefit one or more refugee families that are moving to Chicago.
- ✓ **Housing** RefugeeOne staff finds and secures apartments for every refugee that resettles in Chicago. We have working relationships with several landlords and property management companies throughout the city and suburbs. In most cases housing is located near RefugeeOne offices to allow refugees easy access to our programs and services. **You and your team can assist by working with our Housing Coordinator to help furnish the apartment and secure specific household items needed for a newly arriving family. A complete list of items can be found in this packet.**
- ✓ **Moving** Once you have collected all the necessary furniture and household items it's time to set up the apartment for the family. You may need several volunteers to help on "moving day." You may also need to rent a small moving truck or cargo van to move furniture, etc. The apartment will be fully furnished and organized before the family arrives so they have a comfortable home to rest in once they are here. The apartment will be sufficiently stocked with food items so they don't have to worry about shopping for the first week.
- ✓ **Welcoming** Organize a group of people to join RefugeeOne staff in welcoming the refugees at the airport and transporting them to their new home. The arrival of the family can be a profoundly moving experience for your group as well as the refugees. Feel free to make a welcome sign and bring balloons or flowers.
- ✓ **Transportation** Organize a group of people that are willing to provide transportation for the family in their first weeks after arrival (if necessary). This could include trips to the market or clothing stores or to the RefugeeOne offices for the family's initial intake with their assigned case manager.
- ✓ **Visiting** Visit the family about once a week during the first 90 days to make sure they are doing well. Give reports to the RefugeeOne case manager. Help to orient them to their new neighborhood. Show them the nearest grocery store, affordable clothing stores, tutor them in English, introduce them to public transportation, and the many enjoyable aspects of Chicago.
- ✓ **Tutoring** RefugeeOne provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at our offices. Newly arrived refugees attend ESL classes 16 hours per week. Additional tutoring from your group will strengthen these classes and assist the refugees in learning conversational English.
- ✓ **Employment** An important step toward self-sufficiency for newly arrived refugees is employment. RefugeeOne provides job readiness and job development training to help refugees find suitable work. If you have any contacts at businesses that are able to hire please let your RefugeeOne contact know.

## **What Help is Available to You from RefugeeOne?**

- RefugeeOne provides a one-on-one co-sponsorship staff contact and can coordinate a co-sponsorship orientation for your group (if needed) to help you prepare for the refugee arrival.
- RefugeeOne notifies co-sponsors of information regarding overseas processing of the refugees, anticipated arrival dates, flight arrival information, housing updates and case manager contact information.
- RefugeeOne can provide you with donation letter templates and tax exempt letters for businesses if you need to purchase items for an arriving family.

## **Other Ways to Help**

Refugee assistance projects of a smaller scale are also extremely important and needed throughout the year. Below are a few ideas to consider if you are unable to assist with a full or partial co-sponsorship.

- \$1000 provides new beds and furnishings for a family's apartment
- \$750 provides one month's rent for a one-bedroom apartment
- \$500 provides personal items and groceries for a family of four for one month
- \$250 provides transportation for a head of household to travel to his or her job
- \$150 provides blankets and comforters for a family during the winter months
- Collect household items to fully supply a kitchen, bathroom, or bedroom (*see attached list*)
- Purchase and deliver student backpacks or Christmas gifts for refugee children

If you are interested in learning more about co-sponsorship opportunities or to discuss or make a donation, please contact:

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the difference between refugees and immigrants?**

Refugees are people who have fled their countries to escape war or persecution. Many have witnessed or been victims of horrible atrocities. Most refugees would prefer to remain in their home countries, but war or intolerable persecution has contributed to their decision to flee and apply to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for refugee status. Though most immigrants may safely return to their home countries, this is not so for refugees. For refugees, the fear of further persecution may indefinitely delay any attempt to return home.

## **How long does co-sponsorship last?**

The time commitment for the mentoring aspect of a co-sponsorship project with RefugeeOne is no longer than three months post-arrival. The first few weeks are the busiest for refugees, including orientation to new surroundings and several appointments. Assisting a family with transportation is optional and requires a serious commitment, as initial appointments are extremely important. Visiting the family in the remaining weeks is often the most fulfilling aspect of co-sponsorship. RefugeeOne suggests that co-sponsors visit the family periodically to ensure they are doing well and have what they need. After the first ninety days, continued contact with the family is at the co-sponsor's discretion.

## **What are the co-sponsors financial contributions used for?**

These funds are used for rent, basic utilities, household items, clothing, beds, linens and food for an average of 3-6 months. In some cases families need additional support for a longer period of time.

## **Where will the refugees live?**

Generally, RefugeeOne finds affordable housing near our offices in Uptown or along major public transportation lines in Chicago. This facilitates the family's access to bi-lingual case managers and interpreters and our services, such as English and job development classes.

## **Do the refugees receive public aid?**

In Illinois, refugees are treated like any other public aid applicant. If they qualify they are required to search for work and attend English classes as necessary. These services are offered at the RefugeeOne offices. Depending on the family make-up, refugees must be involved in these activities until they are employed.

## **How soon is it until the refugees start working?**

Most refugees begin working and become self-sufficient within three to six months of arrival.

## **Where do refugees work?**

Generally, refugees with low English skills work in entry-level positions. RefugeeOne's Job Development Department has a working relationship with over 100 businesses, including hotels, factories, retail stores, and maintenance companies.

## **Where do the refugees come from?**

At this time, RefugeeOne serves refugees primarily from Iraq, Burma/Myanmar and Bhutan.

