



## How You Can Help Newcomers to Rhode Island

- One-time volunteer opportunities
- Sustained volunteering in a particular role
- Provide ongoing mentoring with families
- Donate supplies to outfit households
- Material needs to support families

Please visit [www.diiri.org](http://www.diiri.org) for more information & volunteer forms

### PRE-ARRIVAL TASKS

- **Moving Assistance** Strong people who can lift/carry up to 75 lbs. are needed to move furniture & goods into apartments as well as move furniture from storage and donor homes (which includes carrying heavy items up multiple stairwells in older homes).
- **Apartment Cleaning** All apartments must receive a thorough cleaning in order to house new arrivals. This includes washing down all kitchen counters, table & appliances; sweeping & mopping all floors; dusting; washing bathtub, shower & toilet.
- **Apartment Set Up** Individuals are needed to get apartments fully set up for new arrivals. This involves putting sheets & blankets on beds; arranging kitchen items in cupboards; storing cleaning supplies for bath & kitchen; store food items appropriately; setting up baskets, placing toys/books/art supplies for children in bedrooms; arranging living room furniture, etc.
- **Inspection of Apartments** Individuals are needed to work with staff to inspect all offered apartments/housing units to ensure they are adequate and safe to place refugees. This includes developing list of housing units (apartments, rooms in a home, etc.) and performing safety inspection with supplied check-list prior to refugee arrivals.
- **Grocery Shop** Shoppers are needed for obtaining basic food needs & supplies for the first week of arrival and beyond.
- **Culturally Appropriate Hot Meal** Individuals are needed to cook meals and/or pick-up meals to deliver to family or agency. Meals are needed for each new arrival, and to be available at the time of pick-up.

### POST-ARRIVAL TASKS

#### Mentor a Family – Provide Assistance in the Community

- Take family grocery shopping for food; search for places to get foods they like; show them how to compare foods and prices
- Take family to laundromat and instruct them in clothes washing
- Instruct families in recycling and garbage disposal (what goes where), and cleaning their home to acceptable standards
- Bring families to community places such as library, park, festivals, farmer's markets, etc.
- Provide extra instruction about using public transportation & getting around
- Help families with the process of paying utility and other bills; teach families how to pay bills
- Provide transportation to and from appointments.
- Assist individuals with getting driver's license or state ID card.
- Provide information about banking and financial literacy.

- Help a family with their permanent apartment search by assisting with navigating online lists, visiting apartments, talking to landlords, etc.

## **Office / Child Play Room / Clothing Collaborative Help**

- **General office duties at Dorcas International offices** Individuals are needed for help with copying, scanning, file maintenance, data entry, etc. who can commit to dedicated, regular times each week with a 6-month commitment due to training needed for these tasks.
- **Cultural Orientation Presentation** We are looking for individuals to present to groups of refugees or individually. This is a series of 10 or more topics about life in the United States that is presented to refugees. People experienced working with adult learning principles who can make a long-term commitment of 3-4 hours per week are needed.
- **Clean and organize the child playroom** Help is needed one time per week sanitizing toys, putting puzzles back together, re-shelving books, removing any toys not appropriate to young children, etc.
- **Childcare while parents are in the building** Individuals are needed to supervise (and play with) the children of clients in our small playroom while their parents are meeting with case managers and other staff. This usually takes one hour at a time. Parents are in the building and can be accessed. We are looking for a commitment to one 3-hour shift weekly.
- **Refugee Resource Center and Clothing Collaborative** Volunteers are needed for various tasks organizing and sorting donations, etc.

## **Material Needs Support**

- **New Van** Dorcas International has an aging 7-passenger minivan, and needs a replacement and/or an extra van to accommodate more individuals and families. Also, we often need more space, in order to accommodate an interpreter.
- **Rental and financial support** Refugee families need assistance to supplement their (generally low wage) income, and/or support while they learn English in order to gain employment.
- **Winter clothing** Donations of cold weather items to outfit a family are needed.
- **Donate supplies** Please see separate list.