



Co-Sponsorship

Co-sponsorship is a shared commitment between IRIS and the sponsoring group to assist a refugee family to successfully resettle in our community and to become self-sufficient as soon as possible.

GETTING STARTED

Organize a Core Committee and designate a Contact Person as representative to IRIS.

SAFE HOUSING

- Secure adequate apartment or house rental: Safe – Clean – Appropriate Size - Location
- Utilities hookups - Telephone
- Furniture and household goods (cooking utensils, dishware, hangers...)
- “Ready” home for arrival day

WELCOME

- Meet family at airport
- Prepare culturally appropriate hot meal
- Assure appropriate clothing for weather

TRANSPORTATION

- Airport to home
- Drive to appointments: Medical; Social Services; Social Security; IRIS office; DMV
- Employment interviews
- Locate public transportation options

HEALTH CARE

- Identify physician and dentist willing to donate or significantly discount medical services
- Health assessment within 30 days required for each refugee

EDUCATION & CULTURAL ORIENTATION

- Register children in school
- English as a Second Language
- Learning the Basics: clothes laundering; grocery shopping; clothing; banking
- Culture coaching: Helper – Friend – Advocate

EMPLOYMENT

- Help adults find jobs as soon as possible
- Assist with job application process and interview process

FINANCE

- Oversee resettlement fund raising and disbursements
- Register with Social Services for food stamps; identify local food pantry
- Coach family on family budget, managing resources, building credit history

CONTACT PERSON

- Signs the IRIS Co-Sponsorship Agreement and serves as principal IRIS contact