

# Refugee Co-Sponsorship

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (LFS) welcomes over 500 refugees to Nebraska every year. Newly-arrived refugees need support for daily tasks such as shopping, connecting to others in their new community and learning financial literacy.

Your faith, civic or educational group can empower newly-arriving refugees through co-sponsorship. **Co-sponsors are guides, friends and advocates for newly-arrived refugees, helping refugees become self-sufficient quickly.** By working together, your group and LFS can best assure refugees succeed in their new country.

**As Guides:** Co-sponsors supply initial food, goods and clothing for refugees. They introduce refugees to U.S. culture, acquainting them with important aspects of American life, culture and customs.

**As Friends:** Co-sponsors offer friendship, emotional support and encouragement as refugees adjust to U.S. culture. Co-sponsors share in the cultural heritage of refugees and honor their customs and traditions.

**As Advocates:** To help ensure refugees are not exploited, discriminated against or taken advantage of, co-sponsors encourage refugees to connect with other refugees for mutual support, and to network with other groups to foster multi-cultural communication and understanding.

**Co-sponsors are encouraged to make a 90-day commitment to the refugee(s).** This is an ethical, not legal, commitment. And LFS staff will provide you instruction, information and advice during your co-sponsorship.

## CO-SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

### Level One:

- Collect all items outlined in “The Whole Nine Yards” to help furnish a new family’s apartment or participate in a one-day apartment set-up.
- Purchase culturally-appropriate groceries for the new family.

### Level Two

- Level One, plus meet the new family at the airport and share their first meal with them.

### Level Three

- Level Two, plus commit to visiting the family at least once a week for three to six months. (May be an individual or a team of 6 to 8 people).

## READY TO GET STARTED?

Contact Lacey Studnicka at (402) 699-1972 or [lstudnicka@LFSneb.org](mailto:lstudnicka@LFSneb.org)



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**Lutheran  
Family Services**  
*of Nebraska, Inc.*

**Community  
Services  
Offices**

1941 South 42nd Street  
Suite 402  
Omaha, NE 68105  
(402) 536-3500

2201 South 17th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
(402) 441-7940

[www.LFSneb.org](http://www.LFSneb.org)



**Items  
needed to  
set up a  
refugee  
household**



**Lutheran  
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### Kitchen Items

Pots & Pans  
Dishes  
Glasses & Cups  
Cooking utensils  
Flatware  
Can opener  
Sharp knives  
Mixing bowls  
Plastic storage & Zip-Locs  
Trash can  
Cutting Board  
Dishcloths  
Paper towels  
Bakeware  
Teapot  
Rice Cooker  
Dish drainers  
Plastic wrap & foil

### Cleaning Items

Broom & dust pan  
Bucket & mop  
Dish washing soap  
All purpose cleaner  
Plastic trash bags  
Sponges/cleaning rags  
Laundry detergent  
Scouring pads & powder  
Toilet bowl brush & cleaner

### Furniture

Dining table/chairs  
Beds  
Lamps  
Couch  
Dressers  
Recliners  
Coffee & side tables  
Desks

### Only Clothing Accepted

Winter coats  
Gloves, hats, & scarves  
Shoes  
Children's clothing (*new or in good condition*)  
Jeans



LFS International Services

### Bedding

Bed sheets  
Comforters  
Blankets  
Pillows

### New Toiletries

Toothpaste/Toothbrush  
Soap  
Shampoo  
Deodorant  
Brush & comb  
Razor & shaving cream  
Feminine hygiene  
Toilet paper  
New towels & wash cloths  
Lotion  
Nail clippers  
Diapers & wipes (if needed)  
First aid kit & aspirin

### Miscellaneous

Alarm clock/clock radio  
Light bulbs  
Shower curtains & hooks  
Linens  
Clothes hangers  
T.V.  
Calendar  
Rugs  
Electric fans  
Vacuums  
Radio/Stereo  
Crayons, pens, pencils  
Dictionary  
Bicycles  
Scissors & tape  
Telephones  
Quarters for laundry  
Grocery store gift certificates  
10-ride Omaha Metro bus passes

### Due to staff and space limitations, we cannot accept:

Recliner sofas  
Waterbeds & king size beds  
Decorations/knick-knacks  
Broken or incomplete items  
Stained or unwashed clothing items

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Please call to schedule pickups for large items.  
Our need for appliances varies. Please call for information.