



## Team Volunteer Descriptions

### **Team Name: Refugee Settlement Team**

**Description:** The Refugee Settlement Team supports a refugee family, in partnership with Lutheran Social Services. The team is responsible for:

- Gathering furnishings, household supplies, and food, and preparing an apartment
- Greeting the family at the airport and providing a hot meal
- Providing friendship and logistical support to the family for six months by mentoring in areas of employment, English, finances, transportation and socialization as they work toward self-sufficiency and adjust to life in America.

### **This team is important to WES because:**

Every week we say that we affirm the worth of every person; we strive through our relationships to elicit the best in the human spirit; with faith in human goodness, we appreciate each person's unique capacities. We say this because we believe it. The RRT enables WES members to help people who have been unfairly driven from their homelands, which not only elicits our members' best – kindness, generosity, compassion, fairness – but also acknowledges the unique capacity in the refugees by sharing our resources so that they can live up to their own potential as well.

### **Volunteer Title:**

- Subcommittee Leader
- Member

### **General Responsibilities of Volunteer:**

- Subcommittee Members perform ongoing tasks as outlined in the attached “Good Neighbor Committees” document by LSS, which the RRT has adopted for our organizational structure,) and/or
- One-Time Task Volunteer perform single tasks from the attached list of “Additional Core Areas of Support”

### **General Time Requirement**

The amount of time and when it would be needed varies greatly depending on which sub-committee and what volunteer role is selected, as well as when the family arrives. The attached committee document provides some guide with regard to time commitment.

### **Knowledge, talents, or aptitudes helpful in this volunteer role:**

Generally patience, being a good listener, knowledge of social services/government benefits available, a proficiency in a foreign language, being reliable, having connections with pro bono

medical services, and being available during the work week are all qualities applicable to volunteer roles on this team.

**Length of Commitment or Term:**

WES has committed to LSS to work with a single refugee family for 6 mos. beginning when they arrive. It is possible the RRT would commit to additional families for the same or other terms of service in the future, if there is sufficient support at WES for this.

**Benefits of serving in this volunteer role:**

Rather than having to tolerate the suffering of others, volunteers have an opportunity to take specific action to assist a family that has experienced terrifying disruption in their lives. This human connection across cultures builds understanding and works toward peace. If that isn't reward enough, working with other WES members will generate comradery and doing this together will be fun.

**How to join this team:**

Sue Smith 240-281-0102.

**Date Created: 1/2017**