# What is Needed to Prepare a New Home?

The following list includes items needed to furnish and supply an apartment for a refugee family. Please maintain quality control to acknowledge the dignity of our clients. **We request the items listed in bold be purchased new.** The quantity of items marked with an asterisk may vary dependent upon the number of people in a family.

<p><b><u>KITCHEN ITEMS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ *Dishes</li> <li>▪ *Silverware</li> <li>▪ *Steak knives</li> <li>▪ *Drinking glasses</li> <li>▪ Silverware divider</li> <li>▪ *Coffee mugs and saucers</li> <li>▪ Set of mixing bowls</li> <li>▪ Set of pots and pans</li> <li>▪ Set of baking pans</li> <li>▪ Serving bowls and dishes</li> <li>▪ Set of cooking utensils, including measuring cups and spoons</li> <li>▪ Chef's knife and paring knife</li> <li>▪ <b>Cutting board</b></li> <li>▪ Tea pot</li> <li>▪ Can/bottle opener</li> <li>▪ <b>Colander</b></li> <li>▪ 4 small plastic food storage containers</li> <li>▪ 4 large plastic food storage containers</li> <li>▪ <b>Potholders</b></li> <li>▪ <b>2 sets of kitchen towels</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Dishwashing soap</b></li> <li>▪ Dish drying-rack with tray</li> <li>▪ <b>Paper towels</b> (minimum 2 rolls)</li> <li>▪ <b>Large kitchen garbage can (w/ lid)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Large garbage bags</b></li> <li>▪ Broom with dust pan</li> <li>▪ Mop and bucket</li> <li>▪ All purpose spray cleaner w/bleach</li> <li>▪ Scouring cleanser</li> <li>▪ Scouring pads and sponges</li> <li>▪ Matches or lighter</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>BATHROOM ITEMS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>*Towel sets (bath/hand/wash)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Shower curtain w/hooks</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Several bars of hand/body soap</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Shampoo</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Deodorant</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Toothbrushes</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Toothpaste</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Dental floss</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Disposable razors</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Shaving cream/lotion</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Feminine supplies</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Toilet paper and facial tissue</b></li> <li>▪ <b>First aid kit and oral thermometer</b></li> <li>▪ Waste basket</li> <li>▪ <b>*Disposable diapers</b> (if necessary)</li> <li>▪ All purpose spray cleaner w/bleach</li> <li>▪ Scouring cleanser, pads, sponges</li> <li>▪ Plunger</li> <li>▪ Toilet brush</li> </ul> <p><b><u>FURNITURE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bed frames</li> <li>▪ <b>NEW/Never used box springs and mattresses</b></li> <li>▪ Chest of drawers for clothing</li> <li>▪ Kitchen/dining table and chairs</li> <li>▪ Sofa</li> <li>▪ Armchairs</li> <li>▪ Coffee tables</li> <li>▪ Lamps</li> <li>▪ <b>40 and 60 Watt light bulbs</b></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>BEDROOM ITEMS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>*Blankets</b></li> <li>▪ *Comforters</li> <li>▪ <b>*Baby blanket</b> (if necessary)</li> <li>▪ <b>*Sets of sheets including pillow cases</b></li> <li>▪ <b>*Pillows</b></li> <li>▪ 40 hangers</li> <li>▪ Alarm clock</li> <li>▪ Laundry soap</li> <li>▪ Laundry basket</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Calendar</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Portable shopping cart</b></li> <li>▪ Iron and ironing Board</li> <li>▪ Pads of paper/notebooks/pens/pencils</li> <li>▪ Postage stamps</li> <li>▪ Bilingual dictionary</li> <li>▪ Toys, children's books, stuffed animals</li> <li>▪ <b>AA,AAA &amp; 9 Volt Batteries</b></li> <li>▪ Fan/Air conditioner</li> <li>▪ Vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper</li> <li>▪ T.V. with digital converter box</li> <li>▪ Radio/CD player</li> </ul>

# Welcome & School Packs

RefugeeOne requests that new items be provided for welcome packs

<p><b><u>Adult Kit (women and men)*</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Bath towel</li><li>▪ Hand towel</li><li>▪ Wash cloth</li><li>▪ Toothbrush</li><li>▪ Tube of toothpaste</li><li>▪ Bar of soap</li><li>▪ Shampoo</li><li>▪ Pack of disposable razors</li><li>▪ Shaving cream</li><li>▪ Box of sanitary napkins</li></ul> <p><i>*Please box each pack individually, and label according to gender. **</i></p> <p><b><u>Bedding Kits</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Set of twin bed sheets</li><li>▪ Pillow</li><li>▪ Twin blanket</li><li>▪ Twin comforter</li> <li>▪ Set of full/double sheets</li><li>▪ Pillows</li><li>▪ Full/double blanket</li><li>▪ Full/double comforter</li></ul>	<p><b><u>School Age Children*</u></b></p> <p>1 Backpack filled with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 4 Notebooks</li><li>▪ 4 folders</li><li>▪ Pencils</li><li>▪ Pens</li><li>▪ Crayons, colored pencils, or markers</li><li>▪ Glue sticks</li><li>▪ Scissors</li><li>▪ Pencil Case</li></ul> <p><b><u>Optional Items:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rulers</li><li>▪ Protractors</li><li>▪ Calculators</li><li>▪ Highlighters</li><li>▪ Coloring/Activity Books</li><li>▪ Loose-leaf paper</li><li>▪ Small toy or stuffed animal</li></ul> <p><i>*Backpacks are needed for boys and girls ages 3-18 in a variety of colors and sizes</i></p> <p><b><u>Infants/Toddlers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Disposable diapers</li><li>▪ Diaper bag</li><li>▪ Baby blanket</li><li>▪ Several toys</li></ul>
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