



Refugee Resettlement Program

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Arriving in the United States is an exciting, but overwhelming time for newly arrived refugees. Adjusting to the differences in their new home can be stressful, and volunteer support is vital to help them transition successfully. Volunteer your time to make a difference in a family's new life during their first few months in the United States.

For all volunteer inquiries, please email to: volunteers@openingdoorsinc.org. Please state your interest and provide your full name and phone number. Volunteer Orientations occur every first Wednesday of the month, unless stated otherwise. Please sign up online if you wish to attend.

Volunteer Process Requirements:

1. Must be age 18+
2. Attend Opening Doors Volunteer Orientation
3. Pass a background check.
4. Create a SignUp account to view and sign up for available volunteer opportunities.

AIRPORT RECEPTION VOLUNTEER

Refugees arrive in Sacramento after 24-48 hours of travel, and are often tired and exhausted, but excited to have finally arrived in the United States. Assist Opening Doors staff in welcoming these arriving refugees to their new home in Sacramento, and be the first smiling face they see when they arrive at the airport! Airport Reception Volunteers help families gather their belongings at the airport, drive them to their new homes in Sacramento, and help them get situated for their first night in the United States.

Location: Sacramento International Airport - 6900 Airport Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95837

Minimum length of commitment: Flexible, upon availability. Airport pick-ups typically occur Monday-Thursday between 9:00pm and 11:00pm.

APARTMENT SET-UP VOLUNTEER

Help set up apartments for incoming refugees. The volunteer will work closely with an Opening Doors staff member to prepare refugee apartments. Duties include helping move/deliver household items, go shopping for groceries for incoming family, organize and clean new house/apt., and find donations to meet their basic necessities (money provided for shopping).

Location: Volunteer meets assigned caseworker at our main office and then directs to the assigned apartment.

Minimum length of commitment: Flexible/on call basis based on stated availability.

NAVIGATOR VOLUNTEER

Newly arrived refugees have many responsibilities and appointments in their first few weeks after arrival. Navigator Volunteers walk, drive, and/or take the bus with families to various appointments such as health clinics, school enrollment and Cultural Orientation classes. Navigator Volunteers ensure individuals arrive on time by communicating with staff and learning the route for future appointments.

Location: Varies by appointment, most appointments are located within the Sacramento city limits.

Minimum length of commitment: Based on your availability; appointments typically occur Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm.

REFUGEE MENTORSHIP

Interested? Please visit www.openingdoorsinc.org to get started.



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Mentors provide guidance and support to a newly resettled refugee family in Sacramento. As a mentor, you will be responsible for preparing refugees for a positive experience living in the United States. Introducing them to their new community, mentors assist a family with: navigating the health care system, opening a bank account, transportation to appointments, applying for a California ID/Driver's License, and finding low cost grocery/clothing stores. You may also assist clients with their resume, job search and applications, interview preparation, and using their local library's resources. Additionally, mentors can help with school and/or learning English, and take the family on field trips to local points of interest.

Location: Client will visit the assigned refugee family at their home. An initial introductory meeting with the caseworker is first required.

Minimum length of commitment: This is a 3 month commitment for 1-2 hours a week.

DARI/PASHTO TRANSLATORS

Refugees face many challenges when resettling in the US despite assistance from their resettlement agency. Translators play a vital role in easing the pressures of resettlement, because they clarify critical information. Currently, Opening Doors is in need of Dari/Pashto translators who are comfortable communicating with clients, assisting caseworkers, translating documents, and answering questions during cultural orientation. Volunteer Translators are on call, and will be notified 24 hours ahead of time from when their services are needed.

Location: 1111 Howe Ave. Suite 125 Sacramento, CA 95825

Minimum length of commitment: Based on your availability; typically during business hours (Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm).

DONATION ORGANIZATION

In coordination with the Donations Coordinator, help organize stored donations in our storage facility.

Location: Volunteers will meet the Donations Coordinator at our storage facility.

Minimum length of commitment: Donation organization is a once a month volunteer task. Please contact donation coordinator for specific dates and time.

ORGANIZE A DRIVE!

Refugees flee their homes at a moment's notice, leaving their lives and belongings behind, and arrive in Sacramento with only a few suitcases in hand. Refugee Welcome Kits provide families with basic household items necessary for them start their new lives in Sacramento. Help collect donations in the form of Refugee Welcome Kits by mobilizing your small group, family, church, or school to collect needed items!*

*Please refer to our Refugee Welcome Kit form for a list of items.

ADVOCATE FOR REFUGEES

Use all outlets and spread the word as far as you can with the support of your networks! Local Senators:

- Dianne Feinstein: (202) 224-3841
- Kamala Harris: (202) 224-3553
- **Include information on how to call Senators and Representatives.** Please follow the link to search for your district's representative: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
- Use the hashtag #GreaterAs1 or #RefugeesWelcome and tag @OpeningDoorsInc or CWS_globalRepresentatives

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