

Our Mission

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Refugee Services provides resettlement and supportive services to newly arrived refugees and other immigrants granted special humanitarian legal status. Catholic Charities is the only refugee resettlement agency in the Greater New Orleans area.

We welcome and support new Americans who are resettled here by the U.S. government from countries all over the world in order to build new lives for themselves in the United States. Our staff provide case management support to ensure their self-sufficiency and integration into our community.

Our Clients

The Refugee Services Program provides resettlement and self-sufficiency services to newly arrived refugees, asylees and other immigrants granted special humanitarian legal status. We are the only refugee resettlement agency in the Greater New Orleans area. Refugees represent a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, languages, and educational/professional experience.

Contact Us!

Refugee Services
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
2505 Maine Avenue
Metairie, LA 70003

Tel: 504-310-6879
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www.ccano.org



Refugee Mentor Program

While the case managers provide direct, holistic assistance to refugee individuals and families, many refugees face challenges in their social/cultural integration to life in the U.S.

The Refugee Mentor Program connects refugee families with local communities, services and resources. Volunteer mentors will build relationships with refugee families and encourage self-sufficiency in America.



How the Mentor Program works

Volunteers commit to mentoring and supporting a refugee or refugee family for at least 4-8 hours a week for 6 months. Mentors and mentees determine convenient meeting locations and times each week.

Mentors are provided initial training and ongoing support from the Mentor Coordinator to meet their refugee families' self-sufficiency goals.

Mentors help refugees by:

- Orienting them to the social/cultural/professional norms
- Helping them develop self-sufficiency skills to meet their personal or family-specific goals
- Acquainting them with public transportation and navigation, markets, schools, libraries, the postal system, banking, currency, taxes, etc.
- Encouraging spoken English and giving them the opportunity to practice language skills
- Being a friend and social support when needed

Time commitment

The minimum commitment for mentors is 4-8 hours per week for 6 months. Mentors must attend a Catholic Charities volunteer orientation and the Refugee Mentor training. Mentors must also be available for ongoing communication with the Refugee Mentor Coordinator regarding your mentor family's integration goals.

Location of volunteer position

Refugee Mentor Program offices and trainings are held at Catholic Charities Immigration & Refugee Services office at 2505 Maine Ave, Metairie, LA 70003. Mentoring will take place at various locations across Greater New Orleans area. Mentors and their families will decide on a mutually convenient time/place to meet.

Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Able to work with and relate to people from diverse backgrounds
- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and non-judgmental relationship building
- Fluency in Amharic, Arabic, Burmese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, or Tigrinya beneficial but not required
- Good listening skills, patient and welcoming personality

Why join?

Refugees enrich our lives and community with their resilience, diversity and unique world views. You will learn about other cultures, gain training, participate in group events and activities and have the opportunity to participate in a mentor support group. The Refugee Mentor Program is a rewarding and enriching experience for both the mentor and mentee. We are looking for mentors who are compassionate, patient, and mature as well as reliable, committed and able to relate to people from a variety of backgrounds.

How do I get involved?

Let us know you're interested! Send your resume and a cover letter to the Refugee Mentor Coordinator to schedule an interview.

**To get involved,
call us at 504-310-6879
or email
refugeementor@ccano.org**