



## ARP Churches and World Relief Together

### *Opportunities for Congregations near World Relief Offices*

#### **Welcome newly arriving families at the airport**

Refugees often arrive in the US without any local relationships. Many come from indescribably difficult, even brutal circumstances. A welcoming and friendly face greeting them at the airport eases fear and communicates Biblical hospitality.

#### **Assist with apartment set-up**

Prior to arrival, World Relief makes certain that all incoming refugees have a safe, secure and comfortable place to live. Teams from churches work together to make sure all furniture and appliances are in place; make the beds and fill the cabinets - doing all of the finishing touches to make an empty apartment a new home for an arriving family.

#### **Collect and assemble “Welcome Kits”**

Refugees typically arrive in the US with few belongings. Churches are encouraged to put together boxes of necessary supplies for various parts of the home (kitchen, bathroom, cleaning supplies, etc.) These kits prove to be monumentally helpful for incoming refugees, as they begin to establish a new life and home in the US.

#### **Be trained as “Good Neighbor Teams” and “Friendship Partners”**

Local World Relief offices provide regular training to teams from churches and to individuals to be the hands and feet of Jesus to incoming refugees.

### *Opportunities for Congregations without proximity to World Relief offices*

#### **Prayer/Prayer Walking**

God is sovereignly bringing the nations to the US. The opportunities - and the needs - in our community are vast. World Relief believes that **deep change and community transformation happens as an act of God through the church**. Thus, we encourage churches to join us to pray and to prayerfully walk through our international communities. We can provide churches with prayer resources. *(For churches near a local World Relief office, we can walk together and conclude the walk with a time of debriefing at an area ethnic restaurants.)*

## Attend a local ethnic church

God is at work in the immigrant and ethnic churches in our community. Discipleship is deepened when we worship together and learn from one another. World Relief is happy to facilitate this opportunity.

## Immigration Legal Services

World Relief's Immigrant Legal Services program assists local churches interested in pursuing Board of Immigration Appeals recognition to provide legal services for immigrants. This is a wonderful way for churches to connect with and serve immigrants in their area.

## Regional Training Events

World Relief will work with local churches to provide customized regional training events to equip and empower churches to serve the vulnerable immigrant and refugee populations in their communities. Trainings can take place through regional and national denominational networks, as well as in partnership with local congregations. We can mix and match the following training modules, according to local needs:

### WHY?

- Understanding the refugee crisis in global context
- Biblical foundations for refugee/immigrant ministry

### WHAT?

- Understanding the U.S. Refugee Resettlement program, refugee entry and integration process
- Addressing common concerns and misconceptions about refugee resettlement (security, economic, etc.)
- Addressing common concerns and misconceptions about undocumented immigrants

### HOW?

- Practical responses to refugee/immigration issues
  - Partnering with resettlement agencies
  - Immigration legal services
  - Youth programs
  - English language instruction
- Launching a healthy, sustainable refugee ministry initiative in your church
  - Envisioning process
  - Recruiting & structure
  - Team-based model
  - When helping hurts, cross-cultural best practices
- Churches collaborating across denominational and ethnic lines in refugee resettlement ministry
- Advocating for public policies that address refugee and immigration issues in just and compassionate ways

*This is a non-exhaustive list of the kinds of training, resources and activities that World Relief can provide to ARP churches. We look forward to further conversations about partnership and working together. **For questions and further information, please contact:***

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