



FOX VALLEY

GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAMS
WALK ALONGSIDE A NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEE FAMILY

CONTENTS

WHAT IS A GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM?

PROGRAM PHASES

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL

RESETTLEMENT AND ADJUSTMENT

TIME COMMITMENT

TRAINING

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

EVANGELISM VS PROSELYTIZING

GATHERING A TEAM

TEAM LEAD

APPLICATION PROCESS

GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM AGREEMENT

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WHAT IS A GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM?

A Good Neighbor Team is a small group of 6-8 people from a local church that partners with World Relief to welcome and walk alongside a newly arrived refugee family. Our goal is for each refugee who arrives in the U.S. to feel the warm welcome of his/her local community.

Refugees are survivors, leaders, and entrepreneurs who have so much to contribute to the communities that welcome them. While they may have some significant needs when they first arrive and face the unique challenges of adjustment, refugees can be an incredible blessing to the community receiving them. Good Neighbor Teams offer a way to facilitate long-term, reciprocal relationships with new neighbors as they begin to build their home here.

PROGRAM PHASES

Once a Good Neighbor team is formed and all members have completed training, the team will be paired with a refugee family. Teams work with World Relief staff to determine how best to assist the family, but the program often includes:

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL

- Commitment to praying for family ever before they arrive.
- Learn as much as you can about your family's culture and country of origin.
- Determine team roles
- Work with World Relief to gather needed household items and furniture.
- Familiarize yourself with R&P requirements.

RESETTLEMENT AND ADJUSTMENT

- Facilitate transportation for needed appointments
- Walk with family as they learn culture (groceries, how to use public transportation, basic English)
- Invest in long-term friendships
- Potential financial support

TIME COMMITMENT

- Six-month commitment
- Weekly visits to the refugee family.
- Commitment to the entirety of the resettlement period - before, during, and after.

Any kind of relationship requires time invested. A Good Neighbor Team is an intentional opportunity for time investment to take place. At times this relationship is cut short unexpectedly due to moves, or cultural differences; it does happen sometimes. Yet, the opportunity for lost-lasting relationships is present and is key for walking with the refugee family into a friendship moving well beyond six months.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

INITIAL TRAINING

- 2-hour training covering topics such as: cultural competency, basics of resettlement process, role of World Relief, etc.
- 2-hour training covering topics such as: Evangelism vs. Proselytism, Helping Without Hurting, etc.

NINETY-DAY TRAINING

- 1-hour training to prepare team for upcoming changes in World Relief's role with the family

MONTHLY DEBRIEF

- Monthly 1-hour meeting with the entire team and Karen Crisler to debrief experiences, process, ask questions.

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Ultimately, time and friendship are the most valuable commodities that a Good Neighbor Team can offer their refugee family. However, some teams have also decided to set aside funds that have been used to help purchase household supplies or initial groceries before the family arrives. Other teams have chosen to assist the family with unforeseen emergency needs, or help in an area that have yielded greater self-sufficiency.

Though these things have taken place, World Relief discourages continuous or regular financial contribution to the refugee family. This can produce dependency and cause more difficulties for establishment.

EVANGELISM vs. PROSELYTIZING

World Relief is an evangelical organization. We believe in evangelism; which we define as offering a clear and urgent way to meet Jesus as Savior. But, we reject proselytism; which we define as using power, or position, or assumed authority to produce conversion. An opportunity to meet Jesus as Savior should never qualify service, acceptance, or compassion towards the family.

We recommended reading *No Longer Strangers* by Eugene Cho and Samira Izadi Page

GATHERING A TEAM

TEAM LEADER

A strong, committed team leader is essential to a successful Good Neighbor Team. A team leader values—and excels at—communication, coordination, and delegation.

Team leader responsibilities include:

- serve as a liaison between the team and World Relief;
- follow-up with team members to ensure tasks are being completed;
- confirm team members log their time and donations;
- and generally coordinate the Good Neighbor Team.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Gather 6-8 people interested in forming a Good Neighbor Team.
2. Review the commitment with the entire team by reading through this document together.
3. Select a team leader.
4. Have all members complete the volunteer application, background check and training.

GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM AGREEMENT

We are committed to assisting refugees and local Good Neighbor Teams in order to ensure the best possible resettlement experience for those refugees admitted to the United States. The commitment to form a Good Neighbor Team is a moral obligation to walk alongside newly arrived refugees as they journey towards becoming self-sufficient, thriving members of their new community. This form should be completed by the team representative and a World Relief staff member.

GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM INFORMATION	
Group Name	
Associated Organization (if any)	
Group Type	
Address	
Team Leader	
Phone 1	
Phone 2	
E-mail	

*Please attach a team roster containing names and email addresses.

WORLD RELIEF CONTACTS		
Karen Crisler		Andrew Belcher
Community Engagement Manager		Manager of Church Engagement
kcrisler@wr.org		abelcher@wr.org
(920) 560-2187		(920) 297-0450

REFUGEE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION			
Primary Applicant		Case Number	
Names/Descriptions			
Nationality			
Religion			
Language(s)			
Medical Needs			
Date of Arrival			
Location of Home			

GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM COMMITMENT

We hereby commit to assist this refugee family with the services indicated on the task list above. We understand that this is a moral commitment only and that World Relief is ultimately responsible for the provision of these services. We will agree to keep World Relief apprised of all changes relating to this case, and to maintain lines of open and regular communication with World Relief throughout the initial resettlement period.

Good Neighbor Team Representative

Signature

Date

World Relief Representative

Signature

Date