

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Take a moment to imagine adjusting to a new language and culture, integrating into the community, getting and keeping a job, enrolling your children in the local school system, and learning to navigate a new city, all in three months. That short season goes by in a whirlwind of decisions, urgent deadlines, stress and exhaustion. And at the end of that period, families are expected to be self-sufficient.

Resettlement agencies like Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley work closely with newly arrived refugees during those first three months to help them find housing, furniture, clothing, job skills training, healthcare, education, English language classes and community orientation. Yet new arrivals to this country need support that extends beyond that time limit. How can you help refugees and other new arrivals integrate into this community and start a meaningful life in our country?

Donate goods - After years in a refugee camp, most refugees arrive in the United States with few personal belongings. CSSMV can use your help to provide them with clothing and furniture, through their partnerships with St. Vincent de Paul and Goodwill.

- Furniture - A house is not a home without a place to rest, sleep, and eat. Every year, CSSMV gives out hundreds of couches, living room chairs, dining tables, dining chairs, beds, mattresses, cribs, dressers, and lamps. To provide furniture for refugee families who have just arrived in the United States, you can take your items to St. Vincent de Paul and tell them that the items are for Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul Community Store donation dock located at 945 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd., Dayton, OH 45417, Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Be very clear that your donation should be credited to Catholic Social Services; ask for a receipt and make sure it has the CSSMV name and/or logo on it. When CSSMV needs items to set up a new refugee home, they will have store credit equivalent to the value of your donation, which they can use to provide exactly what each family needs.
- Clothes; household goods such as blankets and rugs, small appliances, computers, printers, stereos and speakers - You can turn these donations into gift cards at Goodwill, where refugee families can choose and purchase exactly what they need. Drop off items at any Goodwill store such as the one on Far Hills in Oakwood, and ask for a receipt. Then mail the receipt to CSSMV at Attn: GEMV Donations, Catholic Social Services, 922 W. Riverview Avenue, Dayton OH 45402. CSSMV will exchange these receipts for gift cards, allowing arriving families to choose the outfits and household goods that they need and want.

Volunteer - Your skills and time can play a vital role in refugees' and other immigrants' journeys towards self-sufficiency and empowerment in their new community!

- **Tutoring and English as a Second Language** - The Brunner Literacy Center in Trotwood offers an English Language Learning (ELL) program, which provides adults who are not native English speakers with skills in English conversation, reading, and writing. This program can also include preparation for U.S. citizenship. The Brunner Literacy Center is looking for volunteer tutors, and a teaching background is not required. Visit <https://www.brunnerliteracy.org/volunteer.html> for more information.
- **Healthcare Access** – Ebenezer Healthcare Access in West Dayton helps refugees and other immigrants navigate American healthcare systems. This organization is looking for volunteers who can help immigrants schedule appointments and/or give them rides to their appointments. If you have skills in a second language, you can also help with medical translation in French, Spanish, Arabic, Swahili, Kirundi, or Kinyarwanda. Please visit <https://www.ebenezeri.com/> to learn more.
- **Legal Services and Citizenship Interview Prep** – Be Hope Immigration Center provides low-cost legal services for immigrants and offers an entrepreneurship class. Volunteers can help immigrants fill out green card applications and other forms. Looking for a short-term volunteer commitment? Be Hope is also looking for help organizing special events for immigrants and supporters throughout the year. Visit <https://behopeic.org/> to get connected.
- **Mentoring** – Cross Over Community Development supports immigrants and refugees by connecting them with local mentors who are US citizens or who have lived in the US for a long time and are accustomed to the culture. Mentors guide new immigrants in learning American social norms and accessing resources while also making them feel welcomed in their new community. Visit <https://crossovercd.org/> to learn about their work.

Other Opportunities

- If you're a landlord, you may be able to rent apartments to refugees. Call CSSMV at (937) 223-7217 and ask for the Refugee Resettlement department.
- If you're a business owner, you may be able to hire refugees. Call CSSMV at (937) 223-7217 and ask for the Refugee Resettlement department.