

COMMITMENTS FOR SUPPORT TEAM CO-SPONSORS

Lutheran Children and Family Services is committed to assisting refugees and local co-sponsors to assure the best possible resettlement experience. As a local co-sponsor, your initial period of commitment is 120 days. At the end of that period, support can be modified as the refugee family become self-sufficient and becomes contributing members of their community.

The following lists the details of your responsibilities as a co-sponsor. **This sheet is for your records to serve as a reminder of your commitments. Keep it as a resource to assist you.** If you have further questions, contact Lyn Back at 215-747-7500 ext 207.

___ 1. *Meet the refugee(s) and transport them to housing.*

I will pick them up in ___ New York ___ Philadelphia.

___ 2. *Provide clean, safe, and furnished housing for at least 120 days.* The housing must have smoke detectors, a fire escape route, adequate heating, ventilation, and lighting. The bathroom should have a working toilet, sink, and bath or shower. The space and beds must be adequate for the number of people that will live in the home.

Note: LCFS is requesting that the congregation pay for housing and utilities for the family for the first four months. At the same time, we understand that some congregations are unable to do this. We feel that the importance of a welcoming community is crucial regardless of the financial resources of the community, and seek to raise funds to assist congregations that cannot financially afford this commitment.

Please check one of the following:

___ ***a. We commit to paying for four months of rent and utilities for this family***

___ ***b. We cannot fully commit at this time to paying for four months of rent and utilities. We commit to the following:***

___ 3. *Provide food or money for food for at least 120 days.*

___ 4. *Provide clothing and other necessities for at least 120 days.* If anything is needed, LCFS may have donated items to give you. Ask a staff member for more information.

___ 5. *Assist refugee(s) in applying for Social Security cards* by taking them to the nearest social security office.

___ 6. *Take refugee(s) to County Assistance Office in the appropriate county office for food stamps, cash and medical assistance as needed.*

___ 7. *Assist refugee(s) in receiving a health exam within the first 30 days of arrival* by taking them to the nearest health center:

___8. *Register children at school.* Assist with testing for academic and language proficiency.

___9. *Assist adults in learning English.*

___10. *Provide orientation to the new community and society* by teaching them about the culture, giving them a tour of the neighborhood and city, etc.

___11. *Assist adults in preparing for work and getting a job.* Refugees will either be in LCFS' Matching Grant program, or can participate in employment counseling offered by the country or JEVS.

___12. *Provide transportation to job interviews and job training.* If a car is unavailable, teach them to ride SEPTA. For information about SEPTA, call 215-580-7800.

___13. *Maintain contact with case manager and resettlement for 90 days after the refugees' arrival and complete any required documentation.* LCFS staff will visit with host family and attend committee meetings at least two times during this period to collect information for your case and discuss how your family is adjusting.

OVERSEAS REFUGEE NAME: _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

I/We commit to be the local co-sponsor for the above named refugee(s) in the United States and assure the resettlement agency that I/we will provide the services listed above.

I/We understand that, with the possible exception of confidential medical information, LCFS has given us all of the information currently available for this refugee family.

Signature(s) of Congregational Representative(s) or Team Leadership members:

Name of Group(s): _____

Date: _____ (of assurance)